



January 2013

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:

Next Meeting:



- **NYS Senator Dan Squadron**

Candidate for NYC Public Advocate

- **Election of Executive Committee**

Tuesday, January 15, 8:00 P.M.

Veranda at Silver Lake Golf Course

915 Victory Boulevard - (718) 442-4653



Executive Committee Election Vote Closing Times

At our January 15 Annual Meeting we will be electing our Executive Committee. Because there are contested races for officer positions, and candidates for officer positions who lose have the option of being put on the ballot for Member-at-Large, there will a two-tier election process. At our December 18 meeting the club voted for the following times to close the voting:

9:00 p.m.

Vote closing for
officer positions

9:45 p.m.

Vote closing for
Member-at-Large positions



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.

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

S.I.D.A. President’s Message

January 2013

Dear Members and Friends of S.I.D.A.:

This is my last President’s Message, since I am term-limited. According to our S.I.D.A. Constitution, no one may serve more than two one-year terms without waiting at least five years for that opportunity. I am sure that in five years S.I.D.A. will have a much younger person at the helm than I will be at that time. Not that age should be a barrier to serving, but rather it is important to have new leadership coming up from the ranks, and also to have new members coming in to our progressive, liberal, Democratic club.

New members, both young and old, bring new ideas, new energy, new hope and new activism which is what we constantly need to have a vital and dynamic organization. New members blended with the tradition and many years of dedication on the part of long-time members have been the hallmark of the Staten Island Democratic Association these fifty-one years of its very active and ongoing existence.

I am proud to have been able to serve S.I.D.A. as Vice President for two terms and now as President for two terms. I have enjoyed working closely with so many of you and with such excellent Officers and Executive Committee Members as well. We have all worked for better government and fought for issues and policies to serve the common good. We have won some battles and lost others, but have never retreated from our ideals and from our noble call to serve the needs of this world we live in.

It has been a great experience for me in that I have not only supported great candidates and causes, but have also made many fine friends in these endeavors. As Mark Herman would say, "Dennis, make a speech." Well, here's a speech: "I'm honored by the trust you placed in me these past four years.

I've enjoyed the ride. Thanks for being there with me and allowing me to work with all of you. I intend to continue to be supportive of our issues, candidates and causes." And as Bob Hope used to say, "Thanks for the memories."

Sincerely,
Dennis A. Brown
President



Dan Squadron

New York State Senator Dan Squadron is a candidate for New York City Public Advocate and will be a guest speaker at our January 15 Annual Meeting. The following biography was taken from his Senate website.

Daniel Squadron is serving his third term representing New York's 26th Senate District, which includes the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Greenpoint, Williamsburg, Vinegar Hill, DUMBO, Fulton Ferry, Brooklyn Heights, Downtown Brooklyn, Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, and Columbia Waterfront, and the Manhattan neighborhoods of Tribeca, Battery Park City, the Lower East Side, Chinatown, the Financial District, Little Italy, SoHo, and the East Village. First elected in November 2008 at the age of 28, he unseated a 30-year incumbent who had been in office since before Senator Squadron was born.

At the heart of Senator Squadron's priorities is a focus on transforming government so that it works better for all New Yorkers. Senator Squadron believes that for New York to work, its government must work -- from the fundamentals of public education, public protection, public transit, and open space that keeps our city livable, to the innovation that will keep us moving forward for the next generation.

Public transit and complete streets are critical to New York's success -- and Senator Squadron has been a driving force on both. Senator Squadron worked with the MTA to create the first-of-its-kind subway full line reviews, leading to improved service on the F and L lines. He's been a leader in the the fight for a sustainable funding stream for New York's public transit system. Senator Squadron's "Hayley and Diego's Law" now cracks down on careless driving, and his Delancey Street Safety Working Group led to significant safety improvement along one of the city's most dangerous corridors.

Senator Squadron is a strong believer in the importance of parks and open space for all communities. He's long advocated for a Harbor Park -- a central park for the center of our city --

and has successfully moved each of its elements forward: from agreements to secure the futures of Brooklyn Bridge Park and Governors Island, to new funding to build a world-class waterfront park on the Lower East Side's Pier 42.

In the Senate, Senator Squadron has fought to change the way Albany does business so that our government can work more effectively for us. He was a lead author of the comprehensive ethics reform package that passed both houses of the legislature in 2010 and paved the way to new ethics laws in 2011, and he wrote the law that now prohibits public officers from using government resources for their own for-profit business. Senator Squadron is also a leader in reforming New York's broken campaign finance system; among a number of bills he's introduced is legislation that would make New York a national leader in the fight against Citizens United and empower people -- rather than corporations -- in the political process.

Senator Squadron has also worked to make government work for small businesses. Last year, his bill to create benefit corporations -- a new type of business that can pursue both profit and social good -- became law, putting New York on the cutting edge of a new kind of social entrepreneurship and potentially unleashing billions in new investment. He's fought to grow New York's burgeoning tech sector, including by successfully advocating for a new NYU tech campus in Downtown Brooklyn and a new bus route to serve the developing "Tech Triangle" in DUMBO and the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

As the former chair and current ranking member of the Social Services Committee, Senator Squadron has successfully fought to expand critical programs like summer youth employment, settlement houses, and Nurse-Family Partnership, a proven home visitation program for vulnerable first-time mothers and their infants.

A leader in the fight for affordable housing, Senator Squadron sponsored the law to bring over \$1 billion in federal funds into New York City's public housing over the next 15 years, allowing for critical improvements in 21 developments in which tens of thousands of New Yorkers live. He's also worked to secure key rent reforms, including his provision to curb a loophole that allowed individual apartment improvements to be used to take apartments out of stabilization.

Prior to joining the State Senate, Senator Squadron served as a top aide to U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, and together with Senator Schumer co-authored "Positively American: Winning Back the Middle Class Majority One Family at a Time." As part of the effort to pass the Rebuild and Renew Transportation Bond Act, he worked to secure nearly \$3 billion in infrastructure improvements and expansion to our subways and buses. He also worked for our public school system to move money from the bureaucracy to the classroom.

Dedication to public service to create meaningful change began at an early age for Senator Squadron. His paternal grandfather came through Ellis Island and was raised on the Lower East Side; his father rose from poverty to become the Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. His maternal grandfather was a World War II veteran and Brigadier General in the Air Force; his mother volunteered during the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964 and was a top staffer at the American Civil Liberties Union. A graduate of Yale University, Senator Squadron lives in Carroll Gardens with his wife and son.



Minutes

General Meeting December 18, 2012

President Brown called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. He asked for a moment of silence in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and the recent tragedy in Newton Connecticut. President Brown also thanked Loretta Prisco for chairing the Nominating Committee and for everyone who “stepped up to the “plate.” He thanked Social Secretary Liz Price for all her hard work arranging the recent all Dems end of the year event. He also recognized Tom Shcherbenko, Loretta Prisco, Susan and Carlton Chew, and Pat Killen.

A motion was made to accept the December minutes as published in the newsletter. The motion carried.

Executive Secretary’s Report

Executive Secretary Mark Herman spoke about the recent tragedy in Connecticut. He also mentioned that we are finishing the political year and gearing up for a major election next year. He noted that there are six Democratic clubs on Staten Island and S.I.D.A. is the oldest 51 yrs. old. He said he is very proud of the club.

President Brown thanked Chris Bauer for all his work as editor of S.I.D.A.’s newsletter.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Tom Shcherbenko gave the balance as of December 18 as \$7,411.65. Tom provided financial details from the recent all Dems end of the year get together. He reported a preliminary profit of \$1,258.15 from the Annual Banquet and mentioned he is still in the process of collecting money.

Tom thanked Peter Killen for collecting dues. Richard Reichard asked how much money people still owe the club. Tom reported approximately \$685 for journal ads and approximately \$800 for tickets.

Social Secretary’s Report

Social Secretary Liz Price reported 80 people actually attended the recent end of the year event. She felt it was a great success. She mentioned that a lot of politicians came to the event and stayed. Many gifts were collected for seniors and were donated to Vanderbilt Nursing home. She said the residents were very happy and she thanked all those who helped with the gifts.

Gun Violence Prevention

Phil Jonas reported the NYS Million Mile March has been working hard since the shooting in Connecticut. He mentioned he is leading the charge. He said there has been a lot of movement since the tragedy. Four pieces of Federal legislation have been written. He announced there would be a working meeting on Saturday, December 22, at St Mary’s church. He urged members to contact him if they are able to help out.

Nominating Committee Report

Chair Loretta Prisco announced that the Nominating Committee report was published in the December newsletter. She thanked all the members on the committee for their assistance. Loretta announced the slate of proposed candidates and nine candidates running for at-large positions. She apologized that she had inadvertently left Edwina Martin's name off of the list of candidates for Member-at-Large in the printed version of the report. Ms. Martin's name did appear in the e-mailed version of the newsletter.

She said that according to the bylaws we can have a Minority Report. On the minority report – Tom Shcherbenko is running for President and Cindy Lowney is running for Vice President. Also per the bylaws additional nomination may be made by petition signed by 15% of those members in good standing or 15 members, whichever is fewer, by December meeting. Helen Settles submitted such a petition for Member-at-Large at the end of the meeting.

There was discussion about how we are going to have a two part election. Rich Reichard made a motion: the January 15th meeting voting should be in two phases. The first part will be for the officers and voting will close at 9:00 p.m. and the second part will be for at-large members and voting will close at 9:45 p.m. Ralph Dickar made a friendly amendment to change time on the second ballot to 10:00 pm. The amendment was not accepted. The motion carried with 67 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

Featured Guest Speaker

Councilwoman Leticia "Tish" James announced that she plans to run for New York City Public Advocate. She spoke about her education, and background as well as the experience and accomplishments that she feels qualify her to serve in this position. She also spoke about her reasons for running for Public advocate, and what she hoped to accomplish if elected. After her presentation, the councilwoman took questions from many members in attendance.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Rosemary Palladino presented highlights from the November 28 Executive Committee meeting.

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee Candidate's Speeches

The following members addressed the club:

- Tom Shcherbenko - for President
- Rosemary Palladino - for President
- Cindy Lowney – for Vice President
- Joann Olbrich – for Vice President
- Mark Herman - unopposed for Executive Secretary
- Marie Dwyer - Running unopposed for Corresponding & Recording Secretary
- Liz Price –unopposed for Social Secretary
- Bonnie Rothman –unopposed for Treasurer

The following candidates are running for at-large positions (nine people running and five to be elected):

- Bobbi Digi
- Richenda Kramer
- Roy Moskowitz
- Edwina Martin

- Rich Florentino,
- Loretta Prisco.

Juan Carlos Payero and Nicole O'Loughlin are running but were not present.

Loretta Prisco, Chair of the Nominating Committee announced that candidates running for club office need to submit a statement of 200 words or less to Chris Bauer by Jan 1, 2013.

President Brown announced that due to the late hour some of the other committee chairs will present their reports at the next meeting. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on January 2, 2013, 7:00 pm at his home.

President Brown announced that S.I.D.A. will donate \$50 to Project Hospitality in memory of Debi Rose's father Louis Carrington. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary*

P.S. Joy, thanks for all your editing. Best wishes to everyone for a very Happy New Year!!



View from the First Row

Raise Your Hand If You Want Rupert Murdoch to Have Confidential Information on Your Child!

Just when we thought we'd be out of the educational cesspool as we close in on the end of the Bloomberg administration, Wireless Generation, owned by disgraced Murdoch, is offered a \$4.9 million contract from the Department of Education for software that will report and analyze data for the Common Core Standards assessments. And in the back door creeps Joel Klein, who runs the Murdoch company.

But it doesn't stop there. Wireless Generation is developing software for the Shared Learning Collaborative which is collecting confidential names, addresses, grades, test scores, disciplinary and attendance records and learning disability status of all of our children which will be "shared". From their website: The Shared Learning Collaborative is an alliance of states, foundations, educators, content providers, developers and vendors who are passionate about using technology to improve education. \$4.9 million tax dollars for this untested project while class size increases and special ed children aren't receiving mandated services. Our tax dollars will be buying us those dinner time marketing calls, having our mailboxes stuffed with promotions, and most importantly our children's vital records will no longer be confidential.

- Loretta Prisco



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.

This letter appeared in The Daily News

On-line December 18, 2012

Printed December 18, 2012

Stop the Killing

Staten Island: Will this latest atrocity be enough for the American people to stand up and say they've had it? Or will it take another one even worse than this one? When will the American people rise up and stop allowing the merchants of death, those who profit from manufacturing and selling guns, to dictate how we interpret our Constitution ?

- Joann Olbrich

On-line December 19, 2012

Printed December 15, 2012

Storm Victims Must be Savvy in Dealing with Insurance Firms

Six weeks after Hurricane Sandy, many New Yorkers are still finding themselves without the help and financial assistance they need to rebuild their homes and lives.

As their bills pile up and with the holidays around the corner, homeowners are struggling to get by while waiting for reimbursements from their insurance companies.

Some residents are waiting just to receive responses from their carriers and must delay repairing their homes for weeks due to red tape and technicalities.

Take, for example, one Staten Island resident who lost his entire home in the storm. He received approval from the city Department of Buildings to demolish his house, so he can rebuild. But now he has to wait for his insurance company to inspect his property.

Others are experiencing problems with insurance companies that are disputing how the damage to their homes occurred and are denying coverage without even an inspection. Still others are being told to accept less than they know their loss was worth.

The state has already changed insurance rules to speed up the time it takes to process claims, but many people are still experiencing delays.

It doesn't need to be this way. Here are some critical steps you can take to ensure that you receive the reimbursements you're entitled to from your insurance company.

When filing a claim, try to do so as quickly as possible. Most claims are processed first-come, first-served, and may have limited funds. The sooner you submit your claim, the sooner you'll receive a decision from your carrier. Make sure to document all damage with photographs or video.

Any time you fill out a form, make sure that all of the information is completely accurate. Insurance companies may deny you coverage based on small errors, even if they are honest mistakes.

In order to protect yourself, make sure to have a paper trail for all communication with your insurance company. Print out e-mails and make any challenges in writing. When speaking on the phone with your insurance carrier, remember to get the full name of the representative you are

speaking to and confirm the date and content of the conversation in writing afterwards. Having hard copies of any correspondence can help hold insurance companies responsible.

Don't be bullied by your carrier. If you have any doubts, seek legal advice and consider hiring your own contractor or a public adjuster to confirm the insurance company's estimates.

Many policy-holders leave the claims adjuster hired by their insurance company to evaluate costs, but it is important to make your own estimates as well. The adjusters sent by carriers are not impartial third parties; they work in the interest of the insurance company.

Even if you were fortunate to escape any damage from this storm, familiarize yourself with your insurance policy before the next disaster. Read it carefully and make sure you understand the appeals process and are aware of exactly what is and is not covered. Knowing the details of your policy and how the appeals process works can save you time and avoid confusion later.

Insurance companies need to process claims as quickly as possible; Sandy victims simply cannot afford to go without the critical funds needed to rebuild their homes.

If you are a Sandy victim experiencing delays with your insurance carrier, I urge you to contact my office at 718-442-9932. You can also find local legal services organizations that might be able to help by calling 1-800-699-5636 or visiting www.lawhelp.org.

During this crucial time, we need to make sure that insurance companies are being fair and responsive.

- Assemblyman Matthew J. Titone

*[The writer is represents the 61st District (North Shore)
of Staten Island in the New York State Assembly.]*

On-line December 19, 2012

Printed December 15, 2012

If There Ever was a Right Time to Talk Gun Control, This is It

Now is not the time to discuss gun safety legislation?

After Newtown, must we rush to judgment? To do so while families are grieving might politicize the event — but those families will always be grieving.

Now is not the time to establish background checks covering all gun sales that screen out felons, drug-abusers, terrorist watch list members, domestic abusers and those found by psychiatrists to be dangerous?

Now is not the time to require renewable licensing of gun owners and registration of firearms, as we do with motor vehicles, because it might offend those who incorrectly interpret the 2nd Amendment as an unrestricted right?

Now is not the time to end the sale of military-style weapons to civilians, or restrict gun sales to one per month or employ trigger locks that keep non-owners from using weapons, or microstamp bullets to aid lawful investigations, or include Internet sales in the background-check system?

Now is not the time to enact all this, which, taken together would lessen the carnage?

Now is not the time for the children of Newtown, and for the eight American children and teens who die every day from bullets that rip through their young bodies.

For them, it is too late.

- Phil Jonas

On-line December 21, 2012

Blame the Republicans for Economic Woes

In 2001, the debate in Washington was over whether it was good economic policy to pay off all the publicly held debt. The federal government was projecting that all publicly held debt would be paid off by 2006.

What happened? How did a debate about whether it was good economic policy to pay off our publicly held debt, turn into a debate on reducing our debt which has grown to \$16 trillion?

The first thing that happened was that George Bush and the Republicans decided that tax cuts were more important than paying off the debt.

The Bush Administration then got the country involved in two wars and established a Medicare drug plan and paid for them through borrowing.

Finally, the Bush Administration's failure to monitor the financial services industry resulted in the Great Recession and a large decrease in revenue.

When President Obama took office, revenues were still decreasing because of the recession, the Bush tax cuts were still adding to the deficit, and we were still borrowing to pay for two wars and the drug plan.

How different the conversation would be today if President Bush and the Republicans hadn't squandered the opportunity and paid off the debt.

- Richard Reichard



Mark Murphy

Democratic candidate for Congress Mark Murphy was originally scheduled to address the club about his race at our January 15 Annual Meeting, however it was determined that the agenda was too full for that day, and he agreed to address the club at our February 19 General Membership Meeting instead. He submitted the following letter for publication in our newsletter.

Dear S.I.D.A.,
Ben Franklin said, "Never confuse Motion with Action" and it seems that our member of congress has once again, flailed his arms and motioned over and over again, but failed to achieve action for our community. This was the reason why I ran for Congress and the reason we as progressive Democrats fight for our community and remain active and work toward the goals of Democratic leadership in the elected positions in all levels of government. We want action, Democratic action.

Over the past 70 days since the end of the election I quietly took action as a private citizen to help those in the community affected by the storm. Visiting Shelters and providing supplies, I was able to substantially assist the community by reaching out to the national relief agency Ameri-cares, who in turn provided thousands of dollars in medical supplies and other care items for those affected. I quickly connected Ameri-cares with SIUH, and CHASI and their leaders in order to provide pharmaceuticals and medical supplies at no costs to our local health care institutions. No politics, no posturing, just trying to get something done, for our community.

Although I was unsuccessful in this race for our congressional seat, I am happy to come to S.I.D.A., and talk about the 2012 congressional race, about the factors that affected the outcome,

and how we as a community of progressive Democrats can learn from this loss and find the path to victory in the years ahead.

I am inspired by the tireless actions of many of the members of S.I.D.A. and their commitment to the progressive ideals which I share and which were the foundation of the platform I ran on. I hope to talk on all of the issues and answer questions and give insight into how I feel we can continue to promote our progressive Democratic ideals, and in the future see our congressional seat and our other elected offices held by progressive Democrats. With the "Action" of S.I.D.A. and its members, we will see that very real success.

I look forward to seeing you all on February 19.

*Best Regards,
Mark Murphy*



Nominating Committee Report Addendum

At the December General Meeting of S.I.D.A., an anonymous "slate" of candidates was distributed to some tables with a reminder to members to "Save the Date –January 15th" for club elections. This list did not appear to be a campaign piece as it did not include words requesting that members vote for this slate. This has led to questions raised by some members. *For purposes of clarification*, the list distributed is not the official or recommended slate of the Nominating Committee which was elected by the Membership.

The Unofficial Anonymous Slate

The candidates listed were:

President **Tom Shcherbenko**
Vice President **Cynthia Lowney**
Members-at-Large..... **Bobby Digi, Rich Florentino,
Nicole O'Loughlin, Juan Carlos Payero**

The Official Nominated Slate of the Nominating Committee

The following slate was voted on by the Committee:

President **Rosemary Palladino**
Vice President **Joann Olbrich**
Executive Secretary..... **Mark Herman**
Corresponding and Recording Secretary..... **Marie Dwyer**
Social Secretary **Liz Price**
Treasurer..... **Bonnie Rothman**
Member-at –Large..... **Loretta Prisco, Richard Florentino,
Nicole O'Loughlin, Roy Moscovitz, Richenda Kramer,
Juan Carlos Payero, and Bobby Digi**

Minority Report

According to the bylaws, a minimum of two members of the Nominating Committee may petition that a name(s) be added as a Minority Report. Two names were added by this process:

President **Tom Shcherbenko**
Vice President **Cindy Lowney**

In addition, any candidate who was not successful in winning an officer’s position is given the opportunity to add his/her name as a candidate as Member-at-Large. Rosemary Palladino and Cindy Lowney chose to have their names added. Tom Shcherbenko chose not to have his name added. This means that the election of the Executive Committee at the January 15, 2013 Annual Meeting will take place in two stages.

At the December 18 General Membership Meeting the club voted to close the first round of balloting for officer positions at 9:00 p.m. and the second round of balloting for Members-at-Large at 9:45 p.m. The membership voted for the ballot closing times in advance so these times could be announced in the newsletter

Petitioning for Names to be Added to the Ballot

Names may also be submitted by petition by the end December meeting by submitting a petition with at least 15 signatures. One person has been added by this process.

Member-at-Large **Helen Settles**

*Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Prisco
Nominating Committee Chair*



Executive Committee Candidate Statements

We will elect our Executive Committee at our January 15, 2013 Annual Membership Meeting. In addition to having an opportunity to present themselves at the December 18, 2012 General Membership Meeting, the candidates were asked to submit a 200 word statement for publication in the newsletter. Here are those statements. Statements for contested seats are printed in order received.

Office..... **President**
Candidate..... **Rosemary Palladino**

I joined S.I.D.A. about 12 years ago and was honored to serve this year as Vice-President. My hope is that our club can do more to educate Staten Islanders about the contributions the Democratic Party has made to their lives, and what more it can do for them. I understand the issues that concern our members, and believe I can run our meetings smoothly, allowing everyone to be heard and encouraging respectful open exchange of differing viewpoints.

My work in city government includes as District Manager, Community Board 1 and Commissioner, NYC Board of Standards and Appeals. I belong to several Dem clubs and the County Committee. I worked for many candidates over many years, and look forward to supporting more strong Democratic candidates in the future. I am cofounder of SI Stonewall,

which sponsors candidate forums and issues endorsements in local elections, aiming to harness the power of SI's LGBT community.

I live with my partner of 39 years, Marianne, in Grasmere. I recently retired from government service and maintain a law practice. I also participate in several volunteer legal programs and have served as pro bono counsel to several clients and non-profit organizations. Thanks for your consideration.

Office..... **President**

Candidate..... **Tom Shcherbenko**

Passion is what makes our club stand out. I've taken stands that went against some Democrats, like rallying for health care outside McMahon's office, demonstrating against hydro-fracking, or campaigning for Debi Rose in her primary.

But loyalty is what makes us powerful. When Matt Titone asked for help getting the Independence line, I did everything I could – petitions, yard signs, phone banking, spending primary day going house to house. Seeing his smile that night made it all worthwhile.

When Gary Carsel announced he was running, defending him put me in some awkward positions -- but I couldn't have felt prouder to be his friend than when he asked me to verify signatures, collect money, or build his catalog of voters.

My desire to strengthen S.I.D.A. is what led me to become Treasurer. In that role and as assistant to the Social Secretary, I helped organize banquets, holiday parties, picnics, and used social media to promote S.I.D.A.

My vision for S.I.D.A. is to improve and build our connections with other activist groups, so that every progressive person in New York will know of our passion and loyalty. I've started this process with several organizations, and don't want to stop.

Office..... **Vice President**

Candidate..... **Cindy Lowney**

As an active S.I.D.A. member and Dem County Committee member who was asked by several members (including Tom Shcherbenko) to run for VP, I accepted the challenge.

I have worked "behind the scenes" (i.e. banquets, journals, petitions, picnics), have had excellent attendance/participation at S.I.D.A. general meetings and have attended Board meetings.

As a VP, I would like to help foster better communication among S.I.D.A., other clubs/associations and the public in order to help attract, encourage and support excellent candidates from the grassroots upward...who will WIN! By doing so, we can help restore faith in the political process and find solutions to problems.

My volunteer service includes VISTA in West Virginia; numerous federal, state and local campaigns (including some who had primaries, little funding/backing—but WON); Help America Vote Act Legal; CITIBAR's 9/11 Lawyers; SI CTV (producer, director); various other Dem clubs; and choir.

My employment as a working parent includes: Administrative Law Judge; Certified Mediator/ Arbitrator; NYC Schools Chancellor's Representative; Hearing Officer, attorney, educator (K-graduate school) and union staff (PEF and CSEA). As a self-supporting student, I received my B.S./M.A. with honors from NYU and J.D. from Rutgers, Newark.

I hope you will vote for me as your VP!

Office..... **Vice President**

Candidate..... **Joann Olbrich**

I have been a member of the S.I.D.A. Executive Committee for over a dozen years. In that time I have missed only a handful of either general or Executive Committee meetings. I feel that the role of the officers and other Executive Committee members is to promote and protect the interests of S.I.D.A., and to carry out the will of the members.

The duties of the Vice President are to perform the tasks assigned by the President and Executive Committee, and to fill in for the President when necessary. I believe that my long years of service to S.I.D.A. have made me qualified to carry out these tasks. Should it become necessary to fill in for or to step up as President, I have many years of experience in other organizations as well, for example, serving in such positions as Vice President, President, Assistant District Director, and District Director in New York State Women, Inc. (formerly Business and Professional Women of New York State). Additionally, I have served in many positions on the State Board of this organization, for example, as State Legislation Chair and State Lobby Day Chair. I also served as Vice President of the Staten Island Women's Political Caucus.

Office..... **Executive Secretary**

Candidate..... **Mark Herman**

I am running for reelection as Executive Secretary. I have been a member of S.I.D.A. since its beginning in 1961 and am the last founding member.

I have been very active in the club and in the Democratic Party these last 50 years. I have served in every elected office in the club, have been a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, was a District Leader for 10 years, Commissioner of Elections for five years, and am currently a State Committeeman from the 61st A.D.

I love our club and feel it is relevant enough to last another 50 years, and remember, a bad Democrat is better than a good Republican!

Office..... **Corresponding and Recording Secretary**

Candidate..... **Marie Dwyer**

I would like to thank the Nominating Committee for asking me to run again this year. I have served as the club's Corresponding & Recording Secretary for the past nine years and consider it a great honor. I would really like to continue to work with S.I.D.A.'s Executive Committee this coming year.

I find reporting on the various General and Executive Committee meetings both challenging and rewarding as I strive to do the best job I can.

I really enjoy working with S.I.D.A.'s Executive Committee to help plan interesting meetings, and events but most importantly uniting to help get more Democratic Candidates elected to public office on Staten Island and in Brooklyn .

I have learned so much about politics as an S.I.D.A. member and officer. Most importantly, that each one of our voices count and that we need to take a stand for what we believe in.

I look forward to the coming year and wish all the members and my fellow officers a very happy and successful New Year.

Office..... **Social Secretary**
Candidate..... **Liz Price**

I was very happy when the Nominating Committee nominated me again for the position of S.I.D.A. Social Secretary. I really enjoyed contributing to making the S.I.D.A. picnic, the Anniversary banquet and December holiday party big successes.

As I have mentioned when I ran for the Executive Committee in prior years, I've spent my life working for non-profit organizations that ranged from community circus and theatre to providing legal assistance for immigrants and people affected by HIV. I fought to protect tenants from condo conversions in Chicago, was the business manager for a multi-lingual community newspaper in San Francisco, and currently do legal research for the elderly. I worked for the Mobilization for Peace Jobs and Justice and picked coffee in Nicaragua in response to Reagan's attacks on working people around the world.

I see S.I.D.A. as the club that can do the most good for the progressive liberal Democrats on Staten Island. I hope that you will vote for me so that I can continue using my community organizing skills to make our club bigger and stronger.

Office..... **Treasurer**
Candidate..... **Bonnie Rothman**

My interest in politics stems from a strong moral sense that government needs to be as fair, just and open, to each citizen, as it is humanly possible to make it. To that end I was an active member of Common Cause in the 1970s: organizing my congressional district, setting up telephone chains, working with the League of Women Voters to have a candidate's debate, writing press releases based on interviews with candidates. I also did research that resulted in laws curbing some coal practices that created pollution.

I have been a member of Move-on for many years, working with them on healthcare and banking legislation. I also participated in several Occupy Wall St. protests.

I have been a member of S.I.D.A. for about 10 years during which time I lobbied both Congressman McMahan and Grimm and worked actively for the Healthcare bill. I have also strongly supported the work of Susan Chew on the issue of fracking: speaking to legislators personally and continuing to write letters against this on-going issue.

Most recently I have been a member of the S.I.D.A. Issues Committee where I was able to give effective words to great ideas, which is what I most enjoy. Becoming Treasurer for S.I.D.A. would be a new challenge for me but one that I am ready to take on.

The statements for Members at-Large are printed in the order they were received. There are nine candidates running for five positions.

Office..... **Member at-Large**
Candidate..... **Richenda Kramer**

I agreed to be considered for Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee because I am appalled at our political situation. The whole country (the world) has moved so far to the right, that the Democratic party now is about where Barry Goldwater was. And S.I.D.A., once a bastion of the left, is now right of center. Most of our meetings are spend suggesting tampering with a non-functional system. S.I.D.A. should lead the Dems, not follow a broken system.

We need to have a political platform which is more concerned with the good of the people and the stewardship of the earth. We need to address climate change. We need a socialized health care system. We need to change our electoral system so that it is shorter and cheaper.

That would be a start. We need positions to struggle for, and anything can be changed if we all keep fighting for it. And we need to spend less on defense, so that we can spend it on building a 21st century, not a 19th century society.

Office.....**Member at-Large**

Candidate..... **Richard Florentino**

There are many issues confronting us today: gun safety, fracking, energy, the “fiscal cliff,” etc. and ones of specific concern to me: the spread of right-to-work laws and the overwhelming impact of undemocratic economic power.

I would be honored to serve as Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee of this most progressive of organizations on Staten Island.

To deal with all the matters facing us, it is of the greatest importance to build support. I am a firm believer in dialog – the exchange of ideas, particularly among people with differing points of view. As I’ve discussed, I have gone out of my way to engage in situations where such face-to-face interactions could be experienced. I sponsored a Community-Democracy event, I spoke at a Tea-Party meeting, fostered discussions at a Republican press conference. I am always open to real communication. The key, I find, is civility (“politics” and “polite”, after all, derive from the same meaning) – and a sense of humor doesn’t hurt either.

Also my long series of letters to the *SI Advance* have often prompted some interesting back-and-forth. You can search on my name at SILIVE to see all of them.

Kindly vote for me. I’m about ‘outreach.’

Office.....**Member at-Large**

Candidate..... **Edwina Martin**

For over 20 years I have been a leader and effective advocate in the areas of public relations, community relations, government relations, and project management, and currently serve as Legislative and Budget Director for the Hon. Debi Rose. Relevant experience includes creating and leading the public relations program for 11 years for Legal Services NYC, the largest law firm dedicated to providing free legal help to low-income persons in the United States; coordinating the opening of the first legal services office on Staten Island; developing a government relations program to advocate for funding and related legislation on both the City and State levels; and coordinating policy initiatives for the program.

I will bring my passion for social justice to the position, evidenced by my volunteer work, such as with the SI Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and as a member of the SI Democratic Committee. Finally, I will also bring to bear my extensive experience in serving on boards of directors of non-profit organizations, including AAUW/SI, the Alice Austen House, On Your Mark, the SI Women’s Bar, and as an At-Large member of the NYS Bar Association’s Executive Committee. In sum, I think I would bring relevant and broad experience to the S.I.D.A. Executive Committee.

Office.....**Member at-Large**

Candidate..... **Loretta Prisco**

I am proud to be a member of a club that has its roots grounded in social and economic justice. We are a diverse and sometimes ornery group, but a real political player here on Staten Island.

I treasure S.I.D.A.'s history and tradition and have the greatest respect for the founding mothers and fathers who braved a more politically charged and contentious Staten Island to charter this club.

I have served as Executive Secretary, Member-at-Large, and thanks to our friend, Dan Kramer, Chair of the Issues Committee that has been very active these last two years. This club has been one to put personal issues aside and tackle the hard political questions. I seek your support to be returned as a Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee to continue to put progressive political issues at the top of our agenda.

As our communities, the poor, working poor, middle class, unions, and our pristine water, precious earth, and our safety come under constant attack, I believe that it is our responsibility to raise these issues here on Staten Island.

Thank you for the nomination and consideration of my candidacy.

Office.....**Member at-Large**

Candidate..... **Roy Moskowitz**

I'd like to thank the nominating committee for renominating me.

I've been an S.I.D.A. member since 2005 and politically active since I was 14 (I'll be 51 in April). I was born in Monticello and graduated from Syracuse. I moved to Staten Island in 1994.

I've been Congressional candidate Steve Harrison's communications director and Debi Rose's campaign press person. I own an ad agency/PR firm that dabbles in political consulting. I am Jewish liaison and a media advisor to assemblyman Matt Titone. I also serve on County Committee, blog and was honored by the Lathrope foundation.

My accomplishments since joining S.I.D.A.'s executive committee include:

Guest speaker quality largely determines if an S.I.D.A. meeting is worth attending. I have booked well known non-Island politicians, famous journalists and controversial bloggers as speakers.

Generating media coverage has been my principal S.I.D.A. responsibility and I have secured substantial broadcast and print publicity for political action events, meetings and dinners. I also update our website.

I brought S.I.D.A. into the 21st century (actually the 20th century) by setting up an online credit card payment system.

My future goals include establishing a PAC, an S.I.D.A. book club and a political speech contest.

Office.....**Member at-Large**

Candidate..... **Bobby Digi**

It's an honor to have been nominated by the Staten Island Democratic Association Nominating Committee for the S.I.D.A. Member-at-Large position. I have been a member of S.I.D.A. for several years and can truly say that I support the mission and cause of this organization.

S.I.D.A. believes in diversity and a Staten Island that appreciates and celebrates the multi-cultural communities that makes up our unique borough. I also share this belief, and I am proud

to be a member of an organization that continues to work towards achieving such an idea. I remember and appreciate the support S.I.D.A. gave me in the inaugural year of the 2007 African Heritage Day Parade when it was not as popular as it is now.

If I win a seat in the Executive Committee, I will bring a wealth of organizational knowledge and outreach experience that I gained both locally and internationally. As a S.I.D.A. Executive Committee member I will work diligently to accomplish its broad visions and goals. There are areas that I can provide input and advice, i.e fundraising, social media, advocacy, outreach to segmented demographics (younger generation) the African, African-American and Caribbean communities and businesses on Staten Island.

Thank You

Office.....**Member at-Large**
Candidate.....**Helen Settles**

I am writing to you today, to wish you a Happy New Year and to ask for your support in this month's election. I am a past S.I.D.A. president, vice president and executive board member and I am seeking a position on the S.I.D.A. executive board for 2013.

2013 marks a very important time for our club. The NRA president is calling for armed guards in our schools. I say no, because fighting violence with violence is never the right solution, Intervention, Prevention and Peace is the right way to go.

As an educator for over 36 years in the classroom, I found that if you worked to intervene, and prevent incidences from occurring and you worked on peaceful solutions instead, then we would not have had to react to the tragic situation in Connecticut.

We must support President Obama. As S.I.D.A. members, we must let Congressman Grimm know that as Staten Islanders, we are very disappointed that he chose to vote with Speaker Boehner on Hurricane Sandy Relief Aide, that would have benefited affected SIers.

These are just a few of the issues facing us in 2013.

Elect me, and we will work on them together.

Office.....**Member at-Large**
Candidate.....**Nicole O'Louglin**

Thank you for the nomination to be on the Executive Committee as a Member at-Large for S.I.D.A. I have been a member of S.I.D.A. since I came to Staten Island almost five years ago, and I am happy that I have remained an active member throughout. As the Healthcare Education Project 1199/SEIU lead community and political organizer for Staten Island and South Brooklyn I fight everyday to ensure that we protect the working class through education and political awareness. The labor movement is an essential part in all our lives to ascertain equality in the workplace and beyond, it is through organizations like that of S.I.D.A. that we can ensure such understandings are brought to the forefront of our communities.

This is just one of the reasons I would like to be on the Executive Committee, I welcome more responsibility and plan to continue on the path to move up and lead in the future. Let's work to build on the strong foundation S.I.D.A. has created by building up membership, getting the next generation of leaders involved as well as others. Staten Island has become my home and I will fight to ensure we get our fair share in every aspect politically and beyond.



Titone Fundraiser

**Please join us for a fundraiser for Matt Titone
(and help celebrate his birthday!)**

He has always stood tall for our issues and asks so little of us!
We must stand tall for him!

Would love to have you join us and
help replenish Matt's coffers after a primary

Sponsored by S.I.D.A.

Home of Loretta and Gene Prisco

30 Westbury Avenue (off Henderson Avenue) Randall Manor

Bard Avenue past RUMC, Right onto Henderson, Right onto Westbury, 5 houses
up on the Right (sorry about all the "rights") house with the glass enclosed foyer

Sunday, January 20th (the real Inauguration Day)

4PM – 7PM

Suggested donation: \$45

Food, drink and lots of good political talk

RSVP 718-816-6003

Or priscog@aol.com



Upcoming Meetings

January 15, 2013	February 19, 2013
Annual Meeting Veranda, 915 Victory Blvd.	General Meeting Veranda, 915 Victory Blvd.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS Senator Dan Squadron, candidate for NYC Public Advocate • Election of Executive Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Murphy on his congressional race

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.

✂

2013 DUES	DONATION
_____ \$15 - Family	_____ \$5
_____ \$10 - Individual	_____ \$50
_____ \$5 - Senior, Student, Unemployed	_____ \$100
	_____ Other _____

Name _____

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

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

President	Dennis Brown	Member at-Large	Roy Moskowitz
Vice President	Rosemary Palladino	Member at-Large	Loretta Prisco
Executive Secretary.....	Mark Herman	Ex Officio	Belinda Dixon
Corresponding &		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	Michelle Akyempong	Ex Officio	Richard Reichard
Member at-Large	Phil Jonas	Ex Officio	John Sollazzo
Member at-Large	John F. Lavelle	Ex Officio	Mark Zink