

# DACN Leadership Board MEETING MINUTES

<b>Date:</b>	June 18, 2023	<b>Time Called to Order:</b>	5:21 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Zoom Conference	<b>Time Ended:</b>	7:55 pm
<b>Meeting Chair:</b>	Liz Blackbourn	<b>Meeting Secretary:</b>	Tricia Williams
<b>Leadership Board Attendees:</b>	Executive Committee ✓ Chair Blackbourn ✓ Vice Chair Aldaco ✓ Secretary Williams ▪ Treasurer (Vacant) ✓ Comms Director Bucky ✓ IT Director Roberts	Member-At Large ✓ MAL Kloosterman ✓ MAL Movius ✓ MAL Walsh ✓ MAL Watkins ✓ MAL Hunt	Non-Voting ▪ Counsel Vanderpol ▪ Dept Comms (Vacant) ▪ Dept Comms (Vacant) ▪ Dept Comms (Vacant)
<b>Proxies:</b>	n/a		
<b>DACN Members</b>	Pam Forbes Kevin Xin Joshua Hoke	Albert Walker (NEC) Patrick Cranley (NEC)	Steven Bailey Elyse Roberts
<b>Guest Attendees:</b>	Julia Bryan		
<b>Recording Link:</b>	n/a		

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**Meeting Agenda & Minutes:**

**Quorum Obtained: Yes (Tricia Williams verified)**  
**Meeting Called to Order by: Liz Blackbourn**  
**Recording Started: Time: // Recording Time Stamp: 5:21pm**

### **Welcome & Opening Announcements**

#### **Liz Blackbourn**

- Welcome
  - As a reminder, we use *Robert's Rules of Order* for this meeting
- Agenda

### **Reports**

### **Chair Report - Liz Blackburn**

- There is a new website that has launched. Please see Liz with any questions or issues.
- Thank you to our volunteers, it was not an easy 2022, but we showed up and had a successful election. Looking forward to what will happen in 2024!
- Recently had our Global AGM, it was a great success! Thanks to members who attended and to Nick Gordon for his hard work.
  - Our new Global Chair is Martha McDevitt-Pugh.
  - At the global AGM, there were questions raised about inances, accountability, our future. The new ExCom is committed to resolving issues.
- One of DA's top priorities is tax reform – working on issues of taxation and representation, which face us all.
- Would be ideal to have a DACN rep at each global meeting. There is a travel fund available.
- Let's give a shoutout to the helpdesk volunteers who are always there for the team!
- DACN members – make a pledge to help out in 2023!
  - DA members have helped to win victories in governorships and federal and local elected officials in states all across the US.
  - Sign the ECCC petition to signal desire for action on environmental issues.

### **Vice Chair Report – Jacob Aldaco**

- Apology for absence, this has been a tough year.
- But felt a great community with Democrats Abroad, especially with Liz.
- Advice for the new board is to continue to embrace what makes this community special
- Through it all, need to return to our mission to have a just community.
- Don't be shy to take care of each other, and to make connections.
- Deep and personal connections will be necessary to grow our community.
- Huge thanks to Liz, she has taken the role and run with it, thank you for your hard work and gracefulness, dedication, availability
- Through joy and through pain, there is one core mission that we share.
- Unsure if I will be returning to China, but will always be a part of DA.

### **Secretary Report – Tricia Williams**

- I stepped into the secretary role when it was vacant last year and it has been a wonderful opportunity to work with this board.

MOTION by Liz Blackburn – Motion to adopt the DA China March, April, and May Minutes as drafted by Tricia Williams and edited by Liz Blackburn.

- Eileen Walsh seconded
- Passes unanimously

## Guest Speaker

### **Julia Bryan**, former International Chair of Democrats Abroad

- Based in Czech Republic, votes in NC.
- I Love attending AGMs, and seeing how we're different and similar.
- Last year, there was a lot on the ballot - women, environment, protecting democracy.
- Only narrowly lost the House - tight races are a DA speciality!
- Cannot lose these elections again.
- Under 30 is major voter block in 2022, most voted Democrat.
- 32% of DACN are under 35.
- DA in general is younger, which bodes well for future races.
  - One example is the WI supreme court race
- Currently, DA is focusing on KY & LA governor races, VA/NJ state legislative elections.
- We really do make a difference. Thanks to DA, voter rights for NJ voters abroad has been expanded.
- By this time next year, primary will have been held.
- Thank you to everyone who served the last 2 years & to everyone who will serve the next two years.

## Executive Board Elections

**Liz Blackburn** – Hand meeting over to NEC

**Chair**

Jacob Aldaco nominates Liz Blackburn.

Lisa Movius - 2nd

Liz – accepts

- Thank you to everyone, I see your sacrifices with your time
- Everyone is here for selfless reasons
- This is an important time in history
- Not lawmakers, but decision makers
- Going to meet individually, and within our region and globally
- Decide where our energy is best sent
- Everyone is always welcome here
- Yield time back to NEC

**Vice-Chair**

Brian Kloosterman nominates Terry Watkins.

Eileen Walsh – seconds

Terry – accepts

- One of the fiercest advocates for Democrats and the Party.
- Fierce, but logical and fair
- We all come from different walks of life, to fight for our community and our nation
- Wants to use time as efficiently as possible for the largest amount of people

Joshua Hoke - nominated by Terry Watkins

Steven Bailey – seconds

Joshua - accepts

- Very keen on getting more involved, been around since 2014
- Keen on the big tent of the Dem Party
- Communicate as clearly and positively as possible
- DA helped me to vote, wants to give back to others in the community

Liz Blackburn nominates Kevin Xin

Jacob Aldaco – seconds

Kevin accepts

- DA has a strong sense of community
- Many voters abroad are under 30 and 40, our generation is vital to the success of our country

Terry Watkins elected, accepted.

## Closing

### Liz Blackbourn

- Bylaws submission period was opened, but nothing submitted. It can be re-opened if needed in the future

Jacob Aldaco - motion to adjourn

Liz - seconds

Meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Meeting Adjourned –

**Recording Stopped: // Recording Time Stamp: 7:55**

<b>Minutes Voted in Approval by:</b>  <#> Aye / <#> Nay / <3> Abstain			
<b>Date &amp; Time Minutes Approved:</b>			