Democrats Abroad China Leadership Board Meeting

Sunday, January 20, 2019 (7:30-8:30pm)

* Aaron Kruse, Chair – **present**
* Samantha Wong, Vice-Chair – **present**
* Elizabeth Jenkins, Secretary - **present** (note taker)
* Jim Spear, Treasurer – **absent**
* Cheng Xu, Legal – **present**
* Kira Leinonen, Comms/IT – **absent**
* Angie Bergeson, At-Large – **absent**
* James Flanagan, At-Large – **absent**
* Faith Gary, At-Large – **present**
* Joshua Lally, At-Large – **present**
* Chris Zombik, At-Large – **absent**

Also present: Justin Fischer (Shanghai)

Aaron – Convene with 6 leaders present and one member

Update from Justin – Great event this weekend for January 19, using the Women’s March anniversary and ERA action. Hosted a screening of RBG. About 30 people. And had a WeChat group formed for that. Kim Wong admin of that group. Not a lot of success with the post card campaign. Why? Unless from one of the 13 states, didn’t seem clear what we were supposed to do. Also, too much info to supply, but hard to get folks engaged. Not the right venue.

* Aaron: Did people ask about their states? Justin: No, but in my introduction to the group I explained the states. But seemed confusing.
* Faith: I think very few people know about or care about the ERA. We had plenty of buy-in on postcard campaign on health care. Next postcard campaign should be about HR1.
* Justin: Was great. Could do this once a month. Maybe have Devika Bi Li do a talk -- former staffer of Elijah Cummings from Wuxi. Kim has some ideas.

Meeting Minutes – last month. Passed and [ACTION: Elizabeth can post to wiki.]

Updates:

* 20-25 people at Beijing Quiz, The venue Jing-A was very generous in offering drinks and

Elections Committee – -We need volunteers to do this. They need to help tally the votes at the AGM. You are not running in the election and be present at our AGM. [ACTION: Sam/Aaron will check in with all existing leadership team who is/not running to join. And also recruit. End of February. By beginning of March, we need to send members info about the AGM and election.]

Membership

* February 1: Currently we will have 1899 members (up from 1519 members).
* + Increase in our net membership.
* + Increase in retention rate.
* + Decrease in the number expiring.
* + Increase percent of global membership.
* [ACTION: Elizabeth email to expiring members.]
* [ACTION: Unassigned review list of expiring members.]
* [ACTION: Unassign, encourage new members to join.]
* [ACTION: Aaron/Sam can also check in with leadership on their availability to help with these lists.]
* Aaron: This matters for DA China as we can vote at DA global for things like the location of our AGM and time zone considerations. And also issues that impact members here in China. This year we will have 3 votes.

ByLaws

* Ideas: have chapters and more explicit roles of people on the leadership.
* Read DA Canada and Germany. Helpful role descriptions and qualifications.
* Aaron: MOTION – INVESTIGATES AND DRAFTS AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS THAT WILL INCLUDE DESCRIPTION OF ROLES WITHOUT CHANGING THE ACTUAL ROLES . Sam seconds.
* Open to comments and debate –
  + Elizabeth: Why in the bylaws? Aaron: gives some clarity and also some weight.
  + Josh: As long as it’s a suggested minimum and not an absolute. I’d hate to disqualify a passionate candidate who wants to learn but doesn’t have 100% of the abilities we’re looking for. Faith: agree with Josh. Aaron: Yes, this shouldn’t be exhaustive or excluding people. For showing the relationship of the role to the organization.
  + Sam: I think this is helpful as we go into an election year. I don’t think this will hinder our growth. I think it would be helpful.
  + Joshua: I think I generally agree with it being unnecessary as a part of the bylaws for the descriptions themselves. Perhaps just something that states that the Executive committee maintains a description of the duties and general requirements and guidelines of the various positions to be re-evaluated every x amount of time. Just because bylaws require such drastic measures to change, but having the exec committee maintain the description keeps for more fluidity.
  + Sam: We just put something in the bylaws that all positions will be defined and then separately outlined. And the exec committee can change them.
  + Josh: That can be tempered by requiring it be posted publicly, and as always the membership votes on the positions because the executive committee doesn’t decide the members of the excom at large.
  + Cheng: Typically bylaws would have roles described of top roles. Then they delegate the roles. Joshua: agree with Cheng. Aaron:
  + Elizabeth: MOTION to close debate. Aaron seconds.
* Vote to stop discussion. All ayes. PASSED.
* Vote on main motion. Chair/VC will consult legal to draft potential changes to the bylaws. All ayes. PASSED. [Action: Aaron, Sam, Cheng to draft ideas for changes in 2 weeks.]

\* \* \* \* \* \* Open Floor \* \* \* \* \* \*

Sam: Global AGM scheduled for May 17-19 in Washington, DC

Aaron: I’ve been more involved in the WeChat group. I’ve talked to Faith a lot. So I’m calling people out who are detrimental to doing useful to the DA Chat organization. Trying to share and steering. And Faith has also been contributing and focusing the group. Thank you. Please private message me if you think I’m being too harsh with anyone. Sam: Go harder. Faith: I will submit specific ideas about next steps with that chat group. Aaron: Thank you, Faith. She inspired me to get more vocal.

Elizabeth: Review last week’s action items.

* All: Applying for travel fund for AGM in DC. Not sure if anyone did that.
* Unassigned: Treasury issues. Tom wants to review our procedures. Wait for Jim to be in attendance.
* [ACTION: Unassigned. Outreach to members in flipped districts to talk to new electeds.]

Sam: Also, last week’s global call created committees for AGM. And Aaron was assigned to the bylaws committee.

Next meeting: February 24, 7:30 pm.

Happy CNY!