

# **Democrats Abroad Meetings**

# Meetings and More Meetings (but it's really not that bad)

- **Annual Global DPCA Meeting**
  - All DPCA Members are expected to attend
  - All members may attend
- **Annual Regional Meeting**
  - All CC leaders in the region are encouraged to attend
  - All members may attend
- **CC Annual General Meeting**
  - All members are encouraged to attend

# Presidential Election Years

- **Regional Conventions**

- Elect regional delegates to the Democratic National Convention
- Elect the Regional DNC Member (one per region)
- Adopt regional resolutions

- **Global Convention**

- Elect at-large delegates to the Democratic National Convention
- Elect the at-large DNC Members (three members)
- Discuss and adopt our Platform

# Other Meetings/Gatherings

- **Monthly regional calls**
  - All CC leaders in the region are encouraged to attend
  - All members may attend
- **Local meetings, gatherings, events, activities**
  - Frequency varies
  - Informal
  - All members are encouraged to attend

# Regional Meetings

- Monthly within each region
  - WebEx
- Plus an annual meeting
  - To encourage, inform, and create a sense of community among regional country committees
  - When practical, these annual meetings are held as in-person events with remote participation available
    - ***RVC elections in odd-numbered years***
- Americas: Tuesday 11 May 2021
- EMEA: Sunday 16 May 2021
- Asia Pacific: Sunday 16 May 2021

**Expectations for DPCA Global  
Meetings  
*(Pandemic Edition)***

What you can usually expect at a “normal”  
Global Meeting

What you can expect at a Global Meeting during  
a worldwide pandemic

What DA expects of you at a Global Meeting



# What and Why? *“Normal” Edition*

- Once a year, Democrats Abroad holds a Global Meeting where
  - We gather in person and **see one another in person** instead of only by WebEx
  - We are joined by **special guest speakers**
  - We conduct **new and refresher training sessions**
  - International Officers and Global Committees deliver their annual reports
  - **We elect International Officers** (in odd-numbered years)
  - We discuss and vote on proposed resolutions
  - We discuss and vote on proposed amendments to the DPCA Charter (Bylaws)
  - We conduct other DPCA business as needed
  - We hold dinners and galas to **celebrate Democrats Abroad**



# What and Why? *Pandemic Edition*

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# Who?

- **You!**
- All DPCA members have a *responsibility* to attend and participate:
  - CC Chairs
  - CC Vice Chairs
  - CC Voting Representatives
  - International Officers
  - DNC members
- All members of DA are welcome to attend

# Where? *“Normal” Edition*

- We rotate the location of the Global Meeting around the globe
- London (2013), Washington, DC (2014), Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (2015), Berlin (2016), Washington, DC (2017), Tokyo (2018), Washington, DC (2019)
  - In 2016, we passed a non-binding resolution to hold Global Meetings in Washington, DC in odd-numbered years
- CCs wishing to host a Global Meeting prepare and present bids to the DPCA at the preceding Global Meeting
- The location of the Global Meeting is voted on by the DPCA at the preceding Global Meeting

# Where? *Pandemic Edition*

- ONLINE!
- Videoconferencing has made it possible and practical for us to conduct our normal business entirely online

# When?

- Typically in the first half of the calendar year
- Typically over the course of three days over a weekend
- The International ExCom works in conjunction with the host CC to determine the date (when in person)
  - Local logistics, peak travel season, venue and accommodation costs, and local holidays factor in to the selection of the date

# Great, tell me more! *“Normal” Edition*

- You can participate in person or by WebEx (or in 2021 by Zoom)
- We usually have at least one hotel with a group rate
- We usually offer coffee and lunch options for purchase
- In presidential election years, we usually hold our Global Meeting in conjunction with our Global Convention (where we select delegates to go to the Democratic National Convention)
- When we meet in Washington, DC we usually hold two days of “door knocks” on Capitol Hill to speak with legislators and their staff about DA and the issues most important to Americans living abroad



Great, tell me more! *Pandemic Edition*

- You can participate ~~in person or~~ by WebEx (or in 2021 by Zoom)



# What if I can't travel? *“Normal” Edition*

- Being a global organization, most people will need to travel to physically attend a meeting
- Videoconferencing has transformed our ability to participate remotely
  - Rules are enforced by the meeting chair to ensure WebEx participants are able to ask questions, provide input, and vote
  - Dedicated in-room WebEx moderators serve as the bodies in the room for WebEx participants

# What if I want to attend in person but have trouble with the cost? *“Normal” Edition*

- Travel Fund Awards
  - In 2014, the DPCA voted to adopt a resolution establishing an internal travel fund to provide stipends to members who have shown commitment to Democrats Abroad and who have financial need to offset the costs of travel to our annual Global Meetings.
  - We are a stronger organization when we have diverse in-person participation, and this fund is designed to increase the likelihood of physical attendance by individuals and country committees that have historically been under-represented at our global events due to financial constraints.
  - Any member of DA may apply, not only those in elected positions
  - Travel Fund information is announced to Leadership through Mobilize
- Local fund-raising

# A comment about meeting donations

- Under Democratic Party rules, there is no obligation to donate in order to attend the meeting
- But we do incur considerable costs to hold meetings, *even when we hold them exclusively online*
- We establish recommended donation amounts which will help us cover the cost of venue and equipment rental and virtual meeting maintenance
  - Our meetings are only possible thanks to participant donations. They are not sponsored by donations from corporations, PACs, other organizations within the Democratic party, etc.
- If you really cannot afford to donate, or wish to donate a smaller amount, you may choose to donate less or nothing

# I simply cannot attend the meeting. What now?

- We announce the dates of the Global Meeting well in advance, and we hope that you (DPCA members in particular) make every effort to participate
- If it is impossible for you to attend all or part of a Global Meeting, you may provide a proxy to someone else who is attending to represent you
  - DPCA members only

# Tell me more about proxies

- Proxies are addressed in Section 3.7(e) of the Charter
- Proxies may be given by:
  - A Country Committee Chair, Vice Chair, or Voting Representative to a member of Democrats Abroad within the same Country Committee or a DPCA member of the same Region
  - A DNC member (elected by Region) to a DPCA member of the same Region
  - A DNC member (elected at large) to any DPCA member
  - A DPCA officer to another DPCA member
- No individual may carry more than four DPCA votes



# What if I don't attend and don't give a proxy?

- Your CC and your members will not be fully represented at the DPCA for important matters including:
  - The election of International Officers
  - The adoption of resolutions
  - The adoption of Charter amendments
- If your CC is not represented in person or remotely at more than three consecutive Global Meetings, your CC may be deemed out of compliance

# What you can expect at a Global Meeting

Energy

Engagement

Fellowship

Amazing guests

Motivation

New ideas



# 2021 Global Meeting Information

- **15-16 May 2021, online**

- All information can be found on the Wiki:

<https://democratsabroad.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DPCA2021/overview>

- Please register ASAP!

[https://www.democratsabroad.org/2021\\_global\\_meeting](https://www.democratsabroad.org/2021_global_meeting)

- OR - only if you are a DPCA member - please plan to arrange your proxy if you cannot attend all or part of the meeting

- Look for an email this weekend with the subject line **[★Leadership★] 2021 Proxy Form and Instructions**

- Contact your CC Chair or RVC for assistance

**Q&A**