

The VID Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the aftermath of a few unfortunate, even painful, primary losses this past fall (particularly those of Frieda Bradlow, Rick Braun, and Lester Evens) it would be easy to get gloomy. So I would like to take this opportunity to remind us all of some special victories in recent days that we can all be proud of. VID is proud to have been a part of the tremendous national effort that led to the rejection of Robert Bork as a Supreme Court nominee. Our members wrote letters, leafleted, and made phone calls to legislators to defeat Bork. This was a victory that will have significance for decades to come. On a different level, but somewhat closer to our heart, was the Victory of Tony Hoffmann over Tim James and the VRDC in this year's district leader race. Tony's victory, over a sleazy politician who had no record of community service to justify his candidacy, reaffirmed VID's support in our community and keeps alive the fight for progressive reform in city politics. October 1st was a double-victory night for VID. First, long time VID'er Dan Roskoff was re-elected as Chair of the Divisional County Committee, 61 A.D., Part A, (GLID President Deborah Glick was elected First Vice Chair) and VID maintained its majority vote on the committee by electing 26 members and supporters to fill vacancies. This leaves the most grassroots level of the Democratic Party firmly in the hands of our community's most dedicated civic activists. Later that night, the Manhattan-wide County Committee (consisting of about 1,000 members) voted to condemn Adlai Stevenson 3d, Elizabeth Shollenberger, and Tim James for their sleazy campaign tactics in this year's primary. All three were called upon to publicly apologize. The New Democratic Coalition (Executive Committee), representing reform clubs from all over New York State, subsequently passed a similar resolution. Amidst all this, VID continues its activism in all corners of our neighborhood, on a multitude of issues. We may be financially broke (so what else is new?) but we will never allow our spirit to be broken.

Space does not allow me to review all that we have accomplished thus far in 1987 (and the year is not over). Suffice it to say that while there is so much we have not yet done, with the continued support of our members and friends, the best victories still lie ahead. I look forward to seeing all of you at our November 17 party.

-Bruce Feffer, President

CAMPAIGN NOTES

This year we had several very intense races. Clearly our opposition pulled out all the stops. They called us everything from "entrenched regulars" to molitov-toting commies - the dirt was flying fast and furious. Therefore, as the dust settles I think it is very important to give thanks to some people whose commitment to honest, clean government and incredible efforts in the campaign kept us rolling. They are: Rick Braun, Frieda Bradlow, Tony Hoffmann, Bruce Feffer, Ellen Peterson, Bill Van Felix, Carol Feinman, Geoff Smith, Matthew Birnbaum, Linda Johnson, Catherine Abate, John Ford, Arlene Lowell, Dan Roskoff, Guy Waid, Sherri Donovan, and Mimi Hurd. (Campaign Coordinators for 1987)

Congratulations go to VID candidates Tony Hoffmann, Peter Tom, Harold Beeler, Paula Omansky, Francis Peccora, and our judicial delegates, alternates and county committee members on their election victories.

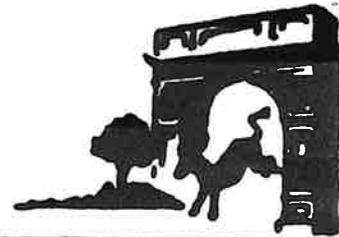
David Waid, Campaign Chair

VID NEEDS YOUR HELP !!!

The moment of truth is at hand. If you believe that we should keep the headquarters which has housed VID so well for so many years then act now! Call your friends. Get together with them. Explain to them that VID is in dire need of money. Then collect the money and bring it, mail it, or ship it in envelopes (or buckets). It's now or NEVER.

Jeffrey Stewart, Vice President

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At the start of the year, I announced three priorities for VID to focus on: 1) Improve our financial status, 2) Increase our community involvement, 3) Promote progressive politics over the smear-style politics of a rival club in the community.

I am pleased to report that despite some disappointments we have met these challenges. Our 30th Anniversary Dinner, combined with our annual VID Street Fair and other smaller events raised more money for VID than ever before. We sponsored numerous public forums on such topics as: housing, education, drug abuse, and lesbian and gay rights, among others. VID marched in NOHO against crack dealers, we rallied in support of the Coors Beer Boycott, and we gathered with parents in Washington Square Park to demand cleaner and safer playgrounds. It's hard to believe, but we've done all this - and much more!

On the electoral front, perhaps we will never forget the terrible smear campaign launched against us by the Koch-club in their effort to destroy VID. Not only did we retain the Male District Leadership in our district, but VRDC was strongly condemned by political leaders from all over the city. Progressive, issue-oriented politics prevailed.

As we enter 1988, VID faces new challenges. Campaign costs have skyrocketed. The expenses of operating a large, active organization, have become staggering. Our community is more diverse than ever, requiring our members to be politically involved in more diverse ways and in areas of our district that heretofore were relatively inactive. Basic services to our membership (a newsletter, social events, etc.) need to be better planned and produced with higher quality.

The months ahead, therefore, will be a time of exciting new improvements in the way VID operates. My vision of VID one year from now is of a more efficient campaign operation combined with widespread community involvement on a variety of issues. I hope to improve the quality and appearance of our newsletter, and generate a new spirit of friendship and support among our members.

I urge you to contribute not only your ideas and advice, but your labor, towards these goals. Our success will assure VID's place at the forefront of the movement for political reform for another 30 years.

I thank all of you for a great 1987 and look forward to an even better 1988.

Bruce Feffer, President

WASHINGTON SQUARE PROGRESS REPORT

On November 12th, Tony Hoffmann, Sheila Haas, who is co-president with me of the Washington Square Parks Council/Parents for Playgrounds, and I met at the Community Board #2 office. Among those present were Manhattan Borough Commissioner of Parks Pat Pomposello, District Manager Rita Lee, Bob Cohen of N. Y. U., Chair of Community Board #2's Parks Committee Tony Dapolito, and the Supervisor of Washington Square Park, Al Cannizzo.

Sheila, Tony and I presented a comprehensive list of problems plaguing the Washington Square and Bleecker Street Playgrounds. We obtained firm commitments from Commissioner Pomposello for work to be performed and a time schedule for completion.

Jeffrey Stewart, Vice President

A PLEA FROM A CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

December is a month with an extremely heavy volume of mail. In order to stand any chance of getting our third class monthly mailing to you before the end of the year, cooperation is needed. Get meeting dates on the calendar early -- VERY early. Get newsletter copy and short items of interest in early -- VERY early.

The next edition of the Calendar and Newsletter starts going to press within a week of the mailing of this one. If everything is done by the deadline, the printer can get it within a day or two, and the exciting news can be on its way to you within the week, assuming the Post Office gives minimal cooperation.