



November 2020

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:

- **Carmen Cagnetta**
on the election results



- **Nominating Committee Report**

Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 8:00 P.M.

Via Zoom, see page 2



Instructions for Monthly Meeting via Zoom

Due to COVID precautions in New York State the November 17 General Membership Meeting will take place via remote conferencing. The instructions are listed below.

**Staten Island Democratic Association
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 2020
8:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

This meeting can be attended audio and video by computer, audio and video by cell phone, audio only by landline phone.

AS A SAFEGUARD AGAINST THE ZOOM MEETING BEING HACKED, THE ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE E-MAILED TO THE MEMBERSHIP AND THE INVITEES THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING.



Editorial Policy

Items for publication should be submitted to the newsletter no later than the last Friday of the month before the meeting. Please send items to: cmaxbauer@yahoo.com.

Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and not of S.I.D.A.

*Chris Bauer, Editor
(917) 576-9248*

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“I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms are in the physical.”
*- Thomas Jefferson
1787*

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

December	November 30
January	January 4

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

President..... Radhakrishna Mohan	Member at-Large	Olusoji Oluwole
Vice President	Member at-Large	Jill Pincus-Latman
Executive Secretary	Member at-Large	Jasmine Robinson
Corresponding &	Member at-Large	Charles Roland
Recording Secretary	Member at-Large	Sharon Santana
Treasurer	Member at-Large	Tom Shcherbenko
Social Secretary	Ex Officio.....	Bobby Digi
Member at-Large	Ex Officio.....	Joann Olbrich

**A New Dawn of Hope
Joe Biden, the 46th President and Kamala Harris,
the First Woman and the 49th Vice President
We, the American People Won.**

What a Great day for America. Democracy won. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris came out successfully in this historical election. I am sure there will be a huge turnout of happy citizens to witness the historical election with a very large margin of popular votes, as well as the Democratic Party winning in Arizona and Georgia after 24 years and 26 years respectively. This is a remarkable achievement. This is also a victory for the first woman, the first woman of color and the first woman of Indian descent--the daughter of immigrants--elected Vice President of the United States.

One silver lining to all of this is the mail-in-ballot having dramatically changed the mosaic of initial results with VP Biden surging in the battle states of Pennsylvania, Georgia, Arizona and Nevada, against President Trump's initial "unbeatable numbers." President Trump knew that the mail in Vote would make a winning change, as he raised many concerns for the same.

Notwithstanding this victory, the Biden team will have to face all the obstacles that President Trump will throw their way, but everyone is hoping the transition will take place without any major hindrance. Let us look forward to the day, with a sigh of relief, that the United States as a country will land in the safe hands of the Biden Team, and let us look forward to the day that we come out of pandemic pain, when affordable health insurance is assured, employment opportunities arise and that we project a better image in the eyes of the rest of the world, where our image is very much tarnished because of the current President's behavior and his failed foreign policies. Let us hope for the re-emergence of the US as a leader of the world and a torch-bearer of world peace.

On the home front, it was hoped that nothing in the world would have changed the solid grip Democrats had over the last two years, but one wonders what has changed. Was it a lackluster approach, misguided campaigns or simply taking for granted that they would win? Whatever the reasons, Democrats on Staten Island lost the Presidential, Congressional and the Civil Court Judgeship election, with one Assembly race too close to be called. One could easily see less turn out of the Democrats or crossover votes from Democrat to Republican candidates. What is missing is if the passion and dedication needed to win the elections on the part of Democrats was not high enough can we find out why this may have happened or why there may have been a lackluster approach. The exact reverse of the last Congressional election, when an incumbent was defeated by a freshman candidate, was repeated this time when the incumbent, Max Rose, lost to a newly contesting Republican candidate. It appears that he doesn't have a second term, replaying for a second time the fact that Democrats couldn't keep this 11th Congressional seat for a second term consecutively since nearly 30 years ago.

Democrats appear to have the potential to win the Congressional election (having more Democrats than Republicans in Staten Island, but unfortunately we were not able to accomplish this, and the required dominance still eludes the Party. It's time to sit down and focus on the missing link to change the trend. This needs serious thinking on the part of the Richmond County

Democratic Committee, to plan and organize to change this trend which has been happening for over 3 decades. It is also time to show unity across the island of all the Democrats, stopping their infighting and attacking each other, which has been happening periodically. I'm not sure how Democrats will succeed without unity against the Republicans who stood solidly behind the Republican President, with a solid election result across the US, in this most important election.

Let us consider this as a wakeup call and do the best that we can as Democrats, as the future of the Democratic Party lies in our hands.

A quick reminder of COVID19, which is reemerging with cases exceeding 125,000 people, happening right now. So please don't drop your guard, and follow all safety protocols that will protect you and your families as well.

Hoping you all stay healthy and safe, I remain,

*Radhakrishna Mohan
S.I.D.A. President*

*"Ask not what your country can do for you,
ask what you can do for your country."
- President John F. Kennedy*



Carmen Cогnetta

Carmen Cогnetta will be the guest speaker at our November 20 General Membership Meeting. He will speak about the election results. He provided the following biography when he spoke to the club at the November 2016 meeting.

Carmen Cогnetta is a native Staten Islander who is a graduate of Port Richmond High School. He received a B.S. in Economics from Siena College and a J.D. from New York Law School.

He has served as an Assistant District Attorney in Richmond County, Assistant D.A. with the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, and Deputy Inspector General for the New York City Fire Department. He was a Family Court Judge for 9 years, served as Counsel to Councilmen Michael McMahon, and Counsel to Congressman Michael McMahon. In the private sector he was in the private practice of law on Staten Island and served as Vice-President for the Institute for Community Living, a nonprofit organization that provided programs and housing for mentally ill chemical abusers.

He has volunteered his time for many organizations on Staten Island, most notably, was a founder of the Port Richmond High School Alumni Association, was a past President and currently serves as its Treasurer. He was president of the Community Residential Treatment Service Advisory Board at the South Beach Psychiatric Center that created the first successful, real business organization to employ consumers with mental illness diagnosis, now a million dollar a year operation on Staten Island known as Specialtees. He served as Treasurer of his church for 15 years and is currently on the board of Community Resources.

In the world of politics, except for the 9 years he served as a judge, he has been involved in political campaigns on every level, starting with handing out literature for John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign when he was 13 years old. Of late he has served as an adviser and treasurer for numerous campaigns and is a board member of the Democratic Organization of Richmond County Democratic Club.

Currently officially retired, although still active with many local organizations, Carmen resides in Randall Manor with his wife Christine. He has a daughter Catherine who is a public high school English Teacher.



Executive Committee Election Process

Below are excerpts from the S.I.D.A. constitution pertaining to the election of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII Elections

Section 1: Time Officers and members-at-large of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the annual meeting. (Article IV, Section 1: Annual Meeting The annual meeting of the club shall be in January, on a date to be fixed by the Executive Committee.)

Section 2: Nominations

a) Nominating Committee At the October meeting there shall be elected by ballot a Nominating Committee of nine members of the club. Balloting for members of the Nominating Committee shall conform, as nearly as may be, to the procedure for election of members-at-large of the Executive Committee as set forth in Section 4b of this Article. The member of the Nominating Committee who receives the most votes shall be the chair of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall select nominees for each of the offices and for members-at-large of the Executive Committee, which selection shall be made by majority vote of the Nominating Committee. At the November meeting, the Nominating Committee shall submit to the members of the club a written report setting forth the nominees for various positions. If requested by two members of the Nominating Committee, the report shall include a minority report in which additional nominations may be made for any position or positions and such nominees shall be deemed to have been nominated in addition to the nominees of the majority. The report shall also set forth the procedure for nomination by petition.

b) Nomination by Petition Additional nomination may be made by petition signed by 15% of those members in good standing or 15 members, whichever is fewer, as of the final date for the submission of such petitions namely the December meeting at which all candidates shall be presented to the membership as an order of business. Nominating petitions shall be submitted to the Corresponding and Recording Secretary, or in his or her absence to an officer designated by the President or Acting President.

c) Nomination from the Floor Nominations from the floor may be made only in the event that no eligible candidate has been otherwise nominated for an office.

d) Notice All names of persons nominated will be included in the mailed notice of the annual meeting.

Traditionally at the October meeting members in good standing in attendance are given a ballot listing all the club's members in good standing. (One must have been a member for at least 45 days in order to vote.) Members then mark up to nine people on the ballot, and the top nine vote-getters form the Nominating Committee. If there is a tie for the ninth place, all those in the tie get on.



October 2020 Minutes

General Meeting October 20, 2020

Via Zoom & at O’Hebry’s Publick House

President Mohan called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m. The meeting was held at O’Henry’s Publick House and also broadcast through Zoom for members who didn’t come to the restaurant.

First Guest Speaker

Civil Court Judge Allyn Crawford spoke briefly to members about his campaign. He urged members to continue to show their support by making a donation, displaying lawn signs or volunteering to make phone calls.

Second Guest Speaker

Candidate for 64th Assembly District Brandon Patterson asked members to sign up for phone banking, and also to consider making a donation. He mentioned that winning this seat is very important to the landscape of Staten Island.

President Mohan thanked both candidates for their presentations. He told them he will mobilize forces to help their campaigns.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman provided members with the latest report including the amount of money spent during the past month.

Executive Secretary’s Report

Executive Secretary Dennis Brown welcomed members to the first in person meeting since last February. He mentioned that the election is just a few weeks away. He is hoping to see the country move forward. Regarding local politics on Staten Island, Dennis said we have to work towards taking back power by working with labor, constituencies and other clubs.

Vice President’s Report

Vice President Liz Price provided members with important highlights from Executive Committee meetings held on September 24th and October 10th.

Nominating Committee Election

Diana Shcherbenko, Jill Latman, and Cindy Lowney volunteered to count the ballots for the Nominating Committee election. A motion was made to close ballots at 9:15 p.m. The motion carried.

September Minutes

President Mohan made a motion to accept the September minutes as published in the newsletter. Bonnie Rothman seconded the minutes. The motion carried.

Protect the Results

President Mohan introduced Sally Jones. Sally spoke to members about the “Protect the Results” National Coalition. She mentioned that many people are worried about vote counting this year. Sally invited S.I.D.A. to join the “Protect the Results” coalition and mentioned that she will send the information to President Mohan. Sally reminded members that “G.O.T.V.” (Get out the vote) is very important now. She urged members to make sure they get out to vote.

Congressman Max Rose

President Mohan thanked Congressman Rose for joining us. He thanked him for the impressive work he has done during his first term in office. Congressman Rose told members that the opposition is coming for us. He told members that nobody thought they could win last time. But he did and he said he will win again! The Congressman told members that he has raised more money than any congressional campaign in the history of New York.

Congressman Rose spoke briefly about his accomplishments during his first term. He thanked President Mohan for all his hard work with S.I.D.A. The congressman took questions from several members. Members showed tanked the Congressman for all his hard work and expressed their continued support for his candidacy.

Nominating Committee Election Results

There were 62 Ballots cast, two of which were voided.

Tom Shcherbenko *	38
Marie Dwyer	34
Liz Price	34
Radhakrishna. Mohan	26
Dennis Brown	22
Nick Popolo	21
Dr. Nithiananda Chatterjie	21
Joann Olbrich	21
Richard Reichard	20
Bobby Digi	20

*The person with highest votes will chair the committee.

Tom Shcherbenko will reach out to the committee to arrange for a meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary*



Rejoinder from President Mohan

**PRESIDENT MOHAN ASKED THAT THE
FOLLOWING BE PRINTED IN THE NEWSLETTER:**

Rejoinder to the results announcement of Nomination Committee Election on 10/20/2020: As a result of error in the ballot counting, at an Emergency meeting called for this purpose of discussion, on 10/21/2020, the following changes in the Election results are announced.

There were 62 Ballots cast, two of which were voided.

Tom Shcherbenko *	38
Marie Dwyer	34
Liz Price	34
Radhakrishna. Mohan	26
Dennis Brown	22
Nick Popolo	21
Dr. Nithiananda Chatterje	21
Joann Olbrich	21
Charles Roland	20
Bobby Digi	20



CONGRATULATIONS

Joe Biden & Kamala Harris



**and Congratulations to the U.S.
for doing the right thing!**



November 17, 2020	December 15, 2020
General Meeting, 8:00 p.m. Via Zoom, see page 2	General Meeting, 8:00p.m. Venue T.B.D.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen Cognetta on Election Results • Nominating Committee Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker T.B.D. • Presentation of Executive Committee Candidates

It's Time to Join or Renew Your S.I.D.A. Membership!

To become a member, renew membership, or make a donation, call Bonita Rothman at (917) 596-3724, or complete and return the coupon. Voting privileges begin 45 days after joining.

✂

2021 DUES	DONATION
_____ \$25 - Family	_____ \$5
_____ \$20 - Individual	_____ \$50
_____ - Senior, Student, or	
_____ \$15 Unemployed	_____ \$100
	_____ Other _____

_____ Check (payable to: S.I.D.A.) _____ Cash

I understand SIDA is a Democratic Party club. I (or we, if this is a Family Membership) am (are) at least 17 years of age and an enrolled Democrat, or intend to enroll as a Democrat upon becoming eligible.

Signature _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Make checks payable to S.I.D.A. and send to: S.I.D.A.
P.O. Box 140371
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