

# GDC Steering Committee Meeting

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## Minutes

### Welcome & Attendance

- Marnie (2 minutes)
  - Marnie Delaney
  - Ken Sherman
  - Denise Roig
  - Liz Blackburn
- Minutes approved

### New participant introductions

- (5 minutes)

### Updates from the Chair

- Marnie (10 minutes)
  - PR/Comms firm lined up by Excom
    - We are able to submit suggestions as to what we'd like the firm to do
    - Marnie, were we noticed our events will be deleted, as the CC events will be? We should ensure our large events are saved.
      - Will message Karen to keep our events
      - Extract video of our DPCA meeting where we were officially made a caucus. Post to Wiki!

### Breakdown of AGM

- Ken (5 minutes)
  - AGM May 21-22
  - Finishing resolution voting sometime in November
  - Submissions for resolutions being accepted now
  - Tony & Kerri spoke and were fabulous speakers
  - Ken: strategy paid off! Highly visible and moving speeches created a surge of visits to our pages.
  - Marnie: we should write a commentary on the speakers - let's discuss this in the news/cross caucus newsletter. Link the recordings?
    - Ask Karen/Merrill for AGM video day 2, crop our speakers and add to our website.

### Fundraising

- Ken (5 minutes)
  - Working with Art on a Prize Draw Committee

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

- The fundraising presentation did not mention this event at the AGM, we need to speak with the International Treasurer to add some language at DPCA meetings and via Mobilize.
- The previous had roughly 1300 participants and raised approximately \$76k
- We need to get a committee moving now!
- Follow up with Schankler and Nadison and Lemke
- \$20/ticket to enter
- Ken will match \$2,022

### Legislation/Action

- Allyssa, Marnie, Ken, Heather, Denise (5-10 minutes)
  - Disability Integration Act (Marnie)
    - Research and get info posted.
    - Schumer
    - Resources available for those who need support
    - Accessibility for the workforce addressed in legislation, how to keep disability benefits is the sort of goal of this effort
    - Ken/Marnie feel its universally appealing and we should follow up with a message asking for input on actions we can include in our comms, people we can speak to, and actions we can take
    - Ken - nothing on the agenda at this time. We will get approval on lobbying this bill

### Membership Engagement

- Marnie (5 minutes)
  - Survey - Denise and Marnie working on this
    - There are a few
    - Discuss with Jazz
  - Let's have IT Mike/Karen post this for us on Mobilize, etc.

### Accessibility Coordinator

- Marnie (2 minutes)
- [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Hmq4DOuslGOSND4H\\_79zT4-TnjSB7hdSUGzS4e883V0/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Hmq4DOuslGOSND4H_79zT4-TnjSB7hdSUGzS4e883V0/edit)
  - Please suggest edits
  - Karen/Mike will post under "News." Is there any other place we'd like to see this?
  - Heather & Marnie asking each CC send their Secretaries/Events/IT coordinators to a training session on WebEx "Reactions," which are emojis. These emojis get voiced for the visually impaired.
    - Ask Heather if it is only WebEx, or also Zoom?

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

- Perhaps we could get a short video posted of a call with the audio being voiced and how distracting it is.
  - Did you know? Share video across our website, social media, Mobilize, and on our Wiki main meetings page/training pages
  - Denise will research and see if there is an existing resource on this issue
- Marnie will also ask Dana Freiling for any recommendations the hearing impaired community may have

### Comms Updates

- Liz & Denise (10 minutes)
- Denise and Liz and Marnie met on July 7th
- Denise spoke to Aly
  - Web developer - at this time we are unclear if the site is fully ADA compliant
  - We need to follow up on this to ensure our accessibility goals are not only confirmed, but executed.
- New IT coordinator for GDC is Mike Marcello
  - Mike will help with posts and meeting requests
- Wiki (long term project)
  - Liz has editing access.
  - Minutes herein need to be approved and then will be posted
  - Graphics from events will be published shortly
  - Liz is working on a Leadership page that will be similar to our website. If you have a photo, please insert it into this document, or send via e-mail/DropBox to Liz.
  - If there is specific information you think should be recorded on the Wiki, or not, please inform the group.
- Website: *Main Page*
  - No editing ability
  - **Suggestion:** we each take on a page to explore and edit, as we have discussed before. Aim of reformatting/finalizing before July 20. This prepares us for the uptick in traffic prior to our ADA anniversary event.
- Website: *News*
  - Marnie has access
- Website: *Events*
  - Liz & Marnie have access to post events
  - July's steering committee meeting will be posted shortly, once global/private WebEx/Zoom call info has been decided upon & requested.
- Website: *Resources*
  - No editing ability
- Website: *Legislation*
  - No editing ability
- Website: *Issues & Barriers*

- No editing ability
- Website: *About Us*
  - No editing access
- Website: *Leaders*
  - No editing access
- Website: *new tab suggestions/remove tab suggestions*
- Event Reminder Eblasts
  - no access, Mike will create and schedule these for us.
- Newsletter
  - GDC will need to write our own copy in the form of a letter to leadership/event reminder, as well as participate in the all-caucus (250-500 words) to highlight our July 26th event (include survey?). (We will need a future one for the fundraiser and October event as well.)
  - June 25th deadline to submit writing/graphics to global.
  - Letters to Leadership we can send as we wish
  - “Articles about issues” for all-caucus newsletter:
    - Marnie is going to work on a piece about how there is a narrative that gun violence stems from mental health issues only
      - Denise suggests we write an intro to Marnie’s collected articles and share
    - Anyone can submit a “passion project” for this endeavor
      - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HYsYoPQoNRVKRlmlldfromA-fpdISjLO5qX0E2BvaAXo/edit?usp=sharing>

### **GDC Letter Copy:**

#### **Advocacy**

The GDC is fighting with Democrats Abroad members across the globe every single day to guarantee and strengthen the right to vote for all American citizens. Promoting voting access is our number one goal. This goal applies to both Americans abroad, and those who are back at home, experiencing accessibility issues.

Disabled Americans experienced nearly twice as many problems while voting in 2020 compared to any other group. This is completely unacceptable.

Follow us, or even [join our efforts](#) and harness the American voter and improve voting practices.

The GDC applauds the devotion to the cause this group gives every day.  
(Revised text begins)

## **What can you expect from us?**

### **Inclusivity**

We are building a supportive community of disabled members and their allies. We want to hear from you! [Send your ideas](#) about our mission and where we should go from here.

### **Accessibility**

The GDC concentrates on addressing the rights and protections of, as well as barriers for, DA members and other Americans with disabilities. We are compiling a resource page and working on increasing accessibility across all DA platforms.

Our Steering Committee is also accessible! Please dial into our [bi-weekly planning meetings](#) to learn, engage and lead.

### **Action**

GDC members work hard to prepare conscientious programming and corresponding actions. On June 24th, attend our [Causal Friday Social Hour](#).

Is there an advocacy or accessibility issue we should be aware of? Have an action you would like the GDC to take? Please [contact us directly](#), so we may get to work immediately.

### **Connect**

Already [signed up](#)? Connect, learn and share by following the GDC on social media.

[Facebook](#) @DemocratsAbroadDisabilityCaucus

[Instagram](#) @DADisabilityCaucus

[Twitter](#) @DemsAbroadGDC

**The Future Is Accessible!**  
**The GDC Steering Committee**

- Ps&Qs
  - Will collect at any time, keep them coming
  - Liz working on one
- Quotes from Caucuses

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

- To raise awareness of our intersectional nature, and hopefully to bring more members into the fold, Liz requested a few caucuses participate in a P&Q. The SCs of the following were contacted:
  - LGBTQ+ - reminded Martha on June 14
    - Submission could be posted any time this month, in recognition of PRIDE (Spoke to Bob, Martha is working on it)
  - Black - Laura Allen
    - Submission could be posted on June 19, in recognition of Juneteenth
  - Seniors - Karen Lee
    - Submission could be posted on June 21, in recognition of Alzheimer's, or any point in the future (emailed)
- Suggestions of copy and links to be shared on social media or on the web can be posted here now, to one of our social media accounts in a DM, or email Liz directly.
  - Would we like to try a social media experiment?
    - Steering committee members could “tag” GDC in their very carefully worded community building/caring/informative posts on their personal pages. GDC would then “comment” or “share,” which may increase visibility. Currently this happens quite often with a few accounts including us in their GOTV posts. Otherwise I suggest others take our posts and “comment,” or write captions when “re-sharing.” This is generally the most successful way of gaining “followers” (and hopefully members).
- New Logo
  - Announced at AGM, and will launch in July
  - Waiting on the logo suite to share

### Upcoming Events

- Allyssa (5 minutes)
  - Casual Social Hour
  - May 30th Report
  - July 24th: [https://www.democratsabroad.org/willprescott/monthly\\_friday\\_casual\\_social\\_20220624](https://www.democratsabroad.org/willprescott/monthly_friday_casual_social_20220624)
  - Global account now being used, breakout room options available
  - Check with Allyssa to see what structure she'd like the convo to take
  - Let's make these calls a bit more actionable
  - Future event ideas
  - Let's form a follow up email to connect with attendees!
- Denise (5 minutes)
  - October event: Guest speaker Amanda LeDuc
  - WebEx needs requesting
  - Livestream on Facebook and/or post to Youtube(?)

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

- Representation of disability forms our interpretation of disability and bleeds into how we treat the disabled
- Does this also become a book club event for GDC? (prior)
  - Amanda's book - announce how far in advance?
  - [Disfigured: On Fairy Tales, Disability, and Making Space](#)
- Marnie had sent an article about a potential speaker who is based in China
- Denise has a professor in mind also
- Perhaps we can do a GOTV activity/handout during this event/at the end
  - Postcards
    - Disabled superheroes? Artwork and the disability flag? Think of a way to change the narrative into something positive. (Allyssa probably has some great ideas!) Design something new and fantastic for GDC, that others can download and color?
  - Do we need to try to move to December?
- Liz (2 minutes)
  - July event: severe mental health panel
  - Setting up a meeting with the group
    - Start with presentation
    - Simple panel/intro of each person
    - The group speaks on their topic(s)
    - Questions from participants
    - GOTV - ask about candidate platforms they approve of for 2022 (Abrams)
    - ADA Anniversary recognition in the beginning & end: our work is not over
  - Suggest working on the run-of-show on June 28 & July 11
  - WebEx needs requesting
  - Livestream on Facebook and/or post to Youtube(?)
- Denise (5 minutes)
  - December 3 speaker
- Idea: it would be wonderful to have Kerri and Tony on our list of potential speakers.

Graphics for this meeting:

- June meeting graphic
- June meeting mp4 (cannot post .mp4 files in this doc)
- June calendar
  - Please feel free to suggest/create graphics for various events/activities



**DEMOCRATS ABROAD**  
**GLOBAL DISABILITY CAUCUS**  
STEERING COMMITTEE OPEN HOUSE

























**YOU ARE WORTHY**

**JUNE 14**

9AM - Santiago | 3PM - Tripoli | 9PM - Perth

[https://www.democratsabroad.org/bi\\_weekly\\_meetings\\_gdc\\_steering\\_committee\\_jan26](https://www.democratsabroad.org/bi_weekly_meetings_gdc_steering_committee_jan26)



 <p><b>START PRIDE POSTS!</b> JUNE 1</p>	 <p><b>HELP FRIENDS POSTS</b> JUNE 2-4</p>	 <p><b>I WANT TO BE HEARD</b> <b>ARTICLE POST</b> JUNE 7</p>	 <p><b>COMMS MTG</b> JUNE 7</p>
 <p><b>RESOURCES</b></p>	 <p><b>IN THE NEWS</b> JUNE 10</p>	 <p><b>ACCESSIBILITY</b></p>	 <p><b>GDC MTG</b> JUNE 14</p>
 <p><b>WEBSITE WORK</b></p>	 <p><b>WIKI WORK</b></p>	 <p><b>ARTICLE POST</b></p>	 <p><b>QUOTES FROM CAUCUSES GBC</b> JUNE 19</p>
 <p><b>ALZHEIMER'S /GSC QUOTE</b> JUNE 21</p>	 <p><b>ADA EVENT POST</b></p>	 <p><b>ADA EVENT POST</b></p>	 <p><b>CASUAL FRIDAY</b> JUNE 24</p>
 <p><b>MEET S&amp;P GROUP</b></p>	 <p><b>RECOMMEND READING</b> JUNE 26</p>	 <p><b>RESIST TOGETHER</b> <b>RESOURCES</b></p>	 <p><b>CALL TO ACT</b></p>
 <p><b>PTSD AWARENESS</b> JUNE 27</p>	 <p><b>GOTV</b> JUNE 28</p>	 <p><b>CALL TO ACT</b></p>	 <p><b>JUNE 30</b></p>

New Business

- WI Meet the Candidate Events
  - June 18th & 22nd
  - Working on a question for the Wisconsin meet the candidates events. Going to share some info and hope to chat about it briefly on Tuesday. Please help me to restructure/approve the following lines of questioning (and thank you!):

Wisconsin prohibitive voter laws: <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/10/1096821268/wisconsin-voters-with-disabilities-say-their-right-to-vote-is-at-risk>, and here <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2022/03/21/wisconsin-supreme-court-order-limits-voting-those-disabilities/7037560001/>.

My other line of questioning centers on disabled student treatment.

In March, disabled rights were quashed by the Wisconsin State Senate. (AB970, AB966)  
In May, the Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction released new data pertaining to the treatment of students in public and alternative schools. It showed Wisconsin's disabled students have been disproportionately disciplined using 'last resort' methods to control student behavior. (Disabled students accounted for 84% of incidents using restraints, and 85% of incidents of isolation.)  
What do you plan doing to strengthen the Americans with Disabilities Act and to reinforce the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
*... if you become Senator of our great state?'*

A little unsure which would be the best way to go. I'd like to try more targeted questions. Figured I'd see what you thought! We had one Senate candidate drop out. We're waiting on confirmation from the atty general, and will speak mainly to US Senate candidates.

Here's the event listing: [https://www.democratsabroad.org/stateteams/meet\\_the\\_wisconsin\\_primary\\_candidates](https://www.democratsabroad.org/stateteams/meet_the_wisconsin_primary_candidates)

Next Meeting

July 12th at 9AM Eastern

Karen created a reoccurring link and it's to-be-attached to the event listings

Liz going to create events now :)

Make a mental note to voice notes for each event - not everyone can read what's being shared on the screen

Catch up & Closing

- Marnie sign-off (2 minutes)
- Those who would like to stay and chat may do so (or provide another link/date)