



The newsletter for Liberal Democrat Disability Association members and supporters.

## Wow! Another year!

This newsletter contains pleas (yet again) for you to help this group to achieve more and to help choose where we should concentrate our energy. Maybe some of the “tasks” sound old-fashioned or boring but this is your chance to develop the group in the ways you think we should go.

So what about last year?

Gemma and I think that the co chairing of LDDA has worked well. There were some hopes and aspirations (and one or two have even been achieved).

We have been members of the Federal People’s Development Committee, where we have raised the views of disabled people on the subjects that are being discussed, such as the experiences of being a disabled person during the 2017 GE, and ensuring that disabled people are considered when thinking about diversity.



An EHRC meeting to celebrate the reopening of the Access to Elected Office Fund (A2EO) and to discuss its future was addressed by our President, Stephen Lloyd MP. *[There’s more info from him in this newsletter.]*

Our booklet, written by Poppy Hasted on “Writing and Speaking to Disabled People” was launched at the Southport spring conference.



Our membership has continued to grow (but not as fast as we would like).

**The big lesson is that we need YOU to help us to do more!**

## Access to Elected Office Fund (A2EO) - Stephen Lloyd MP

New funds for disabled political candidates are welcome, but the fight for long-term support has only just begun

Back in 2012, the coalition government set up the £2.6 million Access to Elected Office Fund to create a 'level playing field'. The Fund used to help disabled people stand for election, for any party, at any level. But in 2015, the new Tory Government froze the Fund and put it under 'review'.

The need is obvious. The cost of standing for election is prohibitive for many but for people with disabilities, the expenditure can be significantly higher. Most candidates incur personal costs of campaigning and foregoing salary but disabled candidates may also, for example, incur the cost of requiring assistive technology for blind people, an assistant, a British Sign Language interpreter, or a mobility car. All add up and all are significant barriers to seeking elected office!

By the start of this year, 2018, the Fund had been under review for longer than it had been operating!

I worked on a cross-party campaign with the group More United, securing other disabled MP's - one from Labour and one Conservative - to launch a legal challenge against the Government. By all of us working together, we bumped the Government into action. It subsequently announced that funds would be made available for twelve months to support disabled candidates standing in next year's local elections. After three years of inaction, this was a huge achievement.

### **But many of us still have concerns.**

The funds will only be made available to disabled people standing in local elections, not for those who want to stand for Parliament! The eligible time period of twelve months will likely only help those who are already quite involved in party politics and have already made the decision to stand for election: it won't open up politics to new disabled people on a long-term basis. Anyone wanting to stand be a candidat next May should apply for the funds.

### **An anecdote**

In the 2015 General Election I was a candidate (as in the 3 previous ones). This time felt different, I was able to really campaign, go door-to-door, meet the voters - it was liberating.

That was because A2EO funded a few hours of help from this gentleman to go down paths & knock doors my wheelchair was barred from.



## LDDA Nomination Form

1. Please use this form (or a copy of it) to nominate persons for election to posts
2. You may apply for more than one post but list them in order of preference.
3. If you have any problem with format or other access issues then contact the Returning Officer whose email is richardtyneholme@gmail.com

Name of Candidate				
Please list the positions you wish to stand for (in order of preference)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"> </td></tr> </table>			
Full Address:				
Telephone Number(s):	Email:			
I agree to be nominated for the above post(s) (Signature):				

Candidates must be proposed and seconded by any two members of the  
**If you don't know other LDDA members and are not attending conference please use this space to give the names of other Lib Dems who know you & their contact details) & you will be considered for co-option.**

Names (PRINT)	<b>Nominated by:</b>	<b>Seconded by:</b>
Signature	1	2

Please send nominations to: The LDDA Returning Officer,  
 Tyneholme, The Green, Reeth, Richmond DL11 6SE or  
 email: richardtyneholme@gmail.com  
**by Wed September 12** or by hand at the LDDA conference stand before 6pm  
 on Tuesday September 18

**If there is a contested election you will be asked to provide some information about yourself and why you want the job ( up to 1 side of A4)**

# LDDA Job Adverts

## Closing Date

**By Post to address on nomination form by Wed 19 September 2018**  
**OR By Email to address on nomination form by Wed 19 September 2018**  
**OR By Hand at LDDA AGM Sat 15 September 2018**  
**OR By Hand at the LDDA exhibition stand by 11am Tues 18 September**

## Chair

Chair Meetings  
Keep in touch and direct the activities of the LDDA  
Links the LDDA to other levels of the Party  
PPERA responsibilities (jointly with Treasurer)  
Make sure decisions are turned into actions  
Provide leadership in fulfilling the Development Plan

## Secretary

Agendas, venues and minutes of meetings  
Diary of LDDA Events  
Tells rest of party who officers are  
Ensures LDDA keeps to its Constitution  
Provides content for Newsletter

## Vice Chair

Deputises for Chair  
Mentors new members  
Overall responsibility for Regional activities

## Treasurer

Prepares budget  
Keeps accounts and records as required by PPERA  
Donation reports  
Advises on fund raising programme

## Executive Committee Members

Help the LDDA to develop  
Attend meetings (in person or by phone or other method)

## Membership Secretary

Liaise with Membership Services  
Chase up non renewers  
Organise recruitment campaigns  
Ensure that changes to data are processed promptly  
Ensure LDDA complies with Data Protection legislation



## Our Vision:

A world where everyone affected by disability can live life to their full potential and secure the care and support they need.

**disabilitylibdems.org.uk**



**All members are invited to the  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Liberal Democrat Disability Association**

**8am Saturday 15 September 2018 Surrey 1, Hilton Hotel, Brighton  
Or by free tele-conference, ringing 0333 300 0310 then typing 43603190  
to enter the meeting.**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting held on 16 September 2017
3. Reports from:-
  - 3.1. Co-Chairs [*An experiment to combine the Chair & Vice- chair roles & job-share*]
  - 3.2. Treasurer
  - 3.3. Membership Secretary
4. To note the Accounts for 2017
5. Elections - close of nominations on Thursday September 20 at 6pm (see note)
6. Motions to AGM [if you wish to submit a motion please send it to Victoria Evans  
[victoria.evans\_london@yahoo.co.uk] by Wednesday 12 September

*Note Our elections are held every 2 years therefore the Committee appointed this year  
will serve from Jan 1st 2019 until Dec 31st 2020.*

*Nomination form & procedure on the next page of this newsletter*

**POLICY DISCUSSIONS**

To be honest, do we spend too much time complaining about policies instead of proposing ideas of our own?

**Keep checking our website and facebook page where we want to start some structured policy discussions. We want everyone to be able to comment so we will also organise a specific tele-conference for people who prefer to speak rather than type.**

We need moderators for those discussions, not only to ensure that no one is discourteous or aggressive but also to keep the discussions structured - could you do that? Do you have common sense? Are you used to using Facebook, etc?

Contact Victoria Evans at [victoria.evans\\_london@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoria.evans_london@yahoo.co.uk)

# **Liberal Democrat Disability Association**

## **Minutes of previous AGM.**

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 16 Sept 2017 at 13:00 in Bournemouth.

Present and apologies: List of attendees was taken.

Chair's Report by co-Chairs: Robert Adamson and Gemma Roulston

LDDA needs a secretary and treasurer, those elected at the last AGM had to stand down because of ill-health.

All the groups are being looked at by headquarters, by the association organising review group AORG. That includes special interest groups such as LDDA. The AORG will report back in April 2018.

The data protection act will change how data can be gathered from the Nationbuilder website.

In order to get the Specified Associated Organisation (SAO) Status within the Party we need 250 members, this would give us more clout in the party.

Secretary's Report: None

Treasurer's Report: this was tabled at the meeting by Robert and Gemma.

It was accepted by the meeting (apart from the date which needed changing to the 12 Sept 2017.)

Membership Secretary's Report:

As at the AGM there were 171 members. Most members are signed up at conferences both Federal and Regional.

AOB

a) Unless LDDA gets SAO status it cannot submit motions in its own right.

b) LDDA commented on constitutional amendments C1, C2, C3 and C4 (this item proposed by Linda and seconded by Theresa that this was accepted.

**Meeting closed at 13:38.**

Most worryingly, the Government has made numerous statements since its announcement saying that the funds are only an interim solution, and that it wants to shift the responsibility of supporting candidates with their additional disability-costs away from the state and onto political parties, which brings with it even more challenges.

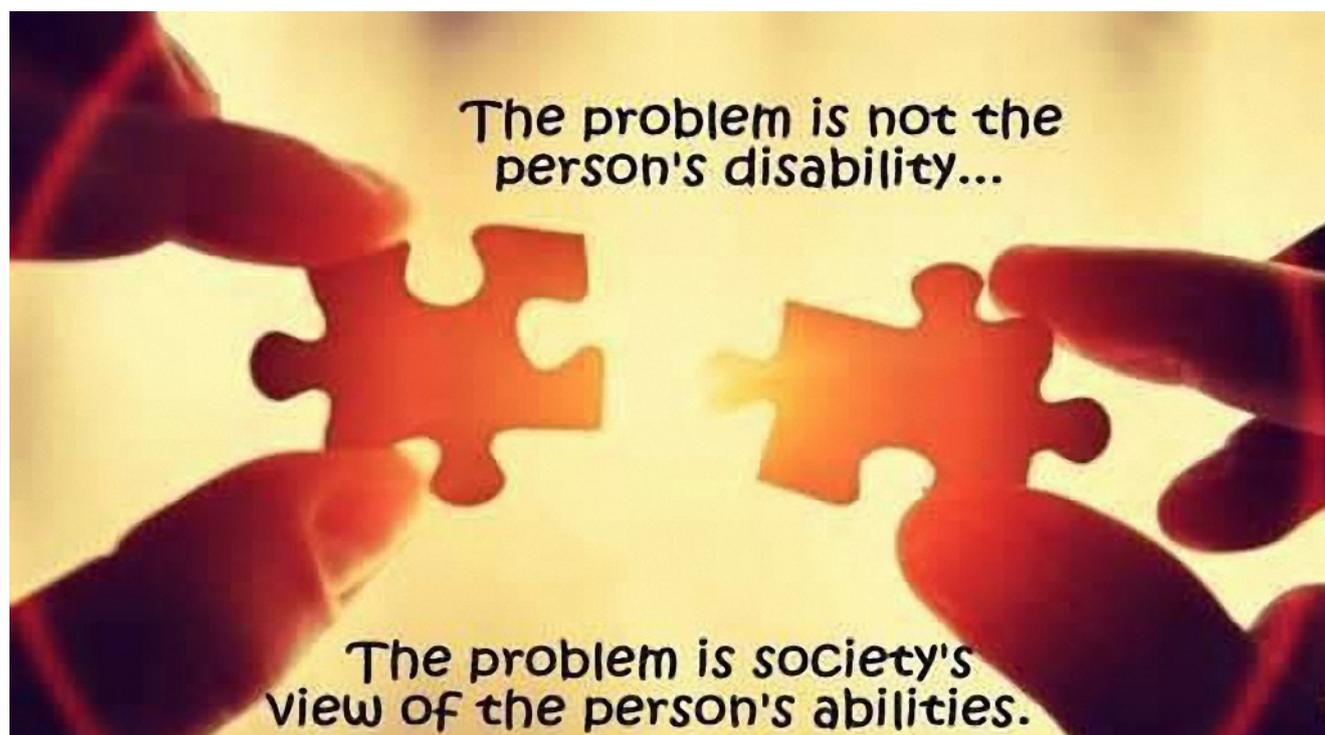
Anyone wanting to join the campaign for a long-term fix, should join the cross-party More United movement. [www.moreunited.uk](http://www.moreunited.uk)

## **What more do you want LDDA to do?**

**&**

## **Are you willing to help do it?**

African proverb: "If you think you are too small to make a difference you have never spent a night with a mosquito."



### **The theme for this newsletter is "Go For It!"**

Go for it with the LDDA - helping us to do more.

Go for it with the Lib Dems - maybe being a candidate or helping others.

Go for it in your own life - prove to others (and yourself) that you can achieve.

**One fundamental thing is that some people feel we need a name change to modernise our image - what do you think?**

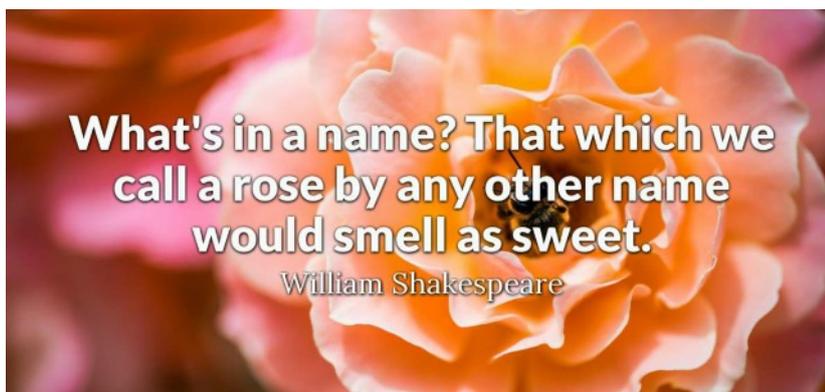
We are going to launch that as a specific facebook topic in the group and then, later, ask your opinion on the proposals. Please add YOUR ideas and don't just comment on what other people say.

If you don't use Facebook then feel free to send ideas to

Victoria Evans at [victoria.evans\\_london@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:victoria.evans_london@yahoo.co.uk)

**We want everyone to be able to comment so we will organise a specific tele-conference for people who prefer to speak rather than type.**

Are there any other ways we should organise consultations to help you to take part?



**This group is not a rose - but we want it to be a bloomin' success!**

*"In real life, unlike in Shakespeare, the sweetness of the rose depends upon the name it bears. Things are not only what they are. They are, in very important respects, what they seem to be."*  
President Hubert H Humphrey

