

President's Report

By Lorraine Zamora

As I write this, we are still enjoying the last days of summer—but as we all know, what may be the most momentous presidential election of our lifetimes is fast approaching. So even on these quiet summer days, Three Parks volunteers have been working hard to elect Democrats up and down the ballot. In recent weeks, scores of dedicated Club members have written several thousand postcards to voters in Maine, encouraging them to oust Republican Sen. Susan Collins and to elect Democrat Sara Gideon in Collins' stead, thereby helping to gain a Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate. Another group of Club members, in cooperation with the New York for Biden campaign, has begun making weekly phone calls to voters all across America to support the Joe Biden/Kamala Harris ticket.

And that is just the beginning. With September now upon us, it's time to up our game. The Maine postcard writing and the Biden phone banking will continue. And this year, in place of an onsite presidential campaign center, Three Parks will be operating from the corner of 104 Street and Broadway—with face masks and social distancing, of course! There will be two tables on the northeast corner, every day weather permitting, at which Three Parks will provide voter registration forms, distribute absentee ballot applications, accept contributions for campaign buttons, and answer voter- and election-related questions. Then too, we will start making phone calls to help re-elect U.S. Representatives Antonio Delgado (Hudson Valley) and Max Rose (Staten Island.) More detailed information on these initiatives can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also this summer, for the first time we have had July and August Club meetings with a stellar lineup of speakers. In July, Farhang Heydari, Executive Director of the Policing Project at NYU Law, and Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President, spoke on reforming police practices. In August, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer spoke on our city's budget challenges. Our September 9 meeting promises to be just as timely. We will hear from Donna Lieberman, Executive Director, NY Civil Liberties Union, on "Protecting the Election" and from Susan Lerner, Executive Director, Common Cause, on "Making Our Votes Count."

Right through election day, we will be doing everything we can to see Democrats emerge victorious. But even then, our work will not be done. Starting in November and continuing through February, we will be

introducing you to the candidates running in 2021 for NYC public offices—Mayor, Manhattan Borough President, Comptroller, District Attorney, City Council Members for Districts 6 and 7, Public Advocate, District Leaders, Judges and Judicial Delegates—and asking for your endorsement votes. It promises to be a busy winter.

On a personal note, I found the major speakers at the National Democratic Convention last month to be empathetic, passionate and refreshingly plain-spoken. They made me hopeful and proud. I texted my grandchildren, encouraging them to listen to what was being said and to remember the consequential nature of this year's presidential election. Fifty years from now, when they are asked, "Where were you in 2020?" they will be able to say that they understood the stakes and stood up proudly for our democracy.

Stay well. Stay safe. And stay
with Three Parks! We need you
to help Biden/Harris win the
presidential election in
November.