



# New Leader Orientation

24 April 2021

# Agenda

Time (EDT)	Segment
03:00 - 03:05	Welcome and housekeeping
03:05 - 03:10	Vision/Mission, Overview of Calendar
03:10 - 03:15	Alphabet Soup
03:15 - 03:30	Organizational Structure
03:30 - 03:45	Good-to-Know Information
03:45 - 04:10	Overview of Global Caucuses
04:10 - 04:25	Key Committees and Teams
04:25 - 04:35	<b>BREAK</b>
04:35 - 04:55	Communication Overview
04:55 - 05:25	IT Team
05:25 - 05:45	DA Meetings – Global, Regional, and General Expectations
05:45 - 06:00	Q&A

# Housekeeping

- Please do not campaign or conduct any electioneering for any position – local, regional, or international – during New Leader Orientation
- Per the Global NEC's general guidance page ([https://www.democratsabroad.org/2021\\_guidance](https://www.democratsabroad.org/2021_guidance)):
  - *Potential candidates may continue with their various roles and responsibilities within Democrats Abroad ('DA'). There is no requirement for potential candidates to sequester or otherwise recuse themselves from their regular activities, roles and responsibilities prior to the election--nor will those confirmed as candidates be required to do so.*

# Housekeeping

- WebEx etiquette
  - Please keep yourself on MUTE unless you are speaking
    - We will mute you if you do not mute yourself – please don't take offense
  - If you would like to speak:
    - Type “\*\*hand up” in the chat box
    - Send the message to everyone
    - Do not use the little hand up icon next to your name – we don't monitor that

# Housekeeping

- We will be recording this orientation so it and all of the slides can be posted on the Wiki
  - Chats to everyone are captured in the recording
- We have a very tight agenda, so with few exceptions, Q&A will be at the end
  - Feel free to contact the speakers directly with your specific questions
  - We will endeavor to post contact details in the chat box for those who are speaking

# A Note About NLO

- **This New Leader Orientation only scratches the surface of Democrats Abroad**
- Many teams, initiatives, and resources that are not listed here are still **vital to our success**
- In-depth training is available from many of our teams, including IT (database/email/content management), Comms, WebEx, etc.



# **Democrats Abroad: The Basics**

# Democrats Abroad at a Glance

- Democrats Abroad represents the **9 million Americans abroad** as the official state party of the Democratic Party
- Established in 1965, we have **Country Committees** in 52 countries and members in nearly every country across the globe
- We have **representation at the DNC**
- We conduct our own **presidential primary**
- We **send delegates** to the Democratic National Convention



# Our Mission

- We inform US citizens abroad about their **right to vote** in U.S. elections
- We help US citizens **request their absentee ballots**
- We **work to protect the right to vote** for US citizens abroad
- We **advocate on issues** that uniquely affect US citizens abroad
- We **build communities** of like-minded US citizens around the world
- We **help elect Democrats** up and down the ballot

# Alphabet Soup

- We use a LOT of acronyms in Democrats Abroad
- The late Stanley Grossman (past International Treasurer and DNC member) wrote a piece called "Alphabet Soup". This informal guide is one of the many parts of DA built on Stanley's legacy.

<https://wiki.democratsabroad.org/display/OrgLeaders/Alphabet+Soup+for+2017>

# Important Internal and Party Designations

- DPCA = Democratic Party Committee Abroad
  - This is the official name of the governing committee of Democrats Abroad (DA). The DPCA is the group responsible for the mission of DA and it is distinct from each of the Country Committees and the full membership of Democrats Abroad. DPCA members are defined in the Charter Section 2.2 (roughly, the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Country Committee, the Voting Representatives of those CCs with large enough members, the elected officers of the DPCA, and the DNC members representing DA).
- EMEA = Europe, Middle East, and Africa
- AP = Asia Pacific
- RVC = Regional Vice Chair

# Important Internal and Party Designations

- CC = Country Committee
  - Country Committees are constituent units of Democrats Abroad as defined by the DA Charter. We use the term so often that "CC" has become a very common acronym. Members of DA that don't live in countries served by CCs are served directly by their RVC.
- ExCom = Executive Committee
  - This is the elected leadership team at local (CC) and international levels. Some CCs refer to their leadership team as a Board.
- NEC = Nominations and Elections Committee
  - The NEC is a team of independent individuals not running for office who are responsible for local, regional, or global elections. They put out the call for nominations, collect names of and verify the eligibility of candidates, run the elections, certify results, and address any challenges to the process.

# Important Internal and Party Designations

- DNC = Democratic National Committee
  - The Democratic National Committee is the formal governing body of the Democratic Party. It coordinates among state Democratic parties, Democratic candidates, and a variety of constituency groups. Democrats Abroad participates in the DNC via our elected 8 DNC members (6 elected as DNC members, plus our International Chair and International Vice Chair).

# Important Internal and Party Designations

- GPP = Global Presidential Primary
  - As a state party, DA conducts its own presidential primary across the globe. Any member of DA may participate, whether in a CC or a non-CC.
- DSP = Delegate Selection Plan
  - The DSP is the comprehensive outline that DA prepares and submits to the DNC detailing all aspects of the GPP and how we will elect the DA delegates that we send to the Democratic National Convention. This plan must be approved by the DPCA.

# Voter Registration and Voting Law

- VFA = Vote From Abroad
  - [www.votefromabroad.org](http://www.votefromabroad.org) is the voter registration and absentee ballot request tool that DA has developed. It is a non-partisan site.
- GOTV = Get Out The Vote
  - This is a core mission of Democrats Abroad and the Democratic Party. For DA, this term covers voter's process from completing the FPCA, through sending back a completed ballot, to checking to verify that the ballot was counted.

# Political Activities and Regulation

- FEC = Federal Election Commission
  - The FEC regulates the donations that the DPCA relies upon as well as the political activities of the DPCA including coordination (or the legally mandated lack thereof) with candidates, political action committees, and other parts of the Democratic Party such as state parties.