



DEMOCRATS ABROAD Canada

**Annual General Meeting
June 16, 2018**

MINUTES

Attendees: Steve Nardi, Marnelle Dragila, Gena Brumitt, David Schellenberg, Annie Perry, Anthony Manning, David Hoyt, Ed Ungar, Greg Nelson, Heidi Burch, Jeremy Ries, John Yee, Julia Bryan, Julie Buchanan, Ken Sherman, Michael, Steven son, Reg Charney, George Speigelman, Sharon Cregier, Susan Brennan, Tim Smith, Dr. Martha Jo Willard, Starla Goggins, Sue Alksnis, Jordan Schneider, Dan Knauss, Danielle Stampley

1. Guest speaker: Julia Bryan, Democrats Abroad International Chair
 - What's at stake in 2018; Big Tent Summer; and Ideas for GOTV provided
2. Call AGM to order – Steve Nardi
3. Approval of agenda

Moved by: Sue Brennan; Seconded by: Ken Sherman; and Approved unanimously

4. Canada Chair remarks – Steve Nardi

Summary of 2017:

Since inauguration – first time elected DA positions have been contested; many members attended Women's Marches and M4OL; Identifying Americans in Canada remains challenging; there has been an increase in DA membership

since 2016 election and Rebecca Burns has helped us keep track of this with membership numbers; visits from high profile Americans have helped our cause; Canada and UK remain the two largest DA committees; caucuses are getting up and running; we need to find ways to engage members who live too far away to engage at the local level; tax information provided to members through webinars - 1700 members got this information; and there are tons of GOTV activities happening/coming up– ask your chapter leaders how you can help because we need all of our efforts to make a difference.

Bill Curry and Giles Hogya have retired from DA. As well as, Sarah Dow, Rosanna Sharpe and Krystal Thompson have left their positions. Thanked them and all volunteers for their contributions to the DACA board.

5. Approval of April 2, 2017 Minutes – Marnelle Dragila

Moved by: Susan Brennan; Seconded by: George Speigelman; and
Approved unanimously

6. Treasurer's Report – Lissette Wright

Income (carry forward) \$16, 580.00. Total income - \$27,235.00.

Expenses \$11, 273.00. Closing balance at end of 2017 of \$15,962.00

*See attached Treasurer's Report for further details

7. DNC Representative's Report – Ken Sherman

Explained DA's role in DNC. 8 members. Meet monthly. Help shape strategy.

DNC has given us \$50,000 so far. DNC proposes that Vancouver and Toronto open voter centres starting mid-August to mid-October 2018 with daily volunteers, 5-6 per day, to use computers and call hubs.

Hoping to bring Tom Perez to Toronto in September 2018 for opening of voter centre.

Convention in 2016 proposed that we need to reform party especially in primaries, voter registration and reducing role of super delegates. URC has made its report, which DA supports unanimously.

8. GOTV – Heidi Burch

Overview of 2017:

Lots of federal special elections – 5 of them. DA phonebanked all of them. Won Alabama! 2 key state special elections: New Jersey and Virginia – big Democratic wins. 2 state elections – Washington (flipped State senate to Dem majority) and Wisconsin. Sent out emails to state voters in every state election. Flipped 43 seats.

In preparation for 2018 – lots of setting out systems, etc to reach out to overseas voters to get them to vote.

Three main points to get to voters:”

- a) All overseas Americans can vote in midterms (at least in fed elections)
- b) There are 34 US Senate races (1/3 are up for election)
- c) There are lots of state elections (if you’re eligible to vote, get out and vote!) Vote the whole ballot. Ballots are secret. If they send you the whole ballot, vote it.
- d) Overseas voters need to request a ballot EVERY calendar year. Be safe – lots of voter suppression tactics going on.

What can we do?

- a) Be a phone banking volunteer – effective in reaching people
- b) Participate in events, e.g., parades, tell people about voter registration via votefromabroad.org and send reminder emails; Note - every state but Alabama lets you request ballot electronically;
- c) Social media outreach – [votefromabroad](https://www.facebook.com/votefromabroad) facebook page and DA pages. Great to reach non-DA member Americans.
- d) Emails to all DA members re upcoming elections in their states.

9. Chapter Reports

Received from Toronto, London, Hamilton, Vancouver, and Victoria.

a) Toronto – (Julie Buchanan)

Thanked many active members. 24 events held since last AGM in 2017.

Several Women's caucus events held (including book club, movie nights and stitch-in)– co-chairs Brooke Scott and Karin Lippert.

Women's March was huge success. Also participated in Science and Climate marches, PRIDE parade, July 4th meet up, Candidate meet and greet in North York, Vigil for Heather Heyer, murdered in Charlottesville, Event for I have a Dream anniversary, HRC – great after party event, Thanksgiving dinner, Self-care yoga event, and Tax seminars

b) London – (Gena Brumitt)

Hoped to get members to see RBG documentary but didn't work out - may do this if RBG returns; MCing a local municipal election campaign event – met Americans through that; Outreach with political science dept at Western University – asked to have people speak about progressive moment, human rights, and foreign policy.... Opportunity to do outreach with students; and summer get together planned before fall as well as Americans Women's Club event on June 23 to do some outreach.

c) Hamilton (Ken Sherman)

Worked with Niagara district to do planning. 7 events since September 2017, including attending as Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty at HRC. Donkey used at GOTV events – about 70 people signed up. About 75 people attended at tax seminars. Increase in DA membership by about 40%

d) Vancouver – (Susan Brennan)

Busy year since May 2017 election of board. Events included July 4th potluck and Thanksgiving dinner (usual events); HRC and Michelle Obama talks– talked to expat Americans to sign up new DA members and assist with voter registration; M40L events, Pints and Politics events, and tax seminar held.

Now have tent and portable printer to use for GOTV events. Looking for volunteers for Pride

e) Victoria – (Heidi Burch)

Changes – long-time chair retired. Doing UVIC outreach and in August will do more campus events. Voter registration events held with Vancouver consulate. Attended July 4th get together and pride festival. Looking for pride volunteers for this year.

10. Caucus Updates

a) Youth – Christine Odunlami – not on call

b) Progressive (ProDA) – Sue Alksnis

Caucus officially just started in Jan 2018 but started work much earlier. Supports mission of DA. Members of caucus define what are considered progressive issues. ProDA is focused on issues of restoring trust and transparency in the Democratic Party.

Main activities of ProDA are:

- (1) Party Reform- to attract voters and assist GOTV (URC recommendations, superdelegate reform, etc and hosted Larry Cohen talk/webinar in Toronto),
- (2) GOTV
- (3) Medicare for All initiative - attended Bernie Sanders talk in Toronto, collected numerous health care stories to present to elected officials/to be unveiled at congressional staff briefing in or about August 2018.

*See attached Presentation for further details.

c) Women's Caucus – Annie Parry

Focused on: Women's issues, ensuring women's perspective are included in policies at all levels; and promoting involvement of women in government.

Active chapter in Toronto run by Brooke Scott and Karin Lippert. Focused on M40L in DC, Women's March in Toronto, Women's First calendar, viewing RBG documentary, and meet ups, etc.

Feminist books abroad group that meets four times a year.

d) LGBTQ – Steve Nardi

Held talk by Earl Falkes, who heads LGBTQ global caucus. Participated in PRIDE events across Canada.

11. Election of Officers – George Spiegelman, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee and Heidi Burch, Teller of Elections

- Secretary – MD 106 votes; JM – 45 votes
- IT Manager – JB – 69 votes; TS – 52 votes; GN – 31 votes

127 ballots all together. Another 26 provisional ballots also deemed ok. 153 ballots in total submitted. Marnelle Dragila elected Secretary and Julie Buchanan elected IT Manager. Others who ran were encouraged to continue their involvement with DA.

12. Other Business – special meeting to be announced at a later date for by-law amendments.

13. Adjournment – moved by Marnelle Dragila and adjourned