

dignity/usa

Officers' Report

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The First Six Months

by Pat Roche



This special focus issue of the newsletter is the first in a series of semi-annual Officers' Reports we will be making to Dignity/USA members to keep you up to date on what's happening at the national level of your organization. It outlines what's been going on for the past 180 days since Beth, Michael, Sophie and I were elected. In general:

- The transition between the outgoing officers and the incoming officers went very smoothly, despite the fact that Dignity/USA is now one of the largest gay/lesbian organizations in the country and there are thus a myriad of administrative details to attend to. I hasten to add that this didn't just happen. A lot of work began immediately after the election in San Francisco last Fall. This advance planning paid off when we all met last October at the national office to officially pass the baton.
- Our organizational structure is now in place. Two Board Committees and several National Committees have been appointed, and they are well along in their efforts to develop a comprehensive and realistic way to carry out our *Keep on Cookin'* platform over the next year and a half.
- Board meetings have been scheduled two years in advance: April 28, 1990 (Teleconference); August 10-12, 1990 (site to be determined); November 17, 1990 (Teleconference); February 15-18, 1991 (Washington, DC); and August 25-26, 1991 (Washington DC.) These and all Dignity meetings are completely open to attendance by any Dignity member. (A schedule of Regional meetings also appears elsewhere in this issue.)

The Board has already met twice, once by teleconference and once in person. The former occurred on November 18 and the latter over President's Day Weekend (February 16-18) in Los Angeles.

The goal of the teleconference was to get an organization in place as soon as possible to tackle some of the important issues facing us so that when we did meet in person we could do so as productively as possible. And, I think all who attended would concur that the Los Angeles Board Meeting was extremely productive. The highlights of what were accomplished are scattered throughout various sections of this report. (Each chapter has also been sent a complete set of minutes from the meeting along with a recap of all motions presented.)

Actions taken in Los Angeles revolved around three major issues: 1) Membership; 2) Fund Raising/Finance; and 3) Committee Charters/Direction for 1990.

On the Membership topic, we presented to the Board a comprehensive membership recap as of February, 1990, at which point Dignity/USA had a total of 4220 members in 84 chapters or chapters-in-formation. (See Secretary's Report for a complete breakdown by Region and by chapter.) We also conducted a membership workshop which focused on current systems for membership handling and discussed ways to start new chapters and attract new members. Directors were encouraged to bring this workshop to upcoming Regional meetings so that membership issues can be addressed throughout the organization. Of particular importance is an all-out effort to update our current membership rosters and then keep them as current as possible to insure that all members receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

In the area of Fund Raising/Finance, we also held a workshop after which the Board adopted an aggressive, multi-phased Fund Raising Plan for the year ahead (see Treasurer's Report for more details.) The Board also approved a revised 1989-90 Fiscal Year Budget at the meeting, which will be discussed in the April issue of the National Newsletter.

In regard to Committee Charters/Direction, the Board approved charters and 1989-90 budgets for almost all of our Board and National Committees (see Vice President's Report for details.)

My take on where we've been and where we're headed is that we have put in place a comprehensive plan for the next two years, identified who is responsible for implementing its various elements and laid the groundwork for financing these efforts.