



Magic Within,
Beauty Throughout

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

From the President

For more than 30 years, Dragonfest has been serving the Pagan community, connecting members to practice, share, teach, and learn diverse spiritual paths. While most of our members come from Colorado; we have a strong membership from New Mexico; members from other near-by states including Wyoming, Texas, Utah, Arizona, and Nebraska; members from further states like California, Nevada, Missouri, Illinois, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Oregon, and Washington; and, in the 20 plus years I have been a part of the community (I can't believe I am able to say that), I have met members joining us from Canada, England, and as far away as Australia.

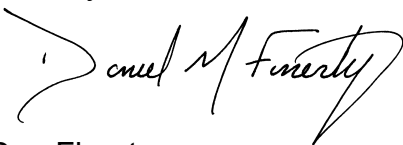
Just consider that for a moment. You are a part of a community that connects Pagans across the region and across the globe.

A community that is based on exploring and sharing our spiritual work and traditions with each other. A community that works together each year to put on a retreat that honors our varied connections to Deity and Nature. A community that greets each other, year after year, as though not a single day has passed.

I am extremely proud to be a part of the Dragonfest community and I am truly honored to have served as your Board President for this past year. I have seen the power we have as we work together and I have seen our ability to touch members' lives. Never forget that each of you is a part of the success of Dragonfest and that this retreat exists by and for this community.

As we look forward to 35 years of Dragonfest, I hope that you will join me in celebrating where we have come from, what we have accomplished, and where we can go from here. Whether this was your first year or your thirty-first, you are what makes Dragonfest the incredible community that it is today.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Finerty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Dan Finerty

Dragonfest Board of Directors, President

Report of the Board

We have seen a lot of change for this retreat over the past several years. We reported last year that the Board began working to transition its focus from involved execution of this retreat to leading and planning for this community and the Dragonfest organization. As our work continues in this area, more responsibility for this retreat has been placed in the hands of the Director of Operations, which, we are happy to say, Vaunder and his team has met this challenge and exceeded our expectations.

Part of the Board's planning for the future has included our second yearly planning session where we set a long-term path and goals for our organization. During this planning, we focus on our vision, which is:

Dragonfest of Colorado seeks to create and sustain a vibrant, engaged, and spiritually focused community.

We value and honor all expressions of Paganism and have varied thoughts and beliefs regarding Deity and our relationship with Nature.

We are committed to a strong, participatory community that is diverse and includes all generations.

This vision is served by the following mission:

Dragonfest of Colorado will intentionally Grow, Foster, and Sustain the Dragonfest Community where members Practice, Share, Teach, and Learn their diverse spiritual paths.

As you can see, our focus is a strong, engaged spiritual community. Community requires communication, so, over the next two years, we will be working to develop a communication structure that improves efficiency, increases transparency, and develops stronger community relationships. Some of that plan is already in place but we have more work to do.

Over the next two years, we will also be working to redevelop our website so that it is more user-friendly and easier to administer.

In addition, we will be working over the next three years to review and revise our policies, procedures, and processes so that our community clearly understands who we are, what we do, and what is expected as members of this community.

Finally, to us, a strong community means celebrating who we are and how far we've come. To that extent, we are planning a 2020 celebration to recognize 35 years of Dragonfest.

Next year represents 35 years of Dragonfest and 10 years at our current location. We want to recognize and honor this milestone at next year's Retreat.

Gena Meyer will be leading a committee of community members to plan and organize this celebration. We want to make this a special event that will be intertwined with the Retreat.

If you would like to be a part of the committee, please let her know right away. We want this celebration to be for the community, by the community.

Heart of the Dragon Award

The Heart of the Dragon award honors a community member whose commitment and engagement in this community exemplifies the Heart of Dragonfest.

At this year's Retreat, the Heart of the Dragon award was presented to Donna "Lady Owl" Babcock.

Please join us in thanking Lady Owl for her life-long contributions to this community.

Update on the Foundation

Last year, we also reported our plan to implement the membership's desire to reorganize and redirect the Land Fund into an entity that would support Dragonfest and protect the funds we have built over the years. As we reported last year, this reorganization has not been an easy task and we quickly discovered that there was much to learn and do. To help us, we engaged the services of a law firm that specializes in non-profits like Dragonfest.

We are happy to report that the transition to the Dragonfest Foundation is now complete.

The Dragonfest Foundation is organized as a Single-Member LLC, a separate legal entity, serving Dragonfest of Colorado. As a Single-Member LLC, the Foundation, and Dragonfest, gain a number of benefits including:

- Foundation funds will be separate and protected should any financial issues befall Dragonfest of Colorado.
- Dragonfest will be able to confer its 501c3 tax status to the Foundation. This means that the Foundation will not have to go through the long and difficult process of filing for its own tax exempt status.
- We will be able to streamline governance of the Foundation under a single board without jeopardizing the Foundation's status as a separate entity.
- Accounting, bookkeeping, and tax filings can be simplified under this structure, allowing us to save our financial resources.

We are continuing to develop best practices, policies, and guidelines for the Foundation to ensure it has a clear mission and set of goals to guide it. These changes will allow the Foundation to be in a position that supports the future of Dragonfest and this retreat.

Treasurer's Report

Dragonfest remains in a strong financial position and that is thanks to our community and the continued support you provide. The Board thanks you for your support and involvement in this organization.

As of October, 2019, our accounts stand at:

Checking	\$ 1,296.99
Money Market	\$ 3,637.29
Savings	\$ 309.05
Certificates	\$ 72,098.11
Total	\$ 77,341.44

There remain a few outstanding invoices from the 2019 retreat, which should be cleared up in the next 60 days.

Report of Operations

This year went extremely well. The energy and reception of the membership to the new leadership change was extremely positive. The staff performed excellently, and all duties and services were handled without complaint. There were some concerns from the community about mobility and distribution of events that are placed in the proposed goals of 2020. All in all, we are in a good spot going into 2020 and look forward to another great retreat next year.

Goals for 2019:

- Provide and operate Dragonfest
- Improve communications
- Update ops policy and procedures
- Improve population density at the retreat (aka help spread people out to improve camping)

Report of goal progress:

- Provide and operate Dragonfest
 - Dragonfest was held with no serious issues or compromises needing to be reported.
- Improve communications
 - Ops increased activity on facebook and email to increase communications and provide more points of contact to ops. Also was diligent in checking and updating email. Will continue with improvements in 2020.
- Update ops policy and procedures
 - Checked previous ops manual for possible update and distribution. Ops determined previous manual was negligible and out of date and needs rewritten. Continuing goal for 2020.
- Improve population density at the retreat (aka help spread people out to improve camping)
 - Instituted more roads in a wheel and spoke configurations to allow others more access to camping areas. Ops believes this went far better than expected and will continue this practice as well as other improvements.

Proposed Goals of 2020:

- Provide and operate Dragonfest
- Improved communications
- Update ops policy and procedures and provide an updated manual
- Improve population density at the retreat
- Reevaluate vendor usage for the retreat and possibly find new vendors
- Improve transportation and shuttle use for the retreat
- Reevaluate fire circle distribution
- Improve onboarding of new staff volunteers

Board of Directors

Elected Board Members

Dan Finerty, President
Meta Eaton, Vice President
Mike Ball
Gena Meyer
Terri Lepthien
Thor Thomas

Non-voting Board Members

Maitri Roberts, Treasurer
Ellen Valentine, Secretary

Corporate Team

Vaunder Lake, Director of Operations
With Bruce Kesler, Co-Director
Christine Childs, Registration Director
With Ellen Valentine, Co-Director
Kelly Stone, Medical Director
Mike Ball, Safety Director
Dan Finerty, Corporate Communications Director



3758 E 104th Avenue #105 | Thornton, CO 80233