

Notice of AGM and Officer Elections

The Annual General Meeting of Democrats Abroad Canada will take place
Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 2:00PM EST
Online via WebEx

Below are the candidate statements for each office. Electronic ballots plus the RSVP link to attend the AGM will be distributed to registered members of Democrats Abroad Canada on March 16th and must be voted by midnight EST March 30, 2019.

Offices to be elected

- [Chair](#)
- [Executive Vice Chair](#)
- [Vice Chair \(2 to be elected\)](#)
- [Treasurer](#)
- [Secretary](#)
- [IT Manager](#)
- [Counsel](#)
- [Membership Secretary](#)
- [Member-at-Large \(3 to be elected\)](#)
- [DPCA Voting Representatives \(24 to be elected\)](#)

Chair

Steve Nardi

It's been a privilege to serve as Chair of DemsAbroad Canada (DACA) the past 2 years, and I'm asking for your consideration to elect me to a 2nd term.

Following the 2016 Presidential election many members raised their hand to serve on the leadership of DACA. The board elected in 2017 and board appointees, brought a passion & energy contributing to Canada significantly raising the bar on what's possible, demonstrated by our tremendous Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts in 2018.

While chapters held numerous successful GOTV & outreach events, a highlight of our national accomplishments over the past 2 years was operating a campaign office. For the first time DACA, with your generous support, was able to operate a campaign office for 2 months in the crucial period leading up to the midterm elections. Volunteers made nearly 20,000 calls to Democrat voters abroad encouraging them to vote. These efforts contributed to American's living abroad participating at levels only seen in presidential elections.

During this term it's been important to me personally to make information available to members on topics relevant to you as Americans living abroad. With tremendous support by SKL Tax and BDO Canada we made information available to members on filing taxes, FBAR/FATCA, estate planning, operating a corporation, immigration, Canada/US pension plans & more.

Additional work has been done in too many areas to mention here, but these are the accomplishments I'm most proud of our board having achieved this term.

With DACA being one of the largest country committees in a very active global organization, since 2016 this role requires more hours of effort than one might anticipate. My career experience as a successful Operations leader in the tech sector has given me the skills needed to pivot from one time-sensitive issue to another, at a local, national, regional, or global level in a mostly virtual environment.

My priorities should I be re-elected will be to develop a plan for GOTV 2020, modeled on our 2018 success; making additional information available on topics of interest to members; increasing participation in the DemsAbroad Global Primary; outreach to the Americans living in Canada who didn't vote, & supporting our chapters to increase local activities to engage members.

As a DPCA Voting Rep I've attended the Global meetings in Berlin, Tokyo, & Washington DC and commit to participating in future Global meetings.

Thank you for your consideration & your vote.

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Executive Vice Chair

Julie Buchanan

I have served in many executive positions on the board of Canada and Toronto since 2009: Secretary, Membership Co-Secretary and currently am the IT Manager at the country committee level; Secretary Vice-Chair, Co-Vice Chair and am currently the Chair of Toronto Chapter. We've recruited great leaders in Toronto, and I feel confident to step away from being the leader of one of the largest chapters in the world and devote my time to the Country Committee.

I ask for your vote for me as Executive Vice Chair of Canada and DPCA voting member. I will use my experience to make positive impact for the organization at every level.

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Vice Chairs (2 to be elected)

Marnelle Dragila

I'm a proud Washington State voter (born and raised in Seattle) and have resided in Canada, in both BC and Ontario, for over 20 years. I currently live in the London, Ontario area where I am actively involved in the London DA chapter. I have also served as DACA Secretary since August 2017 and was a founding member of DA's global Progressive Caucus (ProDA).

I attended the 2017 Global meeting in Washington, D.C., and the America's Regional Meeting in Costa Rica in 2018, where I presented on both ProDA and the Women's Caucus, of which I am also a member. I helped in planning the 2019 DA Global Meeting in Washington, D.C. and I am on the committee organizing the DA Global Meeting in Toronto in 2020.

I represented DA as an attendee at both the 2017 People's Summit in Chicago and the inaugural Women's Convention (successor to the Women's March in D.C.) in Detroit. I have also participated in numerous marches, talks and special events with DA in Toronto, including the 2018 Women's March and also participated in the bus trip to Washington, D.C. for the March for Our Lives.

As Vice-Chair/DPCA representative, I commit to attend the Global meetings and hold proxies, as needed, for other members.

Outside of DA, I have a background in social work centred on an anti-oppression framework, and I am also a lawyer. My legal practice has focused on child protection law for the last 12 years, including representing children as an agent of

the Office of the Children's Lawyer. I am a past Regional Director, Vice-Chair and Acting Chair for the Organization of Counsel for Children's Aid Societies and the current Acting President for my local chapter of the Ontario Association of Child Protection Lawyers. I am also the Chair of my local cycling club and sit on the Board of the Ontario Cycling Association. More importantly though, I am the mom of a rescue dog, Kai. He's a black lab, spaniel, hound dog mix and he's my pride and joy.

Ed Ungar

We always say it, but this time it looks to be true. The 2020 election will be the most important election of our lifetime. American democracy and possibly the world's democracies tend on the outcome. I would be honoured to continue in my capacity as Vice Chair. My history with Democratic Party activities in Canada go back to 1972. That year George McGovern won Mass., DC, and Ottawa. It's been wonderful seeing De Democrats Abroad Canada grown from a living room in Toronto to a multi chapter five time zone spanning significant force. By the next election I hope to see chapters in five and a half time zones. Along the way DA Canada's provided the margin of victory for one Democratic senator (Al Franken) and fell just painfully short of electing President Gore. That's why what we do is so important. As just part of my out-reach efforts to our chapters I hope to give some media training so our spokespeople will be more effective on air. I hope I can make a real contribution as vice chair and I would be grateful to be afforded the opportunity.

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Treasurer

Lisette Wright

I am nominating Lisette Wright to be re-elected as Treasurer for DemsAbroad Canada.

Lisette has done a stellar job during this term as Treasurer, providing the Board with financial updates and forecasts based on the information available, and deserves to be re-elected. In addition to serving as DemsAbroad Canada's Treasurer, she also serves as the Global Treasurer - fulfilling both capacities very successfully.

Lisette works to a very high standard of professionalism and integrity and brings a

degree of passion to her work that is inspirational. She's a real team-player and doesn't shy away from hard work - if she sees that something needs to be done, she goes to work, usually with a wonderful sense of humor!

Lisette's abilities are invaluable as she provides a clear and fair perspective, and the ability to skillfully deal with tough situations. Lisette embodies the true, basic values of the Democratic Party and demonstrates a genuine commitment in her day-to-day work as well as in her leadership roles.

Thank you for considering Lisette for re-election!

Addendum: I am honoured to have been nominated for re-election as Treasurer of Democrats Abroad Canada by Steve Nardi, Chair of Democrats Abroad Canada. I am also humbled to be endorsed by my mentor Kenneth Sherman, a lifelong Democrat and DNC Member. Serving as your Country Treasurer for the past two years has been a truly rewarding experience because while I crunch the numbers and oversee our country committee's finances, Democrats Abroad Canada advocates for Democracy, registers U.S. voters living abroad and gets out the vote! I could not be prouder of my fellow DA Canada Board Members. . . and U.S. Democrats in Canada. I am so happy to have been part of the Democratic Wave in 2018 and cannot wait for what we can accomplish together in 2020! Together we win so let's continue fighting for the ERA, sexual health and rights and economic, social, racial and environmental justice for all. Thank you for your support and your vote!

Lisette F. Wright | Vote in New York | Live in Ontario | LinkedIn:
<https://ca.linkedin.com/in/lisettefwright> | Twitter: @WrightLisette | about.me:
<https://about.me/lisettefwright> | Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/people/Lisette-F-Wright/100017802882819>

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Secretary

Susan Alksnis

Thank you for granting me the opportunity to serve Democrats Abroad Canada over the last two-year term. With over 10 years involvement in DA, I have gained considerable experience in local, national, and global activities.

Locally, I've organized events for voter registration, volunteer engagement, tax seminars and member involvement, including activities around Toronto appearances by celebrities and political speakers. I represent Peel/Oakville on the Toronto DA Board and chair the Nominations & Elections Committee for Hamilton Chapter.

Nationally, as Member at Large and DPCA Voting Rep for Canada since 2017, I have been an engaged board member, working on a variety of initiatives, such as the ad hoc committee on gender parity for Canada's DPCA delegation. I also inform the Canada Board of opportunities for member engagement with Progressive Caucus initiatives and activism.

Globally, I am founding Co-Chair of the Progressive Caucus of Democrats Abroad (proDA) for which I support and guide global working groups, communications, member and volunteer engagement, including proDA's multi-faceted Medicare For All, party reform and other initiatives. I have drafted, edited and whipped votes for resolutions submitted to DA's global meeting and am coordinating multiple resolution submissions for 2019. I also promote DA Canada, proDA, Democratic Party unity and reform through grassroots engagement and attending meetings of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) in person and by livestream.

I strive to build on the shared purpose and values within our big tent party, so that Democrats will win.

With professional experience in fundraising, events, volunteer management, media relations, and strategic planning, I also have training in diversity, inclusion and equity.

I vote in Connecticut, and have young adult children.

Feel free to contact me by email [NOTE TO ADMINISTRATOR: please embed link to susankalksnis@gmail.com - please do not include my email in the text; I do not want to get inundated with spam]

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IT Manager*

***No nominations were received for IT Manager. Nominations will be taken from the floor during the AGM.**

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Counsel

Danielle Stampley

I write in support of my candidacy for Counsel on the DA Canada Board of Directors. I have served as Counsel for the past two years, and I am very much invested in continuing this Board's important work of getting out the vote and advocating for our members.

Since I joined the Board, I have advised on matters related to the interpretation and amendment of our Bylaws, the application of our Code of Conduct and compliance with applicable financial regulations. As an arm of the Democratic Party operating overseas, this last issue is of particular importance to us. It is imperative that our organization operates in a transparent and 100%-compliant manner to ensure that we are not susceptible to criticism about our funding or who supports our operations. Given my experience on the Board and familiarity with the applicable rules and regulations, I believe I am well-suited to continue in this role.

I am a lawyer admitted to practice law in both Ontario and New York. I primarily act for individual employees and unions in administrative, civil and human rights proceedings. I am originally from Missouri, and I attended law school at American University in Washington, DC (Class of '09). My work in private practice began as a litigator in New York in the financial sector. During that time, I became comfortable analyzing complicated financial statements, interpreting esoteric accounting rules, and applying constantly evolving securities regulations.

Over time, my practice has changed a great deal. Working in so many contexts has taught me that hard work, organization, and, above all, persistence always get the job done. These are the experiences and skills I would like to continue to contribute to the Board.

My interest in politics started at a young age, helping my mom with her local school board campaigns and participating in student government. Despite everything that has happened since 2016, I still have hope that the people can elect leaders who share their values and who will address the important issues of our

time: inequality, climate change, health care and education.

Last year, I worked with our Board to help get out the vote for the mid-terms. It was an amazing learning experience that allowed me to exercise my "lawyer hat" and my "organizer hat". I am committed to applying the lessons we learned to engage and mobilize our members to elect Democrats, especially in 2020. I hope you will give me that chance. Thank you for your support.

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Membership Secretary

Susan Brennan

As a lifelong Democrat, I am a dual US-Canadian citizen who was raised in the Chicago area and votes in Cook County. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Mundelein College (now a part of Chicago's Loyola University). I have worked as a computer professional for most of my life.

I bring to DA Canada a solid background in leadership and working with boards. Certified in Non-Profit Sector Management from Simon Fraser University, my background includes both paid and volunteer management experience. Besides my leadership roles in Democrats Abroad (DA), I am chair of the North Shore Community Garden Society, a volunteer-run group where we have about 250 inexpensive garden plots for people in 6 community gardens.

***** Long History of Participation with Democrats Abroad Vancouver *****

A member of Democrats Abroad since 2006, I have served on the executive board of the Vancouver chapter since 2013.

As Community Outreach Secretary from 2013-2017, I was instrumental in organizing many DA Vancouver events: fundraising concerts, social events, global primary voting, voter registration.

As the Chair for the past two years, I continued that tradition of ensuring that we keep our members both informed and active in the Vancouver chapter of Democrats Abroad. At our voter registration events in 2018, we had more than 100 volunteers working tirelessly to make sure ex-pat Americans registered to vote in the midterms.

As chair in Vancouver, I have attended two annual global DPCA meeting - one in Washington DC in 2017, and the other in Japan in 2018. I attended these three day

events virtually via WebEx software. They were impactful conferences with so much to learn and are always insightful. This is why I would like to be a DPCA voting member again.

*****Currently, Acting Membership Secretary with Democrats Abroad Canada*****

In the fall, I volunteered to act as the Membership Secretary for DA Canada during a time when I was verifying dozens of new Canadian members every day when they registered with our Vote from Abroad website.

I am running for DA Canada's Membership Secretary position for 2019-21. I have enjoyed this role because it makes use of my computer knowledge and skills. I am able to work quickly but accurately in evaluating each membership request. Please support my candidacy for DA Canada's membership secretary and DPCA voting member.

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Member-at-Large (3 to be elected)

Louis DeLamarter

I will put the small d back into Democrat.

Sofia Misenheimer

I am a communications professional who moved to Montreal from Washington, DC five years ago. I have experience working in all branches of US government, as a federal court reporter, an NGO coordinator, and an aide on Capitol Hill. I worked for Senator Richard Lugar during his final term in office, when he was a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and collaborated often with the staffers of his then-counterpart, Senator John Kerry. During that time, I also campaigned for President Obama, conducting calls from the DNC and was invited to attend his inauguration ceremony in 2013.

I have a Master's degree in communication studies from McGill University and a graduate diploma in journalism from Concordia University. Three years ago, I founded Art/iculation magazine, a biannual print and digital outlet for un(der)represented voices. The magazine's Spring 2018 issue celebrating transgender and gender diverse artists, writers, and poets was shortlisted for "Best

Academic Publication" by the Canadian Online Publishing Awards.

I currently manage Articulation, while freelancing as a writer, videographer, and graphic designer for various non-profits and media outlets. As an elected member-at-large, I would be keen to support the DACA Board with my multimedia skill set.

Website: www.sofiamisenheimer.com

Twitter: @sofsilvamtl

David Mivasair

I have been an active member of Democrats Abroad since 2014, first in Vancouver and more recently in Hamilton. I was active on the Vancouver chapter executive committee for the several years I was there and now am active on the Hamilton chapter executive. I was first involved with Dems Abroad when I lived in Japan during the 1980 election cycle and was elected as an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention. I was active again in Vancouver around the 2008 election and personally registered over 300 U.S. citizens there to vote.

Beside Dems Abroad, I have been active with many different non-profit organizations for decades dealing with peace, justice and environmental concerns. My entire career was in non-profit management. For four years, I was the executive director of a political change organization in Washington, DC. For twenty-five years, I served as a rabbi in several synagogues. I am now retired and have time and energy for the vitally important work of Dems Abroad.

My strengths are in communications and in motivating and organizing people. In Vancouver and in Hamilton, I have organized successful voter registration events at a speech by Hillary Clinton's as well as at the Women's March, Folk Festival, Pride Parade and more. During the recent mid-term election, I organized nearly 40 Dems Abroad Canada members to go into four swing districts in the U.S. and actively volunteer in campaigns. This year, I have been the Communications Officer for Dems Abroad Canada and have raised our profile with stories in nearly all the mainstream media in Canada. I will continue that work in the crucial coming two years to reach out to the hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens in Canada who are not yet involved and to optimize our internal communications. I would most like to do that as a Member-at-Large of the Board.

It would be a privilege to serve in that position. I'll be happy to listen to any

concerns or suggestions and welcome members from across Canada to contact me at any time.

Darius Pruss

I have served as the acting Policy Secretary for Democrats Abroad Vancouver since October 2017 and was recently elected to a new term in January 2019. In this role I have helped plan, organize, and host the wide variety of grassroots activities that took place over the past year. These included a series of "Pints and Politics" meetings to engage with our local community, political activism and advocacy events like the Women's March and March For Our Lives, and our voter registration and Get Out The Vote campaign for the 2018 midterms.

I came to Canada in 2011 to study, earning my Master of Public Policy from SFU in 2013. I have worked on policy research and knowledge translation in areas such as Indigenous health and affordable housing, and I currently work as a policy research consultant. While I have always had a deep love for public policy, I humbly admit to having been largely inactive in politics, aside from voting. After the 2016 election, however, I felt (as many people did) that I needed to be more involved as an individual and as an American citizen. Luckily for me, I found Democrats Abroad.

Looking toward the future, it is clear that the need to fight back against the Trump Administration and the Republican Party, and to fight for policies that protect democracy and human dignity, will be constant. I believe Democrats Abroad, at all levels, can and should go even further in building and organizing our membership, and in hosting constructive conversations on the important choices America is facing.

As a member of the Democrats Abroad Canada Board, I will work to engage more directly and interactively with our membership, both on questions of our activities and on the policies important to our members. I believe we should also strengthen our relationships with other activist groups and build a diverse coalition to advocate for our shared policy goals. Lastly, I want to help Democrats Abroad carry over the positive energy and unity of vision we witnessed in the 2018 midterms to our work for the 2020 presidential election.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. It is an honor for me to serve Democrats Abroad and our members.

Chris Shaw

I have lived outside of the United States for most of my adult life, but have continued to have an active interest in the politics of my home country. Much of my family is still in the US. Living abroad has provided me with different perspectives that I would bring to bear on behalf of fellow Americans abroad. For one thing, being outside of the US, it may be easier to step back to see the broader picture of events inside and outside the US and the impact these events have on Americans abroad. A second point is that living abroad has provided me insights into different political systems and how these might be relevant to the American experience.

It has been obvious to me that the path of Democratic Party politics and choices over the last decade have lead us inevitably to the current situation with the Trump presidency. While it is possible to blame many factors, my view is that much of the ascendancy of Trump and the alt right is largely due to failed democratic structures and policies inside the Democratic Party itself. Certainly, the successful attempts to prevent Bernie Saunders from becoming the presidential candidate in 2016 is a case in point.

My concern now is that the party may not have learned the lessons of 2016 and this failure may set the stage for Trump, or someone like him, to win in 2020. Only a break from the stale politics of the past will prevent this outcome.

It would be far too easy to pretend that I can live my life here in Canada, raise my children here and not be affected by what happens in the US. Alas, this is not possible, as what happens there in terms of immigration, foreign intervention, and even how Americans abroad are treated re taxation, inevitably affects us all. My background: I am a professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, but reside in Victoria. I served in the Canadian Forces (reserve) for 19 years. I have two older children living in Vancouver, and two younger ones living with me in Victoria.

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DPCA Voting Representatives (24 to be elected) *

***The first 12 DPCA Voting Rep positions will be filled by those elected to the positions from the slate above. Anyone whose name appears above as a candidate for a board seat who is elected will have their name removed from the slate below. The remaining 12 will then be elected from the remaining**

DPCA Voting Rep slate, following Article 15 of DA Canada Bylaws establishing a balance of sexes on the board.

Female Candidates *

*** The final number of female candidates to be elected from the DPCA Voting Representative slate will be determined on the makeup of the elected board.**

Gena Brummitt

I am pleased to nominate Gena Brummitt for the position of DPCA Voting Representative. Gena is currently the DA Chapter Chair for London & Area and has been for the past 12 years. She is active in DA in the community and attends multiple events to speak on behalf of the Chapter to encourage Americans living in Canada to vote. She has hosted several Super Tuesday Primary Voting Centers during this time.

Gena is also in touch with many DA members in the GTA as she attends the annual DA Toronto Thanksgiving event, as well as the Women's Marches. Gena is easily able to fulfill the role of DPCA Voting Representative. She attended the 2017 DPCA Global Meeting in Washington, DC, and is scheduled to attend the 2019 DPCA Global Meeting in Washington, DC, in May. Also, Gena is a founding member of the DA Progressive Caucus.

Addendum: I am an incumbent DPCA voting representative who attended in Washington, DC and am registered to attend this year as well. I would be happy to answer any questions anyone has regarding my experience.

Thank you.

Heidi Burch

I have been a DA volunteer since 2012 and I'm the current Executive Vice-Chair of DACA. I have been attending Board meetings for about 5 years and have been an active DPCA Voting Representative, participating fully in the past 3 Global Meetings. I would be honored to be re-elected as a Voting Rep.

Earlene Busch

Owner, Chanterelle Country Inn, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
Formerly, founder and CEO of Circa Logic, Inc., Boulder, Colorado, an IT company.

Holds a MS and a Ph.D. in Organizational Communication, University of Colorado, Boulder.

I am a citizen of the US and a Landed Immigrant in Canada

In Boulder, I participated in and contributed to the candidacies for president, senate and federal representatives as well as for state offices. I was also involved in municipal politics supporting candidates for city council (leafleting, election committees and financial support) and was active in the passage of various issues.

Since moving to Canada, I closely follow US politics, write letters to my senators and representatives on a number of issues and financially support several. I also financially support Raw Story, Move On, Daily Kos among others. I, of course, have voted in every election since being in Canada.

Ivelisse Castillo

Good day!

As a proud Democrat I'm nominating myself for the DPCA Voting Representative. Been part of the minority group it's a GREAT advantage to reach and educated to VOTE people with common interests.

With over 20 years of experience in the management/sales sector having held executive-level positions and developed an expertise in management, customer service B2B B2C, sales, buyer, budgeting merchandising, interior design, event planner, import, export.

Skills:

Languages English, Spanish & French some knowledge of Italian

Human

Proactive

Impartial

Empathy

Integrity

Trustworthy

Reliable

Versatile

Feel free to check my LinkedIn profile (attached below).

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ivelisse-castillo-16808a45>

Thanks in advance for your kind attention!

Cheers!

Ivelisse Castillo

514-839-5508

Rachel Eugster

Born in Washington DC, I have lived in (and voted in or from) Baltimore, a Vermont college town, Boston and (currently) Ottawa. A resident of Ottawa for the past 20+ years, I have not yet lived in Canada for as long as I lived in the U.S.

I maintain a very busy "patchwork" career as a performer, director, writer, and editor (<http://racheleugster.com/>). While freelancing is a more than fulltime occupation, it gives me flexibility, which in turn allows me to carve out the time to volunteer in various capacities. I have sat on the boards of my local community association and several school councils. I have served on a steering committee that oversaw the incorporation of a new theatre entity in Ottawa (and continue as an advisory member to the board) and on the steering committee that powered the revitalization of the Ottawa-Gatineau chapter of Democrats Abroad Canada in the lead-up to the 2008 presidential election. I remained centrally involved until a leadership change following the 2012 presidential election. I serve in an advisory capacity for the executive of the local chapter (Canada East) of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

I am also active in local politics, both at the community and school council level and on political campaigns. I have volunteered on five campaigns for municipal council (most recently serving as volunteer coordinator for the campaign to reelect Ottawa's municipal councillor for Kitchissippi Ward, Jeff Leiper). I also served as a poll supervisor in the most recent Ontario provincial elections.

In November 2018, my husband and I drove across the border into upstate New York, and spent a few days in advance of the U.S. midterms helping to GOTV for Anthony Brindisi in his ultimately successful quest to turn a red seat blue (NY-22). We chose this campaign as the most critical one we could reach with relative ease, and it was DAC that helped us connect to the campaign.

It was also through DAC that we connected with the bus trip organized by Canadian Women March, on which my husband and I were able to attend the Women's March in Washington, D.C. on January 21, 2017, driving from Ottawa to Washington D.C. and back over the course of two nights.

I would be honored to serve as a DPCA Voting Rep.

Tracy Hudson

I am so honoured to have been nominated for the DPCA Voting Representative position by Ken Sherman (past Chair of Democrats Abroad Canada & past International Chair). He has been such an important mentor to me in my work with Democrats Abroad Canada over the past eight years.

My name is Tracy Hudson, and I proudly vote in the state of Michigan. I am on my 20th year here in Canada, living in both in Quebec, and now Ontario. I am a former teacher, and along with Democrats Abroad, I also volunteer with the American Women's Club of Southern Ontario. Helping Americans in Canada seems to be my calling.

I am possibly the most active Democrats Abroad Canada volunteer you've never seen or heard of, but I'm always out there working behind your computer screen. For the last eight years I have been a social media administrator for Dems Abroad Canada, providing content for the chapter's Facebook and Twitter pages. If you've seen it on our Facebook or twitter, chances are it was me. Announcements, reminders, events, and information come to me from many areas at Democrats Abroad, from the Democrats Abroad Canada board, and as well as from our own chapters, and I help make sure all of that is passed on to our membership. In addition to Dems Abroad Canada's social media, I am an administrator on five different Democrats Abroad sponsored state Facebook pages (Michigan, Nebraska, Kansas, Arkansas, and Louisiana). As a former teacher, I think educating our membership is paramount. If our members are informed on the issues, they'll be more likely to vote and be active in our US elections.

In addition to all my social media work, I am currently IT Manager for my Hamilton-Burlington-Niagara Dems Abroad chapter. I also spoke on behalf of my chapter in 2017 at the Women's March in Hamilton. I hope all of my effort for Democrats Abroad Canada shows my commitment to our cause. I will bring that same level of commitment to the position of DPCA Voting Representative. Thank you for your consideration.

Denise Roig

Although I have lived in Canada for close to 30 years -- 20 in Montreal, another 10 in Hamilton, Ontario -- I have never felt as American as I have since election day 2016. A staunch Democrat all my life (my folks were ardent Stevenson supporters ... still have the button!), my commitment has been sharpened, re-focused, galvanized these past 2 1/2 years. First, by travelling -- thanks to Democrats Abroad -- to Washington, DC for the first Women's March in January 2017. A few months later, I was back in Washington for the People's Climate March, then in fall 2017 for the first Women's Convention in Detroit. We went to Northampton, Massachusetts, for a vigil the evening after the tragedy in Charlottesville, then to Buffalo for the March for Our Lives. I demonstrated with the outraged crowd in front of the U.S. Consulate in Toronto the day after Trump's travel ban and took part in a rally for Keep Families Together here in Hamilton. Like many Democrats abroad, I've signed online petition after petition and donated money to individual candidates and organizations such as Daily Kos and moveon.org.

However, I've come to realize that nothing will change unless we GOTV! Becoming involved recently in a more boots-on-the-ground way through the Hamilton/Burlington chapter of Democrats Abroad, I hope to start making a difference where it's going to count -- one vote at a time. I've been involved in social justice issues most of my adult life: running a fair-trade store through my Montreal parish, helping abused nannies and housekeepers when I lived in Abu Dhabi, working with a Syrian refugee family in Hamilton, writing a blog for Women's March Canada. (I've been writing professionally for more than 40 years.) Now I would like to focus on the most basic of human rights: having a say in how our lives are lived. What I would bring to this position: passion, patience and an ability to communicate.

Heidi Schneiderman

I have been actively involved with my local DA Chapter (Hamilton-Burlington-Niagara) for several years as well as participating in outreach activities:

- Appointed to Julia Bryan's Global Study Abroad Outreach Team as a Canadian Liaison in GOTV efforts to increase the absentee ballot vote at universities across Canada in 2018
- Presentation of report to DACA (national) Executive Committee via WebEx on this Study Abroad Outreach 2018

- Participated in the Regional Americas DA conference in Costa Rica 2017
- Phone Banking in NY27 swing district with Steve Nardi and Julie Buchanan prior to the 2018 Midterms
- Training at U.S. Embassy on Voter Registration Abroad - Toronto 2018
- Joined DACA team to March for Our Lives outreach event in Washington D.C.
- Attended Chapter Board Ham-Bur-Niagara meetings since 2017
- Made over 250 calls for Voter Verification via CallHub 2017
- Participated in 2018 Tax Seminar - Burlington
- Hamilton Supercrawl outreach 2018
- Hamilton business district outreach 2018

I am originally from California and my voting district is San Francisco. Because my vote goes to a very "Blue" state, one of my passions is increasing absentee ballot voting in swing districts and swing states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Florida. I have lived in Canada for almost 20 years throughout Southern Ontario including Toronto, Orillia, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls. Ten years ago I put down permanent roots in Crystal Beach. It is a scenic little beach community on Lake Erie where Canadian and American residents ride bicycles year-round and say "hello!" to each other when out walking their dog. I have worked successfully with The Town of Fort Erie to qualify our street for Town Improvement funds for road repair. I have supported local community groups and our public library - where I have proudly voted in-person in American elections - thanks to the work of Democrats Abroad.

I am also a published writer, most recently for sailing magazines, Latitudes & Attitudes and Cruising Outpost. I recently celebrated a 15-year anniversary with my Canadian common-law partner Joe. We enjoy sailing with our 8-year-old Golden Retriever, Mikey. I have a background in classical piano & cello, touring the world with the San Diego Youth Symphony, though now I enjoy playing drums.

Brooke Scott

Hello,

My name is Brooke Scott and I am running for DPCA Voting Representative.

I have been involved with Democrats Abroad Toronto since 2017 as a Member at Large for York Region, I am co-chair of the Toronto Women's Caucus and am currently heading up the Canada Women's Caucus.

I believe that being involved with Democrats Abroad, voting from abroad and helping other eligible US citizens living abroad to register to vote preserves and enriches our democracy for generations to come.

Male Candidates *

*** The final number of male candidates to be elected from the DPCA Voting Representative slate will be determined on the makeup of the elected board.**

Louis DeLarmarter

I will put the small d back into Democrat.

J David Markham

Dear Fellow Democrats,

I am running for election as a DPCA Voting Representative. I hope and believe that in my two terms on the Toronto Chapter board I have helped further our progressive cause.

I am a life-long active progressive Democrat. In Wisconsin in the 1970s/1980s I served as Fond du Lac County chair, Dane County vice-chair and State Platform Committee vice-chair. In 1976 I ran for County Clerk of Fond du Lac County. I was also an honored guest to the 1976 Democratic Convention in New York City. Elsewhere I have served as precinct committee person and helped in GOTV efforts, including running a phone bank in Wisconsin. A strong supporter of unions, I have belonged to the Teamsters, teacher's unions and AFSCME (for whom I served as the International Educational Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Region, based in Phoenix).

My education includes a BS from Iowa, a MA from Northern Iowa and a M.Ed. from Arizona State. I have also done graduate study at Southern Illinois, Wisconsin, Florida State and Oxford, UK.

I have served on many homeowners and other organizational boards, including as chair or president. I am currently vice-president of the Optima condo board of directors where I live in downtown Toronto. While I have held numerous professional positions such as being a state veteran's service officer in Wisconsin and Arizona and assistant director of the Commission on the Arizona Environment,

my primary professional has been as an educator, usually teaching Honors World History and related classes in high schools in Arizona, Florida and Washington. I have also taught at the university, college and community college levels.

As an active historian, I have authored/edited numerous books and articles on Napoleonic history, organized international congresses, appeared on the History, Learning, Smithsonian and Discovery channels, produced an extensive podcast (Napoleon 101) and produced museum exhibitions. As a result, I have received numerous awards and decorations, including France's highest civilian-only award, Knight of the Order of the French Academic Palms.

Finally, I am a Viet Nam veteran with a Bronze Star (1968-69). I wrote of my experiences on the DACT website in an article entitled Fifty Years.

Given the unfortunate state of our current political system, including the disastrous Trump presidency, we must sweep control of the government in next year's elections. I hope to play a modest role in that effort.

In Solidarity, J. David Markham

David Mivasair

I have been an active member of Democrats Abroad since 2014, first in Vancouver and more recently in Hamilton. I was active on the Vancouver chapter exec committee for several years and now on the Hamilton chapter exec. I was first involved with Dems Abroad when I lived in Japan during the 1980 election cycle and was elected as an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention. I was active again in Vancouver around the 2008 election and personally registered over 300 U.S. citizens there to vote.

Beside Dems Abroad, I have been active with many different non-profit organizations for decades dealing with peace, justice and environmental concerns. My entire career was in non-profit management. For four years, I was the executive director of a political change organization in Washington, DC. For twenty-five years, I served as the rabbi of several synagogues. I am now retired and have time and energy for the vitally important work of Dems Abroad.

I am focused on electoral outcomes in 2020. My strengths are in communications and in motivating and organizing people. In Vancouver and in Hamilton, I have organized successful voter registration events at a speech by Hillary Clinton as well as at the Women's March, Folk Festival, Pride Parade and more. During the recent mid-term election, I organized nearly 40 Dems Abroad Canada members to

go into four swing districts in the U.S. and actively volunteer in campaigns. This year, I have been the Communications Officer for Dems Abroad Canada and have raised our profile with stories in nearly all the mainstream media in Canada. I will continue that work in the crucial coming two years to reach out to the hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens in Canada who are not yet involved and to optimize our internal communications. I would most like to serve as a DCPA voting representative to bring DA Canada's perspective effectively to the DPCA and help the entire Democratic Party toward meaningful successes in the 2020 election cycle.

It would be a privilege to serve in that position. I'll be happy to listen to any concerns or suggestions and welcome members from across Canada to contact me at any time.

Robert J Petrusa

My statement supporting my self nomination is simple.....Action, dedication and commitment to effect change in OUR shared Democracy is why I am hoping to be elected as a DPCA representative. I have been actively involved in the Democrats Abroad chapter(Vancouver). I have served as a member at large, and Vice- chair for the last ten years. Now is the time that we must unite, cooperate and work together,toward building a strong and lasting Democracy. Our laws, constitution, and rights are being eroded, twisted and minimized. So my intent and my commitment to serve as a DPCA rep. is a serious, personal and enthusiastic one. Please consider me when voting for DPCA representative in the DAC election. Solidarity equals action and a Stronger Democracy.

Robert J Petrusa, Vice-Chair, Vancouver Chapter, Canada.

Engin Polar

I would like to express my interest in the DPCA Voting Representative position. I am currently an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto (UofT) studying Political Science. I am originally from Texas and lived most of my life in Indiana. My interest in this position stems from my belief that I can represent crucial and emerging forces within the Democratic Party and the U.S. voting electorate more broadly. I have several experiences which will enable me to succeed as a DPCA Voting Representative. For example, from January to November of 2018, I was the Chief Campus Representative Officer for the Youth Caucus of Democrats Abroad Canada at UofT. In this role, I led the Youth Caucus

at UofT in disseminating information to students about voting from abroad ahead of the 2018 midterms. Additionally, another role relating to Democratic politics I have taken part in includes my volunteer work with the Bernie Sanders 2016 Presidential campaign. I volunteered for Senator Sanders' campaign ahead of the Democratic primary in Indiana. In particular, I attended meetings ahead of the primaries, engaged in GOTV calls, and did canvassing work in Central Indiana. Furthermore, I was the Founder and President of the Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) UofT chapter. In this role, I oversaw event planning, operations, meetings, and overall management. I also served as the primary contact for the group and the external spokesperson when interacting with the CJPME office, student organizations, university officials and other community contacts. In sum, I have demonstrated leadership skills, an enthusiasm for advancing progressive politics, and an ability to listen and learn that will serve me well as a DPCA Voting Representative.

Darius Pruss

I have served as the acting Policy Secretary for Democrats Abroad Vancouver since October 2017 and was recently elected to a new term in January 2019. In this role I have helped plan, organize, and host the wide variety of grassroots activities that took place over the past year. These included a series of "Pints and Politics" meetings to engage with our local community, political activism and advocacy events like the Women's March and March For Our Lives, and our voter registration and Get Out The Vote campaign for the 2018 midterms.

I came to Canada in 2011 to study, earning my Master of Public Policy from SFU in 2013. I have worked on policy research and knowledge translation in areas such as Indigenous health and affordable housing, and I currently work as a policy research consultant. While I have always had a deep love for public policy, I humbly admit to having been largely inactive in politics, aside from voting. After the 2016 election, however, I felt (as many people did) that I needed to be more involved as an individual and as an American citizen. Luckily for me, I found Democrats Abroad.

Looking toward the future, it is clear that the need to fight back against the Trump Administration and the Republican Party, and to fight for policies that protect democracy and human dignity, will be constant. I believe Democrats Abroad, at all levels, can and should go even further in building and organizing our membership, and in hosting constructive conversations on the important choices America is facing.

As a member of the Democrats Abroad Canada Board, I will work to engage more directly and interactively with our membership, both on questions of our activities and on the policies important to our members. I believe we should also strengthen our relationships with other activist groups and build a diverse coalition to advocate for our shared policy goals. Lastly, I want to help Democrats Abroad carry over the positive energy and unity of vision we witnessed in the 2018 midterms to our work for the 2020 presidential election.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. It is an honor for me to serve Democrats Abroad and our members.

Chris Shaw

I have lived outside of the United States for most of my adult life, but have continued to have an active interest in the politics of my home country. Much of my family is still in the US. Living abroad has provided me with different perspectives that I would bring to bear on behalf of fellow Americans abroad. For one thing, being outside of the US, it may be easier to step back to see the broader picture of events inside and outside the US and the impact these events have on Americans abroad. A second point is that living abroad has provided me insights into different political systems and how these might be relevant to the American experience.

It has been obvious to me that the path of Democratic Party politics and choices over the last decade have lead us inevitably to the current situation with the Trump presidency. While it is possible to blame many factors, my view is that much of the ascendancy of Trump and the alt right is largely due to failed democratic structures and policies inside the Democratic Party itself. Certainly, the successful attempts to prevent Bernie Saunders from becoming the presidential candidate in 2016 is a case in point.

My concern now is that the party may not have learned the lessons of 2016 and this failure may set the stage for Trump, or someone like him, to win in 2020. Only a break from the stale politics of the past will prevent this outcome.

It would be far too easy to pretend that I can live my life here in Canada, raise my children here and not be affected by what happens in the US. Alas, this is not possible, as what happens there in terms of immigration, foreign intervention, and even how Americans abroad are treated re taxation, inevitably affects us all.

My background: I am a professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, but reside in Victoria. I served in the Canadian Forces (reserve) for 19 years. I have two older children living in Vancouver, and two younger ones living with me in Victoria.

Kenneth Sherman

My motivation for service to Democrats Abroad (DA) is best captured in this quote from President Barack Obama. "You, and I, as citizens, have the obligation to shape the debates of our time - not only with the votes we cast, but with the voices we lift in defense of our most ancient values and enduring ideals."

Before taking citizenship in Canada (2000), I have had 40 years of community organizing experience with a half a dozen not-for-profits in Western New York on issues related to peace, housing, energy conservation, environment, waterfront planning, historic preservation and GOTV activities.

In my business life, I have been the property manager and owner of rental housing. My wife of 42 years, recently deceased, was a French professor at McMaster University. We have 3 children with dual citizenship. I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana and a Divinity degree from Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois.

I have served DA Canada as Hamilton - Burlington chapter chair (2004 to present), Canada Vice-Chair (2007-2008) and Canada Chair (2009-2011). Among my proudest achievements been the setting-up of 5 voting centers in Southwest Ontario for the 2008, 2012 and 2016 US Presidential primaries.

I have also served as the former International Chair (2011-2013), International Vice-Chair (2013-2017) and presently am a member delegate to the Democratic National Committee (DNC). I look forward to continued service with the Hamilton - Burlington - Niagara chapter Board in the position of Past Chair

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Democratically yours,

DemsAbroad Canada Nominations & Elections Committee

Bodil Geyer, NEC Chair [Vancouver, BC]

Starla Goggins [Toronto, ON]

Randi Weitzner, NEC Teller of Elections [Montreal, QC]