Staten Island Democratic Association
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www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:

Megan Pierce

Election of Nominating Committee

Tuesday, October 18, 2011, 8:00 P.M.,
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.
Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and not of S.I.D.A.
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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

S.I.D.A. President’s Message

At S.I.D.A.’s 50th Anniversary Banquet we celebrated commitment, dedication and service in a world that over the past five decades has been in constant change. Members of the Staten Island Democratic Association have been meeting consistently over these past 50 years. We have been participating in the political life of our borough and county, our city, state and country. Our participation has led to activism and a desire to change things for the better, both here and abroad.

While immersed in local politics, thinking globally and acting locally, we have acted globally as well. The Staten Island Democratic Association has fought for progressive and liberal causes and for democratic ideals that have been the basis for a truly great society. The United States of America, true to our highest promise and values at home, must always reach out to the world with compassion, justice and peace, based on solid principles of freedom, brotherhood, equality and sustainability.

We’ve come fifty years together, searching for positive solutions to a multitude of problems facing a world still in crisis and so much in need of political and economic stability. Our task, our mutual responsibility, remains very important and so necessary. We must continue the work

S.I.D.A., October 2011
we have begun, and we must make our city, state, country and world a better and safer place for all.

The people we decided to honor that evening, and whom many came out to salute and celebrate, have each—in their own special way—contributed greatly to making our world a better place. We are all honored by them and the dedication, activism and zeal they have shown in behalf of others and for the good of this earth we call home.

Sally Jones, Debi Rose, Denis Hughes, Ellen Pratt, Gary Carsel and Mark Herman are citizens of this world who have shown us how to work for peace, justice, freedom, brotherhood, equality and sustainability. Their efforts, energy and commitment are an example to all of us. SIDA looks forward to many more years of service, and we can be guided by these models of diligence and service.

President John F. Kennedy, in his Inaugural Address on January 20, 1961 said the following: “Now the trumpet summons us again — not as a call to bear arms….not as a call to battle….---but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out….a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself.” We can assist in this struggle by taking up the challenge of changing our world every day. We can do no better than by emulating the virtues of our six honorees and by continuing the struggle.

Sincerely,
Dennis Brown
President

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Walmart Free NYC

*Megan Pierce of Walmart Free NYC will be a guest speaker at our October 18 General Membership Meeting. She provided the following statement for the newsletter.*

Walmart is the nation’s largest retailer and probably its most controversial one. Tales of Walmart’s poor labor practices, both in their stores and within their supply chain abound in the press. However, for us who live in New York City, we have recently been flooded with Walmart’s attempts at creating a new, shiner image of their company. They are spending millions of dollars trying to erase the image that many of us have of Walmart, which is of a company that has a history/record of alleged discrimination against women, pays low wages, does not provide affordable benefits, and imports low-quality goods, many produced in international sweatshops.

Why is Walmart spending millions of dollars to change how people think of them? They are desperate to come into New York City. Walmart has saturated the rural and suburban markets and now is desperately trying to enter American cities. New York City is one of Walmart’s last chances to prove to their investors that they are a “growth company.” Walmart has even expanded their business model to include smaller, “express” stores, about the size of your local pharmacy and medium-sized “market” stores. This will allow them the flexibility to enter every neighborhood in the five boroughs.

However, is this what is best for New York City? Studies have shown that for every 2 jobs Walmart creates, 3 small business jobs are lost.
The Walmart Free NYC believes that our communities deserve better than the poverty-level jobs Walmart will bring, not to mention the increased crime, traffic and pollution that often goes along with new Walmart stores. Walmart Free NYC has been building a coalition of concerned workers and residents, small business owners, community leaders, clergy, and elected officials. They are committed to increasing economic opportunities, preserving local businesses, and bringing more jobs to communities across New York.

Organizers from Walmart Free NYC will be at your October meeting to discuss what Walmart stores might mean for Staten Island and to answer questions you may have about Walmart’s rhetoric versus reality for their associates, consumers and communities.

For more information, please visit www.walmartfreenyc.org.

Megan Pierce graduated from Fordham University in 2006 and then from CUNY Hunter in 2007 with a Master's in Social Work and Community Organizing. Soon after, she got a job as a union organizer with the United Food and Commercial Workers. She's spent the last 3 and a half years traveling the country organizing workers. Before returning to New York City to work with the Walmart Free NYC Coalition, she spent a year working with Organization United for Respect, an organization for Walmart associates.

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**Tom Murphy Article**

_The following article by past S.I.D.A. president Tom Murphy was published on-line by the United Federation of Teachers in their Retired Teachers Chapter News on September 22, 2011._

**The Summer of Our Discontent**

Over the Labor Day long weekend, I opened the local newspaper to the opinion section. While I don’t expect to find pro-labor views in the Staten Island Advance, it is not unusual to find mixed opinions concerning labor’s achievements.

Large newspaper chains generally reflect the broad middle opinion of the general populace: nothing too radical or far from the middle ground so as not to alienate their readership.

But to my dismay I found two major wire service anti-union political columns with the following headlines: “It’s Labor Day, not ‘Union Day’” (by the president of the National Right To Work Legal Defense Foundation) and “Support Workers, not Pushy Unions” (by a Bloomberg View columnist). The articles were filled with words and phrases like “choice” and “forced dues fiefdom” and “union operatives’ intimidation” and “unions’ arrogance.”

You could almost hear the tuts and tsks over what has befallen this nation and its economy, all of it designed to matter-of-factly disparage all that you and I and our forebears have worked to achieve in order to build an enlightened, progressive society.

Sometimes, in the face of this kind of talk, I want to hibernate, thinking the world can take care of itself. In my darker, brooding moments, I am tempted to say, “Let the general public get what they vote for. Let them suffer the consequences of their misplaced, angry and ill-advised choices. So there!”

But social activism is in our blood. Why else would we have become educators if improving the social contract were not part of our DNA? Remember looking down the classroom rows of
young people, feeling a special bond and commitment, and vowing to do everything humanly possible to improve their lot and afford them all the social mobility and opportunities that our democratic society has to offer? It is hard to completely let go of that. Our in-service colleagues are still out there with that same commitment to youngsters.

The cause of organized labor is an ongoing avenue of hope and a vehicle for upward mobility tragically misunderstood by “right to work” voices that tout individuals making their way in a world of corporate self-interest. If you and I were to let the wide world spin, it would spin out of control and we know it.

What can we do?

First, let’s stare this Summer of Our Discontent right in the eye: half a summer of relentless heat and half a summer of unprecedented natural events including a hurricane aimed right at New York City and even an earthquake. Add to that a debt crisis and a cascade of economic bad news including seemingly intractable high unemployment. And those who were supposed to be on our side caved in to the forces of regression.

In the language one of my Italian-American colleagues taught me, “Basta!” “Enough!”

We must rise above all this negativity and resolve to win back the field. How? By doing what we do best. We need to play an active role in the public forum. Counter anti-labor diatribes with pro-worker messages of hope and possibility. Speak up at the pool or the card table or wherever some big mouth is trashing progressives.

Write a letter to a local newspaper. Sign up for phone banks. Call an in-service colleague and offer encouragement.

Guard against flagging resolve. Believe that the long-range cycle of history is on our side. Resolve to help it along. Know that we and our parents have come out of bad times over the course of our lives. Commit to the future.

We’ve witnessed a Summer of Discontent, but we can embrace the sense of beginnings that marks the academic calendar. Look to the renewal of autumn and optimism. We can and will build a better society.

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**Motions**

The Executive Committee voted that the following two motions be placed in the October newsletter and presented at the October 18th Meeting.

**Motion #1**

The Staten Island Democratic Association requests that Justice Thomas recues himself from all cases involving the Affordable Care Act because his wife served as President and CEO of an organization whose main purpose was to oppose the Affordable Care Act and that he benefited financially through the $150,000 his wife received from this organization.

**Motion #2**

The Staten Island Democratic Association supports the request made by Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and other members of Congress that the Justice Department investigate whether Justice Thomas was not in compliance with the Ethics in Government Act by failing to indicate on his
financial disclosure forms that his wife earned almost $700,000 from the Heritage Foundation during his tenure on the Supreme Court.

(Here is a link to Congresswoman Slaughter's letter: http://www.louise.house.gov/images/stories/Judicial_Conference_Letter_Final_9.29.11.pdf)

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

On-line September 14, 2011

U.S. Knew Iraq Had Nothing to Do With Sept. 11

I was quite shocked, and outraged to see the article “ Staten Island sons who gave all in the war on terror” on silive.com by Stephanie Slepian.

How dare she, and the Staten Island Advance, imply that there was any connection between the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and the war in Iraq? This is perpetuating the lie of the Bush administration, which exploited the Sept. 11 attacks to fulfill the agenda they always had, to invade Iraq.

Bush, Cheney, and Rumsfeld always had the intention of invading Iraq, and even as the sites of the Sept. 11 attacks were smoldering, they rushed to put their plans into action. Richard Clarke, the administration’s top anti-terrorism adviser, confirmed this: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18560_162-607356.html “In the aftermath of Sept. 11, President Bush ordered his then top anti-terrorism adviser to look for a link between Iraq and the attacks, despite being told there didn’t seem to be one.” The charge comes from the adviser, Richard Clarke, in an exclusive interview on 60 Minutes.”

Instead of finishing the job in Afghanistan, and capturing/killing Osama bin Laden, and his followers (those who really were responsible for attacking us), the Bush administration pulled forces and resources from Afghanistan in order to invade Iraq, a country that had nothing at all to do with the Sept. 11 attacks.

With her piece of garbage propaganda, Slepian (and the Advance) is implying that the war of lies in Iraq was because of Sept. 11 attacks, and part of the “war against terrorism”! Those who died fighting in Iraq did not die in the war against terrorism, they died for a lie.

Shame on Slepian, shame on the Staten Island Advance, and shame on the editors of the Advance, for allowing this lying piece of garbage to be published. If there is anyone with a sense of journalistic integrity left at the Advance, you will print a retraction of this propaganda, and clarify that the war in Iraq had nothing to do with the Sept. 11 attacks.

- Joann Olbrich
Will Grimm Oppose Critical Funding for Infrastructure in Jobs Bill?
In their last report card, the American Society of Civil Engineers rated 46 percent of New York State’s roads as being in poor or mediocre condition and 42 percent of our bridges as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

On Sept. 12, President Obama sent The American Jobs Act to Congress. A major component of the act is funding to address America’s infrastructure needs. New York State will receive approximately $3 billion in infrastructure funding. The funding could support almost 39,000 jobs in the state.

Just ask the 145 people who were injured or the families of 13 people who were killed when the 35W Bridge in Minneapolis collapsed in 2007 whether investing in infrastructure is worth it.

This also comes at a time when other countries such as China are making significant investments in infrastructure, we risk falling behind competitively.

As President Obama said during his speech, the American people can’t wait for next year’s election to address the need for jobs. Nor can we wait to address our deteriorating infrastructure.

We will see within the next few months whether Congressman Grimm and his Tea Party faction will be willing to hold up this legislation as they did with raising the debt limit.

- Richard Reichard

The GOP's Web of Lies about Taxes, Jobs and Profits
In spite of the fact that the effective tax burden on wealthy Americans and American corporations continues to be the lowest in decades, Republicans insist that they are too high, that they discourage job-creation. Over 10 years of low taxes for “the job creators” . . . So, where are the jobs?

They say that we over-regulate businesses, despite indisputable proof that the lack of regulation and oversight encouraged the banking industry to imprudent behavior that nearly destroyed the marketplace and despite the fact that big businesses are now sitting on billions in profits.

They claim that the money from the Recovery Act didn’t create any jobs, yet politifact.com (a Pulitzer Prize-winning site that verifies the truth of political statements) says that it created or saved between 1.5 and 3.5 million jobs.

How long will Republicans be allowed to continue to do nothing but kvetch about the deficiencies of others, revile federal monies and yet continue, with some few exceptions, to line up for funds when earthquake, fire and storm destroy homes?

And will the voters of Staten Island have a memory of that arrogant Do-nothingism that extends to November 2012?

- Bonita Rothman

GOP's 'Class Warfare' Canard is Insulting to Our Military
“Class warfare”? I hope that Rep. Michael Grimm won’t repeat that insulting expression, because he knows what real warfare is.
If some billionaires don’t want to pay the same percentage of taxes that the rest of us do, they have a right to complain, but not to compare it to warfare. This insults our boys and girls who risk life and limb in combat every day — at a lot less salary than House Speaker John Boehner.

I think billionaires would be proud to pay their fair share to help our country during an economic crisis, not whine.

- Tom Shcherbenko

August Minutes

General Meeting
August 16 2011

President Brown called the meeting to order at 8:15pm. He made mention of the S.I.D.A. 50th Dinner Invitation, response card and journal ad in the centerfold of the August newsletter.

Minutes

David Jones made a motion to accept the minutes for June and July as submitted by Corresponding and Recording Secretary Marie Dwyer in the August newsletter. The motion carried.

Joann Olbrich made a motion to close voting for the endorsement in the District Attorney’s race at 9:30 pm. Mark Herman raised an objection to the proposed motion stating that we cannot endorse a candidate on the same night as the person speaks. Bob Dunne stated that the endorsement vote was not on the agenda. He mentioned that according to the by-laws members have to be notified before the meeting in writing. Joann Olbrich stated the same thing and said that to suspend the by-laws we would need a two thirds vote. Loretta Prisco said that Mr. Ryan is a great candidate with no opposition and it would be wise to endorse him as soon as possible so that we could have a fundraiser and give Mr. Ryan some money for his campaign.

Loretta made a motion that we suspend the by-laws and go ahead with the endorsement vote. Joann said that she really feels members need to be notified and doesn’t feel that we should suspend the rules. There was further discussion for and against Loretta’s motion. A vote was taken on Loretta’s motion to suspend the S.I.D.A. by –laws and hold the vote tonight. The motion failed. President Brown announced that we will hold the endorsement vote at the September 20th meeting.

1st Guest Speaker

Michael Ryan, Democratic Candidate for Staten Island District Attorney said that he doesn’t take it for granted that everyone in the room knows who he is. He reviewed his background including education and work history for the members. He said that he brings a street level experience to the job he is seeking. He mentioned that he feels he has the experience necessary to run the DA’s office. He also identified a lot of problems on Staten Island and his solutions to resolve them.

He is very concerned because he says that Richmond County leads the state in prescription drug overdose. He mentioned that he wants to re-institute programs in schools to help resolve
this issue. He is worried that if we don’t fix this problem we will have a generation that doesn’t contribute to society.

Mr. Ryan said that a DA has to prosecute all different types of crimes. He mentioned that he had run for this office four years ago. He said that he plans to serve his full term if he wins.

Mr. Ryan is raising his family here and wants Staten Island to be the best it can be. He said that he plans to come back in September to get the club’s endorsement.

After the presentation, Mr. Ryan took questions from many members in attendance.

2nd Guest Speaker
Elizabeth Stevens and Liz Figuero came from the Coalition of Concerned Medical Professionals. Elizabeth Stevens spoke about CCMP which was founded on Long Island in 1973. It is a private, free, and voluntary unincorporated membership established to fight for access to comprehensive health care for low income workers and other medically uninsured people.

Luz Figueroa explained that the organization is moving to new office space in Brooklyn and she appealed to S.I.D.A. members for help with the move. She also mentioned that the organization needs help in the office doing clerical work and training people to be medical advocates working with dentists and patients. Luz also announced that members can help by purchasing a yearly subscription of the organization’s newsletter, “Vital Signs” for $20.

Both Liz Stevens and Luz Figueroa repeated that the organization is run by volunteers and there are no paid salaries. They both urged members to volunteer to help the organization.

President Brown thanked Susan and Carlton Chew who told him about CCMP. Susan suggested we pass a hat around the room and make a contribution to CCMP. The hat was passed.

Vice Presidents’ Report
Vice President John Lavelle presented highlights from the last two Executive Committee meetings.

Executive Secretary’s Report
Executive Secretary Mark Herman spoke about recent news in Washington DC re: the Debt Ceiling issue. He also mentioned that there is only one race on Staten Island this year; Michael Ryan is the Democratic Candidate running against incumbent Dan Donovan for SI District Attorney. Mark mentioned that we also need to watch out for Congressman Michael Grimm. He feels we need to send an important message to him. Mark feels we need to have a rally to let him know that we are not happy with his ideas. He mentioned that we need to come out to help Mike Ryan with his campaign and that will also be a message to Congressman Grimm.

President Brown announced that S.I.D.A. member Oran Brown just celebrated his 94th Birthday. The waitress brought a piece of pie out to Oran and everyone sang Happy Birthday to him.

Treasurer’s Report
Treasurer Tom Shcherbenko said that we had an invitation mailing on August 6 at Mary Kain’s home for the upcoming Banquet. He thanked her for hosting. He spoke about various expenses for the Banquet. He said that Roy Moskowitz set up an Act Blue account which people could use to pay for their Banquet tickets.
The current balance is $800 (and there is an outstanding invoice). Tom mentioned that our balance was low due to Banquet expenses. Tom also thanked Dennis, Gene and Karl for cooking at the picnic.

Social Secretary’s Report
Social Secretary Liz Price reported that 600 banquet invitations were mailed out the week before. She also mentioned that the committee mailed out 100 more than last year. She urged members to mail their checks in soon. Liz also announced that the next 50th Anniversary Planning Committee meeting will be held on August 30, 7pm at the Kings Arms. She mentioned that this was the last month before the banquet. Anyone with any comments or concerns should contact Liz.

Roy announced that there would be journal committee meeting Thursday, August 18th at the Kings Arms Diner at 7 pm. He especially urged anyone with contacts to various groups to attend. He said that everyone is welcome to sell ads. Liz thanked all the people on the planning committee for their help. President Brown thanked Liz for all her hard work. He urged people to attend the banquet and sell ads for this annual event.

President Brown explained that according to the clubs by-laws, people who are members of S.I.D.A. and State committeeman or District Leaders on County’s Executive Board can seek endorsement from the club and then become ex-officio members of the club’s Executive Committee. District Leaders and State committeemen are up for re-election this year.

The following District leaders gave statements requesting S.I.D.A.’s endorsement: Joann Olbrich, Michele Akeympong, Belinda Dixon and Gary Carsel. Marie Dwyer spoke for Shawn Dwyer and Mark Herman spoke on Mark Zink’s behalf. President Brown asked Chris Bauer to put a statement in the newsletter that we will hold an endorsement vote for District Leaders in September.

Political Action Committee
Richard Reichard reported that he had attended a coalition meeting with various organizations to take back the 13th Congressional District seat. He made the following motion: That S.I.D.A. join the coalition to take back the 13th congressional district seat. After some discussion, the motion passed with 3 abstentions.

Richard also announced that on Monday August 21 there would be a celebration of the 76th Anniversary of signing Social Security into law at McKinley Park, 73rd St and Ft Hamilton Parkway. He mentioned that free pizza and cake will be served.

Richard made the following motion: That S.I.D.A. oppose increasing Port Authority tolls on Staten Island residents and businesses. Bob Dunne made this friendly amendment to Richard’s motion: All tolls on Port Authority bridges be frozen where they are now regardless of where people work or live. Richard says he feels we need to fix the Goethals bridge. Bob says we can sell city use bonds to fund capital improvements since the rates are low now. Richard didn’t accept the amendment as friendly. Bob’s amendment was seconded by Cindy. The amendment carried.

Question: Freeze tolls as they are now?
In favor ........................................ 20
Opposed ........................................ 2
Abstentions ................................. 2
Janie Groff of Brooklyn Democrats for Change spoke to members. She mentioned that our clubs have common interests in wanting to get rid of Congressman Grimm. She invited members to attend her meetings which are usually held on the 1st Thursday of the month.

Loretta Prisco reported that both her and her husband Gene walked with Verizon workers during their recent strike. She spoke a bit about the Verizon strike. She said that we should sign onto change.org and sign a petition. She also mentioned that we should write letters to our Staten Island elected officials and to the Staten Island Advance in support of the Verizon workers. Gene suggested that S.I.D.A. write a letter to the Staten Island Advance about the Verizon strike. President Brown asked Loretta to write the letter. Loretta agreed to do it.

Susan Chew of New Yorkers for Clean Water said that the best way to get our voices heard is write personal letters. She said she can provide talking points. She wants members to write letters and flood the Governor’s office and the DEC in support of the fracturing ban bill. Susan made a motion that the club write a letter to the Assembly members Titone and Cusick to sign the ban fracking bill. The motion passed unanimously.

Publicity & Public Relations Committee
Roy Moskowitz said that it is hard to get media coverage at night. We are more likely to get coverage Wednesdays from 1:00 -2:00 pm. He also mentioned that the Staten Island Advance will be interviewing Mark Herman about S.I.D.A.. The article will be published in the Memories section and it will be published at the end of the month.

New Business
Gary Carsen announced that the NAACP will be having their annual brunch on September 24th. A half page ad is $75 and tickets are $100 each.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Dwyer
Corresponding & Recording Secretary

September Minutes

General Meeting
September 20, 2011

President Brown called the meeting to order at 8:15 pm. He reviewed the agenda for the evening and reminded members about the upcoming 50th Anniversary banquet scheduled for September 27th. He thanked Social Secretary Liz Price and said that he feels she has been doing an incredible job planning this event.
Minutes
President Brown mentioned that minutes from the Aug meeting will be published in the October newsletter.

Rosemary Palladino made a motion to close voting for the endorsement vote for Mike Ryan (Candidate for Staten Island District Attorney) and for District Leaders Belinda Dixon, Shawn Dwyer, Joann Olbrich and Mark Zink at 9:30pm. The motion carried. Rosemary Palladino, Peter Killen and Cindy Lowney volunteered to count the ballots.

Vice President’s Report
Vice President John Lavelle presented highlights from the Executive Committee meeting held on September 24th.

Executive Secretary’s Report
Executive Secretary Mark Herman said that tonight we will be voting to endorse S.I.D.A. members that are District Leaders and have already been voted in by the County Committee. S.I.D.A.’s endorsement of these District leaders makes them ex-officio members of the Executive Committee of the club. He also mentioned that a lot of people worked hard on the Dinner Planning Committee and it should be a great event. Mark also spoke about the loss of former Congressman Weiner’s seat in Queens.

Treasurer’s Report
Treasurer Tom Shcherbenko reported a balance as of September 20, 2011 of $6,183.36. Tom said that at this time a lot of money is coming in and going out due to the upcoming dinner. He mentioned that over 150 people had already paid for their tickets. He added that members should let him know if they are planning to attend the dinner.

Social Secretary’s Report
Social Secretary Liz Price reported that plans for the upcoming dinner are going great. She also mentioned that the journal was at the printers. Liz thanked all the people that were on the Dinner planning committee for all their hard work. She mentioned that planning for the dinner started back in February. She feels that it is going to be a great event due to all the hard work that was done. Liz also thanked people that purchased tickets and journal ads early.

Guest Speaker
Ed Luster, President of CWA Local 1102, thanked everyone for all their support during the recent Verizon strike. He spoke about the issues that led Verizon workers to strike. He feels that the company should pay employees the best to get the best out of them.

The purpose of the strike was for workers to maintain what they had. He mentioned that workers are currently working under the old agreement and didn’t get a wage increase.

Mr. Luster also spoke about the dilemma labor and working men and women of our country face. He also said that he is thankful to all the customers that use Verizon products. He thanked members for their help and support. After his presentation, Mr. Luster took questions from several members. Steve Lawton from CWA Local 1102 was with Mr. Luster. He also thanked the members for their help and support. President Brown said that we need to work together and stick together fighting for Democratic values.
Endorsement Votes

Staten Island District Attorney
Michael Ryan
Endorse....................................... 33
No Endorsement.............................. 0

District Leader
All (Joann Olbrich, Belinda Dixon, Shawn Dwyer, and Mark Zink) were endorsed.

President Brown mentioned that there are many ways to help Mike Ryan’s campaign. Mark Herman made a motion that the club have a fundraiser for him and that S.I.D.A. donate $100 towards refreshments. Motion was seconded by Sally Jones and carried unanimously. Marie Dwyer announced that she would like to hold the fund raiser for Mike Ryan at her home. It will be hosted by Marie and Shawn Dwyer along with Joann Olbrich. The event will be held on Sunday, October 9th at the Dwyer’s home in Great Kills. There will be an email going out with more details.

Political Action & Strategy Committee
Richard Reichard said that he had attended a coalition meeting about Mike Grimm. He is trying to organize a rally in front of Staten Island Boro Hall regarding the Jobs bill, Medicare and Social Security. Richard also mentioned that he wants to have a big rally this fall. He feels it is very important to re-elect President Obama so that programs such as Medicare and Social Security can continue to exist.
Rich said that he needs people to show up at these rallies. He also mentioned that we need a good candidate to run for Congress against Michael Grimm.

Constitutional Review Committee
Joann Olbrich reported that she had received emails from several members with ideas for by-law changes. She mentioned some ideas and topics that she will be speaking about. She plans to hold a meeting after the dinner. Joann also mentioned that nothing can be changed without a 2/3 vote to pass. Proposed changes will be published in the newsletter before being voted on.

Publicity & Public Relations Committee
Roy Moskowitz said that the SI Advance published an article in the memories column profiling Mark Herman. The article was written by Mike Azzara (one of the founding members of S.I.D.A.). Roy also reported that he is trying to get NY 1 to cover the dinner and he is also trying to get cable coverage of the event. Loretta Prisco asked if both S.I.D.A. General and Executive Committee meetings could be called in to the SI Advance. Roy said that he always calls in the General meetings.

Issues Committee
Loretta Prisco reported that President Brown asked her to write a letter to Verizon and it was sent out.
Old Business

President Brown announced that Rosemary Palladino had been recently honored by the Young Dems. Rosemary said that they celebrated the passing of the Marriage Equality Act and the demise of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell.

NY for Clean Water

Peter Killen reported for Susan Chew that the DEC put out a 1,000 page report and that they need our help. Send a letter or click on the link to send message to the DEC re: Hydro fracturing. He said that the oil companies and gas companies are flooding our airways saying that Hydro fracturing is safe.

New Business

Loretta said that every year the club allocates money for the President to attend the Democratic Gala. She made a motion that the club allocates $150 to send Dennis to the Democratic Gala to be held on November 3, 2011. The motion passed.

President Brown said that he will send out email to announce the date for the next Executive Committee meeting. He also reported that the website needs updating.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary

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 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 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 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.
Democratic Gala

Richmond County Democratic Chair John P. Gulino invites you to
The 2011 Democratic Gala
SALUTE TO LABOR

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

The 2011 Democratic Gala
SALUTE TO LABOR

Honoring

DENIS HUGHES
President, New York State AFL-CIO
Democratic Leadership Award

VINCENT ALVAREZ
President, NYC Central Labor Council
Labor Leadership Award

Thursday, November 3, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Excelsior Grand
2380 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY

$150 per person

Gala Co-Chairs: Joseph Santigate and Elizabeth Sunshine
Journal Co-Chairs: Richard L. McMahon and Susan Piazza
The 2011 Democratic Gala

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**2011 Democratic Gala Table Seating List**

Tables can seat 10 or 12

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________
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6. __________________________
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11. __________________________
12. __________________________

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Yes, I will attend. Please reserve ___ tickets for the Thursday, November 3rd Gala at $150 per person.

Enclosed is my contribution $_________

I will be unable to attend, but enclosed is my contribution of $_________.

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
______________________________ Zip __________

Telephone __________________________
Fax __________________________
E-mail __________________________

Please make checks payable to: Democratic County Committee
35 New Dorp Plaza, Staten Island, NY 10306
718-983-5009 · sidemocrats@yahoo.com
Contributions are not tax deductible.

Please include as much information as possible.
Paid for by the Richmond County Democratic Committee
# 2011 Democratic Gala Journal Contract

Closing Date: Thursday, October 20, 2011

Ads received after October 20th are not guaranteed inclusion in the Journal

I (we) agree to pay the sum of $__________ for a _____ page advertisement in the 2011 Democratic Gala Journal, to be issued on Thursday, November 3rd.

The honorees for the 2011 Democratic “Salute to Labor” Gala are:

**DENIS HUGHES**, President, New York State AFL-CIO

**VINCENT ALVAREZ**, President, NYC Central Labor Council

| Back Cover ..................$2,000 | Silver Page .................$250 |
| Inside Back Cover ........$1,000 | Full Page .....................$150 |
| Inside Front Cover .......$1,000 | Half Page .....................$75 |
| Gold Page ....................$500 | Quarter Page ................$50 |

Please attach your camera-ready artwork, business card or other advertising copy below:

Name ____________________________

Company Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________________________

_________________________ Zip ______________

Telephone ____________________________

E-mail ____________________________

Please make checks payable to: Democratic County Committee
35 New Dorp Plaza, Staten Island, NY 10306
718-983-5009 · Fax: 718-983-5541 · e-mail: sidemocrats@yahoo.com

Corporate checks will be accepted.

**DINNER/JOURNAL COMMITTEE - 2011 DEMOCRATIC GALA**

Joseph Santigate and Elizabeth Sunshine, Gala Co-Chairs

Richard L. McMahon and Susan Piazza, Journal Co-Cairs
Make Food Not War

Peace Action cordially invites you to our 4th annual Make Food Not War Dinner

Honoring Staten Island Peace Makers
Marjorie Garvin, Community Activist
Patricia and Lloyd Berg, Fellowship of Reconciliation

Keynote Speaker: Colonel Ann Wright
Ann Wright is a retired Army Reserve colonel and a 29-year veteran of the Army and Army Reserves. She was also a diplomat in Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sierra Leone, Micronesia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. She resigned from the Department of State on March 19, 2003, in opposition to the Iraq war.

Saturday, November 5, 2011 - 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
New Dorp Moravian Church
2205 Richmond Road, Staten Island, NY 10306
Take the S74 Bus from St George Ferry to Todt Hill Road Stop

Music by Jimmy Mack, Phyllis Forman, David Jones
Raffle Drawing during Dessert (1st prize $300, 2nd & 3rd prize $100)

For more information call 718-989-2881.
Adult Tickets $40 Children and Students $10
Raffle Tickets ($5/book)

Pay online at www.peacesi.org; or
Make check payable to Peace Action of Staten Island, Inc.
P.O. Box 201, St. George Station, Staten Island, NY 10301.

Name(s) ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
Phone ___________________ Email ___________________

** Proceeds will be shared by Peace Action of Staten Island, Inc. and Peace Action Fund of New York State. Both are 501(c)3 non-partisan, non-profit organizations. Peace Action is dedicated to promoting the non-violent resolution of conflict, the abolition of nuclear weapons, halting the global spread of conventional arms, building a human rights culture and supporting human needs instead of militarism.
Upcoming Meetings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>October 18, 21</th>
<th>November 15, 2011</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>Karl’s Klipper, 40 Bay Street</td>
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<td>• Megan Pierce of Walmart Free NYC</td>
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<td>• Nominating Committee Election</td>
<td>• Nominating Committee Report</td>
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**It’s Time to Join or Renew Your S.I.D.A. Membership!**
To become a member, renew membership, or make a donation, call Tom Shcherbenko at (718) 420-0252, or complete and return the coupon. Voting privileges begin 45 days after joining.

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### 2011 DUES

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### DONATION

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Name

Address ____________________________   Apt # ____________________________

City ____________________________   State _____   Zip ____________________________

Phone ____________________________   E-mail ____________________________

Make checks payable to S.I.D.A. and send to: P.O. Box 140371
Staten Island, NY 10314-0371

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**S.I.D.A. Executive Committee**

President .................. Dennis Brown   Member at-Large .............. Rosemary Palladino
Vice President ............. John F. Lavelle   Member at-Large .............. Loretta Prisco
Executive Secretary......... Mark Herman   Ex Officio .................. Belinda Dixon
Corresponding & .................. Mark Herman   Ex Officio .................. Shawn Dwyer
Recording Secretary ....... Marie Dwyer   Ex Officio .................. Gary Carsel
Treasurer .................. Tom Shcherbenko   Ex Officio .................. Joann Olbrich
Social Secretary ............ Liz Price   Ex Officio .................. Nick Popolo
Member at-Large .............. Susan Chew   Ex Officio .................. Richard Reichard
Member at-Large .............. Peter Killen   Ex Officio .................. John Sollazzo
Member at-Large .............. Roy Moskowitz   Ex Officio .................. Mark Zink

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S.I.D.A., October 2011