

## **Democrats abroad Japan Officer's Meeting January 2010**

Attending

### Officers

Lauren Shannon chair

Mike Stensrud vice chair

Linda Gould secretary

### Members/Reps/Observers

Chris Shannon member

Miki Noguchi YDA co-chair

John Helwig Yokohama Chapter in formation

Terri MacMillan IT and communications

Christian Butzek- Friend/observer non USA citiz.

Next meeting—February 21

## **Officer reports**

### **Old business**

#### ***The Chair's stated goals for '10 & '11***

\* Update bylaws, revisit old business, mid-term election work/GOTV, fundraising, more frequent general meetings, increase activity of members in constituency groups, start committee to reactivate the newsletter, post documents and list of contacts for officers elected in 2011, promote more resolutions

\* We need a list of the states and their primary dates as well as a list of special elections for next year.

### **Chair--Lauren Shannon**

- Focused on Asia Regional projects/activities over holidays. In particular, working with DA Asia to convince DA to host a global meeting in Japan.
- The DAJ Officer election results are being challenged. DA selected a hearing officer who will collect data on the challenge and the response, create a report with recommendations to the International Executive Committee
- Suggests a membership drive since so many Americans have returned to the States this year. DAJ is cleaning up the database, and if our membership

falls below 2000, we will lose one of our votes for the regional conferences. Will ask members to contact friends about signing up with DAJ.

- DA sent Massachusetts expats an email asking them to vote by absentee ballot.
- Prepping for DNC meeting in Washington DC in February. The issue of super delegates will be on the agenda. Perhaps there will be a chance to have dinner with Obama and DNC chair Tim Kaine.
- Working with YDA to kick off the GOTV drive.
- Reminded all of the DA International meeting in Florence March 5-7.
- Suggested Jean Paul Biondi be enlisted to create a press database.
- Is considering asking Matt Nissenoff to assist the Treasurer when needed. Matt is working hard in Okinawa to get an active group of people involved in DA. He is trying to spearhead an outreach program in Okinawa to get expats to call their reps back home to support or not support certain bills.
- Will work with GOTV volunteers on phone banking for the mid term elections.

**Vice-chair**—Mike Stensrud.

- Will attend Global DA meeting in Florence.
- Will work on writing a resolution to hold DA International accountable for its finances. The resolution will seek to hold the executive committee to the DPCA voting members for any spending over \$5000. This will also help with fundraising as country chairs can tell their donors what donations are used for.
- Will assist with GOTV events, but will not be overseeing them. GOTV table at National Azabu will begin from March.

**Treasurer**—Bill Campbell

Balance at end-January was 736 yen, unchanged from previous month. Deposit pending from nov. dec. events

**Secretary**—Linda Gould

- Emailing, calling members to update their information. Deleting those who have moved away. Approximately 90 members removed so far, expect the final (deadline January 31<sup>st</sup>) to be about double that.
- During the clean up process, some members were so happy to speak with Linda to talk to about their concerns for the Democratic Party and to

reiterate their support of some issues—LGBT rights and quitting the Afghanistan war were the two most often voiced issues.

- Suggested having a survey for our members to ask them what issues they want DAJ to focus on this year.
- Wants to send request for information by post for those with no email or phone number.

#### **Kansai—Terrence Young**

- To be submitted.

#### **Young Democrats Abroad Japan—Miki Noguchi**

- Looking forward to 2010.
- Will submit a plan for 2010.
- Request non-young people to attend YDA events.
- Will get involved with DAJ volunteer activities—putting up flyers, natl. Azabu GOTV, etc.
- LAUREN: It is important to keep YDA regular and predictable. Please schedule something every month at around the same date and time. Try to be a presence in the community.
- LINDA: Suggested setting up events that are community service oriented.

#### **Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Caucus**

- Will have meeting with the Chair in April.
- MIKI: Can they help with GOTV?.

#### **Yokohama—John Helwig**

- More movie nights. Is having difficulty with attendance because very few repeat attendees.
- LAUREN: Up the activity. Email members explaining that you are trying to start a Yokohama chapter and want their input. Host different events, too.

#### **GOTV**

- Will look into doing non-partisan registration at BBQ and JET orientation.
- Looking for other activities to draw people to voter registration at the BBQ.

#### **Events /Ideas for Follow Up**

- Host a town hall event and conduct a voter survey.
- Redo the brochure—Linda to send PDF to Lauren, pages file to Terri

- National meet up in June—members from different parts of Japan host a party for expats on the same day. Hopefully will get new members and volunteers from this event.
- Participate in the TELL run with DAJ members wearing DAJ shirt.
- Speakers—Jessica Cutrera on Real Estate Investing? Getting a Drivers License? Community Service page? Others?
- Art Auction for fundraising
- Classic movie nights

***Ideas Outstanding***

- General meetings—members should be asked to bring a friend to meetings and events.
- Have more speakers and have themes to some of the meetings to attract people from various constituencies.