

MARILYN LEVY

Candidate for Chair

Good day! My name is Marilyn Levy and I have lived in the Yucatan since 2017. Prior to moving here, I relocated to south Florida from Pittsburgh in 1983 and lived and taught special education and social studies in Palm Beach County until my retirement before moving to Merida.

As a teacher, I worked as a coordinator for students who were unable to attend school due to physical or emotional incapacity in the Hospital Homebound program. Prior to that position, I was the coordinating teacher for juveniles in the Palm Beach County Jail. After a decade of coordinating the Hospital Homebound program, I transitioned to the high school social studies teacher position where I held live, yet online classes in history, government and economics.

Helping my students provided me with enormous satisfaction and constant challenges to overcome. Every new student came with their unique needs and technologies seemed to perpetually evolve. Everyday was a balancing act of caring for the students who were entrusted to my care and classes, meeting academic objectives and maintaining compliance with procedures and record keeping.

Using what I've learned from my career and applying these skills to the position of chair, I believe I possess what can help Democrats Abroad Yucatan achieve its mission. And on a personal note, I enjoy traveling, playing guitar, the company of my loving husband, my dear friends and our fur family. I truly look forward to working together with Democrats Abroad in whichever capacity to help make our voices heard from wherever we may be.

GARY SANDBLOM

Candidate for Vice Chair

I am a US citizen from Boulder, Colorado, where I lived with my wife Jackie for over 50 years. I have a B.A. in Political Science and a J.D. in law and practiced as a trial lawyer for 48 years in CO state and federal courts. We now live in Mérida, Yucatán, and are both permanent residents of México.

I was actively involved in Democratic politics in Colorado for 35 years. In 2019 I was elected to serve as a Member at Large on the Board of Directors of Democrats Abroad Mexico, and have continued to serve on this Board, most recently as Vice Chair of Chapters. I also served as Acting Legal Counsel, as the Co-GOTV Chair, and as a Voting Representative.

From April through June 2019 I helped organize a Merida Chapter (now the Yucatan Chapter) of Democrats Abroad, which began its official existence on June 27, 2019. I served as Chair for four years. As Chair I helped organize a number of fundraising events. I continued on the DA Yucatan Board as immediate Past Chair until 2024 when I was appointed Vice Chair to fill a vacancy.

Juanita (Anny) Schrader

Candidate for Secretary

I am honored to run for **Secretary** of Democrats Abroad. As a lifelong Democrat from Tennessee and a charter member of this organization, I am committed to strengthening our community and ensuring our voices are heard.

Having lived in Mérida for 35 years, I understand the unique challenges of voting from abroad. I have worked on Get Out the Vote efforts in every election and have been actively involved in membership outreach, helping to grow and engage our organization. These experiences have reinforced my belief in the power of clear communication and strong organization to mobilize voters and support our mission.

If elected, I will serve my full two-year term and work collaboratively to advance our shared goals. I would appreciate your support and your vote.

WILLIAM (BILLY) RIETVELDT

Candidate for Treasurer

I am running for **Treasurer**, and I would appreciate your vote. I have been a full-time resident of Mérida for seven years. I moved here from Washington state where I served as the Precinct Committee Officer for my small town. While living in Washington I was also active with several Statewide and local organizations. I served as Treasurer for the Washington Museum Association, the Foster Parents Association of Washington, and the Upper Valley Arts Association and as President of the Cashmere Chamber of Commerce in Cashmere, WA. I also served on boards or committees of the Washington State Group Tour Task Force, the Port of Chelan County's Tourism Action Group, Artist Trust Seattle, the Upper Valley Museum at Leavenworth and the Leavenworth Community Coffeehouse.

I am a strong believer in serving your community. Here in Mérida, I was one of the founding members of "First Tuesday Artists of Mérida" which was created in 2018 and now has 600 members! I was also one of the founding members of the Merida English Rotary Club. I have served on the board of the Mérida English Library, and I currently serve on their Artist Studio Tour Committee.

It would be my honor to serve on the board of Democrats Abroad. I want to help fight for an economy that works for everyone, health care as a right, and for the respect of diversity as a strength. Democracy is worth defending, I want to help with its defense.

GREGORY L. CASINI

Candidate for Parliamentarian

My name is Greg Casini. I am a life-long registered Democrat and a permanent resident of Mexico. I have served on the Democrats Abroad Mexico Yucatan Chapter Board of Directors for five years.

I am running for election to a new two-year term on the Board of Directors because more is at stake now than ever before, including democracy itself. I believe that my years of experience in leadership on non-profit boards here in Merida (Merida English Library) and in the U.S. (Sierra Club) are beneficial to the members of DAMX Yucatan. I would be honored to continue serving on the Board. Thank you for your consideration.

PATRICIA LEWIS

Candidate for Member at Large

Patricia Lewis is a longtime Democrat and a permanent resident of Merida, Yucatan for approximately 20 years.

I very much enjoy being active in Merida's "foreign" community. Making a contribution to assist Dems Abroad Outreach is an important priority. My 45 year background was in educational textbook publishing and resource management. Hopefully, as a contributing member-at-large of Dems Abroad, I will assist in increasing voter awareness and expatriate voter turnout for our upcoming election campaigns.

My sincerest thanks for this opportunity.

KATHLEEN LONERGAN

Candidate for Member at Large

Hi everyone. I'm Kathleen Lonergan and have been living in Merida for 4 years through the warm, hot and hellish months. I'm interested in helping out and providing some of my talents to the group.

For my whole 30 year career I have been involved in democratic politics, working at the US Senate, the Minnesota legislature and an executive state agency as a legislative liaison. As we all know these are difficult times as we watch the new administration rip up many of the agencies which truly make the world a better place. It's hard to sit back and do nothing.

I am running for a position on the board to help the Democratic Party and win more legislative seats and make good change. I believe we can do this from the Yucatan. We have a few thousand USA citizens living here who need inspiration to vote in the November 2026 election. We know many races are won by 100 or so votes. We can make a difference.

Thank you for your consideration

Kathleen Lonergan

Reginald (Reg) McGhee

Candidate for Member at Large

Greetings. I'm Reg McGhee, a longtime political activist in the US at all levels of the Democratic Party. I've been a part of national, statewide, and local Dem Party organizations, activities, and election campaigns. Currently, as a resident permanente in Merida, I hope to bring some of my experience to assist voter information and turnout efforts. I look forward to joining the local DA to increase our turnout in the all-important 2026 elections.

KATIE ROSS

Candidate for Member at Large

Hello everyone! My husband, Eric, and I escaped the snow and landed in the Yucatan almost three years ago. We drove from South Lake Tahoe (CA) and arrived in Progreso in August 2022. (On my birthday!) We spent the next 6 months at the beach before buying our home and moving to Merida, where we currently live with our three dogs and two cats.

Before moving to Mexico, I built over 20 years of experience in marketing, communications, fundraising, event management, and community building. I executed strategic marketing and communications plans, created content, administered websites, managed social media channels, planned events, and built out online communities.

As a development director, I connected with individual donors through direct appeal, special events, and organizational communications. Additionally, I managed the content creation of all corporate marketing and communications functions, including all donor-centric materials, the organization's website, and all social media channels.

I also have experience managing many different types of events, from activity fairs and donor luncheons to fundraising golf tournaments and virtual speakers. With these events, my responsibilities included marketing for the event, event layout and vendor selection, invitations and RSVP management, promotional items, and volunteer and staff management.

Beyond my professional experience, volunteering has also always been important to me. I served as a regional communications coordinator, treasurer, negotiations chair, and president-elect for various volunteer organizations. Now, I look forward to volunteering my time with Democrats Abroad Yucatan and getting to know all of you!