



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Board Meeting – Minutes July 31, 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, R.B. Clark III, Mike Carosone, Bill Cornwell, Bernie Sammons, Christine Novalis, Ken Patterson, Claudia Perrault, and Bob Hook.
- Voting members absent: Yolanda Diaz, Melynie Blackshear, Clay Whitener, and Ellen Harshman.
- 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: Gene Meyer (District President-elect), Robert Merenda (Potential Treasurer), and Deacon Charlie Durbin
- Quorum present: Yes

2. Opening Prayer – Fr Dan

3. Opening comments – Carole Johnson

4. Governance Minute – Judy Belford

5. FY 2025 Q3 Strategic Progress Report – John Foppe

Financials

We have made substantial strides in strengthening our financial infrastructure:

- The FY22 audit has been finalized/presented to relevant committees, marking a milestone in restoring fiscal discipline.
- We are progressing with the FY23 audit, pending inputs from several Conferences.
- A forward-looking FY25 projection has been completed and shared with the Finance Committee. Because of tornado relief donations, we anticipate closing the year with a surplus.
- Construction of our Perryville property is complete, and we joyfully celebrated its dedication on July 28.

Thrift Stores

- Store operations are seeing renewed vitality: Revenue has been positively impacted by improved store leadership and marketing campaigns.
 - Special events, such as the Frye shoe sale and Christmas in July, drove traffic and revenue.
- Operational improvements have followed a consultative visit from the national SVdP Store Support Team, which affirmed our culture while identifying staffing and pricing opportunities. Notable initiatives include:
 - Reopening discussions for the Cool Valley outlet.
 - Implementing a furniture pickup fee and profitability workshop.
 - Changing credit card processors, projected to save \$40,000 annually.
- Despite progress, sales through July 20 are 13% below plan. Efforts to address pricing, staffing, and cost efficiencies are underway.

Human Resources

- Three key hires this quarter—Gifts Officer, E-Commerce Manager, and Executive Assistant—have strengthened our capacity.
- We successfully renewed our workers’ compensation insurance at a significant savings.
- We continue to track and adjust to legislative changes, including upcoming increases to the Missouri minimum wage and the repeal of state-mandated paid sick leave.

Vincentian Services

- Extraordinary Vincentian response to the May 16 tornado: Conference collaboration and donor generosity enabled us to open the Vincentian Haven, a temporary shelter for displaced seniors in partnership with Peter and Paul Community Services. Most rooms are filled and one resident has been moved to permanent housing.
- We awarded 29 Conferences a total of \$290,000 in Solidarity Grants to enhance local impact.
- Nearly 360 Vincentians and staff participated in our Spring Assembly, reflecting a strong commitment to formation and community.
- To address food insecurity, we are launching a mobile pantry in Washington County and co-convening a regional Food Security Summit this October in partnership with the Archdiocese and other Catholic organizations.
- Successfully hosted the 180th Celebration Mass and Council Office Open House on July 22, welcoming Vincentians from the St. Louis Council to commemorate our history and future.

Marketing & Communications

- Supported key initiatives, including the tornado response, 180th Anniversary Mass and Open House, Disaster Relief Fundraising, Give StL Day, and major store promotions.
- Secured more than five news stories - meaningful coverage to highlight SVdP’s work.
- Managing nominations for “Best Non-Profit” and “Best Resale Shop” for the St. Louis Headliner campaign.

Development

- SVdP has raised over \$3.5 million year-to-date—118% of our FY25 goal—the highest total in Council history.

Motion passed to approve the progress report.

5. Treasurer's Report - John Stephan

- FY2022 Audit report: Draft report has been received some WIPFLI. Most of the delays were related to obtaining financial information from Conferences. Many lessons regarding record-keeping procedures have been incorporated into the revised Conference Treasurer's Handbook posted on the SVdP website. With approval of the resolution to accept the report, WIPFLI will start the final steps to complete the report in approximately two weeks.
- Resolution to accept the FY2022 Audit Report: Motion passed to accept the report.
- FY2023 audit update: John Stephan encouraged District Presidents to help expedite submission of the data to Francesca Carter at the Council Office.
- June Month-end and Year-to-date financials:
 - As described in the month-end financial Executive Summary, a major negative adjustment had to be made in June to our Cost-of-Goods Sold (COGS), and more accurately assessing COGS is a work in progress.
 - Motion passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

6. Decisions to be made:

- Resolution to approve the Redistricting Plan – Dave Little
 - The Plan will be implemented on October 1, 2025
 - The new District names are based on significant places in the holy land.
 - It was suggested that the new geographic names be combined with the new names for one year until Vincentians get used to the new names. For example “Gravois – Bethel” District.
 - Motion passed to approve the resolution as revised with the one additional bullet.
- Resolution for Twinning Policy – Judy Belford
 - Motion passed to approve the resolution.
- Resolution to approve replacement of flooring at the Ballwin Store
 - Motion passed to approve the resolution.

7. Motion passed to approve the Consent Agenda

8. Executive Session

- Resolution for Interim Executive Director: Motion passed to approve the resolution.
- Resolution for Forming an Executive Search Committee: Motion passed to approve the resolution.

9. Closing prayer - Fr Dan

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.