

# Precinct Captains

## The Importance of Organizing Locally

**Our first two DAG  
Precinct Captains:**  
Lori Gleber (Augsburg) &  
Bill Purcell (Düsseldorf)



**American holidays:** As Precinct Captain, you can help us organize local events in your community and bring Americans together for holidays like Thanksgiving and July 4th.



**Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Activities:** Our most important job around the world is GOTV & Voter Registration. For example, you can help us at voter registration stands at Gay Pride events all over Germany.

## Chapters + Precincts

Democrats Abroad Germany (DAG) has ten chapters (see map, p. 3), and in each of them, most of the activity is concentrated in one city. Sadly, this means our current chapter structure serves only about half our total membership, as most live outside these centers of activity.

Take the **Munich Chapter**, the only one in Bavaria. It doesn't have the resources to serve those beyond the city of Munich, though there are many members in the Nürnberg-Fürth-Erlangen area. It's the same with Dresden, Leipzig and Halle, all part of the **Berlin Chapter**, or Kassel and Hannover in the **Göttingen Chapter**. For these large chapters we only put on events and meetings in those three main cities.

Our volunteers all around the country do a great job, but for us as an organization, and for the upcoming presidential election in 2016, we need to do more.

We could decide to found more chapters throughout Germany, breaking up our existing chapters into smaller ones. But with new chapters comes a certain level of bureaucracy, so we're borrowing a great idea from DA Japan – **Precinct Captains!**

## What exactly is a Precinct Captain?

A “precinct” is a specific area of Germany – a town or city where a sizable population of U.S. citizens lives – where Democrats Abroad Germany is not active. A *Precinct Captain* is a local organizer who helps educate and motivate U.S. voters and, if possible, who holds meetings and puts on events in their community.

Precinct Captains are local grassroots organizers. In addition to seeking out new DAG members and Democratic voters, *Precinct Captains* will build relationships with existing members and other U.S. voters in their communities.

With your help, DAG's outreach will be more effective and our Party will grow as Americans living in these outlying areas become active.

## Is there a “job description?”

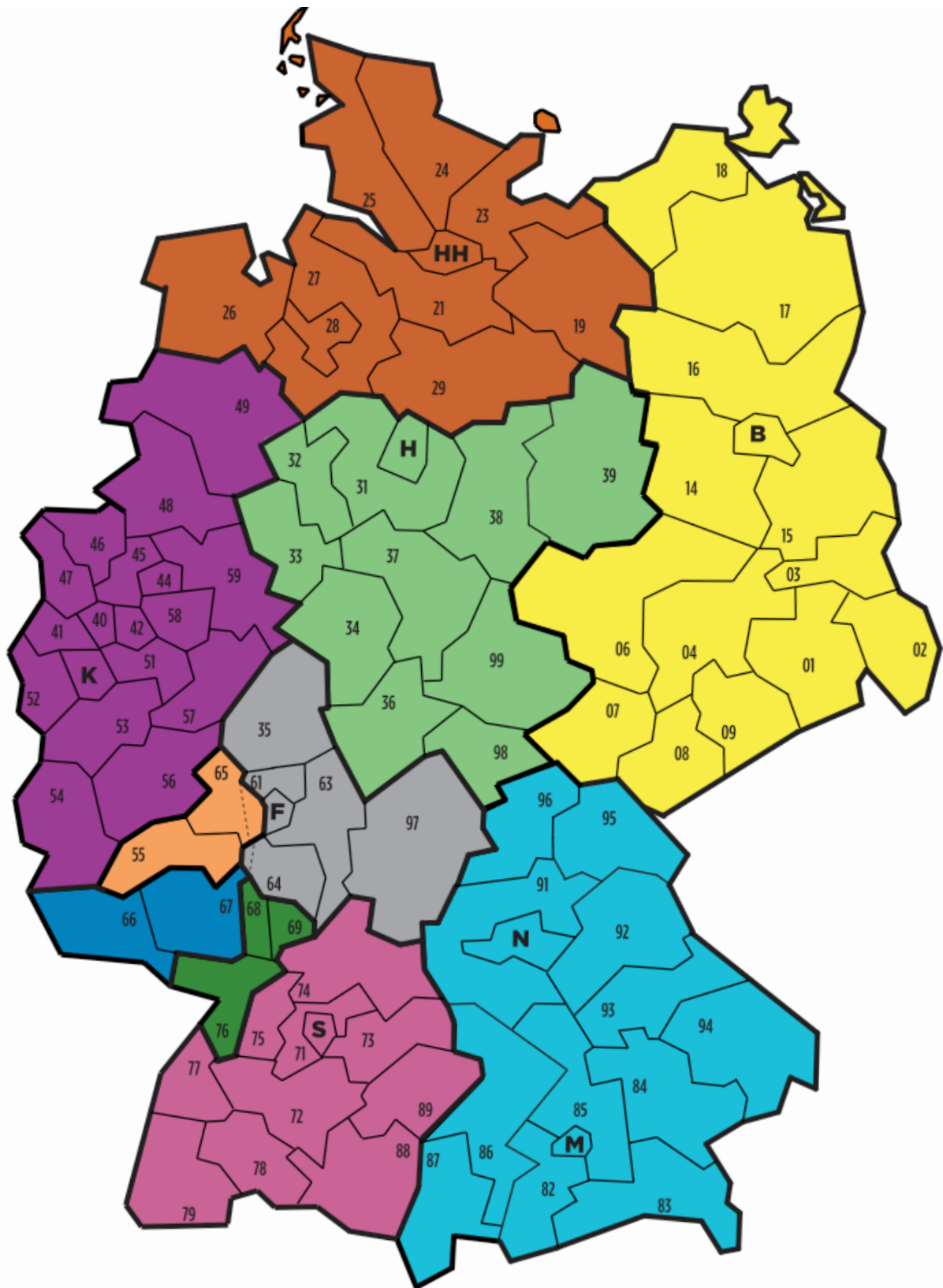
In short, the answer is NO! There is no job description. As a 100% volunteer organization, all we can do is give guidance and help our volunteers to work on local GOTV (Get Out The Vote) goals. In principle, *anything* that someone does in a previously inactive area would be a great achievement – and would be greatly appreciated!

If you had to come up with one main job, it would be to build a small community of volunteers in your area to support the Democratic Party and its candidates. Together, you could organize:

- Monthly or quarterly get-togethers to discuss politics and politicians. This could be in a local restaurant or coffee shop, or one of your volunteers could host a pot-luck in their home.
- American holiday celebrations. Have 4th of July and/or Thanksgiving events to bring people in.
- Info stands and voter registration events

*"Back home in the U.S., the Democratic Party relies on Precinct Captains to knock on doors in and around neighborhoods, to identify Democratic voters, to encourage them to vote and to participate in the local Democratic Party."*

**We might not be knocking on doors here in Germany, but we can surely do a better job of community organizing, and of finding U.S. voters!**



**Democrats Abroad Germany**

DA-Germany has 10 chapters, and each is represented on the Excom (Executive Committee) by its elected Chapter Chair.

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|---|---|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Berlin         | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Kaiserslautern         |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: grey; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Frankfurt        | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: cyan; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Munich                 |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Goettingen | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: purple; border: 1px solid black;"></span> NRW                  |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Hamburg        | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: pink; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Stuttgart              |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: darkgreen; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Heidelberg  | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightorange; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Wiesbaden-Mainz |

## Precinct Captains from Aachen to Zwickau

Okay, so we don't have precinct captains in Aachen and Zwickau yet, but we do already have them in the following cities:

<b>Augsburg</b>	<b>Bonn</b>	<b>Dusseldorf</b>	<b>Tuebingen</b>
<b>Bielefeld</b>	<b>Cologne</b>	<b>Lake Constance</b>	<b>Wuppertal</b>

How about starting one in your town?

## A Precinct Captain in Every “Kaff”

Some people have told us that they think there are too few people in their area to make a difference, but let's be clear – if we already have 20 members in your city, and if 3-4 of those would actually be willing to come to the occasional get-together, and maybe 1-2 of those would actually help out with GOTV... How many new voters could those people reach? Just imagine how much of a difference that could make if we were able to have precinct captains in 20 or 30 cities around Germany...

**It'd be great if we could find a precinct captains for the following cities:**

Aachen	Bamberg	Bremen
Dortmund	Dresden	Duisburg
Essen	Freiburg	Garmisch-Partenkirchen
Gießen	Hannover	Karlsruhe
Kassel	Kiel	Leipzig-Halle
Lübeck	Magdeburg	Marburg
Nürnberg-Erlangen-Fürth	Passau	Regensburg
Rostock	Saarbrücken	Schwerin
Siegen	Trier	Ulm
Wolfsburg	Würzburg	Zwickau

## So... What's next?

Let us know what you think about this idea and whether you'd be interested in becoming a Precinct Captain in your community! Simply contact us at [DAG-Chapters@DemocratsAbroad.org](mailto:DAG-Chapters@DemocratsAbroad.org)

**And please remember – you are not alone.**

If you volunteer to become a Precinct Captain, your local chapter chair will help you, the DA-Germany Executive Committee will help you, and David (our DA-Germany Chapter Development Coordinator) will help you. We will send you postcards, brochures and other materials, and we will be there for you if you have any questions.

We need you – and we want you to succeed!