



DA NORWAY AGM March 21, 2023

Presiding over the meeting: DAN NEC (Corinne Hobson, Marine Vallet); DAN CHAIR, Christina Skovsgaard, TREASURER, Arna Desser; GOTV coordinator Andy Stites, VOTING REPRESENTATIVE Pam Price

OPENING

The 2023 AGM meeting convened at 7:00 PM, Corinne Hobson (NEC member) and Christina Skovsgaard presided over the meeting.

We welcomed members and established that we had a quorum*. 13 members were present in the room and 11 members were on Zoom at the opening of the meeting. Naomi Ages monitored the online portion of the meeting and monitored the chat. (*Approximately 23 members were in attendance at the beginning of the meeting. One additional member came in person and a few both joined and left throughout the meeting on Zoom.)

Agenda Items:

1. Approval of the minutes:

We briefly approved the 2022 minutes, before turning the meeting over to the Chair. The minutes were distributed in the room and the link to the minutes was posted in the chat since the meeting was also on Zoom. Minutes link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LWHQMaCFLiFMk3NWUU9DghtVifEqlo9a4lw5yYAcIK0/edit?usp=sharing>

The minutes from the 2022 AGM were unanimously accepted.

It was mentioned that all the candidates would be presented & their statements could be found on the DAN website.

Early voting was completed on March 20 at 18:00 EST but live voting was still possible.

2. Report from the Chair for the preceding year

Christina provided a powerpoint presentation in which she expressed her concern about the danger to our democracy and the necessity to engage more citizens. Without citizen participation, we do not have a true democracy, or as Thomas Jefferson put it “ We do not have a democracy by the majority, we have a democracy by those that participate”. Citizen United is also a threat as well as the advent of voter suppression.

To engage more members Christina highlighted the 11 DA Caucuses and gave a general report on DA Global activities and expansion. The past year’s activities and photos were shared: from the various voter registration events, the demonstration at the US embassy when Roe fell, July 4th celebrations, the fun Halloween party with a live country music band, the hybrid event with Professor Hilde Restad book presentation “The American Paradox”, family ice skating event and our monthly pub nights. She emphasised that we try to reach all our members. In addition to events this past year, we phone-banked or SMSed all DAN members, sent postal mail in very critical races, and sent out newsletters.

Christina thanked those that stepped in as candidates and the NEC for their role. She briefly mentioned the upcoming DA Global meeting in DC with the door knock (where we lobby for issues that are important to Americans Abroad). Christina encouraged members to reach out with concerns they may have and to reach out to their legislators. In closing, she made an appeal for volunteers.

3. Treasurer’s accounting report for the period March 22, 2022 – March 21, 2023

Treasurer Arna Desser began by informing that the financial reporting has changed in DA due to FEC regulations. She explained what this meant for our members and how they now can contribute through the DA donation page for both DA Global & DA Norway donations. She stated that most members make donations to DA Global and are perhaps unaware that they can donate on the DA site to DA Norway as well.

Arna presented the financial report for the year. Our costs this year were: the purchase of a bull horn for the Women's Rights demonstration, the rental of the space for the July 4th celebration, mailing costs to Georgia voters, and the cost of Arna attending an FEC online course. She reported that the course was very beneficial. She also reported that it may be possible to apply for grants from DA global for activities such as postal mailing. Arna responded to the questions and comments from the audience.

4. Vote on by-law revisions

Christina reported that all members have received an email on the by-law revisions one month prior to the meeting. The revisions were shared on the screen. The Chair detailed the revisions and explained the necessity for these changes. They basically were providing a more detailed description of the role of a Voting Representative, extending the deadline for

the AGM, and adjusting the requirements for a quorum, based on the advice from the EMEA Vice Chair.

The Bylaws revisions were unanimously accepted by those present in the room and online.

5. Introduction of nominees for the DAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for the period 2023-2025 and Call for nominees from the floor

The Chair stated that we still had 4 open positions: Vice Chair, Secretary, Member at Large, and Counsel. Andy suggested we take a 5-minute break to seek out candidates. We received two nominations from the floor and virtually. Caroline Pledger, nominated herself first to be Vice Chair but due to the gender rule this was not a possibility since the candidate for Chair was a female, so she decided to run as a Member at Large. Jacob Daniel Schmidt (Former Member at Large) accepted the nomination for Vice Chair. These two candidates spoke briefly and both were applauded into the ExCom by a unanimous decision.

The other candidates for Voting Representatives in the room were Andy Stites (former Counsel & GOTV) and Pam Price(re-election). Matthew Davidson, candidate for Member at Large, was not present. He reported he was stuck in a snowstorm in Lofoten and was unable to join the call. All candidates ran unopposed.

6. NEC announces election results.

A vote was taken from the room and on Zoom for those that had not yet voted. For the vote in the room and online, all candidates were unanimously accepted.

Election results. Chair: Christina Skovsgaard, Vice Chair Jacob Daniel Schmidt, Secretary vacant, Treasure: Arna Desser, Members at Large Matthew Davidson and Caroline Pledger, Voting Representatives: Andrew Stites and Pam Price. After the meeting, Andrew offered to also hold the post of Counsel. With the ExCom's agreement, Andrew is appointed as Counsel. Andrew will have 1 vote on the ExCom. The Position of Secretary remains vacant.

7. Corinne from the NEC provided the tally of the votes

Total number of early votes: 31

Total votes from members: 40

Chair, Christina Skovsgaard: 40

Vice Chair, Jacob (Daniel) Smidth :23

Treasure, Arna Desser: 40

Member at Large, Matthew Davidson: 39

Member at Large, Caroline Pledger: 23

Voting Representative, Andy Stites: 38

Voting Representative, Pamela Price: 39

8. Members throughout the meeting were able to engage with all the speakers and candidates and the meeting was lively. No further questions were posed either in the room or online.

9. After the meeting those that wanted could meet in the cafe/bar on the first floor of the library. The good mood from the AGM continued and a good time was had by all. Cheers!