



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Board Meeting – Minutes

April 24, 2025, 4-6 PM

Presiding: Carole Johnson, President

1. Attendance:

- Voting members present or participating virtually included: Carole Johnson, Dave Little, John Stephan, Ruth Klenke, Jeanette Aubuchon, Judy Belford, Brenda Vanderford, Ellen Harshman, Clay Whitener, R. B. Clark III, Mike Carosone, Bill Cornwell, Bernie Sammons, Christine Novalis, Ken Patterson, Melynne Blackshear, Rene Lorio, and Bob Hook.
- Voting members absent: Yolanda Diaz.
- Ex Officio or non-voting members present: John Foppe and Fr. Dan Thiess
- SVdP staff present: Jason Coleman, Mike Basler, Julie Komanetsky, Mary Russell, Gena Bast, Vandy Sharma, John Fitzpatrick, Steve Poppe
- Guests: Edie Varley
- Quorum present: Yes

2. Opening comments and prayer – Carole Johnson

3. Opening Prayer – Fr Dan

4. FY 2025 Q2 Strategic Progress Report – John Foppe

Filled with gratitude and resolve. Signs of Vincentian vitality, new conference and 500 people registered for Spring Assembly.

- Finance:
 - FY2022 audit update: completed collection and preparation of Conference and District documents.
 - The audit firm is auditing FY2023 financials.
 - FY24 financials were submitted for review to the audit form.
 - A regular cadence of providing monthly financial statements continues. Completed February month-end close and March month-end is in progress.
- Stores
 - Expanded the \$4 clothing sale at all thrift stores (except the Christy thrift outlet).
 - Reallocating retail floor space in stores, better promoting more profitable items.
 - Industry and cost analysis of furniture pickup fees underway. A nominal fee can increase revenue or otherwise cover a portion of our trucking costs by an estimated \$130-174k/yr.
 - To reduce expenses, one of our leased trucks from Hogan has been purchased. We received the signed title from Hogan on April 9. The next step is to obtain the clear title from DMV, then sell the truck.

- Human Resource
 - Renewed employee workers compensation insurance at a rate lower than expected.
 - Memorable Employee appreciation dinner in February.
- Marketing and Communications
 - \$4 Clothing Sale: Supported by billboards, social media, in-store print, and email
 - Digital & Social Media: Increased posting frequency on Facebook and Instagram, Re-engaged TikTok to reach Gen Z and Millennials
 - Disaster Assistance support: Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) registration: email blasts + online portal
 - North District Golf Tournament: online payment setup
- Development
 - Current Totals: Raised \$2.3M raised of \$2,900,000 FY25 goal, or 78% of goal.
 - Recommending addition of a gifts officer.
- Vincentian Services
 - In January, 17 Conferences applied for a Council Solidarity Grant; All were awarded grants totaling \$260,000.
 - Spring Assembly is Saturday, April 26 at SLUH. Our theme is One Mission, Many Hands. 500 Vincentians have registered to attend as of April 11.
 - Actively supporting the Disaster Committee and those affected by the storms on Friday, March 14. Additional information on SVdP activity related to the March tornadoes can be found in the Disaster Committee Report.
 - A new Conference was established at the parishes of Immaculate Conception in Augusta, St. Vincent de Paul in Dutzow, and St. Ignatius in Concord Hill with support from Fr. Dennis Doyle and Timothy Massey.
 - Food insecurity remains an important topic for the Society, with Vincentians actively engaged in feeding the hungry.
 - Staff and Executive Committee members met with Bishop Rivituso who has visited many of our SVdP food pantries.
 - Participated in a Washington County Food Security meeting with St. James Potosi food pantry, Catholic Charities, other local groups, and Fr. Lydon.
 - SVdP will join forces with Catholic Relief Services Diocesan Advisory Committee, Catholic Charities of St Louis, Operation Food Search, the St Louis Food Bank, and the Peace & Justice Commission of the Archdiocese to co-convene a Food Security Summit in the fall.

5. Treasurer's Report

- FY2022 Audit Update: Very close to finishing, may be complete in mid-May, and finalized in June. We expect one comment regarding GAAP requirements for Cost of Goods Sold (COGS).
- FY2023 audit: 12 outstanding requests for input. Estimate completion in late Summer.
- FY2024 audit: Audit firm to begin field work in July, and completion in August.
- FY2025 Financials:
 - Development revenue is good, and Store revenue has improved following a very challenging winter.
 - Request was made to see the payroll breakout of stores vs Council Admin

- Motion passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

7. Decisions to be made:

- Resolution to increase Development department staffing
 - With the additional person, development revenue is expected to increase and exceed the increased salary expense.
 - To recognize the people impacted by the restructuring in July 2024, former employees are to be notified of the opening.
 - Motion passed by consensus approving the resolution.
- Resolution for a bank signature card inventory
 - Bank security requirements have become more stringent in recent years, causing us to inventory our bank accounts. Additionally, the lessons learned from the FY2022 audit indicate the need for an inventory.
 - Motion passed by consensus approving the resolution.

8. Safeguarding update – Judy

- Great progress has been made and Judy thanked everyone for their help.

9. Redistricting Committee update – Dave L

- Work is in progress. Criteria include geography and resources (dollars and people).
- The estimated completion date is TBD.

10. Strategic Planning Committee Update – Bill C

- Made great progress thus far. Interviews and surveys with stakeholders are in progress. Employee listening scheduled are planned for next week.
- Some themes are starting to materialize. For example, fulfilling our mission is our strength, and homelessness remains a challenge.
- Board retreat scheduled June 7.

11. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

- Motion passed with one correction to change the parking lot item from “consider cash discount in stores” to “consider implementing a credit card fee in stores”.

12. There was no other business.

14. Election of President: R.B. Clark was elected Board President.

15. Closing prayer - Fr Dan

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.