



# Newsletter

October — November 2017

It is with sad and heavy hearts that the Dignity/Seattle Board of Directors, with the support of the members attending the Annual Membership meeting, have decided to discontinue the monthly Sunday liturgy. Attendance continued to drop this year, many months we only had 2-4 attendees (mostly board members). We feel that these liturgies are not meeting the needs of our community, so have discontinued them. We are looking for other ways to celebrate who we are. Stay tuned for future announcements.

*Save the date:*

**Dignity/Seattle's**

**Annual Holiday Party**

**Saturday, December 9, 4:00—8:00 p.m.**

at Delia's. More info to follow later.



## Dignity/Seattle's President's Report, 2016 - 2017

Our roster stands at 18 active members. The roster has remained pretty much the same for several years. It went up a couple of people during and the year of and after the 2015 DignityUSA National Convention that was held in Seattle, but has now returned to our usual 18.

I feel that there is really not much new to report. This past year was very much like the year before. We continued to meet on the second Sunday of each month with Gary S. presiding several times. Attendance has continued to drop, so there often have only been 2-4 of us there. Thank you to Paula H for the overall coordination of the liturgy and presidings (including herself presiding several times) and for continuing to provide great music to help us celebrate.

Our quarterly birthday/anniversary celebrations continued this year with attendance fluctuating between 6 to 26. Our fourth quarter 2016 celebration was a potluck and holiday party hosted by Delia. A large group gathered to celebrate. We collected toys for Toys for Tots again this year. Laure donated some light balls that were auctioned off, with the money raised going to Toys for Tots. We also collected money to donate to provide socks for the homeless and tarps for Tent City. The first and second quarters of 2017 were celebrated at local restaurants. The third quarter was once again our annual picnic, but we moved to Becky's house in Shoreline rather than paying to use Woodland Park. Thank you, Becky for opening your home and big back yard to us. We had a great turn out on a very beautiful Seattle summer day. It was a hot day, but Becky's big trees provided nice shade for all who wanted it. Thanks to Alan for coordinating the food and to Tom S. - our barbecuing chef extraordinaire.

We celebrated our 29th Pride Week Breakfast in June netting proceeds of around \$2100 –just about the same as the last several years. We donated \$650 each to CareTeams, A Program of Samaritan Center of Puget Sound, and to Lambert House, an organization that serves the homeless youth in our area. The remainder we put into a conference scholarship fund to help get our members to the DignityUSA National Conference. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this breakfast another success. Next year will be our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast. We are looking for ways to celebrate this, so if you have any ideas, let me know.

Next year we will also celebrate our chapter's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Let us know if you have any ideas on how to mark the occasion, or if you would like to join the planning team.

We have continued to volunteer at the Food Lifeline warehouse in South Park, helping to repack bulk food items into smaller packages for distribution at various Western Washington food banks. Six to ten members, friends and family met every other month. We are scheduled to continue this volunteer activity this year. Come join us – it is fun work for a good cause.

We participated in preparing backpacks loaded with supplies for the homeless children at Mary's Place. Working with several other organizations and church groups we packed 266 backpacks for K through 12 students. Dignity/Seattle again this year donated flash drives for the high school students. Tish and I helped with the packing, having fun meeting lots of people working to help the children at Mary's Place.

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## Board Members & Contact Info

### Dignity/Seattle Board Members

Paula Lavallee	President
Paula Hills	Vice-President, Liturgy Comm.
Delia Vita	Treasurer, Social Comm.
Alan Scott	Secretary, Social Comm.
Laure Hauge	At-large

Dignity/Seattle	206-659-5519
P.O. Box 20325	Seattle WA 98102
Website	<a href="http://www.DignitySeattle.org">http://www.DignitySeattle.org</a>
E-mail	<a href="mailto:Dignity.Seattle@gmail.com">Dignity.Seattle@gmail.com</a>

Newsletter Editor:	Leo N. Egashira
206-723-4759	<a href="mailto:Legashira@yahoo.com">Legashira@yahoo.com</a>

We provide a safe environment for people to reconcile our God-given gifts of sexual orientation and our Catholic faith through gay-affirming liturgies. Being part of the Dignity/Seattle family means claiming ownership of our faith and living up to the responsibilities of that ownership.

### President's Report (continued from page 1)

Be sure to check out our revised website ([www.dignityseattle.org](http://www.dignityseattle.org)) We moved to the DignityUSA platform and have updated our information. Thanks to Alan and Paula H for working with DignityUSA in getting the kinks worked out. Also, Delia has been working on our Facebook page to keep it up and current. ([www.facebook.com/DignityofSeattle](http://www.facebook.com/DignityofSeattle)) Thank you all.

I would like to thank our board of directors - Delia, Alan, Laure and Paula H for their leadership and commitment. And a very special thanks to Leo for continuing to be our newsletter editor and keeping us all aware of what is happening locally and nationally in our community.

The board is looking at different ways to get our members and friends active and engaged in our community. A survey was sent out this month to explore other activities besides liturgy that we might want to look at as a means of building community. The results of the survey will be shared at the membership meeting and in subsequent newsletters. If you have any ideas of activities or events to participate in, please contact us via email at [dignity.seattle@gmail.com](mailto:dignity.seattle@gmail.com)

I look forward to a new year and new opportunities for Dignity/Seattle to grow and thrive. Hope to see all of you at different events during the year.

In Peace,  
Paula Lavallee  
President, Dignity/Seattle

### Dignity/Seattle Board Meeting Minutes August 23, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. at Delia Vita's house. Dignity prayer was read. Board members Paula Lavallee, Paula Hills, Delia Vita, Alan Scott, and Laure Hauge were present.

**M/M/S/C:** To approve the July 20, 2017 meeting minutes.

#### Secretary's report (Alan Scott):

With support from the Dignity National webmaster, the DignitySeattle.org webpage now supports entry of upcoming and past events. Have updated the website with pictures from the annual picnic and added the August/September 2017 newsletter.

#### Treasurer's report (Delia Vita):

**August 23, 2017 for period beginning July 20, 2017**

#### Checking Account

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$7,673.70</b>
Deposits:	
Membership renewal	\$50.00
<b>Total Deposits:</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>\$7,723.70</b>

#### Expenses

General Expenses	
Rent – RUMC for Aug/Sept	\$200.00
Stipend liturgy for July	\$30.00
DignityUSA membership	\$50.00
DignityUSA donation during Conference	\$50.00
Summer picnic	\$45.16
Funds transfer to Savings	\$10.00
Donation from Pride Breakfast	
CareTeams	\$650.00
Lambert House	\$650.00
Convention stipend for four individuals	\$1,000.00
<b>Sub-total General Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,685.16</b>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$5,038.54</b>

Restricted Fund for 2017 Conference:	\$699.63
Restricted Fund for 2017 Conference from 2017 Pride Breakfast	\$594.70
Restricted Funds disbursed	\$1,000.00
Total Restricted Fund for 2019 Conference	\$294.33
<b>Total Available Funds:</b>	<b>\$4,744.21</b>

#### Savings Account

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$1,611.50</b>
Funds transfer from Checking:	\$10.00
Interest income:	\$0.04
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$1,621.54</b>

**M/M/S/C:** To accept the August 23, 2017 financial report as amended.

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Minutes (continued from page 2)

### Committee Reports:

Social Committee: (Alan Scott and Delia Vita)

Seventeen members and friends enjoyed the Summer Picnic at Becky's home on Saturday, August 5. Board recommended that Secretary send a thank you card.

### Old Business:

- Paula L. will respond to repetitive emails from various organizations.
- \$100 from the general fund was used to purchase thirty 4GB USB flash drives for high school students at Mary's Place. Paula and Tish worked with teams from other parishes and religious organizations on August 19<sup>th</sup> to assemble 250 backpacks for students. Thirty of the fifty high school student backpacks contained the Dignity-purchased USB flash drives. Paula L. contributed the extra funds, above the approved \$100, needed to purchase the 30 USB flash drives
- Elections: Delia, Alan, and Paula L. have expiring terms and have agreed to be renominated to the board. The membership meeting is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> at Delia Vita's house at 3:00 p.m. with a potluck to precede the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Deadline for nominations is August 19, with ballots to be mailed by August 25. Ballots returned by mail will need to be received by September 20 to be included in the count at the September 24 membership meeting. Tish C. will act as election chairperson.
- Membership Meeting: In addition to the election following the 2:00 p.m. potluck, Paula L. will present the President's Report and Delia the Treasurer's Report.
- Food Lifeline: The next Food Lifeline volunteer event is Tuesday, October 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00. Following volunteer evenings have been set for the first Tuesday of even numbered months through the end of 2018.
- Liturgy: The board discussed sending a survey to members and to those on the email list to present a list of liturgy options. Those receiving the survey will

## Dignity/Vancouver BC/Dignité



604/430-3466

dennisl-h@shaw.ca

1st & 3rd Sundays, 3:00 p.m. Mass celebrated by Roman Catholic Women Priests. Our Lady of Guadalupe Tonantzin Community. The Listening Post, 382 Main St (off E Hastings St, Vancouver. [tepeyacvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:tepeyacvancouver@gmail.com)).

For more information about more events, please contact D/V/D via the contacts provided above.

be asked to respond with preferred alternatives to the current liturgy. Considering the use of the Survey Monkey website with help and direction from DignityUSA.

### New Business:

- DignityUSA Statement of Purpose: DignityUSA emailed a ballot to all members to elect to a change in Dignity National's Statement of Purpose. Members must submit their ballot by Tuesday, August 29.
- Paula H. will change the Dignity/Seattle webpage to announce the September 24<sup>th</sup> Dignity/Seattle membership.

The next Board Meeting will occur in the latter half of October

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Alan Scott, Secretary





Dignity Seattle Treasurer's Report September 24, 2017		2016	2017
Beginning Balance		\$4,851.99	\$5,895.78
Deposits			
Donation from members & friends	2,005.00	1,200.00	
Donation - Tents & Socks		206.00	
Donation - Toys for Tots		40.00	
PW Breakfast & Raffle	2,046.00	1,864.00	
PW Breakfast Donation	255.00	390.00	
Membership Fee	100.00	50.00	
Redeposit Voided check		30.00	
Hall Deposit Refund		100.00	
<b>Total Deposit</b>	<b>4,406.00</b>	<b>3,880.00</b>	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>9,257.99</b>	<b>9,775.78</b>	
Expenses			
Operations Expenses			
PO Box Rental	158.00	160.00	
Liturgic Stipend	30.00	140.00	
Membership fee	100.00	50.00	
Rent-RUMC	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Summer Picnic/Christmas Dinner	120.03	121.94	
Transfer funds to savings account		10.00	
<b>Subtotal Operations Expenses</b>	<b>1,608.03</b>	<b>1,681.94</b>	
Special Events Expenses			
National Convention Scholarship		1,000.00	
Donation to toys for tots		40.00	
Donation Tents & Socks		206.00	
Donation to National Convention Raffle		50.00	
<b>Subtotal Special Events Expenses</b>		<b>1,296.00</b>	
PW Breakfast Expenses			
PW Breakfast-Food	113.63	97.84	
PW Breakfast Supplies/mailling/soliditation letters	130.55	61.46	
PW Breakfast Advertisement (SGN)	100.00	100.00	
PW Breakfast-Hall Rent	100.00	200.00	
<b>Subtotal PWBreakfast Expenses</b>	<b>444.18</b>	<b>459.30</b>	
* Note PW Breakfast-Hall Deposit Refund			(100.00)
PW Donation			
PW Breakfast Donation to Food LifeLine/Lambert House	655.00	650.00	
PW Breakfast Donation to CareTeams	655.00	650.00	
<b>Subtotal PWBreakfast Donation</b>	<b>1,310.00</b>	<b>1,300.00</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,362.21</b>	<b>4,737.24</b>	
<b>Ending balance</b>	<b>\$5,895.78</b>	<b>\$5,038.54</b>	
Restricted funds '2017 Convention			
Convention Fund (proceeds from '17 PW Breakfast		594.70	
Convention Fund (proceeds from '16 PW Breakfast	699.63	699.63	
<b>Total Restricted Fund for 2017 Convention Scholarship</b>		<b>1294.33</b>	
Less Disbursed scholarship to convention attendees			(1000.00)
<b>Total Available Restricted funds for '19 National Convention</b>	<b>699.63</b>	<b>294.33</b>	
<b>Total available funds</b>	<b>\$5,196.15</b>	<b>\$4,744.21</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$1,610.76	\$1,611.18	
Interest Income	0.42	0.36	
Transferred from checking account		10.00	
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$1,611.18</b>	<b>\$1,621.54</b>	







### Food Lifeline Volunteer Night - August 23

A hard and fast-working team of six bagged over 750 school lunches for children of Western Washington. After the October 3 volunteer night, the next night is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5.

*Photo above: Paula L., Alan, Paula H., Laure, and Tish.*

### Backpack & School Supplies Drive for Mary's Place

Paula and Tish met up with over a couple dozen volunteers on Saturday, August 19 at the Church of Scientology in Seattle to fill 266 backpacks for school students of Mary's Place. Various congregations from the Seattle area along with neighbors, friends and family contributed backpacks, school supplies, and money for the purchase of supplies.

Dignity/Seattle donated thirty 4GB USB flash drives to be included in the backpacks suitable for high school students. The number of prepared backpacks has grown each of the four years of the program.

Dignity/Seattle's donation to the drive together with that from other congregations will help Mary's Place in its goal of getting hundreds of children ready for the new school year. Distribution to the needy students occurred on Friday, September 1.

*Photo left: Tish and a fellow volunteer.*

