



December 2010

## Staten Island Democratic Association

*est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club*

*www.sidems.org*

### At our Next Meeting:



- State Senator Diane Savino
- Statements by Executive Committee Candidates

Tuesday, December 21, 2010, 8:00 P.M.,  
**at Karl's Klipper**, 40 Bay Street - (718) 720-4442



### Editorial Policy

Items for publication must be submitted to the newsletter no later than the last Friday of the month before the meeting. Please send items to:

[cmaxbauer@yahoo.com](mailto: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

## **S.I.D.A. President's Message**

In November the Co-Chairs of President Obama's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform released their proposal to reduce the federal deficit and balance the budget. The full Commission report was released in early December.

The debate has now begun on how to accomplish the Commission's goals.

What cuts should be made to discretionary spending? Will discretionary spending be rolled back to certain levels? Will spending caps be put in place?

What reforms would be made to the tax code? Should changes be made to the tax rates? How should the Alternative Minimum Tax be changed? Should we eliminate or modify tax deductions for mortgage interest and for state and local taxes? Should the Bush tax cuts be extended? Should we increase the gas tax to fund transportation? Do we tax health care benefits?

How do we reduce health care costs? What changes do we make to Medicare, Medicaid and other government health care programs? Do we make changes to our medical malpractice laws?

Do we eliminate or reduce farm subsidies?

How do we make Social Security solvent for the next 75 years? Do we increase the retirement age? Do we increase the payroll tax? Do we increase the taxable maximum? Do we change the formula for calculating COLAs?

If we want to promote tax fairness and if we want to preserve programs such as Social Security and Medicare, then we need to get out in front and promote what we believe are the best solutions to the deficit/budget issue. It is much easier to play offense than it is to play defense. Once something is taken for fact, it is difficult to change peoples' minds.

We see this with how those in their 20s and 30s have come to believe that Social Security will not be there for them when they retire. This is because they have heard for years from those who support the privatization of Social Security that the system will be insolvent. Therefore shouldn't they be allowed to invest some of their payroll tax? We now have to convince them that there are solutions that will resolve the solvency issue. It is always harder to change a belief than to establish one.

The balanced budget, reducing the deficit debate may be one of the biggest issues in the next Congress. The outcome of the debate will provide the framework for shaping American society over the next few decades.

If we want to help shape the debate, then we need to educate ourselves and promote our solutions. We can start by reviewing the Commission's report and Co-Chairs proposal at [www.fiscalcommission.gov](http://www.fiscalcommission.gov).

Sincerely,

*Richard Reichard*

*President, S.I.D.A.*

## **Minutes**

### **General Membership Meeting November 16, 2010**

President Reichard called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

A motion was made to accept October's minutes as published in the newsletter. The motion passed.

#### **Vice President's Report**

Vice President Dennis Brown presented highlights from October's Executive Committee meeting. He spoke about the number of members and memberships that are paid up. He urged members to pay their dues.

#### **Nominating Committee Report**

Loretta Prisco, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Nominating Committee met on November 4 and that a full report will be

published in the December newsletter. Nominees can address the club at the December general meeting and must also submit a 200 word statement to be published in the January newsletter. Elections will be held at the January 2011 Annual Meeting.

### **Social Secretary's Report**

Social Secretary Liz Price reminded everyone that the Holiday Party will be held on December 9 at The Crystal Room. Liz asked members to R.S.V.P. by the end of November. The price is \$40 with an unwrapped toy and \$45 without the toy.

### **Legal Committee**

Legal Committee Chair John Lavelle handed out District Attorney Questionnaires. He asked members to look them over. He also spoke about the political activity of Supreme Court Justice Sam Alito, a well known conservative judge. He said that judges should not be involved in political activity. He feels that we have to raise our voices. He said that the legal committee is trying to figure out what to do regarding this issue.

John Lavelle reported that he is working with the developer on a new S.I.D.A. website. He has picked a background and format. We will have a forum.

President Reichard gave Jim Callaghan a chance to speak to the club. Jim said that he has been a member of S.I.D.A. since 1968. He is a writer for the U.F.T. and was fired back in August. He believes it was because he tried to unionize fellow writers working for the union, although Union officials deny the firing was related to any unionization drive.

Mr. Callaghan said that he will have a final rebuttal and plans to take his case to the National Labor Relations Board. He asked S.I.D.A. members to go to a rally on November 17 to show their support for him.

Susan Chew reminded members that the College of Staten Island will be showing the movie "Gasland" at their Williamston Theatre on Thursday, November 18, 6:30 p.m. The film presentation is being sponsored by Senator Diane Savino. Susan also reminded members that that Clean Water NY has changed its name to New Yorkers for Clean Water and is now accepting donations.

In light of the recent elections and the loss of many Democratic seats in Congress, President Reichard reminded members that important legislation that Washington has passed over the last 75 years, which defined the nation we live in today, such as Social Security, Medicare and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) were sponsored, championed and passed by Democrats. These important programs helped transform our nation. Richard feels that in light of all the anger towards Democrats, citizens need to be reminded that they should receive credit for raising the standard of living and the quality of life for many Americans.

### **Guest Speaker**

Guest speaker New York City Comptroller John Liu mentioned that it's great to see everyone and he is so happy to be back at S.I.D.A. He thanked President Reichard for inviting him to speak. He thanked the members for all their support.

Comptroller Liu, said that it has been a privilege serving as New York City's Comptroller for the last 10-1/2 months. He mentioned that the Comptroller's Office is an amazing place.

He spoke about his priorities: to sharpen the tools of the Comptroller's Office and to make government more efficient and accountable. He has made efforts to restructure the office and elevate his auditors as a separate bureau to aggressively root out waste and inefficiency. Mr. Liu mentioned that he is vigorously auditing the various city agencies and has also stopped out-of-control "money pit" contracts like the "Citytime" project which has mushroomed from an original 68 million dollars to more than 738 million dollars. He told them to finish the job that we overpaid for.

Comptroller Liu said that we have to save money. He said that he doesn't get to negotiate the city budget; his job is to put money back into the city coffers.

Mr. Liu also spoke about the high unemployment rate, eliminating disparities among women and minority owned businesses and approving contracts.

After his presentation, Comptroller Liu took questions from many members about pensions, auditing the Department of Education, the Economic Development Corporation, and other issues. He invited members

to contact him if they have anything that he can help with. Comptroller Liu mentioned that S.I.D.A. is an extraordinary Democratic club and thanked S.I.D.A. for giving him this great opportunity.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Gary Carsel reported the following balances:

Balance 10-31-10 \$6,904.93

Balance 11-16-10 \$5,848.97

Gary reviewed recent club expenses with the members; He also mentioned that he has forms to sign up for the holiday party, to take ads in the newsletter and to pay dues. President Reichard mentioned that club members in arrears must pay dues now in order to vote in the January election.

### **Analysis of November Election**

There was discussion about the recent election. Several members expressed their feelings about the recent elections.

### **Carmen Cognetta,**

#### **Chief of Staff for Congressman Michael McMahan**

Mr. Cognetta thanked the members for their help with Congressman McMahan's campaign. He mentioned that we lost 63 Democratic seats in Congress. He said that if the Republicans take the majority of the state legislature. They will re-district the state.

He mentioned that people are upset that Congressman McMahan votes with President Obama and Nancy Pelosi. He said that people are upset with water and MTA increases. He spoke about many other factors that influenced the outcome of the recent congressional race. He then spoke about ideas to re-build the party.

Mr. Cognetta said that we need to work keep the President and control of the U.S. Senate. He also mentioned that Staten Island is a tough district and we need to get more Democrats involved.

President Reichard reminded members that Social Security and Medicare came from the Democrats. Susan Chew said that every time there is an issue we need to get representatives from the various Democratic clubs to take to the streets and remind people about what the Democrats have done for this country. Various club members expressed feelings about how we could re-build the Democratic Party and that we need to energize our base. Sally

Jones suggested that we organize a committee to strategize a plan for the 2012 Congressional race. John Lavelle said he thinks S.I.D.A. should consider forming a PAC "Political Action Committee". It was agreed that we need to find different ways to get the message out, put a lot of effort into working with "To tell the Truth".

Dominic, a new S.I.D.A. member from the South Shore introduced himself to the rest of the members. President Reichard reminded members that the Holiday party is December 9 at the Crystal Room.

President Reichard announced that the next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 30 at his home. The next General meeting is scheduled for December 21 at Karl's Klipper.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marie Dwyer*

*Corresponding & Recording Secretary*

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## **SIDA Annual Elections January 18, 2011 Meeting**

I am just completing my second term as Vice President, and I am a candidate for election as President of S.I.D.A. I ask for your support, and pledge to be an active, engaged and progressive President as S.I.D.A. goes into its 50<sup>th</sup> year.

Looking back, I attended my first S.I.D.A. meetings shortly after I arrived on Staten Island in 1970. Looking forward--especially given the outcome of the recent elections, both on Staten Island and nationally--we've got a lot of work to do. Let's do it together!

### **Dennis A. Brown for President**

Please attend and vote on January 18, 2011

## **State Senator Diane Savino**

*New York State Senator Diane Savino will be our guest speaker at the December General Membership Meeting. Her office provided the following statement for the newsletter.*

Diane Savino has dedicated her entire professional career towards improving the lives of working families. She began her career in public service as a caseworker for New York City's Child Welfare Administration, providing direct assistance to abused and neglected children.

An active member of her local labor union, the Social Service Employees Union, Local 371, DC 37 of AFSCME, she quickly rose through the ranks to become the Vice President for Political Action & Legislative Affairs, where she became one of the most respected labor leaders in New York State.

As a labor activist, she actively and successfully campaigned for an increase in the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.15—the first raise for New Yorkers in over a decade.

In 2004, she was elected to represent the 23rd Senatorial District, encompassing the North Shore of Staten Island and portions of Brooklyn, including Borough Park, Coney Island, Bensonhurst, and Sunset Park.

The New York State Senate, in Democratic hands for the last two years, has passed historic legislation, sponsored or co-sponsored by Senator Savino. This year, domestic workers won basic labor rights for the first time in our country's history, with the passage of the Domestic Workers Bill. Senator Savino also passed the Wage Theft Protection Act, which will increase penalties significantly and improve enforcement of state laws on wage theft, a moratorium on the dangerous deep well gas drilling called hydrofracking, and the Dignity for all Students Act, which prohibits discrimination or harassment of students for any reason.

Other legislation includes, a law that ended the 5-year statute of limitation on sexual assault, a bill establishing a task force for the prevention and treatment of cervical cancer, the Olive Oil Labeling Bill, which prohibits additives in virgin olive oil, the Prompt Pay Bill, which ensures prompt payment to construction contractors and their employees, a cost-of-living

increase in the death benefit for widows and widowers of police officers and fire fighters killed in the line of duty.

Local initiatives include the establishment of a Quiet Zone on the Staten Island Ferry, an annual Ferry Service Survey, numerous local economic development projects, a Mobile District Office, Back to School Fairs, Women's Health Events, a series of hearings on the foreclosure and subprime lending crisis, district-wide workshops for seniors on the Medicare prescription drug plan.

In their endorsement of Senator Savino, the New York Times described her as "scrappy and effective." Her dedication to her constituents, earned her the *Staten Island Advance's* "strongest endorsement for a third term", saying "no lawmaker works harder and no lawmaker commits herself to the fight for her constituents more than Ms. Savino".

She serves as the Chair of Civil Service and Pensions and has been an outspoken defender of hard-won benefits of the hard-working public servants of the State of New York.

## **Letters**

*We in S.I.D.A. like to make our views known. The following are some of the letters written by S.I.D.A. members that have appeared in print. Unless otherwise indicated, all letters were in the Staten Island Advance and/or posted on the Advance's website [www.silive.com](http://www.silive.com). Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and are not the views of S.I.D.A.*

On-line November 10, 2010

Printed November 10, 2010

### **Blame the Election Results on Right's Hateful Propaganda**

Amidst all the gloating about how those who won the 2010 elections "got it," while those who lost didn't, it must be asked: What did they "get"?

What they got was that there was a tidal wave of anger, fear, and hate not just over the loss of jobs, homes and hope, but against "liberals" in general and President Obama in particular —and that they could ride this partisan tsunami to electoral victory.

Why was there this great wave? Because for the past two years there has been a relentless "disinformation" and hate-Obama campaign in talk radio and focused rhetoric blaming all these ills on liberals and America's first black president — successfully portraying him in the eyes of many as a strange, hateful, un-American, unChristian, socialist-communist alien who has somehow "taken over" our country.

And it worked, because, as we should have learned from Germany's tragedy in the last century, lies told often and loud enough—unchecked—can sway millions. Why wouldn't those who drank this Kool-Aid be fighting-mad at such a monster and his party?

Woe to America if we don't wake up to this poison coursing through our political bloodstream.

- *David Seeley*

On-line November 11, 2010

Printed November 13, 2010

### **Why Hire a Chancellor with No Education Experience?**

Could it be that within the close to 100,000 professional Department of Education staff, hundreds more of university people in education in New York City alone, the mayor couldn't locate one educator for chancellor?

If Joel Klein taught classes of 32 children, he would've known why class size is important. If Klein taught, he would've known that his teaching couldn't — and shouldn't — be measured by a test score.

If Klein taught, he would've known that most beginning teachers are not as strong as when they have experience. If Klein taught, he would've known the importance of parent/community involvement. If Klein taught, he would've known the importance of having the trust and confidence of staff and parents.

And so it will be with Cathleen Black, only a prettier smile and charming personality.

What is really frightening is the hold that Bloomberg will have on the media: Klein at Fox, Black from Hearst, Bloomberg from Bloomberg news. And who knows how many others are hidden away. He who controls the

media from their Park Avenue addresses and the Sun Valley, Idaho, conference of the publishing elite, controls the parameters of discussion, the public agenda and policy-making, and the ability to edit out all other opinions.

- *Loretta Prisco*

On-line November 12, 2010

**U.S. Must End Its Costly  
Wars to Restore Prosperity**

Can you imagine what a trillion dollars is? You have to count to a billion a thousand times.

The U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan could cost us, the taxpayers, a total of \$2.4 trillion by 2017, according to a Congressional Budget Office report published in October 2007. This includes the huge interest costs, because the combat is being financed with borrowed money.

These war funds could instead serve our needs for education, health, homes, highways and the well-being that comes from full employment.

The only way to reverse these costs is to end these wars and redirect our funds and efforts at home.

- *Sylvia Zaage*

On-line November 12, 2010

Printed November 14, 2010

**Don't Be Fooled by Those Who Would Kill the Minimum Wage**

In trying to take advantage of a slow economy and a federal deficit, some politicians are on the bandwagon to cut not only Social Security, but also the minimum wage.

Before you support someone who proposes this drastic and harmful measure to all working Americans, I refer you to John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath," wherein people so desperate for jobs had to bid for them, with the job going to the lowest bidder.

The minimum wage is not even a living wage. Labor unions recognize this and bargain for wages that better enable Americans to provide food, clothing and shelter for their families.

If you are being told that eliminating the minimum wage would enable employers to provide more jobs, don't be fooled by this rhetoric. This will only give us an American labor force of starving workers and poor working conditions.

If you think you might be exempt from any "no minimum wage" law because you are a white-collar worker, consider this: American CEOs make more than 500 times what their average employee makes.

Therefore, not having to abide by a minimum wage will only enable these CEOs to make even more and more than their employees.

- *Carlton Chew*

On-line November 20, 2010

Printed November 20, 2010

### **Constituents Recall McMahon's Readiness to Help**

This Thanksgiving, I want to thank Congressman Michael McMahon. I'll never forget the work he did as my councilman, where he responded immediately to community concerns, such as sanitation problems.

Everyone in his district knew that help was just a phone call away. To those who complained about the city property tax increase in response to the terrorist attack, all I can say is, bad things happen and we all have to pitch in.

I'll always be impressed by Mike McMahon's independence, getting an array of support from such politically diverse people as Jim Molinaro and Rep. Tony Weiner, as well as Hillary Clinton and Mario Cuomo. When we disagreed, I was moved by his honesty and willingness to discuss things.

I'm so proud that I was represented by a family man - amidst so many other embarrassments - who respected other people enough to support marriage equality and reproductive choice.

I'm indebted to the congressman for his leadership: His consistent support of the disabled, especially wounded warriors, encouraged my daughter Diana to travel with the USO and bring joy to veterans in Walter Reade Hospital.

He loved our nation's motto, e pluribus unum, and always honored multicultural diversity, our greatest national treasure.

Thank you, Congressman McMahon!

- *Thomas Shcherbenko*

On-line November 27, 2010

Printed November 27, 2010

**Plenty of Good Reasons to  
Save Pouch Camp**

The following letter was sent to Mayor Michael Bloomberg:

I am writing to express my great concern for the future of Staten Island Pouch Camp.

This beautiful piece of property, owned by the Boy Scouts and adjacent to the Staten Island Greenbelt, is threatened with the possibility of being sold for development.

This would be heartbreaking for the community and for the thousands of young Scouts who have enjoyed this precious natural resource.

The disappearance of this natural jewel would have a direct detrimental effect on our quality of life. Not only do the plants in Pouch Camp's woodlands and wetlands provide magnificent beauty as we have seen this past autumn, we also need them to clean our environment.

Please note the detailed studies conducted by Cornell University and other institutions describing the tremendous job trees perform by absorbing pollution and helping to stabilize the temperature during the summer. We must also consider the negative psychological effects resulting from the constant fragmentation and destruction of our beautiful natural places.

This property must be preserved for us and for the benefit of future Staten Island generations.

Please use your power to help purchase Pouch Camp as soon as possible.

- *Caroline Cutroneo*

On-line November 30, 2010  
Printed November 30, 2010

**New Chancellor Must be a  
Leader Above All Else**

With all the fuss about whether a new New York City schools chancellor should be an "educator" or a "manager," there has been insufficient attention to the crucial factor of leadership. Urban public education has been a scandal for decades, mostly though inadequate educational and political leadership.

Chancellor Joel Klein tried to implement some key elements of the new approach needed, primarily much higher expectations and a focus on results, but, as he himself admits, he has not succeeded in crucial areas needed for achieving the much better results required, namely a much closer partnership of home, school and community working for the success of city children, both in and out of school.

Whoever is the new schools chancellor will need to meet this challenge if the mayor hopes for a lasting legacy in education. But let him be aware that the typical corporate leader has no experience with three key participants who have to be brought into much more productive relationships: Teachers, students and parents, who generally have no comparable counterparts in the business world.

Considering students and parents as "customers" fails to recognize their role as crucial partners in the education process, and misconceives the leadership role of teachers.

*-David Seeley*

*[The writer is professor emeritus, City University of New York.]*

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The Staten Island Democratic Association newsletter is accepting advertising.

Full-page .....	\$85
1/2 – page .....	\$45
1/4 – page .....	\$25
Booster .....	\$5

If you would like to place an ad, please contact newsletter editor Chris Bauer at 917-576-9248 or e-mail him at [cmaxbauer@yahoo.com](mailto:cmaxbauer@yahoo.com).

## **Flashback**

*We keep our history alive by reprinting articles from past newsletters, minutes from past meetings, or other items of interest from the past. If you have items that might be appropriate for the Flashback column, please call Joy Robins at (718) 816-4128.*

### **February 20, 2001 General Meeting Minutes**

S.I.D.A. President Joy Robins called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 PM.

The first guest speaker was Libby Hikind who is a candidate for the mid-island City Council seat. She used her personal experiences as mother, educator, and activist to explain her political positions. Some of the most pointed questions from club members concerned her switches in party affiliation in the past couple of years.

The second guest speaker Scott Stringer, Candidate for Public Advocate, described himself as an independent who has been responsible for significant state laws, including the stalking law and a requirement that police officers serve orders of protection. He wants to take a more legislative approach to the office, play more of a role in the Planning Commission, and defend the average resident against corporate interests.

Minutes from the previous general meeting were accepted without amendment. The President asked the club to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of community activist Kevin Sheehy and two former mayors, Abe Beame and John Lindsay, and for the recovery of reporter Stevie Lacey-Pendleton.

Dan Kramer, Chair of the Issues Committee, reported that his group has prepared a draft questionnaire for the March 29<sup>th</sup> candidates debate. The issue paper on the Electoral College will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and printed in the next newsletter for everyone to read. A vote on the position will be taken at the next general meeting. Upcoming papers will cover tax cuts and drug policy.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Joy Robins announced that there were samples from the club's Web page [.....]\* available at the meeting for those who don't have Internet access. She also corrected the date of the Candidates' Forum printed in the February newsletter—it will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March. The next Executive Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

Cindy Voorspuy made a motion that the club invite all candidates involved in a primary election this September to come to the general meetings scheduled before the endorsement vote, giving them 5 minutes to address the club and 10 minutes for a question and answer period. The motion was seconded. Originally, the club was only going to invite individuals who had not visited the club in 2000. However, Cindy argued that visits to the club in 2000 occurred before candidates formally announced. After considerable discussion, the motion passed in a split vote.

Another motion was made, seconded and passed to send a letter to the *Staten Island Advance* denouncing the destruction of the Dorothy Day Cottage at Spanish Camp.

A proposal was made to participate as a group in Project Hospitality's Dine Out Against Hunger drive. Club members will meet at R.H. Tugs at 7:30 PM.

Helen Settles announced that Debi Rose, Candidate for the 49<sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District, is holding a forum on February 26 for the Park Hill community at 55 Bowen Street starting at 7 PM.

Mary Kain suggested including all past members of the club in a celebration of the club's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10 PM.

- *David Jones, Member-at-Large*

\* *The web site was changed subsequently. It is now at [www. sidems.org](http://www.sidems.org).*

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee, which was selected at the October general membership meeting, met on November 4 at the home of Loretta and Gene Prisco. Committee members Loretta Prisco (Committee Chair), Chris Bauer, Gary Carsel, Susan Chew, John Lavelle, Richard Reichard, Nick Popolo, Gene Prisco, and Tom Shcherbenko nominated the following candidates:

### **2011 SLATE**

#### **President**

Dennis Brown and John Lavelle

#### **Vice President**

Dennis Brown and John Lavelle

#### **Executive Secretary**

Mark Herman

#### **Corresponding & Recording**

##### **Secretary**

Marie Dwyer

##### **Treasurer**

Tom Shcherbenko

Social Secretary

Liz Price

#### **Member At-Large**

*(5 to be elected,  
in alphabetical order)*

Michelle Akyempong

Susan Chew

Shawn Dwyer

*[It turns out Shawn is an Ex Officio member, so his name will not be on the ballot.]*

Peter Killen

Roy Moscovitz

Rosemary Palladino

Loretta Prisco

Bonnie Rothman

Paul Scublinsky

The Committee received interest from two members for the Presidency, current Vice President, Dennis Brown and current Member at-Large, John Lavelle. The Committee's decision was to nominate both for the positions of President and Vice President. Both nominees agreed to serve in either position. As a result, we will have two ballots. The first will be for the election of President. The results will determine the candidate for Vice President on the second ballot.

All nominees will have the chance to address the club at the December 21 General Meeting. In addition, each candidate will be expected to submit a 200-word statement for

the January newsletter. Elections will occur at the Annual Meeting of the Association in January, 2010.

As stated in the S.I.D.A. bylaws, the Nominating Committee report shall set forth the procedure for nomination by petition. Therefore, if any additional people would like to run for a position on the Executive Committee, they may do so as explained by the following section of the bylaws:

*ARTICLE VIII Elections*

*Section 2: Nominations*

*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.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Loretta Prisco, Chair  
2009 Nominating Committee  
November 16, 2010*

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**View from the first row**

**A Multiple Choice Questionnaire for You Since That's What N.Y.C. Public Schools Have Become and It Doesn't Look Like That Will Change under Black**

N.Y.S. Commissioner of Education Steiner shouldn't have given Cathie Black a waiver to serve as Chancellor because (check all that apply):

She sits on the board of IBM, and Apple will not be able to get contracts.

She hasn't demonstrated her commitment to public schools as she is a graduate of private/parochial schools and sent her children to an exclusive private school in Kent, Connecticut.

How can she know our children when she sent her own to a boarding school in another state and probably doesn't even know her own? Has she even had the experience of trying to help with homework?

Teachers will never be able to get a Pepsi in the Teachers' Cafeteria as she sat on the Board of Coca-Cola until Nov. 15.

She doesn't even know how to spell Cathy.

She sits on the board of Harlem Village Academy, a charter with 450 children, that pays its' head \$442,000 and has a 75% teacher turnover rate.

At 66 years old, wearing stilettos and extremely pointy shoes, she cannot do what our teachers are mandated to do - stand for 6 hours.

As observers of hormone spurts in our adolescents and the sexualization of our young girls, there is concern about Black's comments on NPR in August 2010. When asked if Cosmo, one of her magazines, was going to charge for the sex tip of the day, an available app, she responded "Yeah, \$2.99," Ms. Black replied "\$2.99". "Cheaper than a hooker."

Imagine negotiating a working wage with a woman who owns, to lend, a \$47,600 (more than a beginning teacher's annual salary) Bulgari bracelet to a museum.

She won't be able to tolerate school lunches when her favorite meals are Osso buco at Babbo, and lobster at the Palm.

With obesity a major health issue, while Black was on the Coke board, their lobbyists warned Connecticut school districts that if legislation to take sugary drinks out of schools passed, Coke would stop providing money for after-school programs. It had this done in exchange for the right to put vending machines on campuses.

Rubber rooms will pale next to what Black has in store for teachers. In 2005 and 2006 there were several murders of union members at Coke bottling affiliates in Colombia. There was a claim that plant managers routinely called in death squads to terrorize their members. A PBS "Frontline" report later found attacks had occurred inside the plants with the knowledge of local supervisors. As a member of the company's public issues and diversity committee, Black was well aware of the allegations.

All of the above.

- *Loretta Prisco*

### **Upcoming Meeting**

**January 18, 2011**

**Annual Meeting**

**Karl's Klipper, 40 Bay Street**

- **N.Y.C. Public Advocate Bill de Blasio**
  - **Executive Committee Election**
- 

*"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

# Staten Island Woman's Political Caucus

Meeting: 2PM

***Saturday, January 8, 2011***



***Bridgeview Community Room***  
**150 Nicholas Ave. SI, NY 10302**


- \* Election of Executive Committee
- \* What should our focus be this year? Bring your ideas to the brainstorming discussion.

Refreshments by Neale Steiniger.  
Bring your own beverage.


Dues for 2011 are due!


## Politically Incorrect

*The following[bad] jokes have been making the rounds on the Internet.*


 Transportation Security Administration Can't see London, can't see France, unless we see your underpants


 Transportation Security Administration **Grope discounts available**


 Transportation Security Administration If we did our job any better we'd have to buy you dinner first


 Transportation Security Administration Don't worry, my hands are still warm from the last guy

 Transportation Security Administration **Wanna fly? Drop your fly**


 Transportation Security Administration We are now free to move about your pants


 Transportation Security Administration We rub you the wrong way, so you can be on your way

 Transportation Security Administration It's not a grope. It's a freedom pat

 Transportation Security Administration When in doubt, we make you whip it out

 Transportation Security Administration **TSA: Touchin', Squeezin', Arrestin'**

 Transportation Security Administration **YOU *were* a virgin...**

 Transportation Security Administration We handle more packages than the USPS