Staten Island Democratic Association  
est. 1961 as Staten Island’s reform Democratic Club  
www.sidems.org  
At our Next Meeting:

Chris Walsh  
Candidate for South Shore City Council Seat

Kevin Elkins  
Executive Director,  
Democratic Committee of  
Richmond County  
(see June newsletter)

- Endorsement Votes for Borough President, District Leaders, and County Committee Officers  
- Economic Democracy Position Paper  
  (see page 12, please read before the meeting)  
- Presentation of Changes to S.I.D.A. Constitution

Tuesday, August 20, 8:00 P.M.  
** NOTE LOCATION: Manor Restaurant**  
917 Manor Road, 2nd Floor- (718) 698-4433
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: cmxbauer@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 at
Manor Restaurant
917 Manor Road, 2nd Floor
S.I.D.A. President’s Message

August 2013

“It’s long past time that we do something that addresses the fact that people's basic civil rights are being infringed upon on a daily basis in such large numbers as a daily occurrence and as business as usual.” Councilwoman Debi Rose said that last month, July 2013 -- not July 1963.

Councilwoman Rose was defending her vote for the End Discriminatory Profiling Act. The goal of this bill is to stop the N.Y.P.D. from engaging in discriminatory profiling. There is no current enforceable ban against it in New York City.

As he promised, Mayor Bloomberg vetoed the bill. The City Council can override a veto with 34 votes, exactly the number of votes that the bill received. The Mayor, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, and their allies became desperate to prevent this override by finding one councilmember that can be persuaded to change their mind – or not be present on the day of the vote.

The situation quickly turned into an example of what Belinda Dixon describes when she says, “Politics is like a live history lesson.” Two police supervisors’ unions handed out leaflets against Councilwoman Rose in the ferry terminal. Several other members of the City Council were also targets, including Dan Garodnick, who spoke to our club last year. There was the possibility that a councilmember that voted for the act, Erik Dilan, would become Executive Director of the Board of Elections before the vote, preventing the override. (Our candidate for District Attorney, Mike Ryan, ended up getting that position. Congratulations!)

What is it about this law that has made Bloomberg and Kelly so upset? The police supervisor that was leafleting in the ferry admitted that the bill does not outlaw describing someone. He complained that under this bill, "the police officer now has to prove himself why he stopped that person.” Isn’t that exactly what the “Founding Fathers” codified in our Constitution, that every citizen has certain unalienable rights?

If Bloomberg and Kelly sincerely want a safer city, why would they continue to promote a policy that has proven to create more animosity between the police and the citizens than ever existed? Why wouldn’t they be looking for ways for the police to work alongside communities?

This situation is similar to what Bloomberg has accomplished in his destruction of our public school system. Instead of finding ways to improve our children’s education, the goal of the Department of Education became data, i.e., higher standardized test scores. The data used to measure how ‘well’ the police are doing is arrest records. Club member Peter Killen told this to the Advance, “officers use the tactic to meet numbers requested by their supervisors.” The slang for this procedure is ‘collars for dollars.’

The business model that was pushed into the city administration is finding the right data to give the appearance of success. School principals and police captains, assistant principals and lieutenants, were ordered to use data from systems that didn’t solve the problems of education and safety. The result is that Bloomberg can point to test scores and arrest records and claim to be a great leader without doing any real work or solving real problems.

Next month our club will honor State Senator Eric Adams with our Humanitarian Award. Prior to his election in 2006, Senator Adams was Captain Adams in the N.Y.P.D. He has been one of the strongest proponents of improving police – community relations. According to him, the current policy, “… should be an international issue. We’re traumatizing black and brown children. We are making them have an inferiority complex and that’s a human rights issue.”

SIDA has always been dedicated to civil rights, and we should continue to fight for this cause.
Chris Walsh

Chris Walsh is the Democratic candidate for the South Shore City Council seat and will be a guest speaker at our August 20 General Membership Meeting. The following was taking from a July 20 article in the Staten Island Advance written by Mark Stein.

History doesn't favor Democrats running for the South Shore seat of the New York City Council. The position has only been held by Republicans, but candidate Chris Walsh says that's going to change.

"I win every day I wake up, so winning this is no big deal," said the longtime Tottenville resident and native Staten Islander.

Walsh, a Department of Sanitation employee who operates the South Shore Softball Association (SSSA), was named the Democratic opponent against Councilman Vincent Ignizio (R-South Shore) by the party chairman John Gulino last month.

The 51-year-old former longshoreman, who has worked for the city for the previous nine years, said when he's elected, he will retire from Sanitation to serve the 51st District.

His greatest focus will be on public streets and their poor conditions, as well as overdevelopment. Walsh also plans to target prescription drug use among South Shore teens and young adults.

Walsh said it's imperative the borough's infrastructure is "straightened out," especially if another major storm like Hurricane Sandy hits.

"This should be priority No. 1," he said.

While Walsh has never held public office, the South Shore resident noted he's done his homework – he's taken government classes at Baruch College and has studied the overview of city government, notably the New York City budget.

"I'm going to beat him (Ignizio) as me. There's no way I'm going to beat him as a politician. I'm never going to try," explained Walsh.

Fixture at the Field

Born in Grant City, Walsh grew up in Prince's Bay and has lived in Tottenville for more than 30 years.

One of 11 children, he attended Tottenville High School.

While a longshoreman in New Jersey and Brooklyn, he served a term as president of Local 1730 of the International Longshoremen's Association.

He said his wife, Pauline Perry, and daughter, JoAnne Walsh, are Sanitation workers as well.

In addition to the SSSA, Walsh is involved with the Patrick Byrne Memorial League and the South Shore Bowling League. Previously, he ran the South Shore Touch Tackle League for more than 20 years.

Walsh believes his dedication to numerous athletics groups, especially the SSSA, which is housed at Totten Intermediate School Field, will only help his chances come election time.
"People know who I am down here and know I'm not full of it," he said, adding three generations of softball players have played on the Tottenville-based field Walsh has maintained since 1978.

He's been a fixture at the field nearly each day since he took responsibility of the site in 1978, tending to the grass, painting the white baselines and keeping the grounds clean. The drainage system is one of the best in all of New York, he boasted.

On one day, he recalled, in the 1980s, games across the city were canceled due to soaked fields, but the action didn't stop at the Totten Intermediate School site.

A Tough Process

He explained the process of gathering signatures for the petition has been tough, but an exciting learning experience.

"If you don't have a pizza in your hand or Chinese food, people aren't answering the door," said Walsh. "Plus it's either been 100 degrees or it's raining."

While Walsh admitted he likes Ignizio, he believes he could do a better job. (Ignizio has held the position since 2007, and has been involved with Staten Island politics since 1996.)

Ignizio didn't address Walsh's optimism; Ignizio only noted that he, himself, will run on his record, one that he's proud of. "I look forward to going back to City Hall in January."

Walsh explained that he enjoys doing things that aren't expected of him.

"You do things because it's the right thing to do. When elected, this gives me the opportunity to help more people. It's as simple as that."

View from the First Row

NY State Education Commissioner John King Releases a New Math- and a warning “don’t think you can help your child with his Math homework anymore!”

The NYS Evaluation agreement says that scores from NYS High Stakes Testing can only account for 20% of a teacher’s evaluation, with another 20% from locally selected measures of growth on tests and 60% from other measures of effectiveness (principal observations, for example). In effect, 40% comes from student growth on tests. Yet, if a teacher scores "Ineffective" in raising students’ scores, the teacher is automatically to be labeled "Ineffective". With all of the recent documented stories of errors in tests and scoring, one must question why we are willing to end a professional’s career on the basis of test scores. And more importantly, we know that test scores measure a child’s ability on one test on one particular day. The other evils of testing are another article.

Using a matrix in each of the categories, teachers are labeled Ineffective, Developing, Effective and Highly Effective. So let’s take a look at some possible results from King’s math.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher: Ms. Kardashian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State tests:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 of 20 points ...... Ineffective</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Local tests:  
12 of 20 points ..... Ineffective

Observations:  
55 of 60 pointsHighly Effective

**Teacher Rating:**  
Total score 79 ..... Ineffective  
due to ineffective rating on tests

Teacher: Mr. Timberlake

State tests:  
15 of 20 points .... Developing

Local tests:  
14 of 20 points .... Developing

Observations:  
45 of 60 points ....... Effective

**Teacher Rating:**  
Total Score 74 points Effective

Note: Although Ms. Kardashian scored higher than Mr. Timberlake, she is labeled Ineffective and Mr. Timberlake “Effective”. Two years with those scores and Ms. Kardashian is out of a job – at least in teaching!

King did not do this alone. The Board of Regents approved this plan. Does anyone know how to do Math these days?

- Loretta Prisco

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 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](http://www.sidems.org/constitution.html)

Proposed Changes

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Change 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Article IV: Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 2: Other Meetings</td>
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</table>

*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.

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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.

July Minutes

General Meeting
July 16, 2013

President Shcherbenko called the meeting to order at 8:17 p.m. He spoke briefly about the President's report he wrote that was published in the current S.I.D.A. newsletter. The minutes from the June meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter.

President Shcherbenko announced that S.I.D.A. members running for elected positions on the Democratic Executive Committee seeking S.I.D.A.'s endorsement were invited to speak and submit a statement for the newsletter.

The following members briefly addressed the club: Belinda Dixon, Joann Olbrich, Paul Cinquemani and Tom Shcherbenko. President Shcherbenko read a brief statement from John Mastellone. Phil Blitz declined. Rich McMahon, Michelle Akeympong, John Sollazzo and Rosemarie Magnano Cavanaugh were unable to attend.

1st Guest Speaker
Lou Liedy, a Democratic candidate for Borough President, told members that he has been interested in politics since President Kennedy was in office. He says he feels he is qualified to run because he didn't serve on the City Council. Mr. Liedy feels "we" can win this election. Mr. Liedy asked members the things they like and dislike about Staten Island. They love their neighborhoods but they dislike the traffic and tolls on Staten Island among other things.
Mr. Liedy feels we need to look at how land is zoned, and the steel on the Verrazano Bridge. He said he endorses Assemblyman Cusack’s plan to reduce tolls on the VZ Bridge. He feels we should create a free trade zone at Howland Hook. When asked what the Borough President does he said that the Borough President receives a budget and sets the tone for Staten Island.

Mr. Liedy said he hopes we will join him to help take back Borough Hall. After his presentation, Mr. Liedy took questions from several members in attendance.

2nd Guest Speaker
Richard Luthman, also running for Staten Island Borough President, told members he is running for the office of Staten Island Borough President and he intends to put forth a pro-active campaign. He explained that there are a lot of issues ie traffic, the need to bring business to Staten Island, the need to develop transportation because mass transit infrastructure hasn't been developed and the need to develop energy independence.

He feels we should bring the TV and movie industry to Staten Island. He mentioned he is against the Big Wheel. He said we need a new Mayor and Staten Island needs to get its fair share from the City.

Mr. Luthman mentioned that his campaign is about party building and the demographics are changing.

He said he is going to fight for us. If you agree with him, he would like to have our support and vote.

After he spoke Mr. Luthman took questions from several members.

Executive Secretary's Report
Executive Secretary Mark Herman felt the recent picnic was a success and extended congratulations to Liz Price and her committee. He also mentioned that we are in the midst of the political season and it’s time to help the candidates we endorsed. Finally Mark announced county committee members that submitted petitions qualify for re-election.

Vice President's Report
Vice President Joann Olbrich presented highlights from the recent Executive Committee meeting held on June 26.

By-Laws Committee
Committee Chair Joann Olbrich reported that the committee proposed some simple changes for now. The proposed changes were printed in the current newsletter and will be discussed at both the July and August meetings and voted on at the September meeting. Joann also reported that the committee is working on more changes.

Treasurer's Report
Susan Chew reported for Treasurer Bonnie Rothman a balance as of July 19 of $7,046.02. Some bills were paid after that.

Social Secretary's Report
Social Secretary Liz Price said she hoped everyone enjoyed the picnic and she thanked everyone who helped out. She reminded members that the annual banquet will be held on September 3 at
The Crystal Room. The ticket prices are $85 per person and $95 at the door. She also announced that the invitations are being printed and she expects them to be ready in 1-2 weeks.

**Discussion of Proposed By-Law Changes**

Mark Herman suggested we table the discussion about the By-Law changes until the next meeting. Joann Olbrich urged members to look over the proposed changes and to bring comments and concerns.

**Issues Committee**

Committee Chair Loretta Prisco reported that the paper "Solitary Confinement in New York State", written by Richenda Kramer is in the current newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to accept the paper. The motion carried. Loretta reported that she had recently spoken to Domenic Recchia about the paper and wants to put it in the public agenda. Loretta explained that Richenda's paper didn't need much editing and that Richenda has been visiting people in prisons for years and advocates for them.

Loretta also mentioned that Rich Florentino's paper on Economic Democracy is almost done. The committee will be working on Joann Olbrich's paper on Women's Equality. She also reported that at the recent Executive Committee meeting she and Joann proposed writing a letter about the vote on the Women's Equality Act. They want to send it to members of the New York State Legislature and the *Staten Island Advance*. The letter was written because the legislators only voted on 9 planks and some legislators didn't vote for the bill. The motion carried.

A motion was made to submit the letter to the *Staten Island Advance* with Loretta's edits (200 word maximum). The longer version will be sent to the legislators.

Loretta made the following motion: *S.I.D.A. supports the Correctional Associations campaign "Raise the Age" which would remove children 17 and under from being tried as adults and sentenced to adult facilities.* The motion was seconded and passed.

Mark mentioned that the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington is August 23 and suggested S.I.D.A. do something special at the August meeting. President Shcherbenko welcomed new member, Royce Etlinger (daughter of Marie Etlinger). It was Royce's birthday and everyone sang happy birthday and enjoyed a piece of her birthday cake.

President Shcherbenko announced that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on July 24 at Roy Moskowitz's home, 193 A Rice Avenue. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Dwyer
Corresponding &
Recording Secretary
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 July 16, 2013
Printed July 16, 2013

How Did the Jury Fall for Zimmerman's Absurd Defense?

In a verdict that will haunt all of us who wish to respect the law, a Florida jury has found George Zimmerman innocent of any wrongdoing in shooting Trayvon Martin to death.

Mr. Zimmerman, a self-appointed vigilante, was issued a conceal-carry gun permit despite having been arrested for assaulting a police officer and having had a restraining order taken out as a result of domestic violence.

He initiated pursuit of Mr. Martin, who was merely walking home, and when the police told him in no uncertain terms to back off, he refused and thereby provoked a fight.

The law in Florida clearly indicates that the initiator of a conflict has a duty to retreat — not resort to lethal violence under the guise of "Stand Your Ground" when losing that fight!

In addition, Mr. Zimmerman refused medical help from on-the-scene EMTs, suggesting that his injuries were far from grave.

So a poorly qualified, self-appointed, armed vigilante inaccurately profiled and pursued a black teen-ager and when told to cease and desist by police, kills his quarry and claims self-defense.

And the jury buys it.

Anyone feel safer now?

- Phil Jonas

[The writer is a board member of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence.]
Mayoral Control of Schools Strips Communities of Their Rights

Staten Island voices cried “taking away our rights” when Mayor Michael Bloomberg tried to ban 32-ounce sodas.

We should mount the outrage when education decision-making is torn from our community under mayoral control.

For those who are too young to remember, pre-mayoral control, District 31 exercised power to:

- Open and close schools;
- Have a reasonable promotion policy;
- Reconfigure grades;
- Create a budget for every school to be passed by the school board [after] community hearings;
- Create gifted programs, determine curricula, and decide where they would be placed;
- Select our family living program;
- Hire all supervisory staff;
- Zone and rezone schools;
- Create special programs for first-graders and middle-school students having difficulty;
- Vote on terminations of staff;
- Create special programs for music, art, science and multicultural education;
- Place guidance personnel where needed;
- Use district office staff to support schools rather than slamming the door shut on them;
- Create full-time kindergarten classes when the Board of Education offered only part-time.
- Now they want to co-locate their schools in existing ones that don’t want or need them.

The mayor’s dictates have caused nothing but confusion, disaster and serious loss. Control belongs to those who know their community best.

- Loretta Prisco
Economic Democracy Position Paper

The Issues Committee prepared the following paper on Economic Democracy to be voted on at the August 20 General Membership Meeting. Richard Florentino was the main author and will review the key points at the meeting and then open the floor for question, discussion, and comments. Please read the position paper before the meeting.

ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY

The Issue-

Large corporations and banks have excessive and unwarranted power. Their largely unrestrained, unaccountable actions and influence in so many areas are a fundamental threat to our democracy, our economy and our society.

This state of affairs is behind most of the very serious problems that confront us today. A brief discussion of familiar concerns will illustrate the point. As many of us work on these separate issues, it is hoped that we keep in mind that all our efforts are, in important ways, part of one battle against illegitimate concentrated power; this will make us all stronger as we work on many fronts towards a more just and democratic world.

The influence of large companies is wreaking havoc on the environment: climate change, hydro fracturing, oil pipelines and the destruction of natural areas and the privatization of common, genetic modification of foods, etc…

Drastic income/wealth inequality, increasing poverty, instability and bailouts, our high and persistent unemployment and the increased personal and government debt burdens bear witness to the current economic state of most of us while corporate profits take an ever larger portion of our economic pie and wages stagnate or shrink.

The influence of corporations on women’s choice, health care, gun control, the devaluation of public education and the spread of charter schools, and the incredibly high rates of incarceration threaten the very fabric of our society.

Americans’ loss of belief in the ability of government to represent us has increased as billions are spent on campaigns and lobbying; many regulators are ‘captured’ by the desire to be hired at much higher salaries by the very corporations they are supposed to regulate; TV ‘news’, the ‘free’ press, are part of huge monopolistic corporate empires and no longer independently able to expose systemic crises.

These matters are so pervasive and intractable because they serve the interests of the fantastically wealthy and powerful corporate/financial interests; all outcomes, it seems are pre-ordained to directly increase profits or protect privilege and maintain the power of the largest economic entities.

In addition, some issues, especially social and cultural matters (e.g., gun control, abortion), are exacerbated to divide citizens and divert attention from fundamental, systemic problems in our nation.

Examples

Some specific examples support the case:
- Despite polls showing 90% popular support for background checks for gun purchases, it was defeated largely by the NRA.
- In all elections, 95% of the winners are those with more campaign money.
- Only 200 individuals have provided more than 80% of the Super PAC money in the 2012 election cycle. (U.S. News and World Report, article: “ 196 People Control 80 Percent of Super PAC Money: Who Are They?”, Elizabeth Flock, June 27, 2012)
- A handful of media corporations, Murdoch, Comcast, News Corporation own TV stations that reach well over half of the American population.
- Ten billion dollars was spent in 2012 elections at all levels, Federal, state and local, mostly on TV ads and most of them negative.
- Total corporate and bank profits amount to trillions of dollars per year with the majority being under control of a small elite of upper-management and ownership of the largest firms. ($10 billion is a miniscule investment to protect trillions in income.)
- Over the last several decades, the portion of GDP that went to wages has decreased from 55% of the economy to around 45%; in our current $15 trillion economy that amounts to a $1.5 trillion redistribution of income upwards every single year, from wages to profits that are taxed at much lower rates.
- TPP: Trans-Pacific Partnership, 600 corporate representatives are drafting a massive "free" trade agreement, without any transparency, that places corporate profits above any ‘partner’ nation's laws that restrict trade; this has been referred to as “NAFTA on steroids.”

**Historical Context:**

Even conservative thinkers understood the challenge.

As F.A. Hayek wrote in "The Road to Serfdom," "Anyone who has observed how aspiring monopolists regularly seek and frequently obtain the assistance of the state ... can have little doubt that there is nothing inevitable about this development", and “planning ... is required to make competition as beneficial as possible.”

Adam Smith, in Wealth of Nations, was in fact railing against the monopolistic organization of the economy implemented under Mercantilism, which was driven by the single aim of increasing the nation’s store of gold. His serious misgivings regarding “joint-stock” companies (the name for corporations of that day), though often overlooked by the apologists of the present day ‘free’ market economy, are clearly stated and unmistakable: limited liability and the separation of management from ownership were sure to cause “negligence and profusion.”

More progressive thinkers of course have always seen the problems.

Jefferson was an early proponent of a Bill of Rights for our Constitution, and one provision he wrote about frequently was, “Freedom from monopolies in commerce,” as no less important than, freedom of the press, free speech, separation of church and state, trial by jury, habeas corpus in protecting our nascent republic.

As Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis said, during the 1920’s, "We must make our choice. We may have democracy or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."

FDR captured this trade-off between wealth and democracy when he said, in his campaign against Hoover, "I am not for a return to that definition of liberty under which for many years a free people were gradually regimented into the service" of big business.

**Recommendations**

So, the question becomes, how we restore a "beneficial" competition in both the economic sphere and thereby in the marketplace of ideas which is the essence of democracy. It is imperative that the excess power of our largest economic entities must be reduced or at the very
least counterbalanced - but perhaps most effectively - and enduringly - tamed by advancing alternatives to their pseudo-aristocracy.

It is obvious that our current economic and political systems are thoroughly entrenched in our ways of living and, therefore, in our ways of thinking. Any progress toward a more open and competitive economy and a just democracy will take concerted, long-term efforts on many fronts. It is critical that many seemingly disparate efforts, each of great value in their own right, must also be seen as part of the same battle against a concentrated undemocratic power -- it is our present-day American Revolution – perhaps Evolution is the more applicable term.

The recommendations fall under three broad categories: regulation of existing structures; modification of existing structures and the support of alternative structures.

a. Regulation:
   1) restoration of election oversight; reversal of Citizens United;
   2) reinstating Glass-Steagal;
   3) restructuring of tax code to be more progressive (eliminating "carried interest exemption"; reducing "off-shoring" of corporate profits;
   4) requiring more disclosure in campaign contributions;
   5) greater regulation of revolving door (regulators and business);
   6) resumption of anti-trust enforcement; especially of media corporations;
   7) push-back on all "worst" offenses:
      - fracking;
      - poverty level minimum wage rate;
      - derivatives trading;
      - privatization of public education, student loans, postal service, corrections systems, money supply.

b. Modifications
   1) reclaim the rights of states to review corporate charters to reconsider responsibilities along with the privileges of limited liability, perpetual life, 'personhood,' etc.;
   2) require employee representation on boards of directors (as in Germany, etc.);
   3) increased promotion and incentives for employee-ownership plans (in conjunction with 2) to ensure the control of investments);
   4) collective bargaining guarantees as part of corporate charters;
   5) inclusion of other stakeholders (in addition to employees) in corporate governance, (e.g., local communities, customers, suppliers, etc.);
   6) identification and endorsement of those managers and firms that succeed in generating wealth while limiting its concentration and balancing interests of all stakeholders and not narrowly focusing on shareholders and management interests.

c. Alternative structures
   1) support and protection for worker co-ops (i.e., companies formally based on democratic management);
   2) increased use of credit unions;
   3) allowance for local complementary currencies;
   4) reforming campaign systems; public financing, limits on duration of campaigns, disallowing TV ads;
5) support for public media (restoration of public ownership of public airwaves);
6) increased utilization of pension funds to finance projects, firms, management to strengthen local economy that is more independent of large ‘distant’ economic entities.

**Conclusion**

Corporations as a form of economic organization have been immensely successful in generating wealth – however, they have simultaneously been the indispensable engines for concentrating that wealth in fewer and fewer hands - the root cause of so many of the critical problems in our democracy, our society and the environment that we see all around us every day. The key to progress is to restore and defend a robust, energetic competition in our economy and our body politic.

S.I.D.A. believes that, as a society, we must put our differences in perspective to have any hope of success in reaffirming our democracy in the face of the corporate and financial hegemony we have allowed to become rooted in our midst.

**Bibliography**

1. “Dollarocracy”, John Nichols, Robert W. McChesney
2. “The Bankers’ New Clothes: What’s Wrong with Banking and What to Do about It”, Anat Admati and Martin Hellwig
4. “Money for Nothing: How CEOs and Boards are Bankrupting America”, John Gillespie and David Zweig
5. “Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street”, Karen Ho
6. “The Modern Corporate State”, Arthur Selwyn Miller
7. “Twenty-three Things They Don’t Tell You About Capitalism”, Ha-Joon Chang
11. “Bright-sided”, Barbara Ehrenreich
15. “For All the People: Uncovering the Hidden History of Cooperation, Cooperative Movements, and Communalism in America”, John Curl
17. “The Modern Corporation and American Political Thought; Law, Power and Ideology”, Scott R. Bowman
25. “Capitalism and Freedom”, Milton Friedman
28. “What Then Must We Do?”, Gar Alperovitz

Ex Officio Candidates

According to Article VI, Section 1 of the S.I.D.A. constitution, endorsed candidates for the Executive Committee of the Democratic County Committee of Richmond County shall be ex officio members of the club’s Executive Committee, provided they currently hold membership in the club.

The following club members are running for positions on the Executive Committee of the Democratic County Committee, and endorsement votes will take place at our August 20 General Membership Meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Sollozza</td>
<td>1st Vice Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Akyempong</td>
<td>Executive Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belinda Dixon</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Cinquemani</td>
<td>District Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosemarie Mangano Cavanagh</td>
<td>District Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Mastellone</td>
<td>District Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richie McMahon</td>
<td>District Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joann Olbrich</td>
<td>District Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Shcherbenko</td>
<td>District Leader</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following members have provided statements for the newsletter:

Michelle Akyempong

Michelle is currently serving as Secretary for the County Committee. She is Political Action Vice President for SSEU 371. Michelle began her career in 1985 as a Caseworker in Adult Protective Services in Brooklyn. Immediately prior to her election as Vice President in 2007, she was a Supervisor III at Home Care Services (CASA IV) in Staten Island. She has served as Alternate and Delegate on location, Delegate to DC 37 and a member of the Bargaining Committee. Michelle is a member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), CBTU, the Women's Committee, Black
History and Caribbean Heritage Committees. Michelle is Chair of the Union's Political Action Committee. She has been Vice President of Legislation & Political Action since 2007.

**Belinda Dixon**

Belinda has been actively involved in the Democratic Party, District Council 37, Fellowship Baptist Church, and the NAACP for many years. She was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention four times, a District Leader for ten years, and is currently the Secretary of the Richmond County Democratic Committee. She has received numerous honors, including the Staten Island Advance Woman of Achievement and the National Action Network Woman of Excellence awards.

Belinda grew up in North Carolina, and lived in Brooklyn before moving to Staten Island. She worked for the New York Police Department for 37 and a half years, from the mailroom to the Civilian Complaint Review Board, the Warrant Division and finally Criminal Records. Along the way she became active in her union, Local 1549, serving as a shop steward and on the Political Action Committee and the Women’s Committee. Although now retired, she continues to be involved with various union activities.

Her community involvement led to political causes, and she has worked on many local and national political campaigns beginning with Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly. Other important local campaigns in which she participated were Judge Barbara Panepinto, Judge Judith McMahon, Congressman Mike McMahon, and Mayor David Dinkins.

**Paul L. Cinquemani**

Paul has been a draftsman, a firefighter, a travel agent, a loan officer, a small business owner, and currently serves as Director of Security at Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden.

His friend Dick Montana got him interested in politics and shortly thereafter he became a District Captain. Paul has worked on many campaigns including that of John Sollazzo when he ran for the City Council. He is presently a District Leader.

Paul graduated from Bushwick High School in 1953, attended John Jay College and later studied to become a draftsman. He worked for various engineering firms and advanced to designer, working on designs for the USS Constellation and many other projects.

Paul joined the N.Y.C. Fire Department in 1961 and was assigned to Engine Co. 9 on the lower east side of Manhattan. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1976 and was assigned to Engine Co. 279 in Red Hook. In 1981 he was transferred to Ladder Co. 81 and remained there until retirement. He became very involved with the two firefighters’ unions, the Uniformed Firefighters Association and the Uniformed Fire Officers Association, of which he is still a member.

Paul was enlisted by John Sollazzo to join the 16,000 member United Retired Firefighters Association. He was prompted by his good friend Cecil Kent to join the N.Y.F.D. Viking Association. He is presently Vice President of both organizations.

John Sollazzo also asked Paul if he would help him in forming a new club and Paul became the Vice President of the Anthony R. Gaeta Democratic Club. Just recently he and John Sollazzo established the Anthony R. Gaeta PAC.
Paul is also a Director of Serving Those Who Served, an organization dedicated to administering to the health issues of firefighters involved at the 9-11 disaster at the World Trade Center.

Paul married his lovely wife Vivian in 1981, has three daughters and five grandchildren.

**John Mastellone**

John Mastellone worked for the New York State Department of Labor (D.O.L.) for over 30 years. He began as an Unemployment Insurance Investigator, and moved up to Employment Service Representative. In that capacity he assisted claimants in finding suitable employment, many times matching job orders posted with the Labor Dept. by local and city-wide firms with people whose skills and background matched the job opening, creating a win-win situation. He worked his way up to Supervisor and then Manager of the Staten Island Employment Services office.

He was recognized by D.O.L. with a Certificate of Achievement for creating a special unit after the tragedy of 9-11. This unit serviced the Staten Islanders who lost their jobs at companies located at Ground Zero. His team worked overtime to expedite their unemployment benefits, offered services to the families of those who lost their lives, and found interim employment for those who found themselves suddenly jobless.

He also won a Community Service Award, presented by the Staten Island Chapter of The Urban League, for services to the Staten Island community above and beyond his position in the D.O.L. He was highlighted in the *Staten Island Advance* on two separate occasions for his many years of serving Richmond County.

He has been a member of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce for many years (most of which were spent representing the D.O.L.). He retired from the D.O.L. two years ago and now works as a Benefits Counselor for The Staten Island Center for Independent Living, where he provides a variety of services to disabled individuals.

John has served on the Democratic County Committee for the past three years and considers being selected for the position of a South Shore District Leader as both an honor and a privilege. He has lived in Annadale for 27 years and believes that he knows the needs and issues of our borough's South Shore. He will work very hard to prove himself worthy of this recognition and do his best to gather increased momentum for the Democratic Party in his area. He'd like to thank all those who helped and guided him, with a special thanks to John Sollazzo and Jon Del Giorno for their friendship and support.

**Joann Olbrich**

I have been a District Leader on the Executive Committee of the Democratic Committee of Richmond Country for about a dozen years, and have had the endorsement of the S.I.D.A. in the past. I am asking for your endorsement vote again.

As a District Leader, I strive to build and strengthen the Democratic Party on Staten Island, bring new members to the County Committee (and to S.I.D.A.), and to help get Democratic candidates elected to office. I have found inviting people to S.I.D.A. meetings and giving them the newsletter to be an effective way to get them interested in getting more involved with the Democratic Party.

I was very happy when I found S.I.D.A., because many of the Democratic elected officials from Staten Island did not reflect my views and positions on the issues. When I first became a
member of S.I.D.A., we had very little representation on the Executive Board of the Democratic Party here on Staten Island. Over the years, that representation has increased considerably.

It is important that so many S.I.D.A. members are active members of the County Committee, including those in leadership roles on the Executive Board. The more members we have on the County Committee, the more influence we can have in the direction the Party takes.

Members Recommend

_In Members’ Recommend S.I.D.A. members let us know which books or other things they have enjoyed._

That the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree is a truism surprisingly well borne out by this rollicking tale, as it sashays between New York, Paris and the south of France. Djuna, a name that seems to have no meaning and very little origin, fits our protagonist well. When we meet her, Djuna Cortez, a young Californian who has been studying on a budget in Paris, is learning to enjoy the champagne, caviar and chocolate life suddenly thrust upon her by a rich grandfather that she never knew existed. Joaquin Carlos Cortez is a world-renown surrealist painter and Djuna, his designated heir, has been left millions of dollars and paintings worth millions more, plus an apartment in Paris, a winery in the Loire Valley, and Cortez’s personal handwritten journals. As we follow Djuna in her journey towards adulthood, we also get to enjoy the restaurants, art galleries, and museums of contemporary Paris while simultaneously getting a first-hand look at Joachim’s Paris and the art world of the 1930s and World War II. If you're going to Paris, the Riviera, or the Loire Valley for the first time, take this book with you.

I often read novels in bits and pieces during the several parts of my rather lengthy daily commute. When I got close to the end of this book I stopped reading so that I could start it over again when I’m on vacation, still able to enjoy the anticipatory tingle of an unknown ending. Adreana is the daughter of Harold Robbins, a best-selling author whose works (“Never Love A Stranger”, “The Dream Merchants”, “The Carpetbaggers”, et al) have sold around the world in 32 languages. This first effort shows her to be a decent chip off the old block and is very entertaining.

_ - Patricia Anne Taylor_
An interesting book dealing with the training of Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, his deployment in Afghanistan, his ordeal as the lone survivor of a combat mission, and how he is taken in by an Afghani village that stands up to the Taliban. The fight scene is riveting and agonizing, and the scenes where his Texas community rallies around his family pulls at your heart.

The book is marred by numerous sprinklings of gratuitous references to the liberal media and how the liberals hate the army and are hurting the war effort (and thereby America) that don't add anything to what is a captivating account. I wonder if they were put in there to help sell the book among conservatives.

His proclamations that the war in Afghanistan could be easily won if we just unleashed more American power is belied by the actual story he tells of how the Taliban could not survive if they did not have the help of the Pashtun natives of the region. Apparently he thinks that the more terrorists you kill the closer you are to ending the war. He ignores his own observations of the people in the village who aided him, some of whom were hostile to him.

He seems totally indifferent to what could cause some villagers to assist an American and others to fight them, and therein possibly lies an answer to help end the war. Body counts were not successful in Vietnam. He dismisses Abu Graib with a single sentence.

I'm glad he's a soldier but glad he's not a commander. He's the type who might win every battle but lose the war. It's obvious he hasn't read (or if he has read, doesn't believe in) any of the theories about counterinsurgency. He also talks about being loyal to the Commander in Chief, but he never mentions defending the Constitution. If you don't let the intermittent propaganda outbursts interfere with your reading, you can learn a lot from this book.

- Chris Bauer

The book is a collection of fictional stories that each take place in a different neighborhood of Staten Island. Being a relative newcomer to the island, I thought reading the story about my neighborhood, Annadale, would be entertaining and maybe even educational. Instead, I quickly realized that most of the short stories reinforced the negative stereotypes of each chapter's setting. While entertaining, it was definitely not a true representation of the Staten Island I've come to know and love.

The final short story, “Lighthouse,” by S.J. Rozan, was by far my favorite. Taking place in St. George, specifically the Tibetan Museum on Lighthouse Avenue, the story centers around an emotionally disturbed man named Paul. Paul is haunted by voices, or as he refers to them “the Guys”, in his head telling him what to steal. Readers can follow his crime spree and even see into “the Guys” past and future victims through a fictional supernatural underlying story.

- Teresa Cirelli
S.I.D.A. Banquet

You are cordially invited to the
Staten Island Democratic Association
52nd Anniversary Banquet

Celebrate with us as we honor

Hon. Eric Adams
Hon. Paul O'Dwyer Humanitarian Award

Phil Jonas
Tyrone Butler Political Action Award

Belinda Dixon
Hon. John W. Lavelle Labor Award

Cliff Hagen
Terence H. Benbow Environmental Award

Dennis A. Brown
Peggy Johnston Club Service Award

Tuesday, September 3, 2013
Program and Dinner . . . . 7 PM - 11 PM

The Crystal Room
67 Olympia Boulevard · Staten Island, NY 10305
Statenn Island Democratic Association
52nd Anniversary Banquet RSVP
Tuesday, September 3, 2013

___ Person(s) will be attending. Payment enclosed $_______

___ I can't attend, but enclosed is a donation $_______

*If payment is received by August 31:*

$85 per person / Table of 10 - $800

*If payment is received at door:*

$95 per person

Name: __________________________

Phone: __________________________

Use enclosed envelope or send to: SIDA, P.O. Box 140371, S.I., N.Y., 10314-0371
Inquiries to: SIDAbanquet@aol.com or pay online at http://tinyurl.com/sida52

Please See Journal Ad Return Card On Other Side.

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Statenn Island Democratic Association
52nd Anniversary Banquet Journal Ads
Tuesday, September 3, 2013

Congratulate honorees; support SIDA and Democratic candidates; promote your business.
Submit submissions accepted until Saturday, August 17, 2013 (Sharply)
(52nd Anniversary Banquet Journal size will be 8 1/2" x 11"

Please check box to indicate size and cost of your Journal Ad

☐ 1/4 page... $50 (4 1/4" x 5 1/2")  ☐ Business Card... $35
☐ 1/3 page... $65 (3 2/3" x 8 1/2")  ☐ Silver Full Page... $200
☐ 1/2 page... $85 (5 1/2" x 8 1/2")  ☐ Gold Full Page... $250
☐ Full page... $150 (8 1/2" x 11")  ☐ Inside Covers... $300

Please submit your ads conforming to the above dimensions.

Name: __________________________

Phone: __________________________

Address: __________________________

Send to: SIDA, PO Box 140371, Staten Island, NY 10314-0371
Or submit digital pictures and/or ads to: SIDAbanquet@aol.com
Make checks payable to SIDA or pay online at http://tinyurl.com/sida52

Please See Invitation RSVP/Return Card On Other Side.
Primary Day

Tuesday, September 10 is Primary Day!

Please support S.I.D.A. endorsed candidates!

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.
MENDY MIROCZNÍK
Candidate for 50th Council District

Endorsed by Trusted and Proven Leaders and Organizations in our Community

-The Working Families Party
-Hon. Deborah Rose
-Hon. Diane J. Savino
-Hon. Matthew Titone
-Hon. Michael E. Cusick
-32 BJ
-Unified Firefighters Dispatchers Association
-I.O.U.E. Local 9
-SSEU Local 371

-National Organization for Women (NOW)
-DC – 37 Hotel Motel Trades Council
-UFCW Local 1500
-CSEA Local 1000
-CSA
-CWA Local 1102 & 1180
-Teamsters Local 237
-Unified Sanitation Association Local 831
-U.A.W Region 9
-U.A. Plumbers Local 1

www.MendyforCouncil.com
Paid for by Mendy For Council
Paid Advertisement

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY
SEPTEMBER 10TH

PROUDLY ENDORSED BY SIDA

The members of SIDA are the true standard bearers of Democratic ideals in our community.

Thank you for the support!

John Mancuso
FOR CITY COUNCIL

www.MancusoforNYC.com
Upcoming Meetings

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<tr>
<th>August 20, 2013</th>
<th>September 17, 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>General Meeting</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manor Restaurant, 917 Manor Rd</td>
<td>Location TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Chris Walsh, South Shore Council candidate</td>
<td>• Speaker TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Kevin Elkins, Executive Director, DCRC</td>
<td>• Vote on Changes to S.I.D.A. Constitution</td>
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<td>• Borough President endorsement</td>
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<tr>
<td>• District Leader and County Committee officer endorsements</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Presentation of Changes to S.I.D.A. Constitution</td>
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It’s Time to Join or Renew Your S.I.D.A. Membership!

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2013 DUES</th>
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<tr>
<td>$15 - Family</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<tr>
<td>$10 - Individual</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<td>$5 - Senior, Student, Unemployed</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone E-mail

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

S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

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

S.I.D.A. August 2013