



# 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 Elections

Ballots for election of President and Vice President and for three (3) National Directors have been mailed to individual members. Mailings to chapters are in progress as we go to press. There are two distinct ballots: one for the president/vice president slate, the second for the national director candidates.

Every current regular member of **DignityUSA** whose start of membership is at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of balloting shall have the right to vote according to the rules established in the **DignityUSA** Bylaws.

All Chartered Chapters chartered at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of balloting shall have the right to vote, and shall receive two (2) [sets of] ballots, according to the rules established in the national Bylaws.

Please let the National Office know if you have not received your ballots. Contacts are (800) 877-8797, (202) 861-0017, Fax (202) 429-9808, email [info@dignityusa.org](mailto:info@dignityusa.org).

If you have received your ballots, please let your voice be heard. Return completed ballots to the national office, DignityUSA - Ballot, 1500 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite #8, Washington, DC 20005-1805, or by fax to (202) 429-9808.

**All ballots must be received by the close of business June 15, 2005.**

**Happy Anniversary  
& Congratulations to:**  
**Greater Columbus (OH) - 10 Years**  
**Lexington (KY) - 13 Years**  
**Southern Colorado (CO) - 13 Years**  
**San Jose (CA) - 21 Years**  
**Houston (TX) - 31 Years**

## Traffic Increase at DignityUSA Website

**DignityUSA's** response to the death of Pope John Paul II, and the election of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger as his successor, led to increased traffic to the **DignityUSA** website [www.dignityusa.org](http://www.dignityusa.org). During the month of April, 24,597 people visited our site, compared to 18,669 in March. The highest daily traffic was on April 19, the day Pope Benedict XVI's election was announced, with a record-breaking 3,112 visits.

## Leadership Training Conference, DignityUSA Convention 2005

A Leadership Training Conference will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2005 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at the convention site, in conjunction with **DignityUSA Convention 2005**, in Philadelphia, PA.

Advocacy is a key component of **DignityUSA's** mission.

Educating the public and organizing faith communities around GLBT issues is an important part of our public ministry, as well as showing how GLBT civil rights are supported by our Catholic faith. People of faith throughout history have played an important role in advocating for equal rights.

Learn how to organize your faith community (both within **DignityUSA** and in your larger community) to take action and win concrete victories around issues important to us as GLBT Catholics, families and friends.

You will learn how to:

- build a strategic plan for advocacy,
- develop advocacy goals and carry out an action plan to achieve your goals,
- meet with church leaders and political leaders and educate them on GLBT issues,
- use your voice to educate the public on GLBT issues from a faith perspective.

The morning session will be led by Beverly Tillery, Outreach Director for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Martin Grochala, **DignityUSA** board member and gay rights activist.

The afternoon session will focus on dealing with the press, how to write press statements and how to create the elevator speech and practicing it. This session will be led by past **DignityUSA** directors Jeff Stone (**Dignity/New York**) and Peggy Hayes (**Dignity/Boston**).

Please sign up for this event on your registration application to attend.

In the event **you have registered but did not indicate an intent** to attend or participate in the leadership training conference, you still have the opportunity to do so. Please call the national office at 1-800-877-8797, or send an email message to [Conv2005@dignityusa.org](mailto:Conv2005@dignityusa.org).

The firm of Martin & Wall is providing CPA services for DignityUSA. For information about their services, visit [www.martinwallcpa.com](http://www.martinwallcpa.com)

## DignityUSA Convention 2005 Registration Extended



DignityUSA's 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, "*Through Truth to Freedom*," will be held at the **Loews Hotel** in downtown **Philadelphia, PA**, **July 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005**.

Registration for the 2005 National Convention **has been extended through May 31st**. Time is running out, so register today. In order to **avoid late registration charges** you must be registered by **May 31st**.

Attendance at the full **DignityUSA** Convention includes: all ceremonies, caucuses, liturgies, plenary sessions, workshops, Saturday dinner dance and Sunday brunch. **All rates are per person**.

For registration and other details, including a downloadable complete program, see [www.dignityusa.org/convention05](http://www.dignityusa.org/convention05). This year, for the first time, you can register online at the same web page.

Contact us at [Conv2005@dignityusa.org](mailto:Conv2005@dignityusa.org) for further details.

### Hotel Booking Deadline

**DignityUSA** has negotiated terrific room rates for the convention at the Loews Hotel. Convention rates are available from **July 3 - 13, 2005**. Room rates start at \$125 per night for single and \$150 for double occupancy or Deluxe Double room (plus 14% PA room tax). Additional guests are \$25 each per night and children 12 years of age and under stay free. Special rates may also be available for suites. Please check with the hotel for availability. Make your reservations early. Room availability is limited and **these rates may not be available after June 3, 2005**. You must contact the hotel directly *by phone* to make your reservation by calling 215-627-1200. Just mention our group name "**DignityUSA 2005 Convention**" to receive the discounted room rate. **You will not receive the convention discount via the Internet Web address.**

### DignityUSA Silent Auction = Big Travel

Are you looking for a honeymoon spot, or maybe just a quick get-away with a friend for an exciting weekend? If you enjoy travel, then the **DignityUSA** Silent Auction is the place to shop for great deals on great travel packages.

The theme of this year's auction to be held at the **DignityUSA Convention 2005** in Philadelphia, July 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, is "**Travel, Travel, Travel**." The auction committee, headed by Edwards Buice, of **Dignity/Chicago**, is seeking exciting packages from **DignityUSA** chapters and members across the country which will give auction winners a wonderful adventure.

A request has gone out to chapters inviting them to participate by putting together a great weekend with hotel weekend stay, restaurants, theater tickets, spa, museum passes, limousine service (to and from airports or rail stations), a romantic activity, a city tour, and other items unique to the locale. Air transportation is a plus.

*Continues next column*

The ultimate package would consist of everything to make a stay in that location a wonderful experience.

There is a prize for the chapter or individual donor putting together the best package. Proceeds from the highest-bid auction item will be split with the donor chapter or individual.

Lucky for **DignityUSA** and the winners that we have chapters in great locations such as Boston, Washington, D.C., New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Palm Springs, Seattle, Chicago, Twin Cities, Dallas, Ft. Lauderdale, and, of course, Hawaii. We are looking for chapters or individuals in those areas to put together an auction package which will boast the best of their locale.

The auction committee is also looking for smaller convention carry-home items to enhance the auction.

Bidders on the travel packages won't have to be at the convention to participate. Bidding will begin one week before the convention. Non-attendees will have an opportunity to have a proxy bid for them on July 9<sup>th</sup> in Philadelphia.

Look for more information in the coming weeks via the **DignityUSA** News Service. If you are not already a subscriber, send an email message to [majordomo@dignityusa.org](mailto:majordomo@dignityusa.org). In the body of the message put: `subscribe dusa.news`. To unsubscribe, send an email message to the same address with the words: `unsubscribe dusa.news` in the body of the message.

### Massachusetts State Senator Jarrett Barrios to Speak at DignityUSA Convention 2005



Massachusetts State Senator Jarrett Barrios, nationally recognized for his support of equal rights for GLBT families and residents, will speak at **DignityUSA's** Major Donor Luncheon as part of the Philadelphia convention.

In 2005, the Equality Forum has named Senator Barrios one of forty (40) heroes of the national GLBT rights movement.

At Harvard University, Barrios chaired the Harvard Radcliffe Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Association. After college, he practiced law at the Boston firms of Hill & Barlow and Piper Rudnick. At Hill & Barlow he was awarded the "Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year" for his representation of a gay Dominican in asylum proceedings.

In 1998, he began his legislative career as the first openly gay man elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives. In 2004, Senator Barrios headed legislative opposition to a constitutional amendment that would deny marriage rights to same-sex couples.

Senator Barrios has been asked to speak on the topic of how his Catholic faith and values informs his political life.

The Major Donor Luncheon honors and thanks donors to **DignityUSA** who have supported the organization with gifts of \$1,000 or more in the past two years. If you wish to make a gift, or increase your current level of support, and receive an invitation to the luncheon, please contact Michael Seneco in the National Office at 1-800-877-8797.