



Dateline

Monthly News Bulletin

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DignityUSA works for respect and justice for all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in the Catholic Church and the world through education, advocacy and support.

DignityUSA National Board Meeting Summary

The **DignityUSA** National Board of Directors held its summer quarter meeting in Washington, DC on the weekend of July 7-9, 2006.

At its April 2006 meeting, the board members had agreed to read the book "The Five Dysfunctions of a Team" by Patrick Lencioni as a means to make the board and the individual directors better focused on working as a leadership team.

Friday evening's gathering began with trust building exercises and continued Saturday morning looking at the effectiveness of the work of the directors as a leadership team and of **DignityUSA** as a viable organization. It was agreed that the work of **DignityUSA** is vitally important. Our members are charged by our mission. It is the leadership's responsibility to keep that passion alive to drive the organization. The directors agreed to work towards challenging each other to accomplish our goals.

The board then heard presentations from three chapters bidding to host the **DignityUSA 2009 Convention**. Representatives of the Washington, DC, San Diego and Palm Springs chapters presented reasons for their city to be the host for the convention.

After listening to the presentations and thinking about it, the board made the decision on Sunday to hold the 2009 Convention in San Diego.

Some of the deciding factors in the decision were: the fact that 2009 will be **DignityUSA**'s 40th anniversary and San Diego was the first chapter, along with factors of weather and it being the West Coast's turn to host.

Although the convention will be held in San Diego, the local chapter will be assisted by other chapters on the West Coast.

Following recent tradition, the directors took time to evaluate the accomplishments over the past few months. Some of the celebrated accomplishments are:

- The generous gift from **Dignity/St. Louis** came from a discussion around faith.
- Appeals, letters and calls from directors have been effective. Donations have been up since April 2006.
- **Dignity/Washington (DC)** held a very successful house party hosted by Tom Yates.
- Communications lines are open and working between **DignityUSA** directors and members.

- National Board Election process was successful with five great candidates running, as evidenced by a very close race.
- Office functions have been reviewed and improvements put in place.

The directors spent time training in new fundraising methods. They also heard updates from each committee on the work they have been doing. Strategic plans for each committee were reviewed and comments made for future work. All committees could use more volunteers from the **DignityUSA** membership. Current committees needing assistance are: Advocacy and Education, Communications, Marketing, Membership Growth, Nominations and Elections and Theology. Anyone desiring to work on a committee, either for a short term project or for a longer planning commitment, is encouraged to contact secretary@dignityusa.org.

The board has set a schedule of monthly teleconference calls. The next in-person board meeting will be held October 6-8 in Washington, DC. Any member desiring a full copy of the minutes should contact secretary@dignityusa.org. Anyone desiring a copy of the financial statement should contact treasurer@dignityusa.org.

House Party Raises over \$3,000!

Congratulations and thank you to Tom Yates, **Dignity/Washington (DC)** member and future national board member, who held a House Party for **DignityUSA**.

Dignity/Washington (DC) graciously opened the **Dignity Center** for Tom's party.

About 30 folks attended. Others, who were unable to attend, sent Tom checks.

Tom raised over \$3,000 for **DignityUSA**. Folks ate, talked, socialized and had a great time.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring a House Party for **DignityUSA**, please e-mail Peggy Burns at VicePresident@dignityusa.org.

Happy Anniversary & Congratulations to:

Nassau (NY) - 27 years
San Antonio (TX) - 30 years
Denver (CO) - 32 years
Metro New Jersey (NJ) - 32 years

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DignityUSA National Election Results

DignityUSA is pleased to announce the results of the recent national election.

The directors elected to the national board are: Leo Egashira (Seattle, WA), Joe Gallagher (Dayton, OH), Lourdes Rodriguez-Nogues (Boston, MA), and Mario Torrigno (San Francisco, CA). They will begin their two year term on October 1, 2006.

Also beginning two year terms in October are board-elected directors Lewis Tanner (New York, NY) and Tom Yates (Washington, DC).

DignityUSA thanks all the nominees for volunteering and welcomes the new directors to national leadership.

We also thank the Nominations Committee (chaired by Marianne Duddy-Burke) and the Election Committee (chaired by Peggy Burns) for their time and work for our organization.

Notice from Communications Chair

Due to database issues, many people who should be on **DignityUSA's News-list-serve** did not receive the June 2006 *Quarterly Voice* nor the July 2006 *DATELINE*. To view these, please go to these links on the **DignityUSA** website:

June 2006 *Quarterly Voice*:

http://www.dignityusa.org/pdf/qv/June_Dignity_Newsletter.pdf

July 2006 *DATELINE*:

<http://www.dignityusa.org/datelines/dl2006/july06dl.html>

To sign up for the **DignityUSA News Service** and receive e-mailed copies of the monthly *DATELINE*, *Quarterly Voice* and Press Releases, please go to:

<http://lists.dignityusa.org/mailman/listinfo/dusa-news>.

Save the Dates
DignityUSA's
18th Biennial Convention
Austin, Texas
Thu-Sun, July 5-9, 2007



Solidarity Sunday™

Oct 8, 2006

Solidarity Sunday is a faith-based anti-violence initiative begun in 1995 by **DignityUSA** as a way of making our opposition to anti-gay violence visible.

For materials and ways to participate in Solidarity Sunday, go to our web page www.dignityusa.org/solidarity/index.html.

Call to Action Conference 2006 News

The Call to Action Conference in Milwaukee, WI, November 3-5, 2006, will be held at the Midwest Airline Center downtown. **DignityUSA** has secured the group rate for ten or more who register together. If you register directly, **DignityUSA** does not get the discount rate nor credit for our number of participants.

Please send your filled out Call to Action Conference registration form and your credit card info or check payable to CTA to DignityUSA, 1500 Massachusetts Ave., NW #8, Washington, DC 20005-1894, by mid-September. Those received in time will be mailed together (as required for the rate) for the early bird rate of \$160 per person. Registration form is available at <http://www.cta-usa.org/conference2006/registration.html>.

Hotel reservations for the discount rate must be made by calling the hotel directly via the local telephone number, not the toll-free numbers or the web sites. Please ask for the Call to Action discount rate. Discounted rates run from \$69 single/double to \$121 quad per night.

Hotels offering special rates may be found at <http://www.cta-usa.org/conference2006/travel.html>.

Info on travel, including special or group airline discounts; shuttles and taxi service; train or bus travel and bargain bus, will be found at <http://www.cta-usa.org/conference2006/travel.html>.

Renting a car is better done at Chicago's O'Hare Airport (ORD). The conference center is 67 miles north of ORD. Air fares to ORD may be substantially cheaper than to Milwaukee (MKE). One thing to keep in mind is that hotel parking rates will range from \$20-30 per day. Parking near the convention center and hotels costs about \$12 per day.

Consider arriving on Thursday, the day before the main conference begins, so you are rested the day we begin. Usually DignityUSA people gather on Thursday night to go out for dinner and then hook up for whatever entertainment is available, so keep that in mind.

Further details on the CTA 2006 National Conference are available at <http://www.cta-usa.org/conference2006/intro.html>

DignityUSA to present CTA conference workshop

DignityUSA leadership will present two sessions of a workshop entitled, "A Queer Eye for the Catholic Church." Queer eyes see differently. They have a transforming vision.

GLBT Catholics have been struggling with rejection and alienation in claiming our identity and place in the Church. The challenges continue. Through it all, GLBT Catholics have come to know the importance of inclusion, diversity, and the ability to know one's self and each other. They are not afraid to stand up to institutions and authorities to confront injustice.

These lessons apply to all who care about transforming the Church.

A Retreat for Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning Women of Faith

Faith & Sexuality Retreat: Sharing Our Stories of Sexuality and Faith, Friday, Aug 25, 2006, 9:00 AM through Sunday, Aug 27, 2006, 1:00 PM, Sisters of Loretto Motherhouse, Nerinx, KY. \$40/night per person (price negotiable based on ability to pay). Phone Tina at 312-498-0579 or Molly at 312-498-0708, or email mollyandtina@gmail.com. Space limited. Call early.