



September 2013

Staten Island Democratic Association

est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club

www.sidems.org

At our Next Meeting:



Randy Lariar

NYC Co-Director



Tom Orlando

Business Agent, Local 79,
Construction and General Building Laborers, on
the Staten Island Harbor Commons Development

- Vote Changes to S.I.D.A. Constitution

**** NOTE DATE, NOTE LOCATION: ****

Tuesday, September 24, 8:00 P.M.

Karl's Klipper, 40 Bay Street, 718-720-4442



Editorial Policy

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

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

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

**Meeting will be
SEPTEMBER 24
at Karl’s Klipper
40 Bay Street**

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

September 2013

Victory! The City Council stood up to Bloomberg and overrode his vetoes of the Community Safety Act bills, sponsored by Jumaane Williams and Brad Lander and championed by S.I.D.A.-endorsed candidates Debi Rose and Letitia James. This should be a good omen for our municipal elections.

But the bills were not without controversy: while the four Republican members of the Council voted as a bloc against both of them, the Democrats were split. One bill passed with 34 Democrats voting in favor – the minimum requirement to override a veto -- and 13 voting against it. This demonstrates both the diversity of our Party and the need for progressives to get our message across.

How should S.I.D.A. members respond to Democrats who hold views that seem more like Republican values?

One troubling trend has been to criticize other Democrats without first discussing the issues with them. This applies to all ideological elements of the Party and results in the 'circular firing squad.' The Republicans have been more than happy to pick up elections after Democrats have bitterly attacked each other.

Whenever a Democrat takes a conservative stand, we should ask them for their reasons; criticism without understanding is not a progressive value. Also, we can't persuade conservative Democrats to change to progressive positions without dialogue. In some cases, we will have to accept that their reasons are so strong that change may not be possible.

Another disturbing trend is to attribute self-serving motives to a person's actions. If we don't know their motives and feelings, we should not be making them up. This technique inflames without enlightening.

Attributing selfish motives to others is part of the assumption that self-interest is a dominant human motivation -- but progressives reject this belief. Civilized societies are based on the opposite idea, i.e., that people will rise above their own self-interest for the good of the world. Many people regularly act unselfishly and dedicate themselves to helping others, as demonstrated by our recent banquet honorees. Before we attribute an unsavory motive to someone's action, we should ask them how they feel about the issue.

In any event, after a heated Primary season there will be always be Democrats who disagree strongly with the winners. As we face the November elections, can we work as hard for the candidates that won the primaries as we did for the candidates we supported? Some club members have stated that they will not even vote for certain Democrats should they win the primary.

Is the prospect of a Republican more palatable than a Democrat with whom we disagree?

*Sincerely,
Tom Shcherbenko
President*



New Leaders Council

Randy Lariar, New York City Co-Director of the New Leaders Council, will be a guest speaker at our September 24 General Membership Meeting. The organization provided the following for publication in the newsletter.



Join the Next Generation of Progressive Leaders

The New Leaders Council is now recruiting for our 2014 Institute! NLC is a progressive leadership training program whose mission is to recruit, train and promote the next generation of progressive political leaders, and we're on track to train 10,000 new leaders by 2020. We're looking for young professionals with passion and an entrepreneurial streak to join our 2014 class of NLC Fellows.

The NLC Institute is a highly selective, intensive training program, which holds sessions one weekend per month in the spring. We have a thriving national community of rising progressive stars, a network of committed supporters, and best of all, this unique training is FREE to our Fellows. We're betting that you know someone who would be strong candidate for the Institute – or that you would like to apply yourself! Please email Heather and Randy, NYC Chapter Directors, at nyc@newleaderscouncil.org, or visit <http://newleaderscouncil.org/nlc-institute/> for more information.



Harbor Commons Development Principles

Tom Orlando, Business Agent, Local 79, Construction and General Building Laborers, Laborers' International Union of North America, will be a guest speaker at our September 24 General Membership Meeting and will speak on labor friendly principles for the Staten Island Harbor Commons Development Project.

Staten Island Harbor Commons Development Principles

The Staten Island waterfront is a precious asset that should be developed to strengthen our communities for generations to come. The Staten Island Harbor Commons Project, including the world's tallest Ferris wheel, a 200-room hotel, a parking garage and a designer retail outlet store complex will create 1,200 temporary construction jobs and 1,100 permanent jobs, according to the Mayor's office. The project is expected to generate millions of tourists a year to Staten Island. New



York City has entered into a long term lease with the developers for use of the land and has provided various other incentives to promote this development.

City-sponsored development projects that utilize public waterfront property, such as Staten Island Harbor Commons, should be built responsibly and sustainably to provide long-term opportunities for local communities -- not just profits for private developers. In order to realize this vision, we support the following community principles for the development of Staten Island Harbor Commons:

Create Good Jobs for Staten Island Residents

Staten Island Harbor Commons should create good jobs with family-sustaining wages and benefits for local residents, whether they are employed in construction, hospitality, building operations or maintenance services. Good jobs help create strong communities and stimulate economic development. Good jobs grow the economy, support local businesses, increase the tax base and reduce the dependence on public services.

Provide a Career Path for Staten Island Residents

Staten Island Harbor Commons should provide a pathway to long-term careers for local residents – not just temporary, low wage employment. This means ensuring that construction contractors and subcontractors hired on this project participate in state-approved training and apprenticeship programs, which provide the skills necessary for construction workers to work safely on major construction projects in all five boroughs for the rest of their careers.

Ensure Economic Opportunities for Local & MWBE Businesses

By providing real opportunity for local, minority and women-owned businesses (MWBE's) to participate in this project, Staten Island Harbor Commons could strengthen our communities and our local economy.

Promote Sustainable Development

Staten Island Harbor Commons should preserve the waterfront and protect our quality of life. To achieve this, the developers of Staten Island Harbor Commons need to present a comprehensive plan to mitigate the negative impact of traffic and congestion as well as protect the waterfront surrounding communities from rising sea levels, increased flooding and other extreme weather associated with climate change.

Enhance Public Space

Staten Island Harbor Commons should enhance much needed public space for our communities by improving waterfront access and creating permanent indoor community space.

* Source PR-338-12 Sept 27, 2012 press release by Mayor Bloomberg, avail on city website



Letters

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



On-line August 11, 2013

Americans Will Surely Come to Find How Obamacare Will Benefit Them

Effective January 1, 2014, all Americans will have access to affordable health care. New Yorkers can purchase health insurance through exchanges. New York State has approved rates that insurance companies can charge that are 50 percent lower on average than the rates currently available in New York. The government will provide subsidies to those who do not make enough money to afford health insurance.

There will be a choice of platinum, gold, silver and bronze plans. All plans must offer certain benefits but differ in the percentage of out-of-pocket costs. Bronze plans require the highest out-of-pocket costs and have the lowest premiums, while platinum plans have the lowest out-of-pocket costs but the highest premiums.

Insurance companies will no longer be allowed to turn someone down or charge more because of a pre-existing condition, nor will they be allowed to limit the yearly or lifetime dollar amount of coverage.

Seniors who fall into the prescription drug “donut hole” will see additional savings. The discount on generic prescription drugs goes from 21 percent to 28 percent. The discount on brand-name prescription drugs remains at 52.5 percent.

Since the Affordable Care Act was enacted, 6.1 million Medicare recipients have saved over \$5.7 billion on prescription drugs.

- Richard Reichard



On-line September 1, 2013

The Wheel May be a Good Thing for Tourists, but Not Islanders

Concerning the planned Wheel project, I believe much like the famous poster by the artist Saul Steinberg, “View of The World from 9th Avenue,” that there are different views.

There is a view of the harbor for Staten Islanders and a much different view for tourists. For Staten Island residents, particularly in the St. George neighborhood, there is the view of a collapsed and now demolished Cromwell Center, a planned and I presume now- canceled Kroc Recreational Center in Clifton and an underutilized hospital at Bayley Seton.

Similar to the concerns of other commentators, I believe the detrimental impact on the quality of life for St. George residents and the current and future use of the St. George terminal as a transit hub should be reasons enough not to impose this Wheel project on the neighborhood.

Borough officials should focus their efforts on the quality of life for the residents and be realistic about tourism. Roosevelt Island will have a future Cornell NYC Tech and Staten Islanders get a carnival ride. The tourists have a fantastic view already, just not monetized, and, by definition, they don't have a vested interest in the neighborhood which would include voting in local elections.

- John Healey



On-line September 8, 2013

Proposed Trade Pact Helps Corporations, Not People

I heard the scariest thing on MSNBC recently. There have been several stories about the increase in American manufacturing. I was little skeptical and then I heard the clincher.

One panelist mentioned, basically in passing, that that was the reason to support “free”-trade agreements! As if such agreements actually help the American economy. Typical corporate/media PR.

Just look what happened after NAFTA signed by a Democratic president. Jobs went overseas. Mexican local economies were devastated, leading to massive immigration. But, naturally, the rise in corporate profits and the stagnation/decline in wages continued as usual.

The latest “free” trade agreement under way is the Trans-Pacific Partnership (look it up!) It’s being drafted in secret by a few hundred corporate reps, and has been called “NAFTA on steroids.” It’s on pace for fast-track treaty approval allowing only an up or down vote by Congress after a brief review period with no possibility of amendments.

Among other provisions, it will empower international tribunals so corporations can sue sovereign governments for lost profits due to restrictive regulations – you know, like health and safety, workers’ rights, etc.

While we attack each other over all our issues, democracy itself is being decimated under our very noses.

- Rich Florentino



Proposed Changes to S.I.D.A. Constitution

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 were presented again at the August 20 meeting and will voted on at the September 24 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.

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.

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 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.

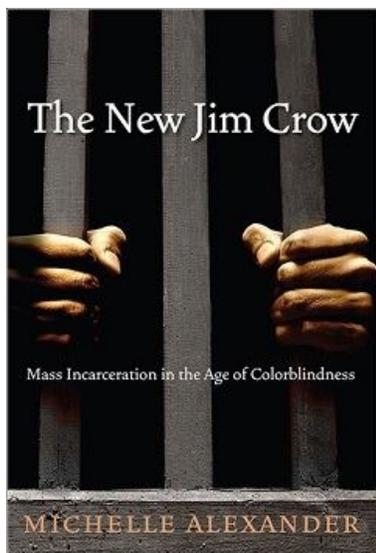
Reason

It is good fiduciary practice to have annual audits.



Members Recommend

In Members' Recommendations S.I.D.A. members let us know which books or other things they have enjoyed.



I like a book that challenges me, and Michelle Alexander did this relentlessly, mercilessly, and persistently in *The New Jim Crow*. This is the much talked about book that describes the origin and devastation caused by the War on Drugs against black and brown America. The result of this “war” has been a state of pervasive mass incarceration that is a racial caste system, not a system of crime control.

For many of us in “progressive” circles, we have been eye-witnesses to the drug wars of Staten Island, living in or side by side neighborhoods where mostly young men of color are rounded up in sweeps using strict drug laws brought to us by the Age of Ronald Reagan, where they are sent upstate for long prison terms under the mandatory sentencing (a legacy of the Rockefeller Drug Laws), and, finally, where they are released into communities that deny them jobs, housing, and access to public benefits, as felons. We may even be part of families or know family members whose lives were torn apart. Similarly, we know or may ourselves have benefited from the War on Drugs – as police officers, correctional officers, court employees, attorneys and parole officers. Like crabs comfortably swimming in the pot as the flame gradually warmed the brew, we weren’t paying attention to the big picture.

Ms. Alexander invites us to view the whole system. We are invited to see the parallels of the New Jim Crow “War on Drugs” to the Old Jim Crow “Legalized Segregation”: both serve as political strategies of the elites to pit whites against blacks, set up legalized discrimination, are used to accomplish voter disenfranchisement, and use the courts to cut off legal redress.

The difference is that the New Jim Crow approach is a slicker, overtly color blind strategy, that has successfully co-opted black support, and is so woven into the fabric of law enforcement and our culture that it will take a mass movement to unravel it. Her remarks on the complicity of the Obama administration in the continuation of the “War on Drugs” – a far cry from his pre-election rhetoric – are revealing.

The numbers are astounding. If we were to go back to the still unacceptably high incarceration rates of the 1970’s, we would need to release 4 out of 5 incarcerated individuals. Of the 2.4 million people currently employed in the justice system, hundreds of thousands would lose their jobs. The \$200 billion criminal justice industry would collapse. It will be as difficult as dismantling the military industrial complex, with which the criminal justice system is heavily intertwined. And that is exactly the challenge this book calls for its readers – the “progressive” community - to take up. Our political clubs, civil rights organizations, and liberal social reform efforts are complicit. We need to keep our eyes on the ultimate prize: justice for all. Read this book and be changed.

- Sally Jones



The August minutes will be distributed at the September meeting and published in the October newsletter.

You are invited to the
S.I. Women's Political Caucus
Women in leadership forum

Sat. October 19, 10 AM to 1 PM
Richmondtown Library Auditorium
200 Clarke Ave. SI, NY 10306



The Elizabeth A. Connelly Award
Will be presented to

Beryl Thurman

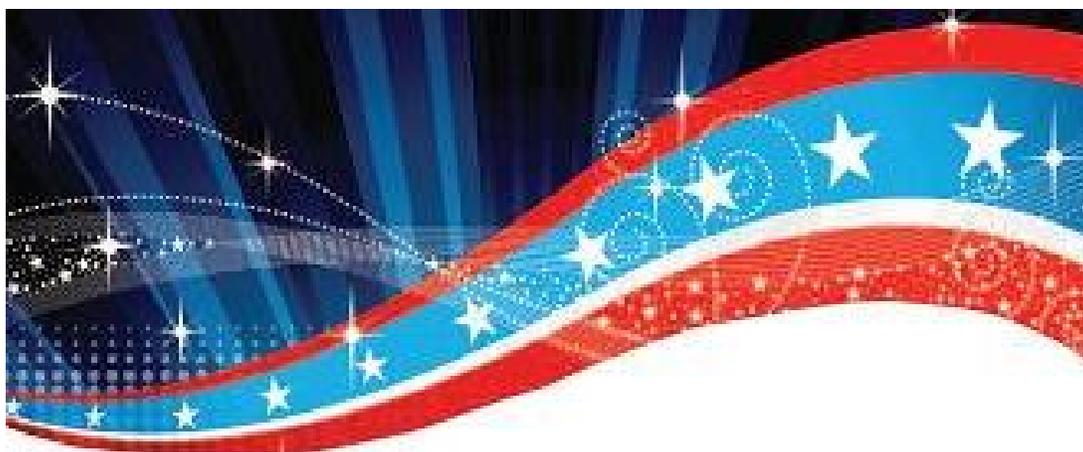
Director of the North Shore Waterfront Conservancy
Plus a distinguished panel of environmentalists.

 **Free and open to the public!**

 **Light refreshments served**

 **Info call Joy, 718-816-4128**





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

The Democratic Gala

Honoring
with Lifetime Achievement Awards

John Sollazzo
First Vice Chair, Richmond Democratic Committee

Richard L. McMahon
*District Leader, 64th A.D.
and Richmond Democratic Committee Labor Liaison*

Thursday, October 24, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Excelsior Grand
2380 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306

\$150 Guest* \$250 Friend \$500 Supporter \$1000 Sponsor
**after October 11th Guest tickets are \$175*

Don M. Bosco, Esq. and Sadia Malik, Gala Co-Chairs



___ **YES**, I will attend. Please reserve ___ tickets for the Thursday, October 24th Gala at:

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

*after October 11th, Guest tickets are \$175

Enclosed is my contribution \$ _____.

___ I will be unable to attend, but enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

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

Sponsors: please include how you would like your sponsorship displayed?
 Contributions are not tax deductible.

2013 Democratic Gala Table Seating List

Tables can seat 10 or 12

For tables, please list names OR tell guests to ask for the table of the organization or person that purchased the table.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Please include as much information as possible.

Faid for by the Richmond County Democratic Committee



2013 DEMOCRATIC GALA JOURNAL CONTRACT

Closing Date: October 11th

Ads received after are not guaranteed inclusion in the Journal

I (we) agree to pay the sum of \$_____ for a _____ page advertisement in the 2013 Democratic Gala Journal, to be issued on Thursday, October 24th.

The honorees for the 2013 Democratic Victory Gala are:

John Sollazzo *and* Richard L. McMahon

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

Please attach your camera-ready artwork, business card or other advertising copy below *or* email your ad to sidemocrats@yahoo.com

Name _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

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

JOURNAL COMMITTEE - 2013 DEMOCRATIC GALA

Teresa Cirelli, Charles Fall, Antoinette Paresi *and* Salvatore Scibetta
Journal Chairs



Ad Rate Card

The S.I.D.A. newsletter takes advertising.

The following is the rate card:

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

To place an advertisement in the newsletter, please contact S.I.D.A. President Tom Shcherbenko at 718-687-2788 or shcherbenko@aol.com.

Paid Advertisement

You are cordially invited to the 4th Annual



In Support of the Re-Election of
ASSEMBLYMAN MATTHEW TITONE

Dress casual & comfortable

\$4,100 Champion \$2,500 Chair, \$1,000 Co-Chair \$500 Patron

\$200 Sponsor \$100 Guest \$50 Young Dems

Children under 12 are welcome and free.

SPECIAL RAFFLE PRIZES!! FUN KIDS' ACTIVITIES!!

RSVP using enclosed form or to Laura Sword at laurasword@gmail.com
or 718.556.3823 ext.3

Please make checks payable to Committee to Elect Matthew J. Titone
and mail to c/o Laura Sword -692 Jewett Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314

or online at
www.titoneforstatenisland.com



Upcoming Meetings

September 24, 2013	October 15, 2013
General Meeting Karl's Klipper, 40 Bay Street	General Meeting Location TBD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Randy Lariar, New Leaders Council • Tom Orlando, Local 79, on Harbor Commons Development Principles • Vote S.I.D.A. Constitution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker TBD • Vote on 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 &	Ex Officio Dennis Brown
Recording Secretary Marie Dwyer	Ex Officio Gary Carsel
Treasurer Bonita Rothman	Ex Officio Belinda Dixon
Social Secretary Liz Price	Ex Officio Richard Reichard
Member at-Large Richard Florentino	Ex Officio John Sollazzo
Member at-Large Richenda Kramer	Ex Officio Mark Zink