

District Leader Report

By Daniel Marks Cohen

Like all of you, I am stunned by the unexpected loss of our District Leader Cynthia Doty. I was to be her co-leader as I was elected this past June and was looking forward to serving with her and continuing to learn from her experience. Sadly, that is not to be. I had the good fortune of knowing Cynthia and politically collaborating with her for more than 30 years. Fellow West Siders, we encountered each other at a variety of civic and political meetings every week, but our primary interaction was through Three Parks. While we are all still reeling from the loss, the club must also move forward to appoint someone to succeed her in the vacant role.

Based on the Rules and Regulations of the NY County Democratic Committee adopted on September 29, 2022 (link here:

<https://manhattandemocrats.org/about/rules/>) as District Leader I will be calling

a Divisional Assembly District Committee meeting for the 69th AD Part A, on Wednesday, October 11, overlapping the monthly club meeting

that evening. A formal notice will be mailed shortly to all members of the County Committee in our Part of the Assembly District. Based on the rules, the Committee will elect a temporary Chairperson, Secretary, and then take nominations to appoint a new District Leader. Quorum is 20% of the County Committee for Part A. There are roughly 90 people in our Part, so about 20 would be quorum. We will also fill vacancies in the County Committee at the meeting as well. I intend to nominate Theresa Canter for District Leader, who has received unanimous support from the executive board of the Club. Theresa is currently Membership Secretary, but like me she is a former Club President, and she has served on the executive board of Three Parks for over two decades. I have known and admired Theresa over that entire time, and she is well versed in the details of County Committee from her extensive experience advising judicial candidates. She will be a good partner in politics, and I look forward to working with her and learning from her. While I am devastated by the loss of Cynthia, I am also gladdened that we have such a seasoned member in Theresa who can step forward and fill the role that

the club needs to continue doing its work in supporting Democratic candidates and progressive causes. Theresa and Cynthia were good friends who agreed on many issues, which means that there is continuity in the position. Cynthia would have wanted that.

Switching subjects, as you all know, I am also the State Committeeman for the 69th AD, a position I still hold even with my election as District Leader. It was my intention to step down as State Committee immediately on my election to DL but with Cynthia's passing the club's attention, and my focus, has been on her memorial service on October 1 and determining a successor for Cynthia in the female DL post. While there is no law that prevents me from serving both positions, it is in keeping with what are known as "Ryan's Rules" which discourages holding more than one party position at a time (to prevent the consolidation of political power). In Manhattan, since we elect District Leaders and State Committee members separately (in other counties the positions overlap), I will resign as State Committeeman so a new person can serve. In

consultation with the clubs and District Leaders for all three clubs in the 69th AD, I will step down by the end of this year, and a successor will be chosen to replace me in the post as State Committeeman. I have enjoyed my time in the role, but I will go into greater detail about experience and thoughts about it in a future column.