



October 2017

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:

- **Barbara Kent**

SwingLeft

on the 11th Congressional District Race

- **Nominating Committee
Election**

Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 8:00 P.M.

Daddy O's, 181 Bay Street



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

Submission Deadlines

for the newsletter are:

November	November 6
December.....	December 4

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

President	Bobby Digi	Member at-Large	Clara Ogburn
Vice President	Bryan Ellicott	Member at-Large	Liz Price
Executive Secretary.....	Dennis Brown	Ex Officio	Michelle Akyempong
Corresponding & Recording Secretary	Marie Dwyer	Ex Officio	Belinda Dixon
Treasurer.....	Bonita Rothman	Ex Officio	Joann Olbrich
Social Secretary	Sharon Santana	Ex Officio	Rosemarie Mangano
Member at-Large	Pearl Minsky	Ex Officio	John Mastellone
Member at-Large	Radhakrishna Mohan	Ex Officio	Tom Shcherbenko
Member at-Large	Roy Moskowitz		

Nominating Committee

Below are excerpts from the S.I.D.A. by-laws 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 ieannual 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 Nomination 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 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 the way the above by-laws have been implemented is that 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, with the person getting the most votes being the chair. If there is a tie for the ninth place, all those in the tie get on.



Swing Left

Barbara Kent of Swing Left will be the guest speaker at our October 17 General Membership Meeting. She will talk about their involvement in the 11th Congressional District. The following was taken from their website <https://swingleft.org/>



Swing Districts are places where the winner of the last House of Representatives election was determined by a thin margin. Swing Left helps you find and commit to supporting progressives in your closest Swing District so that you can help ensure we take back the House in 2018.

Why the House?

The 2018 House elections are the next best chance for progressives to regain power in our government.

- There are 64 Swing Districts. These are places where the last election was won by 15% of the vote or less, where Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump, or where a high concentration Swing Left volunteers make certain districts very winnable. We need to win 65% of all Swing Districts to take back the House.
- If we hold the 17 vulnerable Democratic-held districts, we only need to flip 24 House seats—exactly half of the 48 Republican-held districts on our list—to take back the house in 2018. This is a winnable fight.
- The 2018 Senate map heavily favors Republicans, making the House a more viable place to focus our efforts.
- House races receive less attention, so your dollars, hours, and talents count more.
- We're starting early to unify progressives who promote tolerance, equality, unity and fairness. To out-organize Republicans, we can't wait.

How It Works

Enter your email address to join a Swing District Team, and you'll be put on a carefully-curated mailing list moderated by a local District Leader. You'll learn about opportunities to take action as soon as they become available:

- **Learn more** about the district and connect with other Team members
- **Fundraise or donate** to local progressive candidates
- Spread the word on **social media**
- Phone bank or **volunteer**
- Canvass, attend events, and **more**

We all want to take back the House in 2018, but most of us don't live in Swing Districts, where the races really matter. If you live...

- **Outside this district**, you'll receive opportunities to help from afar.
- **Near this district** (or it's easy for you to travel), you can decide to help out in person.
- **Inside this district**, your support and knowledge are critical! Join your team and help channel its efforts.

Our Promise

Your privacy and your time are vitally important.

- We respect your inbox. You will only receive emails relevant to your work in the Swing Districts you choose to support.
- We won't publish, sell or distribute your email address to a 3rd party.
- Action opportunities will be carefully curated by local District Leaders with support from our Advisory Board.

Who We Are

Swing Left was started by Ethan Todras-Whitehill, a writer and teacher, Joshua Krafchin, a marketer and entrepreneur, and Miriam Stone, a brand strategist. The three brought in their friends, who in turn brought in their friends, to help build Swing Left in the wake of the 2016 election.

We're not politicians or professional organizers. We're a group of individuals from diverse industries, including tech, media, finance, nonprofits, and art. We have no formal affiliation with any party, union, or organization, though we're not against such affiliations. We are citizens. And like many people, we've been sitting on the sidelines for too long. We don't have all the answers, but we know it's time to channel our anger and despair in a positive direction.

In the words of Barack Obama, We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.

And so are you.



September 2017 Minutes

General Meeting September 19, 2017 Daddy Os

President Digi called the meeting to order at 8:09 p.m. at Daddy O's BBQ and Sports Bar. He mentioned that he knows the Constitutional Convention is on everyone's mind and that Senator Savino was scheduled to speak on the topic but is unable to attend the meeting because she is in Russia. He added that he has Joe Canovas here to speak about this important issue.

Guest Speaker – Joe Canovas

Mr. Canovas told members he appreciates the opportunity to speak. He said he is a lifelong Staten Islander and he is a lawyer and lobbyist with the New York State AFL-CIO. He said the primary objective is to defeat the Constitutional Convention Referendum.

He mentioned that we vote on the Constitutional Convention every 20 years. It's an important issue for the public sector and others it is a dangerous issue because many of the rights that are protected now could be at risk.

Mr. Canovas told members that recent polling shows about 61% of registered voters don't know about the Constitutional Convention, yet about 50% support it. Mr. Canovas said he hopes enough vote against the convention. He added that prior referendums in 1997 and 1977 failed.

Mr. Canovas explained that he is going around and speaking to groups about the Constitutional Convention. He told members that the question will be on the back of the ballot and he urged them to vote “No”.

Joe Canovas also asked S.I.D.A. if they would consider proposing a resolution. After his presentation Mr. Canovas took questions from several people.

Joann Olbrich made a motion that S.I.D.A. supports voting “NO” for the Constitutional Convention Referendum and spread the word to urge everyone to vote no. Sharon Santana seconded the motion. The motion carried.

President Digi announced that Steve Lawton was supposed to come but sent a message. He said the CWA wants to unionize workers for Santander Bank and wants S.I.D.A.’s support. Bryan said he will send an email with the information.

Vice President Bryan Ellicott spoke about the recent Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) rally. He mentioned that we need to support children that were brought here without a choice and go through a process. President Trump is against this, but we are a sanctuary city and need to support people that came here and had no choice.

Bryan made a motion that S.I.D.A. support Dreamers and DACA. Sharon Santana seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bryan also made a motion that S.I.D.A. support CWA in unionizing the Santander Bank employees. The motion passed with one abstention.

Vice President’s Report

Vice President Bryan Ellicott urged members to purchase their tickets for the Annual S.I.D.A. Dinner scheduled for September 28 at The Crystal Room. He added that the club is going to be honoring some amazing people including Clara Ogburn and Mohan. He told members to see Club Treasurer Bonnie Rothman to buy their tickets.

Executive Secretary’s Report

Executive Secretary Dennis Brown announced that he has moved the deadline for journal ads several times and told members that the final deadline is Wednesday September 20 by 11 am. He thanked the candidates running for congress who took ads including Omar Vaid, Boyd Melson, and Paul Sperling.

Dennis mentioned that S.I.D.A. is an issues oriented club that has been in existence for the past 56 years. He also mentioned that Councilwoman Rose won her recent primary to run for re-election for her city council seat. In addition he mentioned that the club is trying to foster candidates running for office.

Councilwoman Debi Rose

Councilwoman Debi Rose congratulated Chris Bauer on the recent article published about him in the *Staten Island Advance*. She also thanked S.I.D.A. members for their support and urged members to continue supporting Democratic candidates. Councilwoman Rose told members that politics doesn’t have to be dirty and that candidates should be able to run on their own merit and vision. She also encouraged members to support DACA. Ms. Rose also urged members to support the Spectrum workers, who she feels are the backbone of this country. In closing, she told members she really appreciated all our efforts on her behalf and urged members to continue to support her for the November election.

President Digi announced that S.I.D.A. member Elizabeth “Bettye” McCombs died on September 6. He mentioned that services had been held last Friday but a Memorial service is planned on October 7 at the Staaten. There was discussion about sending a donation to Betty’s favorite charity.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman provided the current Treasurer’s report. She also urged members to purchase tickets and ads for the upcoming dinner. Send checks to S.I.D.A.’s PO Box.

Social Secretary’s Report

Social Secretary Sharon Santana urged members to invite family members and friends to the upcoming S.I.D.A. Annual Dinner. She announced that she plans to hold a final committee meeting on September 21, at Panera Bread on Marsh Avenue at 7:30 p.m.. She said everyone is invited to attend the meeting. Sharon mentioned that she needs presenters for awards to honorees and people to help at the door.

President Digi mentioned that we really need to get ticket sales up. He said the price is currently \$90 and will go up to \$100 by Friday September 22. Roy Moskowitz reminded members that they can purchase their tickets on-line and needed to get ads in by the next morning.

August Minutes

Chris Bauer made a motion to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter. Joann seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business

Chris Bauer in his role as Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Matt Titone shared part of a letter Assemblyman Titone wrote to the Hilton in Albany in support of their workers. He mentioned that Hilton Management proposed, among other things, slashing wages, vacation and bereavement days for their workers. Assemblyman Titone plans to boycott the Hilton and urges people not to stay there or attend events at the venue until things are settled.

Richard Reichard told members that the petition period for the 2018 Congressional race will start in March. He said there are seven to eight candidates who want to be the Democratic Candidate. In order to allow club members to ask the candidates questions, he said he would like the Executive Committee to report to the club at the October meeting, their plan to get all candidates to speak before the club before the March petition period begins. He feels we should allow each candidate time to make a presentation and to allow club members enough time to ask questions. He said in the past we have not invited more than two candidates to a meeting.

Candidates for the 11th Congressional District

Boyd Melson spoke to members about his candidacy. He also spoke about upcoming events for fighting opiate abuse.

Paul Sperling told members he just announced his candidacy today. He spoke about the political revolution, he feels the government is not working and he said he looks forward to speaking about the issues.

Omar Vaid also briefly addressed the meeting.

Edwina Martin announced that the North Shore Community Fair will be held on Saturday, October 14 at Tappan Park. President Digi announced that he was asked to participate in “Real Men Wear Pink” which is an effort to raise money and awareness for Cancer. He asked members to support his efforts by making a donation and he will be collecting donations during October.

Tom Shcherbenko, Candidate for Staten Island Boro President announced that there will be a fundraiser on October 15 at Bootleg Manning’s on Forest Avenue from 2:00- 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary*



**Please note:
S.I.D.A. has taken an
official position to
Vote No
on Proposal 1,
the Constitutional
Convention Question**

**Staten Island Women's Political Caucus
Women in Leadership
Forum**

**Sat. October 14th, 10 AM to 1 PM,
Richmondtown Library Auditorium
200 Clarke Ave. SI, NY 10306**



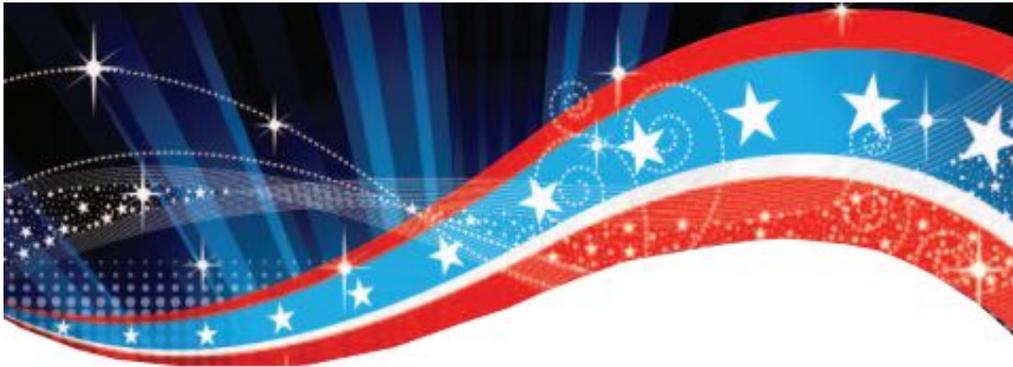
**The Elizabeth A. Connelly Award will be
presented to Marybeth Melendez LMSW.**



**Free and open to the public
Light refreshments served
Panel of "Helping Women"**



Democratic Committee of Richmond County Gala



Richmond County Democratic Chair
John P. Gulino
cordially invites you to

The 2017 Democratic Gala

Honoring

Bill de Blasio

Mayor of the City of New York

Donna Coppola

Political Action Coordinator,
Staten Island United Federation of Teachers

Wednesday, October 18, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

Excelsior Grand

2380 Hylan Boulevard · Staten Island, New York

\$150 Guest* \$250 Friend \$500 Supporter \$1000 Sponsor

**after October 6th Guest tickets are \$175*

For questions please contact Democratic H.Q. at (718) 983-5009 or email Sharona at sidemocrats@yahoo.com. Buy tickets on-line at: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sidmsgala2017>



October 17, 2017	November 21, 2017
General Meeting 8:00p.m. General Meeting, 8:00p.m. Daddy O's, 181 Bay Street	General Meeting 8:00p.m. General Meeting, 8:00p.m. Meeting Site TBD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ` Barbara Kent of SwingLeft • Nominating Committee Election 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker TBD • Nominating Committee Report

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.

✂

2017 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
Staten Island, NY 10314-0371

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