



Khidt Ladd Candidate for Chair

I was raised in the bluest country in one of America's most liberal states. I was fortunate to grow up in a small village in Southern Vermont where everyone knew each other and our elected officials doubled as our friends and neighbors. This instilled within me a sense of belonging in my community. Consequently, as a young Democrat, I was able to serve on my first campaign for Governor Peter Shumlin, one of our many neighbors in public service. I was lucky to live in a small town in a small state and that truly showed me how accessible politics could be.

My Thai mother got her U.S. citizenship when I was in 7th grade. Her excitement to be part of free and fair elections transferred to me. Every election day she would wait to vote after school so that I could go with her. She helped me understand the value of my vote and how it's not guaranteed to many people across the world.

While working for Governor Shumlin in 2010, I fell in love with campaigning. In 2012 I took a semester off my senior year of college to work as field staff on Elizabeth Warren's campaign. We got her elected the first female US Senator from Massachusetts. Doing campaign work made me feel connected to the community I lived in and I felt connected to the larger network of activists across the state. When it was all over it was incredible to see the network that we had built, and it was not even six months later that we were reactivating that web of volunteers to elect Senator Ed Markey.

Having the experience of building a volunteer network, that we were then able to reactivate, has inspired me to run for Chair of Democrats Abroad Thailand. I bring a Thai-American perspective as well as a working knowledge of modern campaign systems. I am passionate about inspiring the future of our party by making politics as accessible to those of us in Thailand as it is to those of us in small Vermont towns.

My vision is to develop a streamlined process and structure so that we can grow our own volunteer network and so that future volunteers can get involved in an easy, efficient, and organized way. DAT is a robust community of highly committed individuals. Building a strong framework will bring together a diverse and inclusive group of people with the common goals of promoting inclusivity and justice, and electing Democrats.

Michael March
Candidate for First Vice Chair



In no small part due the extraordinary global Get Out the Vote effort of members of Democrats Abroad, we were able to secure Democratic control, albeit fragile, of the White House, the Senate and the House of Representatives in the 2020 election. Retaining and, despite the odds, increasing the margin of that control in 2022 must be the primary focus of Democrats everywhere. I would like to serve as First Vice Chair on the DAT Executive Committee to do my small part in achieving that goal.

I am a lifelong Democrat and New York voter who has lived in Asia for more than 30 years. I have been active with Democrats Abroad in Hong Kong and Tokyo, in addition to Thailand where I have served as the DPCA Voting Representative for the past two years. I organized and operated the first DA Global Primary voting center in the expat community of Nichada Thani in Nonthaburi in 2020 and am an active member of the DAT Covid-19 Task Force, which is working together with the new DA Excom to push the US government to honor President Biden's pledge to make FDA-approved vaccines available to every American but which, to date, has made no provision for those of us living overseas where access to such vaccines is limited or non-existent.

In my professional career, the vast majority of which has been in Asia, I have been a transactions lawyer, media executive, consultant and entrepreneur. My wife is a Thai lawyer and we have two young Democrats (19 and 22) who now live in the United States.

I'd appreciate your support.



CANDIDATE FOR 2ND VICE CHAIR

Le'Ana Freeman

My name is Le'Ana Freeman and I am a West Coast Native; born in California and raised in Washington State. I am 27 years old, an international educator, and Fulbright Alumni. The intentions behind my candidacy are threefold. First, my desire to serve is heavily rooted in my background. I grew up in a small agricultural community in Eastern Washington driven by multiculturalism and mixed income neighborhoods. This afforded students from all backgrounds to share a classroom.

And in doing so, birthed a model of inclusion consistent with the values of our nation. Consequently, my interest in politics began as a young volunteer working on a Democratic campaign for Congress and a Republican campaign for city council to gain perspective on both sides of the aisle.

This brings me the second priority driving my candidacy. I am running on a platform of strength through alliance. We've reached a critical point in America's progression where we must have the courage to pursue bold initiatives. As our nation grows more polarized, our differences threaten to not only tear us from each other, but to distract us from the common ground so that many Americans share. As a Democrat, I believe in economic justice i.e. a living wage. I believe in political accountability i.e. holding those in office accountable to their campaign promises. And lastly, an American, I believe in prioritizing social justice aims to that ensure constitutional rights are accessible to all Americans. My final intention as 2nd Vice Chair is to highlight diversity as a strength, to address the needs of Democrats in Thailand, and to promote the general welfare of Americans; from 8,000 miles away.

Paul Risley Candidate for Third Vice Chair

Having served as Chair of DAT for the past two years, when Democrats in Thailand came together for the 2020 Global Presidential Primary, shared the experience of the Thailand lockdown of restaurants and public places in responding to the Covid19 global pandemic, and again came together to send ballots home for the successful November election of President Joe Biden and - two months later - sent votes to Georgia for two great US Senate victories. I am proud of our work together to engage over political issues, participate in great in-person and online political events, and, in recent months, in creating a Covid Vaccines Task Force, to challenge our government to deliver vaccines overseas for Americans abroad.



Stepping down from Chair, I would like to continue my participation with DAT through one of the Vice Chair positions. If you elect me, I will commit to channeling the good work and energy of the Covid Vaccines Task Force into further volunteer and advocacy efforts for DAT to persuade the US government and the Biden Administration to continue and increase efforts to prevent this Covid pandemic and future pandemics and to increase support for stopping climate change and other global threats to the US. Ideally, DAT could host a Task Force or Caucus on global environmental threats, inviting Americans in Thailand to join efforts with allies and organizations in the US.

Sincerely, Paul Risley, Bangkok Thailand



BRADFORD GRAY

FOR SECRETARY

My name is Bradford Gray. I am running for Secretary of Democrats Abroad to serve a constituency that is dedicated to electing competent officials. I am from Chicago; a city that encapsulates the best and most challenging dilemmas facing our society. I stand for political accountability; as elected officials are public servants first and foremost. I stand for diversity as we attempt to atone for the injustices of the past. Finally, I am running on a platform of transparency and courage to acknowledge shortcomings, have accountability, and do what is necessary to facilitate impactful change.

Peter Fischbach - Treasurer

Originally from New York City, I am a lifelong liberal Democrat, and have been an active member of Democrats Abroad Thailand for 30 years, including three terms as Vice Chair and at least three terms as Treasurer.

When I first joined Democrats Abroad in 1991, DA Thailand was a small but active group of US citizens who appreciated the importance of keeping in touch with US politics and of providing an avenue for other like-minded people to do the same. Then, as now, one of our primary functions was to help facilitate voter registration, and I have been actively involved in that effort ever since, organizing registration tables at the annual US Independence Day picnics and various American Chamber of Commerce events and, together with many other dedicated volunteers, helping hundreds of US voters throughout Thailand, one-on-one, with their individual problems in obtaining and using absentee ballots, participating in the Democrats Abroad Global Presidential Primary, and following up on issues with their local election officials in the US. I am standing for re-election to the DAT Executive Committee because I am willing to continue contributing significant time and energy to those efforts.



In addition to voter assistance, I have participated over the years in most of the activities typical to maintaining an organization's well-being: drafting by-laws, discussing strategy, planning events, building membership, raising funds, writing newsletters, etc. In 2007-2008, I took an active role as part of the Democrats Abroad Global IT Team, helping to coordinate the complete overhaul of the organization's IT systems for use by all DA country committees worldwide.

Americans abroad face difficulties in many interactions with the US government and often with the US private sector as well, simply by virtue of living overseas. Whether it relates to Medicare (we can't use it even if we pay for it), taxes (we have highly complex filing requirements and tax obligations unique to living abroad), voting (set to get harder for us in 2022), or the inability to access typical financial services (US laws engender discrimination by foreign and US-based financial institutions alike), most Americans in the States, and especially our Congressional representatives, remain unaware of these problems.

I strongly believe that a key mission of Democrats Abroad is to advocate for US citizens' rights on issues which affect ONLY overseas Americans. If we don't stand up for those rights, who will? A case in point is the current reluctance by the US government (at the time of this writing) to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to Americans living overseas, despite our President promising availability "for all Americans."

My wife and I live in Bangkok, and I run a small but successful company here providing contract IT staffing and recruitment services. I am active in the local business community, having previously served on the Board of Governors of the American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand, and currently as co-chair of the Chamber's Digital Economy committee. Not being the quiet sort, my progressive politics are well known to most in the American community here! I look forward to the continued opportunity to serve Democrats Abroad.

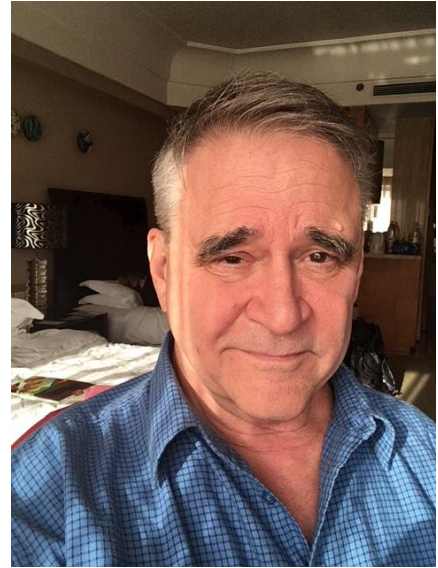
Joseph A. Noble – for Member At Large

Age 70. Born in Paducah, Kentucky in 1951. Went to University in California in 70's and stayed their, during computer boom, for 20 years, working in the Telecom Testing business as Sales and Marketing VP. Helped 2 companies grow from 5 people to be publicly traded and one was eventually bought out by Oracle and the other one by Keysight Technologies (formerly HP)

Moved back to South to be nearer to my family and was in Alabama from 1989 to 2003. Continued working for Calabasas, CA company, Ixia from 1999 to 2009. Ixia moved me to China in 2003, then Singapore 2005, to set up sales of our test products in Asia PAC and India. I retired in 2009 and moved to Koh Samui, where I set up an English language newspaper named the "Samui Gazette" and a Subway franchise. Closed both companies in 2015 and have mainly concentrated on retirement.

Married to a Mongolian and we travel to Mongolia nearly every summer.

Resident of West Palm Beach, Florida since 1997 and have voted in all elections. Somewhat opinionated and not afraid to crusade for just causes.



Statement for Le'Ana Freeman for DPCA Voting Representative

My name is Le'Ana Freeman and I am a West Coast Native; born in California and raised in Washington State. I am 27 years old, an international educator, and Fulbright Alumni. My interest in running the position as Voting Representative on behalf of Democrats Abroad is three fold. First, my desire to serve is heavily rooted in my background. I grew up in a small agricultural town in Eastern Washington where local politics has a direct on the community. Consequently, my interests in politics began as a young volunteer while working concurrently on a democratic campaign for Congress a republican campaign for city council.



This brings me the second priority driving my candidacy. Working with those on both sides of the aisle reinforced the virtue of bipartisanship through shared aims. Today our nation is growing more and more polarized as our differences threaten to not only tear us from each other; but to distract us from the common ground so that many Americans stand on. This brings me to my final, and easily my most pressing intention. As a democrat, I believe in economic justice i.e. a living wage. I believe political accountability i.e. holding those in office accountable to their campaign promises. And lastly, as an American, I believe in social justice to ensure the rights granted constitution are accessible to all Americans. I'm running to be a Voting Representative to DPCA to highlight diversity as a strength, to address the needs of Democrats in Thailand, and to promoting the general welfare of Americans; from 8,000 miles away.

Thank you.