

**Dear Member or Friend of Dignity/New York,**

**We wanted to let you know about the upcoming elections for seven open seats on our nine-person Steering Committee.** In previous years, we sent a formal Elections Notice only to enrolled members of our community. In fact, a formal notice was sent to all enrolled members via the U.S. Postal Service a few days ago, so please check your mailbox. However, in these extraordinary times, we decided to send this information out electronically, also.

**You must be an enrolled member of Dignity/New York in order to run for a seat on the Steering Committee, sign Nominating Petitions, or vote, as set out in the formal Elections Notice below.** Dignity/New York is a chapter member of DignityUSA, and becoming a member of Dignity/New York also makes you a member of DignityUSA.

**It is easy and fast to become a member of Dignity/New York if you wish.** Simply go to our website ([www.dignityny.org](http://www.dignityny.org)) and click on the join/renew button on the home page. You will be taken to the DignityUSA website ([www.dignityusa.org](http://www.dignityusa.org)), where you will be able to select the chapter you wish to join, if any, and pay your membership dues with a credit card. A limited amount of financial assistance is available for people who request it by sending an email to our Interim Treasurer, Daniel Velasquez, at [daniel.velasquez@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.velasquez@gmail.com).

**Since we are not meeting physically, the entire election process must be conducted electronically.** Details are provided below. **Following is the link to a Google Document containing the Nominating Petitions, which is open to all enrolled members of Dignity/New York.** Using this link, members may place their names in nomination for a seat on the Steering Committee, as well as sign the Nominating Petitions of the candidates.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ywhj6g3Y7dpvWhmWnI\\_l25TOcNkApApQ\\_kMZdwOfg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ywhj6g3Y7dpvWhmWnI_l25TOcNkApApQ_kMZdwOfg/edit?usp=sharing)

**This Google Document will be open from August 30, through Sunday, September 14.** Each candidate must have the support of at least ten enrolled members of the chapter in order to be nominated. If you are an enrolled member, please click on the link above at any point during that period to take part in the nominating process. You may visit as many times as you like, and you may sign the Nominating Petitions of as many candidates as you like.

**Soon after September 14, we will be sending you a link via e-mail to the Candidates Forum to be held via Zoom on September 17. Shortly after that, we will send all enrolled members a unique link to their electronic ballot via Survey Monkey, a simple, secure, and widely used app. Paper ballots will be available for those who are not able to vote electronically, as detailed below.**

**Thank you for your attention to our upcoming elections!**



## 2020 ELECTIONS NOTICE

### 2020 ELECTIONS NOTICE

The members of Dignity/New York are invited to participate in the annual elections of the Steering Committee of Dignity/New York, the governing body of Dignity/New York, pursuant to the ByLaws of this Chapter, and vote for candidates standing for election to the Steering Committee.

**NOMINATING PETITIONS** for prospective candidates will be available online from **Sunday, August 30th, 2020, until Sunday, September 13th, 2020**. Nominating petitions will be completed electronically. An email will be sent to all members of record with a link to a Google Doc containing the nominating petitions.

Under §7.2 of our ByLaws, five (of nine) seats are up for election in years that end in an odd number, while four seats become vacant in even-numbered years. Persons are elected for two-year terms.

- The terms of four current S.C. members (Chris Alberti, Danny Larkin,\* Tom McLoughlin, and Daniel Velasquez) will expire on October 31, 2020; while the terms of those elected last year (Robert Brande,† James Osbourn, and Jeff Stone) will continue for one more year.

[\* Danny was appointed to the Steering Committee in 2019. Under §7.2 of our By-Laws, the terms of persons appointed to the Steering Committee expire in one year, not two. †Robert has subsequently resigned from the Steering Committee, creating an additional vacancy for a seat for a one-year term.]

- Therefore, as many as seven (7) persons may be elected to serve on the Steering Committee this year – four for two-year terms that will expire on October 31st, 2022, and three for one-year terms that will expire on October 31st, 2021.

Ø We hope there will be more than seven persons willing to offer themselves as candidates for election to the Steering Committee in service to the Dignity/New York community.

### WHO MAY STAND FOR ELECTION?

Persons who have been enrolled members of DignityUSA for at least one year at any point prior to the last day of September 2020 – AND who are now, or will have become members of Dignity/New York on or before September 13th, 2020 – may stand for election provided they are

sponsored by 10 (ten) currently enrolled members of Dignity/New York (i.e.: persons whose names appear on the most recent Dignity/New York roster provided by DignityUSA; or whose names do not appear on that roster but who will have completed a qualifying membership transaction before nominating a candidate).( §8.5)

## **WHO MAY VOTE?**

All persons who are enrolled as members of Dignity/New York upon the night elections conclude may vote. Persons who are not carried as current members on the most recent DignityUSA roster may join, renew or be reinstated as members on or before Sunday, September 27th – and vote. Also, if your membership has lapsed within the past three months, under Dignity/New York’s traditional grace period, you still may vote. Please email Gary Spokes, the Chair of our Elections Committee, at Elections@DignityNY.org or phone him at 973-900-9182 if you have questions about your membership status.

## **HERE ARE THE DATES OF IMPORTANCE IN OUR 2020 CYCLE OF ELECTIONS:**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th • A CANDIDATES’ FORUM** will be conducted online via Zoom. Persons who wish to offer themselves for election will have an opportunity to present their programs and/or respond to questions from their peers and members of our online congregation. (§8.7) Candidates may also post written statements on our website. Survey Monkey (a simple online app that Dignity/USA has used in their elections) will be sent out ASAP after the Forum to all members of record. If you are able to vote electronically via Survey Monkey, you are requested to do so for ease of counting votes.

**REQUESTS FOR PAPER MAIL-IN BALLOTS** must be received by the Elections Committee not later than **September 18th, 2020** – either online at Elections@DignityNY.org (please type “MAIL-IN BALLOT” in the subject line) or phone Gary Spokes at 973-900-9182. Mail-in Ballots must be postmarked by Saturday, September 26th, and received not later than midnight on Saturday, October 1, 2020. Please mail them back as soon as possible after receiving them.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th: ELECTIONS CONCLUDE: Currently enrolled members of Dignity/New York must vote – either online before 11:00 PM on Sunday, September 27th, 2020; or by Mail-in Ballot as described, above. (§8.2)**