

DACN Leadership Board MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

Date:	June 18, 2023	Time Called to Order:	5:21 PM
Venue:	Zoom Conference	Time Ended:	7:55 PM
Meeting Chair:	Liz Blackbourn	Meeting Secretary:	Tricia Williams
Leadership Board Attendees:	Executive Committee ✓ Chair Blackbourn ✓ Vice Chair Aldaco ✓ Secretary Williams ▪ Treasurer (Vacant) ✓ Comms Director Bucky ✓ IT Director Roberts	Member-At Large ✓ MAL Kloosterman (NEC) ✓ MAL Movius ✓ MAL Walsh ✓ MAL Watkins ✓ MAL Hunt	Non-Voting ▪ Counsel Vanderpol ▪ Dept Comms (Vacant) ▪ Dept Comms (Vacant) ▪ Dept Comms (Vacant)
Proxies:	n/a		
DACN Members	Pam Forbes Kevin Xin Joshua Hoke	Albert Walker (NEC) Patrick Cranley (NEC)	Steven Bailey Elyse Roberts
Guest Attendees:	Julia Bryan (Czech Republic)		
Recording Link:	https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/ccChina/pages/5440079078/Meeting+Minutes		

Meeting Agenda & Minutes:

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

Welcome & Opening Announcements

Liz Blackburn

- 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 finances, 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

Treasurer Report - Liz Blackburn

- Thank you to Anders Hove, former DACN treasurer, now serving on DAUK board.
- June - 0 rev, 0 expenses, though have a \$5 incoming donation.
- Financial dashboard is under construction.
- DACN has \$150 in bank account.
- Can only take donations on the website, this is something that the new ExCom is helping to solve.
- New financial policy enacted by prior ExComm in March 2022, we chose to spend down account rather than remit money to the US.
- Fundraising - t shirts, tank tops, other swag are available!
- Money raised goes to GOTV, websites

Communications Director Report – Adam Bucky

- 2022 was a stressful year, but had some successes in comms.
- This is a team effort, there are many ways to use different comms skills, from editing to social media.
- Always looking for new volunteers to join the team
- Examples of stellar comms efforts include Terry's posts for BHM, Biden's accomplishments.
- I am looking forward to more in-person events.
- We held a successful Media Training event in the spring.
- Social Media skills are useful for next comms chair
- This is a good re-building year, to get things in place for a strong 2024.

IT Director Report – Dustin Roberts

- Joined the team less than a year ago.
- Nice to have the community through the hard times last year.
- *Roe* was a motivator to help out.
- I felt my role is to provide more stability, need self-motivation.

Member at Large Report – Ginny Hunt

- It has been a pleasure, humbling experience to be a part of DACN.
- Leadership team has made such positive.
- Looking forward to helping increase GOTV, increasing voter numbers.

Member at Large Report – Brian Kloosterman

- Been in DACN since 2016, joined the board in 2020.
- Good to see how the board has come around to dealing with issues, things have become more stable, a good foundation for us to move forward
- Not been as active, busy with outside commitments
- I will help out with random tasks, would love to see more activity from previous board.
- Goal is to create a more cohesive action in the group, to re-capture some of the motivation to build up numbers
- Not running, but will continue to be a member and help out with tasks, hope everyone can find a place.

Member at Large Report – Lisa Movius

- I've been Involved since the beginning, even before it was officially DA, and it's been interesting to watch it grow and formalize.
- Not as active in public-facing roles, helped out more behind the scenes.
- Not running again, but looking forward to helping out more.
- LGBTQ caucus - terrifying what is happening (such as the Klan showing up at a KY pride event)

- The dog whistles have turned into rifles.
- Lots of communities targeted, especially the LGBTQ community.
- Transgenocide - making it illegal for people to live, violent rhetoric is ramping up.
- Need to push Dem leadership to speak up, vote the bastards out and put pressure on.
- It's all of our fight, even if not personally connected.

Member at Large Report – Terry Watkins

- Been a DA member since around 2018.
- Does a lot of social media, likes to focus on issues in my community, such as Black community.
- Hectic 2020, covid caused a lot of our membership to scatter, I've been back in Beijing since January.
- Contributions included social media (Black History Month), Juneteenth.
- A lot of graphics work, such as related to BBB, policy.
- We're a group of communities, try to reflect back the communities of our home country.

Counsel Report - Liz Blackburn

- Alex Vanderpool has served as DACN counsel, he is not present tonight.
- However, he asks that people volunteer!
- Suggestions of what's needed:
 - Voter Assistance (training provided)
 - Phone banking (training provided)
 - Train to train volunteers
 - All volunteers need to have Confidentially Agreement and GDPR in-place.
- Counsel is an appointed position, not elected

Youth & AAPI Caucus Chair Report – Kevin Xin

- I'm a new member, and have not been active for very long though a member since 2020.
- Involved with the book club, youth caucus, AAPI.
- Attended global steering meetings.
- Attendance has not been high, but knowledge is power.
- Youth Caucus had a debate and other events last month.

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.
- th.
- Exciting to see my generation coming out, crucial for change.

Executive Committee and Leadership Board Elections

Liz Blackburn – Special thank you. Hands 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

[Liz Blackburn elected by unanimous consent](#)

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 with 7 votes \(JH 4, KX 1, Abstain 1\) NEC results will be published](#)

Secretary

Liz Blackbourn nominates Eileen Walsh

Eileen declines

Jacob Aldaco nominates Joshua Hoke

Liz Blackbourn - seconds

Joshua – accepts

[Joshua Hoke elected by unanimous consent](#)

Treasurer

Jacob Aldaco nominates Tricia Williams

Liz Blackbourn - seconds

Tricia – accepts

[Tricia Williams elected by unanimous consent](#)

Communications

Liz Blackbourn - nominates Kevin Xin and Elyse Roberts

Eileen Walsh - seconds

Elyse

- Wants to implement bilingual communications to reach American passport holders.

Kevin – had to leave the meeting.

[Elyse Ribbons elected with 11 votes \(KX 2 votes\)](#)

IT Director

Dustin Roberts - nominates Kevin Xin

Liz Blackbourn - seconds

[Kevin Xin elected by unanimous consent](#)

GOTV Coordinator

Liz Blackbourn and Terry Watkins - nominate Ginny Hunt

Tricia Williams and Adam Bucky – second

Ginny accepts

[Ginny Hunt elected by unanimous consent](#)

Events Coordinator

Liz Blackbourn - nominates Pam Forbes and Eileen Walsh

Adam Bucky - seconds

Eileen declines

Pam accepts

[Pam Forbes elected by unanimous consent](#)

Onboarding - charged with assist new members to train to get out the vote

[Vacant until future appointment/election](#)

Member-At-Large (2 positions)

Liz Blackbourn - nominates Adam Bucky and Dustin Roberts

Brian Kloosterman - seconds

Adam accepts –

- DA member since the beginning. Stepping back from Comms, but still wants to be active and has a lot to offer to the organization.

Adam Bucky elected by unanimous consent

Dustin accepts –

- enjoy working with Adam and the rest of the group

Dustin Roberts elected by unanimous consent

NEC yields to the newly elected Chair at 7:52PM

Closing

Liz Blackbourn

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

MOTION by Jacob Aldaco - motion to adjourn

Liz - seconds

Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.

Meeting Adjourned –

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

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