

DA China Leadership Meeting (Jan 12, 2020 - Zoom)

Board Members Attending:

1. Devika Koppikar
2. Kim
3. Elizabeth Jenkins
4. Elaine Chow
5. Alexander Lee
6. Aaron Kruse
7. Faith Gary
8. Eileen Walsh
9. Justin Fischer

Members Attending:

1. Jacob A. (Shanghai)
2. Terry W. (Beijing)

Absent Board Members: Brittini Young, Patrick

1. Welcome and Attendance

Quorum – Required in bylaws Bylaws: “for meetings of the Board, at least 6 members in attendance, of the Executive Committee, 3 members in attendance.”

At start of meeting (5:30pm), quorum made with Board members (7) Devika, Kim, Elaine, Faith, Eileen, Justin, Elizabeth including (3) ExCom members Kim, Elaine, Elizabeth.

Also at start of meeting, one new person: Jacob A, who has been active on WeChat. Faith extended a special invitation. All meetings are open to all members.

2. Updates from Communications and Membership – As Elaine and Kim needed to leave the meeting early, they gave their updates at the top of the meeting.

Communications (Elaine) -

- Instagram - New content being posted to Instagram.
- Email - Latest email newsletter had a better open rate at 12%, but our titles are a not too compelling at the moment with current activities.
- For Global Presidential Primary, working with Robin at DA France to develop content and a plan for mobilizing members.
- WeChat - With managing the WeChat account, has been adding new members to the groups. At least one enthusiastic new volunteer in Nanjing.

Membership (Kim) – With member cleanup, will be updating database. May need help after 20th. Elizabeth: Good way to engage new volunteers. Check with the Nanjing person?

3. Updates from Vice Chair –

Kitchen Table Talks and Global Platform Committee – wait for Aaron to update. But need to schedule a few more.

Global Presidential Primary –

- Most important stuff is comms. Elaine has that covered.
- Members will be able to vote by email and that starts in February. Complicates the comms. Elaine has that covered, too!
- Elizabeth Q: printed materials for GPP? “I voted” stickers.
Elaine A: yes. Also reached out to Quaide about designs, but not heard back.

Requesting Ballots – Everyone should go to votefromabroad.org to request and submit your ballot request.

- Elizabeth flagged issue of submitted PDF didn’t have the signature. Submitted to helpdesk, but please keep an eye out for any troubles with the website or with local elections officials. We need to share this with the global GOTV team so they can monitor and help resolve.
- Devika Q: Even if I just submitted and doesn’t seem like they need me to?
Elizabeth A: Yes, overseas voters have rights protected when they submit FPCA.

4. Updates on Caucuses – As Brittini was unable to attend the meeting, she asked Faith to give the updates from caucuses.

Recent events: Shanghai Christmas Holiday Dinner - 5 people in attendance

Women’s Caucus

- -Beijing held a successful Kitchen Table Talk discussing the ERA
- -Jan 18th is the Global Women’s March for Body Autonomy.
 - -Discussed how we could participate here in China.
 - -Possibly taking a photo in front of a landmark with a written message on postcards
 - -Would like to hear Leadership’s feedback
- Women’s Caucus zoom call on Monday, Sunday had a brunch in Beijing.

LGBT Caucus

- New members added into the group by Jacob Flowers
- -active person wanting to help out with voting, and caucuses

Black Caucus

- -DA member Jasmine Cochran would like to help out in Guangzhou with registering voters, and maybe having a possible polling location

Future of the caucuses can focus on preparing for the primaries.

Aaron: YES. We will need help mobilizing members for the GPP. We cannot add official voting locations, but we definitely need to design a kit for voter support in various regions.

Action: Aaron will contact Nanjing volunteer and try to assemble a plan that can be used elsewhere.

5. Global Platform Committee and Kitchen Table Talks – Aaron reports that this has been very easy and fun. Suggests Terry and Jacob would be ideal hosts!

6. Open Floor

Devika shared a PPT by a Johns Hopkins scholar that he has used to present to his fellow students. Not an official DA training, but potentially useful format and can review.

Aaron wanted to address the recent removal of a person from the wechat group. This was done at his discretion but not at all in isolation. Lengthy discussion followed.

- Alexander is concerned that our handling of the wechat groups is driving away new people that might voice strong opinions.
- Faith is also concerned that adding new members to the wechat group (DA Chat) driving away new people because the chat doesn't represent our values and the intensity fo the debate.
- Alexander wants to make people be a member before they can be added. Aaron responds: We have tried... pros/cons.
- Faith points out that we have gone in circles on these issues since we started the groups.
- Alexander wants to volunteer to moderate and approve new members. Aaron: Hard to resolve without Elaine and Kim.
- Alexander points out we have different ideas about what is acceptable. Worried when we kick people out or call them worthless.
- Aaron asks for feedback from tow members on the call Terry and Jacob who have been very active on wechat. We cannot ... adjudicating content. Tone is important. Need people to think positive about the Democratic Pary.
- Terry: Been involved for a year or so. DA should we supportive of the party. And makes sense to keep it positive. Also, like Faith don't want to turn off new people.

ACTION: Aaron will create a sidebar to include Elaine and Kim in the conversation as well as all interested parties to decide on next steps.

7. Wrap up and suggested dates for next call: Feb 9 or 16. Will decide in leadership chat.

End call 6:45pm