

Global Black Caucus Work Session and Steering Committee Minutes

Saturday, January 14, 2023

Present:

Leedonal Jazz Moore (Chair)
Jenn Edwards-Aracil (Vice-Chair)
Laura Allen (Deputy Secretary)
Adrienne Johnson (Advisory/Liaison)
Natalie Bachiri (Reparations Deputy)
Twanna Hines (Health and Equity)
Beverle Lax (Library)
Alvin O'Sullivan (New Team Member)

Regrets:

Starla (Star) Goggins (Secretary)
Adrienne George, (DNC BC Rep)
Antar Keith (Reparations)
Malaika Kusumi (Communications)
Traci Möller (Media Relations)
Andrew Morgan (Legal Counsel Deputy)
Michele O'Brian (Legal Advisor)
Renee Rousseau (Networking Deputy)
Cedric Sumo (Press Media Relations)

Announcements

- Jazz has received several requests from those interested in volunteering. Two of the three volunteers have joined the meeting today and will be introduced later.
- Voter registration day is January 15. GBC members are invited to print their registration requests, take a picture of us, and share image on social media to remind and encourage others to request their voting documents.
- New GBC calendar is now available in a more accessible format. All members can add information such as events, special holidays, and issue agenda topics. Calendar is color coded and always in Eastern time:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pVLDr5H4OFgXizg7KAg5rnFR-51b42t-f8Zue50yn6E/edit#gid=0>
- DA AGM will be June 9 - June 11. Jazz proposed that GBC be featured with its own space. The proposed space is the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Jazz also suggested dinner and drinks afterward. Plans will go forward once the date and venue have been finalized.
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility committee needs to be formed before AGM. Jazz made three suggestions to Candice: Malaika, Twanna, and Laura. Other volunteers should feel free to step up.

- Adrienne George has sent talking points for DNC winter session that are now available on GBC wiki.
- Adrienne Johnson brought up concerns on the timing of the DEIA committee considering upcoming elections and pending changes in leadership.

New Team Member Introductions

- Jenn Edwards-Aracil - Lives in Spain and will be moving from a Michigan voter to a Texas voter soon. Jenn brings a wealth of political and advocacy experience to the team, including work on several political campaigns and marketing and communications expertise within the political sphere.
- Alvin O'Sullivan - Lives in Sweden and votes out of New York (the Bronx specifically). Alvin works in game design education and has marketing experience in the field of Biotechnologies.
- Seasoned team members also introduced themselves to new team members.

Reports from the Chair

- Rested during holiday but had several key meetings (Candice, Twanna Hines, Merrill Oates, Karen Frankenstein) to get projects started for the new year.
- Met with Jared to discuss GBC connection to Congressional Black Caucus with the hopes of GBC being a CBC voting entity
- Created Mastadon account
- Creating materials for Martin Luther King Jr. day
- Met with new volunteers (two of the three are on the call today!)
- Met with Elaine Thomas to discuss new poems
- The search for Vice Chair is still on. Jazz met with several interested folks but would still like anyone interested to reach out.
- Fundraising initiatives: GBC tax webinar

Communications Report

- Jazz continues to work on GBC newsletter and requested input for newsletter content or features.
- GBC Mastadon account now exists! Mastadon is a social media platform currently known as an evolution from Twitter. Alvin also commented and mentioned the platform is a mix between Reddit and Twitter. Jazz is working with others to figure out official DA policies with Mastadon, as it is a new platform.
- Jazz has been working on outreach and making plans for connecting with Black American influencers, inspirational speakers, actors, and others that connect with GBC brand and content

Reparations Report

- Natalie reported that the reparations committee met and are continuing to advocate and meet with others.
- Jazz asked for an update on the survey and Natalie mentioned that Antar is working on the survey.

Health and Equity Report

- Twanna has a meeting on January 23rd with different health groups to learn more about topics including reproductive health. They will be starting in Europe but will focus on expanding outward. Twanna will have more to report after the meeting.

Engagement Report

- RTF event is on January 28, 2023:
https://www.democratsabroad.org/rtf_2023_reparations_and_the_black_vote
- GBC National Welfare Organisation, Feb. 11, 10 am EST
- ECCC proposed a collaboration event with Dr Robert Bullard

Library Report

- Beverle has no current update on the library but commits to getting back to the work now that we are past the holidays.

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2023 10:00 EST/U.S. time

Work Session and Ideas

- Jazz asked for thoughts on charging for events. Members have mixed feelings on charging for events. Jenn suggested making sure there's incentive for any charge. Jazz mentioned that it's a great idea and we'd just need to be sure to refresh on rules and regulations related to incentives. All agreed to think on this more.
- Reaching out to Rep. Clyburn as a possible invitee to GBC events. Adrienne mentions having an event with him and another leader to create some balance between evolution of thoughts.
- Laura pitched an idea for a Black expat project to feature well known Black expats (like W.E.B. DuBois or James Baldwin). Asked for suggestions on what this project could look like.
- Adrienne mentioned that this has come up a few times over the years and GBC is in a unique position to be able to do this kind of project. Suggested looking into Anna Julia Cooper, Susan Rice's family, Julia Bond's family members.
- Jazz suggested blog posts on a website. Social media posts could drive people to that area of the website and drive website traffic.
- Global Women's caucus also asked about GBC collaboration
- Jazz mentions the importance of featuring a variety of expat demographics (from the business owner to the housewife or stay-at-home mom). To that point, Adrienne reiterated the importance of the experiences of everyday folks and the richness that comes from those experiences.
- Jazz shared images for Black History Month social media drafts and gathered feedback from the team on messaging.

