

## ***IN THE NEWS***



### **Lou Liedy steps down as president of the North Shore Democratic Club As he exits, Staten Island Democrats are in far better shape than when he began**

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- North Shore Democratic Club president Lou Liedy has stepped down following 12 years at the helm.

"It was time for some new blood, some new leadership," said Liedy, who shepherded the club through some of the party's darkest years on Staten Island, and exits with the Dems on the definite upswing.

Liedy hopes that the Democratic surge in New York state and across the country leads to greater interest in the club. He fondly recalled how the North Shore Dems would regularly draw 100 or more people to meetings at the Columbian Lyceum during the good old days.

"But it's not as big a thing for people to come out to club meetings anymore," said Liedy, who plans to remain an active member of the group. "I hope that changes."

The new club president is Mike Arvanites, a former staffer for Congressman-elect Mike McMahon and who now toils for Council Speaker Chris Quinn.

"Things are looking up," Arvanites said of the Democrats' fortunes. "I'm excited to be working with the North Shore Dems. This is really the party's base on Staten Island."

Arvanites hopes to recruit more club members, and said the group should have a Web site up and running early in 2009.

While the club will be focusing on the upcoming race for McMahon's soon-to-be-vacant North Shore City Council seat, Arvanites said he also has an eye on next year's citywide races.

With plenty of Democratic votes to be found in the other four boroughs, Dem candidates tended to take the Island for granted in years past, but the borough's clout has been steadily increasing.

"The North Shore Dems will be a stop on the campaign trail for any citywide Democrat," Arvanites predicted.

As for his own potential plans to run for elective office in the future, Arvanites said, "Who knows?"

He also had praise for Liedy.

"He ran the club great," Arvanites said. "He did a great job of steering the party through some rough times for Democrats on Staten Island."