

Staten Island Democratic Association
P.O. Box 140371
Staten Island, NY 10314-0371
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Staten Island,
NY
Permit 699

If you don't see 2013, on your label,
please pay your 2013 dues.
(See inside back cover)



July 2013

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:



Lou Liedy

Candidate for Borough President



Richard Luthmann

Candidate for Borough President

- Presentations by District Leader candidates
- Position Paper
- Presentation of Changes to S.I.D.A. Constitution

Tuesday, July 16, 8:00 P.M.

**** NOTE LOCATION: Manor Restaurant****

917 Manor Road, 2nd Floor- (718) 698-4433



July 2013

Jimmy Lee Jackson. Viola Liuzzo. James Earl Chaney. Mickey Schwerner. Andrew Goodman. James Joseph Reeb.

These are our heroes. They gave their lives defending the voting rights written into the Constitution. We cannot allow their work to be forgotten.

Once again, the Supreme Court defended the rights of people that find the burden of equality too heavy to bear. Last month's decision gutting the Voting Rights Act will go down in history alongside Dred Scott and Plessy v Ferguson.

The Court ruled as if racism had been eradicated, as if this were an infection which a series of antibiotics had wiped out, and the country now has a clean bill of health. Within hours, state legislators across the country drew up plans to eliminate reforms such as early voting and same-day registration. Gerrymandered districts designed to prevent African-American representation will go unchallenged.

The Voting Rights Act received virtually unanimous support from a Republican dominated Congress when it was reauthorized in 2006, including Paul Ryan, Vito Fossella and Darrell Issa. This is definitely not a partisan issue. Congress can restore the strength of the act, by updating the specific formula that the Court ruled unconstitutional. Until a new
(continued on page 24)

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*

Table of Contents

- Richard Luthmann.....4
- Lou Liedy5
- Proposed Changes to S.I.D.A. Constitution6
- Letters.....7
- June Meeting Minutes12
- Position Paper.....14
- Don't Do Koch!.....20
- View from the First Row.....21
- Members' Recommended Reading.....22
- County Boardwalk Bash.....29
- S.I.D.A. Banquet30
- Upcoming Meetings31
- Join/Renewal Form.....31
- Executive Committee31

"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*

July 16, 2013

**General Meeting
Manor Restaurant, 917 Manor Rd**

- Lou Liedy and Richard Luthmann, candidates for Borough President
- Position Paper
- Presentations by District Leaders

- Presentation of Changes to S.I.D.A. Constitution

August 20, 2013

**General Meeting
Location TBD**

- Borough President endorsement
- District Leader endorsement
- Presentation of Changes to S.I.D.A. Constitution

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

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

----- ✂ -----

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..... Tom Shcherbenko	Member at-Large..... Roy Moskowitz
Vice President Joann Olbrich	Member at-Large... Rosemary Palladino
Executive Secretary..... Mark Herman	Member at-Large..... Loretta Prisco
Corresponding & Recording Secretary Marie Dwyer	Ex Officio.....Dennis Brown
Treasurer Bonita Rothman	Ex Officio.....Gary Carsel
Social Secretary..... Liz Price	Ex Officio.....Belinda Dixon
Member at-Large.....Richard Florentino	Ex Officio.....Richard Reichard
Member at-Large..... Richenda Kramer	Ex Officio.....John Sollazzo
	Ex Officio.....Mark Zink

SAVE THE DATE

S.I.D.A.'s Annual Banquet

Tuesday, September 3, 2013
Crystal Room, 67 Olympia Boulevard

Honorees:

Eric Adams

Paul O'Dwyer Humanitarian Award

Dennis Brown

Peggy Johnston Club Service Award

Cliff Hagen

Terence H. Benbow Environmental Award

Belinda Dixon

John W. Lavelle Labor Award

Phil Jonas

Tyrone Butler Political Action Award



S.I.D.A. Mark Herman Bastille Day Picnic

Sunday, July 14, 12 – 4 pm

Willowbrook Park Barbecue Area

Driving Directions: Richmond Avenue, turn east on Eton Place. Barbecue area is behind Carousel.

Celebrate the French Revolution with S.I.D.A.!

Note new venue.



For information contact Liz Price, lizhprice@aol.com, 347-415-4555





Richard Luthmann is a candidate for Staten Island Borough President and will be a guest speaker at our July 16 General Membership Meeting. His campaign provided the following biography for the newsletter.

Richard A. Luthmann was born and raised on Staten Island. His mother is a local business owner and a board member of the Staten Island Board of Realtors. His grandfather was a business owner and taught auto repair at Tottenville High School. His law offices are in Castleon Corners and he resides in Silver Lake.

A graduate of Monsignor

Farrell High School, he was captain of the wrestling team and a New York City wrestling champion. He was graduated from Columbia University, New York Law School and has an advanced law degree from the University of Miami.

His legal practice includes estate planning, tax law and specialized litigation. He is a founding member and counsel to the Staten Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and has served as member, board member and or counsel to other organizations including, the Giving Hope Network, the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation's 40 Under 40 Leadership Group, the Community Agency for Senior Citizens, the Richmond County Kiwanis Club, the NYC Anti-Violence Project, the Carl V. Bini Memorial Fund, ACT UP and the newly-formed New Dorp Beach Civic Association.







(718) 530-1444

1811 Victory Boulevard
Staten Island, NY 10314

 RichardALuthmann

Save the date!

Richmond County
Democratic Chair
John P. Gulino

Invites You to
***A Summertime
Boardwalk Bash***


Located at
South Fin Grill
300 Father Capodanno Boulevard
Staten Island, NY 10305
On
Saturday, July 13th, 2013
12:00 PM-4:00PM

Sponsorship
\$1,000

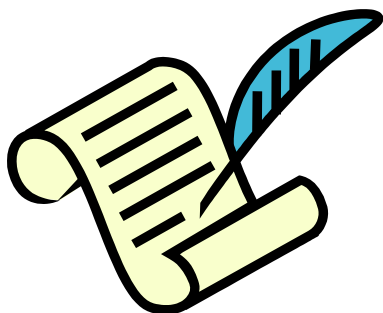
Guest	Supporter	Friend	Host
\$50	\$150	\$250	\$500

Kindly RSVP To:
Kevin Elkins
35 New Dorp Plaza
Telephone Number: 718-983-5009
Email: sidemocrats@yahoo.com

Checks Made Payable to:
Life of the Party







On-line July 7, 2013

Printed July 7, 2013

**Gun-Rights Crowd Says
Gun Control is Illegal,
But Can't Back It Up**

Every time gun legislation is debated, the National Rifle Association and the elected officials they control yell that the legislation violates Second-Amendment rights.

However, have you noticed how they never say how the legislation violates the Second Amendment?

There is a good reason why they stay away from saying how the legislation is unconstitutional. They can't cite one court ruling to back up their claim.

There is no court decision that has ruled background checks unconstitutional. There is no court decision that has ruled maintaining a gun registry unconstitutional. In fact, during colonial times, many localities required citizens to own a firearm. The only way for them to determine compliance was to keep a gun registry.

If a gun registry was not unconstitutional during the time the

Constitution was ratified, it can't be unconstitutional now.

There is no court decision that has ruled that prohibiting the sale of assault weapons or high-capacity magazines is unconstitutional. During the 10 years that the sale of assault weapons and high capacity magazines were banned, no court ruled that the ban was unconstitutional.

The reason why they yell "unconstitutional" is to hide what they really want — to protect, gun manufacturers' profits.

- Richard Reichard



Thank you to everyone who carried petitions to get candidates on the ballot. You are an integral part of the democratic process, making sure the voters have a choice on election day.

Lou Liedy is a candidate for Staten Island Borough President and will be a guest speaker at our July 16 General Membership Meeting. His campaign provided the following statement for the newsletter.

Lou Liedy taught at P.S. 22 in Graniteville for 33 years, and served as a union delegate with both the UFT and AFT. He has been politically active with the North Shore Democratic Club since the 70s, and was President of that club for 12 years. Most recently he has been an active member of the Amputee Support Group at Staten Island College Hospital. Lou is well informed and experienced on the problems of everyday living that confront most Staten Islanders.

As Staten Island Borough President, Lou will use the position to educate and enlighten the public, just as he did with his students. Lou will demand that union labor be used in every construction project, such as the Stapleton Waterfront. Lou will question how Mount Mansera was sold to private developers rather than be saved for public use. And Lou will address the inequity of living in the only borough without toll-free automobile access to the other boroughs.

As a life-long resident of the north shore, and an avid softball player in parks all over Staten Island, Lou is concerned by the epidemic of gun violence that has made our playgrounds unsafe. Lou has fond childhood memories of Mahoney Playground, and regrets

that while the 'monkey bars' are gone, dangerous conditions remain. He wants more gun violence prevention programs in schools and community centers.

As a result of his own real life experience, Lou is strongly committed to public schools, health care, and public transportation. He wants more high schools, more hospitals, more ferry service, and a north shore rail line. His background as a trade union activist has prepared him for the kind of bare-knuckle negotiating that Staten Island needs, while his experience as a teacher has provided him with creative approaches to tough problems.

To prevent repetitions of the damage caused by Superstorm Sandy, Lou has advocated construction of a series of earthen berms on federal and city parkland. These berms are inexpensive to build and will provide protection from storm surges. They can also be a break to contain brush fires, another natural danger the eastern shores suffer from. These berms would act as a levee to keep flood waters in park and wetlands areas. Imagine Miller Field surrounded by an earthen berm; should flooding occur, the field would act as a bowl for the water, thereby protecting Midland Beach to its north and New Dorp Beach to its south.

Lou has been distressed by the decisions of the Panel for Educational Policy to close schools and

(continued on page 24)

The Chair of the Constitution Revision Committee Joann Olbrich submitted the following from the committee for review at the July 16 General Membership Meeting. The changes will be presented again at the August 20 meeting and voted on at the September 17 meeting.

The Constitution Revision Committee has met twice, and has prepared these proposals for revising and updating the S.I.D.A. Constitution. The Executive Committee at the June 26, 2013 Executive Committee meeting approved these proposals for presentation to the membership of S.I.D.A. for approval. The requirements for changes to the Constitution are as follows:

ARTICLE XIV – Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by written petition signed by 14 members or 15% of the membership, whichever is the greater, and submitted to the Executive or Corresponding and Recording Secretary. To become effective, any amendment so proposed must be approved and adopted thereafter by two-thirds of the members present and voting at a single meeting of the club. The substance of the change(s) to be effected by such proposed amendment(s) must be included in the notice of the meeting.

Presentation and Voting

The following proposed changes to the Constitution shall be presented at the July 16 General Meeting of S.I.D.A. and at the August General Meeting, so that there is opportunity for all members to discuss the proposed changes, and then there will be a vote to approve the changes at the September meeting. The vote is being delayed until September because members often are away during the summer, and cannot attend the meetings.

The Constitution Revision Committee shall continue to meet to study the Constitution and present proposals for changes in the future.

Any member who does not have a copy of the S.I.D.A. Constitution can find it on the S.I.D.A. website at: <http://www.sidems.org/constitution.html>

Proposed Changes

Change 1

Article IV: Meetings Section 2: Other Meetings

Now

Meetings of the club other than the annual meeting may be called at any time by the President or the Executive Committee and shall be called within 21 days by the President upon the written request of at least fifteen members.

Little did anyone realize that as the sun was going down on our extremely successful Cure Violence workshops, another shooting incident blasted its way into our lives.

[The teen], shot twice in the chest by a random shooter in New Brighton's Mahoney Playground Saturday night, may lose a kidney. In the same shooting attack, a 32-year-old woman was wounded in her house by a stray bullet that went through her arm.

And just before dawn Sunday morning in a separate incident, a woman was shot in Port Richmond.

- Councilwoman Debi Rose
[The writer is represents the 49th (North Shore) District in the New York City Council.]



On-line June 23, 2013

Use of Natural Gas from Upstate Will Bring More Radon Into Homes

Natural gas — methane — from the Marcellus shale in New York State and Pennsylvania has a higher-than-normal radon content, and this radon will reach our gas stoves, dryers and heaters if gas from the Marcellus is piped to our homes.

This radon level will be higher than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency indoor action level of 4.0 pCi/L, and you will have to consider a conscientious method of remediation or another means of cooking, etc.

Radon is the second largest cause of lung cancer in the U.S. among non-smokers. Children are particularly vulnerable; asthma is also a factor. Chefs, building custodians, utility workers and others are at higher risk.

Radon, having a short “half life” — the time for half of atoms of radioactive substance to disintegrate — from the southern U.S. is almost depleted by the time it reaches us; that is why most of the readings at our stoves are below the U.S. EPA range for remediation.

Children being so vulnerable, it was disturbing to read in the Advance that “Toss for Tots” accepted Spectra Energy’s fundraising contribution as Spectra’s gas pipeline will bring increased radon to harm our children’s health. Is this “giving back to the community”?

- Susan Chew
[The writer is the founder and chairwoman of New Yorkers for Clean Water.]

someone from the club wants to hold a fundraiser for a candidate the club gives \$100 towards the costs of refreshments. Cindy Lowney made a motion that S.I.D.A. donate \$100 to defray the cost of refreshments for a fundraiser for John Mancuso, S.I.D.A.'s endorsed candidate for the 50th City Council District. The motion carried.

Endorsement Votes Part II

There were 45 ballots cast in endorsement votes for Mayor and Public Advocate and the results were as follows:

New York City Mayor

John Liu*	27
Bill DiBlasio	5
No Endorsement.....	5
Anthony Weiner	4
Sal Albanese.....	3
Christine Quinn	1
<u>New York City Public Advocate</u>	
Leticia "Tish" James*	32
Catherine Guerriero.....	9
Dan Squadron.....	2
No Endorsement.....	2

*** S.I.D.A.'s endorsed candidate**
Cindy Lowney made a motion that S.I.D.A. make up a petition with all our endorsed candidates. The motion failed.

Joann Olbrich pointed out that we can't put all these names on one petition. She also said that members can get petitions from the various candidates' campaigns. Laura LoBianco Sword said that DORC supported the same candidates and they have the petitions available.

Laura LoBianco Sword took a call from John Liu during the meeting. She said that John thanked the club for the endorsement and said he was sorry he could not be with us.

Joann Olbrich made a motion those S.I.D.A. members who are running for elected positions on the Democratic Executive Board be asked if they want the S.I.D.A. endorsement, and be invited to speak at the July meeting and submit a statement for the July newsletter with an endorsement vote in August. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary

(Letters, continued from page 11)
Cure/Violence Youth Summit at Curtis High School, I'm sad to say another youth was the victim of gun violence.

Just moments before, 75 teenagers took part in anti-violence workshops sponsored by office and instructed by four North Shore community/youth leaders. The youth participating were attentive and extremely responsive to the session leaders who led them through discussions of persistent violent images in our communities. We're counting on them to be ambassadors for good.

Proposed

There shall be monthly meetings. A special meeting may be called at any time by the President or the Executive Committee, and shall be called within 21 days by the President upon the written request of at least fifteen members.

Reason

It now is the custom to hold monthly meetings. There should be a provision for calling special meetings.

Change 2

Article IV: Meetings
Section 6: Agenda

Now

The Corresponding and Recording Secretary shall prepare an agenda for each meeting which shall consist of all items of business directed to be placed thereon by the President or the Executive Committee; and such additional items of business and fifteen or 15% of the membership (whichever is the fewer) shall request by written petition submitted to the President or Secretary at least seven days before the meeting.

Proposed

The President, or in the absence of the President, the Vice President, with the input of the Executive Committee, shall prepare an agenda for each meeting. Members who wish to have something added to the agenda must notify the President before the meeting.

Reason

It is the custom for the President to prepare the agenda for the meetings, with input from the Executive Committee.

Change 3

Article VII: Executive Committee
Section 7: Vacancies

Now

If vacancies occur in the membership-at-large of the Executive Committee, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall designate persons to fill such vacancies.

Proposed

If vacancies occur in the membership-at-large of the Executive Committee, the person who received the next highest number of votes for "member-at-large" in the election shall fill the vacancy.

Reason

The votes of the members of S.I.D.A. should determine who holds the "member-at-large" positions on the Executive Committee.

(continued on page 24)

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 June 9, 2013

The NRA Hamstrings Authorities in Preventing Gun-Related Crimes

Through the elected officials they control, the National Rifle Association (NRA) has successfully tied the hands of law enforcement in controlling the trafficking of illegal guns.

The NRA had legislation passed that:

- Requires the director of the agency responsible for enforcing gun laws, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to be confirmed by the Senate. Neither President Bush nor President Obama has been able to appoint a director since 2006;
- Prohibits the ATF from conducting more than one unannounced inspection of a gun dealer in a single year and reduces the punishment for falsification of records by a gun dealer to a misdemeanor;
- Restricts access to gun-trace data by law enforcement, prevents

the ATF from checking a gun dealer's inventory to determine if guns were lost or stolen and prevents gun tracing data from being used in some legal proceeding or to suspend or revoke a dealer's license.

Unlike a TV crime drama where law enforcement can trace the ownership of a gun used in a crime with just a few keystrokes, the NRA had legislation passed that prevents to ATF from creating a computerized database of gun transactions.

The ATF must do manual time-consuming searches for all gun traces.

- Richard Reichard



The following letter appeared in the Daily News.

On-line June 8, 2013

Printed June 8, 2013

Full Equality For N.Y. Women

Staten Island: New York women and their families need all 10 points of Gov. Cuomo's Women's Equality Act

qualification of a new Treasurer and at such other times as the President or the Executive Committee shall direct. A report shall be submitted to the Executive Committee at the first meeting following such audit.

Proposed

There shall be an Audit Committee which shall examine and audit the books of account of the club every year, following the Annual Meeting and election of club officers; and at such other times as the President or the Executive Committee shall direct. A report shall be submitted to the Executive Committee at the first meeting following such audit.

Reason

It is good fiduciary practice to have annual audits.



(June Minutes, continued from page 13)

unanimous vote they reached to kick Vito Lopez out. He also spoke about the recent Supreme Court decision regarding the Arizona law which he feels is unfair. He also spoke about President Shcherbenko's letter in the June newsletter urging members not to endorse a mayoral candidate at the meeting. Mark also mentioned that he opposes holding an endorsement vote on the same night candidates speak to the club because he feels those speakers have the advantage. He feels the candidates should come to speak to the club on an

earlier date. Various members spoke up against endorsing on the same night as a candidate speaks and about whether they felt it was right for President Shcherbenko to ask members not to endorse a mayoral candidate.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bonnie Rothman gave a balance as of June 18, 2013 of \$6,691.02. Bonnie reported that she has collected some dues and has also paid some recent bills. President Shcherbenko gave kudos to Bonnie for doing a great job going over membership lists to make sure only eligible members vote.

Social Secretary's Report

Social Secretary Liz Price reminded members that the annual Mark Herman picnic will be held on Sunday, July 14th, at Willowbrook Park from 12 -5 p.m. She added that the information has also been included in the current newsletter.

New Business

President Shcherbenko announced that Chris Bauer is being honored at the One Island One Pride Dinner Dance. A motion was made to purchase a \$100 journal ad to thank him for all his hard work as our newsletter editor. After some discussion the motion carried. 27 in favor, 4 opposed and 1 abstention.

Anne Fanciullo questioned S.I.D.A.'s policy about holding an S.I.D.A. sponsored fundraiser. Loretta explained that when

(President's Statement continued from page 2)

formula is put in place, citizens will be subject to barriers that will deny them their rights to vote and representation.

Justice Ginsburg wrote in her dissent that by utilizing the formula, between 1982 and 2006, the Justice Department blocked over 700 proposed changes as having a discriminatory effect. She stated that you don't throw away an umbrella during a rainstorm just because you aren't getting wet. Continuing that metaphor, the Court has unleashed Superstorm Sandy on what remains of the Voting Rights Act.

An example of these changes was the 2001 decision by the Kilmichael, Mississippi Board of Aldermen to cancel the town's election after 'an unprecedented number' of African-Americans announced they were running for office. The Department of Justice required an election, and the town elected its first African-American mayor.

Without safeguards to the 15th Amendment like the Voting Rights Act, the risks taken by the brave civil rights workers of the 60's will be forgotten. Keep their memory alive, and keep fighting for what they died for.

Our club should join with organizations that are lobbying for an updated formula in the Voting Rights Act. We should ask Michael Grimm to support what his Republican predecessor voted for just

seven years ago. We should support Scott Stringer's suggestion for a New York Voting Rights Act. And we should participate in the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington, on Saturday, August 24. Let's march behind our banner!

*Sincerely,
Tom Shcherbenko
President*

(Lou Liedy continued from page 5)

co-locate charter schools, and announced that he would serve personally on that body. He supports Assemblyman Michael Cusick's bill to allow the Borough Presidents to make appointments to the city's Water Board.

Lou lives in Stapleton with his partner, Linda Schrader, her son Michael, and their two dogs, Jack and Beauty. Their television appears to be stuck on MSNBC.

(Proposed Changes to S.I.D.A. Constitution, continued from page 7)

Change 4
Article X: Committees
Section 1: Audit Committee

Now
There shall be an Audit Committee which shall examine and audit the books of account of the club within 30 days following the election and

Women must be afforded the equal opportunities provided by this legislation in order to be full participants in the workplace and society. Therefore, I urge all members of the state Senate and Assembly to sign on as sponsors of this legislation and do everything they can to help make it law.

As the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Equal Pay Act approaches on June 10, it's appalling that women are still not paid equally for their work. Women need clear protections at work and at home, including the right to make private health care decisions.

Our state must be a leader on basic rights and protections for all. We have a shared duty to promote democracy and bring this crucial bill to a vote.

- Joann Olbrich



On-line June 9, 2013
Grimm Betrays First Responders in Deference to Partisan Politics
Almost every day we must hear the self-proclaimed and undocumented

heroics of Congressman Michael Grimm, whether on the battlefield or undercover or as a first responder.

Yet today, we learn that Michael Grimm, so cowardly refused to rush to the aid of those who rushed to the aid of so many our first responders.

Sequester cuts will gut payments to our first responders, to those who suffer years later for their time on the pile, to those who don't beat their chest and claim to be a first responder, but whose chests are filled with the cancer and pain of 9/11.

Congressman Peter King, a Republican, joined with the rest of the New York delegation to ensure cuts don't affect sick first responders. But Michael Grimm put petty politics before our true first responders and continues to let his oversized ego get in the way of helping the people of Staten Island who gave so much.

Every member of the NYPD, FDNY, PAPD, and EMS should call Mr. Grimm and tell him to put his ego aside and stand up for them. I certainly would have and I am sure the Advance will do the same.

- Mark Murphy
[The writer ran against Mr. Grimm as the Democratic candidate for Congress in 2012.]

On-line June 11, 2013
Printed June 12, 2013

**All Our Legislators Should Back
The Women's Equality Act**

Staten Island women and their families need Gov. Cuomo's Women's Equality Act! While many women have become successful in spite of the inequities and injustices that exist, no amount of hard work can overcome unequal laws or the lack of necessary legal protections.

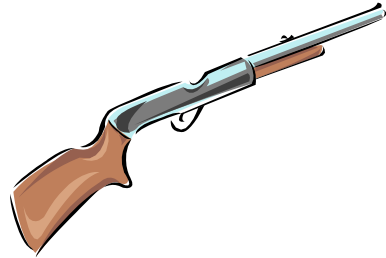
Women need the equal opportunities provided by this legislation in order to be full participants in the workplace and society.

Therefore, I urge Staten Island's state Senators Diane Savino and Andrew Lanza, and state Assembly members Matthew Titone, Joseph Borelli, Michael Cusick and Nicole Malliotakis to sign on as sponsors of this legislation, and to do everything they can to help make it New York State law.

June 10 was the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Equal Pay Act, yet half a century later, women still are not paid equally for their work!

New York State will be a leader on basic rights and protections for all when we pass this legislation, an example for the nation! We have a duty to bring this crucial bill to a vote.

- Joann Olbrich
[The writer is Legislation Chair,
New York State Women, Inc.]



On-line June 12, 2013
Printed June 12, 2013

**Grimm Should Take Lead In
Closing Gun Loopholes**

June 14 marks the six-month anniversary of the Sandy Hook massacre. In that time, approximately 15,000 Americans have died from gunshot wounds, yet no meaningful gun safety legislation has passed Congress.

As of today, people on the terrorist watch list can legally buy semi-automatic weapons and ammunition on-line without a background check.

Convicted criminals and domestic abusers can go to gun shows to buy weapons when the sale is deemed "private."

Our "well regulated militia" is not well regulated at all because thousands of dangerous people have easy access to high-powered weapons — endangering us all.

Rep. Michael Grimm has an opportunity to lead on this issue in a meaningful way.

Already a co-sponsor of legislation that would assist law enforcement to reduce gun trafficking and straw purchasing (HR 452), he has also been asked by over 2,000

And in a change of pace, this is a recommended listen.



The Lumineers by the Lumineers was released on April 3, 2012 on Dualtone Records. I love this group, and their debut album! This folk rock band has had great success with its first single from this CD, "Ho Hey," that has gone double platinum. But all of the songs on *The Lumineers* are wonderful; my favorite is the poignant "Stubborn Love." You can see the official video for "Stubborn Love" on the band's website, <http://thelumineers.com/>. "Slow It Down," "Charlie Boy," and "Flapper Girl" are other standouts.

The band was started around 2005, when Wesley Schultz and Jeremiah Fraites began to collaborate, writing and playing together in the New York area. When they moved to Colorado the third member of the nucleus of the band, Neyla Pekarek, joined them.

This first CD has been met with great acclaim, including Grammy nominations for Best New Artists and Best Americana Album. Their style of music has been called

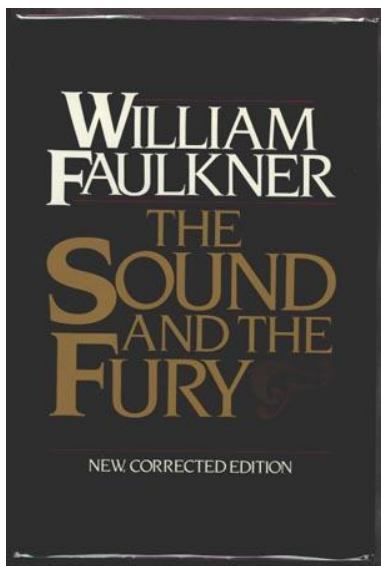
"roots" music because of their return to traditional music styles, such as folk and bluegrass, with a fresh twist.

I first heard this band when they played on Saturday Night Live, and really liked their sound. But the more I listen to *The Lumineers*, the more I like them. I encourage everyone to check out the videos that are available on-line, or better yet, get *The Lumineers* and listen to it. Here is the official video for "Ho Hey": <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvCBSSwgtg4>.

- Joann Olbrich



In Members' Recommended Readings S.I.D.A. members let us know which books they have enjoyed.



William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* (1929), as all of the author's works, describes the complicated relationship between Blacks and Whites after the Civil War and the effect of the war on Southern culture.

Told in four sections, each by a different narrator, we learn of the dysfunctional Compson family, beginning with the severely mentally retarded Benjy, who only describes what he senses, with no interpretation, moving between past and present with no awareness of time. Quentin, the eldest brother, is distant in both time and space, writing while as a student at Harvard on the day of his suicide 17 years before the other three sections. Ja-

son, the middle brother -- his emotionally-fraught mother's favorite -- is bitter that he never became a partner in the bank, as the required money from the sale of land was used to send Quentin to Harvard. He does, however, take responsibility for the household, both White and Black, but he is devious, thieving and cruel whenever he can be.

Caddy (Candace), the eldest, is the center of the book, beloved by Benjy and Quentin and cheated by Jason. Her personality and actions deeply affect the family but she has no voice in the novel: we only know her through the voices of the others. The last section is told in the third person, with the Black servant, Dilsey, as the center. She is the only practical character in the book and the anchor of the family, looking after each of member both physically and emotionally.

While the style of writing is opaque, our reading group has had a rewarding four months discussing not only Faulkner's prose, but the story as well.

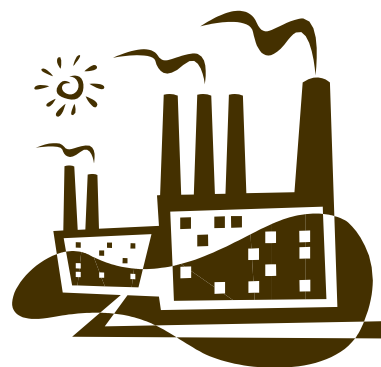
While the style of writing is opaque, our reading group has had a rewarding four months discussing not only Faulkner's prose, but the story as well.

- Richenda Kramer & Susan Chew

of his constituents to co-sponsor the expanded background checks bill (HR 1565). This legislation would close the loopholes listed above that severely limit the effectiveness of the current background check process.

We'd appreciate Rep. Grimm's leadership and support in making us all safer.

- Phil Jonas



On-line June 16, 2013
Printed June 16, 2013

Grimm's Environmental Record is not as Stellar as He Claims

Rep. Michael Grimm's website suggests that he wants to be seen as a friend of the environment: "As an avid member of the International Conservation Caucus, I am proud of the legislative initiatives I have supported to protect wildlife, promote renewable energy resources and independence, and combat carbon pollution in a fair and sensible manner."

Grimm's record, however, indicates that this statement is an attempt at "greenwashing."

Rep. Grimm voted for HR 910, a bill to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gases for climate change purposes.

Grimm stated that the jury is still out on the issue of climate change.

This is reminiscent of the defenders of smoking who once did the bidding of the tobacco industry.

Powerful interest groups funded by big business have turned their backs on science in the interest of pursuing profits and not the interests of the average American.

Please protect my interests and the interests of the average Staten Islander. Rep. Grimm. Climate change is real and something needs to be done about it. Not another study, not denial or inaction.

Pass sensible legislation that will limit greenhouse gases and limit the devastating effects on our island of leaving these gases unchecked.

- Teresa Caliaro



On-line June 20, 2013

Despite Setbacks, Good Will Triumph Over Violence

This past weekend, just hours after wrapping up our first Staten Island
(continued on page 26)

**General Meeting
June 18, 2013**

President Shcherbenko called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. at 120 Bay Cafe.

Endorsement Votes Part I

President Shcherbenko reminded members that the endorsement vote for New York City Mayor and Public Advocate would be held. He reported that a motion had been approved at the last Executive Committee meeting to close voting at 9:45 pm. Paul Scublinsky, Mary Kain and Michele Akeympong volunteered to count the ballots. He said that only eligible members would be allowed to vote and explained that Liz and Bonnie would be checking the up to date membership list on hand. President Shcherbenko further explained that when new members join the club there is a 45 day waiting period before they are allowed to vote.

President Shcherbenko announced a change in one of the evening's guest speakers. He told club members that former Congressman Anthony Weiner would be speaking instead of Kevin Elkins. He reported that Liz Price followed up on an issue that Joy Robins had brought up at the May meeting. Joy questioned the ad S.I.D.A. purchased for the PASI journal. Liz's research proved that Mary Kain made a motion at the October 2012 meeting to purchase the ad and the motion passed unanimously.

1st Guest Speaker

Congressman Anthony Weiner, a Democratic Candidate for Mayor of New York City, was the first guest speaker. Congressman Weiner mentioned that it was great to be back and to be among friends. He spoke about single payer health care and the lack of a city hospital on Staten Island. He told members he wants to reorganize health care and that there will be dramatic changes coming under Obama care. He feels that we need better health care resources on Staten Island. He mentioned that health care is going to be a very important issue in his campaign for Mayor. He also spoke about the need for more doctors on Staten Island and trauma care centers. He feels the solution is to bring in an H.H.C. hospital. He mentioned that although we need to negotiate fair contracts for city workers he feels we need to fix health care first because that is about the economy.

Congressman Weiner, also spoke about the need to address the inequities in bridge tolls. He feels that we have to help the middle class and those that are below the poverty line. After his presentation, Mr. Weiner took questions from many of the members in attendance.

President Shcherbenko gave John Mancuso, the club-endorsed Democratic candidate for the 50th City Council District a chance to speak

In a Data Driven System, Why Isn't the DOE Looking at Their Own Data? Can't See the Forest for the Trees!

The Mayor through his minions, Klein, Black (remember her?), and Walcott have done everything from reorganizing the system to reorganizing it yet again, from firing teachers to hiring newbies and excessing them, to training new principals without teaching experience and rating their schools "F". to closing schools and reopening new ones and closing them, to cooking the books in ways that might even top the skills of an Enron bookkeeper, and have still not be able to raise reading and math scores. Yet the answer is waiting right under their noses. Hey guys, you claim to be data driven, just look at the data – it sits there waiting for you! Why even a lowly teacher like me can see it!

1. The schools that have the highest percentage of students in the free lunch program tend to have the students who also perform the lowest on standardized tests. Don't you see the connection here? Free lunch = low scores! Suggestion lifted straight from the data: To improve reading and math achievement, just do away with the free lunch program. Voila! Join the high scoring schools with fewer free lunch kids. And save the Feds all that money they spend on breakfast and lunch for a bunch of ungrateful kids who

do nothing but whine about the food.

2. Our kids go to school for 10 months, for 6 hours and 57 ½ minutes. Those who are have not done well on standardized tests aren't promoted, are mandated to go to summer school for 15 days (and some will be absent for some of those days), 3 hours a day, be retested and most will have their scores go up and pass the grade. So we take the most challenging students and do in 15 days what cannot be done in 10 months with double the daily time. See the connection here? 10 months = failure on tests. 15 days = success on tests. Hey! Cancel 10 month school and mandate a 15 day school for all students. Imagine what the most successful students will be capable of achieving in 15 days! Kids whine about going to school anyway – ask them, they hate school. We are not teaching art, music and offering gym anyway in year round school as schools are focused on test prep. So what are they missing? Give the schools to charters, which is what the DOE really wants to do anyway. And save all that money.

Take a sniff – the solutions are right under your noses!

- Loretta Prisco



The following was submitted by Loretta Prisco.

Talk Back to Koch Power

edited from

www.bigapplecoffeeparty.org

We all know the agenda of the Koch Brothers...

- They have spent more \$\$\$ on climate denial legislation than Exxon-Mobil.
- They underwrite anti union politicians.
- It is the largest privately held corporation in the US and is union free.
- They have required its workers to go to seminars that tell them how to vote. If they don't attend, they lose their jobs.
- They fund Americans for Prosperity which funds the Tea Party.
- They run ads against health care reform and support privatization of Social Security.
- They fund ALEC which creates legislation for

state legislators to introduce that benefits the Kochs and fellow billionaires. ALEC has introduced 1,000 bills every year and gets 1/5 written into law.

- Koch Industries continues to pump pollutants into the air without impunity.
- They wined and dined Justices Scalia and Thomas. The Justices then ruled in the Citizens United decision.

So...don't do Koch!

These products are produced by Koch Industries:

- Angel Soft toilet tissue
- Soft and Gentle Toilet tissue
- Quilted Northern paper towels
- Vanity Fair paper goods
- Mardi Gras paper goods
- Brawny paper towels
- Dixie Paper goods
- Sparkle paper towels



briefly to the members. Mr. Mancuso gave an update on his campaign and thanked S.I.D.A. for their support.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Joann Olbrich presented highlights from the May Executive Committee meeting.

By-laws Committee

Chairwoman - Joann Olbrich reported that the By-Laws Committee met recently and discussed some changes to the present by-laws. She mentioned that a 2/3 vote will be required to change any of the by-laws.

President Shcherbenko gave Councilwoman Leticia "Tish" James an opportunity to provide an update on her campaign for New York City Public Advocate. Councilwoman James spoke about her recent victory to save a library. The councilwoman spoke about the fact that her race is about standing up to power. She said she has received a lot of endorsements, has a record of 23 years of public service and she represents working values. She hopes that members consider her candidacy for Public Advocate.

2nd Guest Speaker

Public Advocate Bill DiBlasio, a Democratic Candidate for Mayor of New York City, was the second guest speaker. Public Advocate DiBlasio thanked members for the opportunity to meet them. He feels that we are living the tale of two

cities. People cannot afford housing in a city that is supposed to be for everyone. He feels the city should be tolerant and provide diverse opportunity and it's been slipping away and we need to take action to fix that. He reported that he was instrumental in helping to force a bill for paid sick days. He feels we need to take subsidies away from big business. Public Advocate DiBlasio also reported that he has an affordable housing plan and that we need to speed the creation of affordable housing.

Public Advocate DiBlasio also spoke about the need for changes in the public schools as well as the fact that stop and frisk must be done constitutionally. Public Advocate DiBlasio said that people are willing to see their disparities grow, he has received many endorsements. He feels we need to make this a fair city again, the city has immense power and the city is ready for a change. After his presentation, Public Advocate DiBlasio took questions from the members.

President Shcherbenko took a moment to extend congratulations to Anne Taylor and Gary Carsel who got married recently in Jerusalem.

Executive Secretary's Report

Executive Secretary Mark Herman mentioned that he didn't like having the meeting at 120 Bay Cafe. He spoke about his recent trip to the State Committee meeting and the

(continued on page 25)

