



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Council Board Meeting – Minutes

July 27, 2023

4:00-6:30 p.m.

Presiding: Carole Johnson, President

Voting Members Present or Participating virtually: Jeanette Aubuchon, Judy Belford, Bill Blow, Jeff Bunten, John Fallah, Lyle Gilbertson, Ernestine Jackson, Wes Karna, David Little, Mary Murphy, Christine Novalis, Bernie Sammons, Dan Schlafly, John Stephan, Russ Struttman and Clay Whitener

- Ex Officio Members Present: John Foppe and Fr. Daniel Thiess
- SVdP staff Present: Gena Bast, Denise Chachere, John Fitzpatrick, Mike Goering, Julie Komanetsky, Steve Poppe and Eric Weible
- Guests: Rene Lorio (Sacred Heart, Valley Park, candidate for South west District President), Ken Patterson (Most Holy Trinity, candidate for member At Large and Governance Committee) and Sharon Steis (2023 National Assembly Steering Committee)
- Absent: Yolanda Diaz, Dave Winslet (ex-officio)
- Quorum present: Yes

1. Welcoming Remarks and Agenda Review – Carole Johnson

Carole reminded us that when we see our neighbors as persons of dignity and pray for them, we are truly showing the three pillars of spirituality, friendship and service as servant leaders in walking the Vincentian pathway.

Carole introduced our guests and everyone present introduced themselves and their positions.

2. Opening Prayer – Fr. Daniel Theiss, CM

Fr. Dan presented several responses to “Why do we do this?” and reminded us that as we go to the poor and listen to our Neighbors, our compassion touches their hearts just as their presence in our lives touches ours. As we continue through All Things New, we are forging new friendships that lead us to a greater awareness of Christ in our lives.

3. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda – Carole Johnson

- Minutes of Previous Meeting

- Voice of the Poor Committee report
 - Carole reported that the Committee was recognized at the Open House on July 26th for their work in bring the Credit Empowerment Program into service
- Credit Empowerment Task Force report
- Development Committee Update
 - Ernestine reported that the Development Office exceeded the \$2.3 million goal
 - She suggested that, in addition to contacting donors to thank them, board members should consider contributing also. They should see Ernestine to make those additional contributions.
 - She also requested District Presidents to ask their Conference Presidents to contribute monthly
- National Assembly Steering Committee Update
- Governance Committee Report
- Safeguarding Task Force Report

The Board approved the minutes and reports

4. Decisions to be made:

- Treasurer's Report – Lyle Gilbertson and Eric Weible

The transition from Quick Books to SAGE software is in process, and Eric presented a streamlined Statement of Revenues and Expenditures through June 30th and a summary of the BDF Account Balance, March 31st-June 30th. The Cash Flow issue was reviewed with measures underway to address the problem. Challenges still to be met concerning cash flow shortage are the use of voucher credits, below cost delivery fees and donation drives that earn too much credit.

John Stephan suggested separating Stores expenses from Office expenses. Jeff made a motion that the report was inadequate and needs to be broken down by the various programs for a clearer understanding.

Eric was asked to provide an educational template on how to read the new Sage Financial Program Report. The new Sage Financial Report will include details on profit and loss, and current actual income and expenses as compared to projected budget for each program, stores, administrative, BDF and other financials. The report should not watered down, vague or incomplete. It should clearly present a complete picture of present finances all board members will understand.

The motion passed.

Stores' Report – Mike Goering

While Stores' revenue is up 8.9% (\$9.994 thousand) and performing above other brick & mortar stores, they are still 11.1% below the plan.

Mike described the measures that have been put into place to decrease cost and increase revenue. These include Sunday opening, pricing strategies, increased furniture

donations, Cool Valley operations, the new mattress company, and 9% payroll reduction due to change in store hours. Pending is an e-commerce program to begin in October.

Challenges still faced are the use of voucher credits, invoice discounts for conferences and the bed program which effectively lower revenue.

- Resolution regarding the Unrestricted Charitable Bequest Funds Policy (BDF) – Russ Struttmann

The BDF Task Force met several times to formulate necessary changes to the existing Policy on Bequest Funds with regard to the allocation of those funds and the District use of BDF funds. This ends the 50-25-25 split spending practice developed by the Council staff to spend down large bequest through conference program requests.

Jeff made a motion that examples of District Special Projects be included to clarify how Districts could use the funds allocated for them.

The Board approved Jeff's motion and the Resolution.

- Resolution on Twinning – Russ Struttmann

This is the second part of the BDF Task Force which establishes a formal twinning policy. The resolution clearly describes different types of twinning, the types of financial twinning, the guidelines for requesting twinning and that conferences are expected to twin when their balances exceed their average quarter expenses. Also included was a flow diagram of how seek funding from other conferences.

Several District Presidents asked that the effective date be no later than October 1st.

The Board approved the Resolution.

- Resolution on Conference and Council Spending – Russ Struttmann

This is the third part of the BDF Task Force work which revises the policy on Conference and Council spending to insure conference spending practices conform to the Rule with regard to spending down donations rather than maintaining large balances for future use.

The Board approved the Resolution.

- Resolution for the Change in Council Program Assistance – Dave Little

The Board approved the resolution developed by the Program Task Force, effective August 1, 2023 to limit rent and mortgage assistance to one month, and to temporarily pause the car Purchase & Repair programs.

- Resolution Requiring all Active and Associate Members to Comply with Safeguarding Requirements – Judy Belford

This resolution was developed by the Safeguarding Committee at the recommendation of the National Council to ensure that all Active and Associate Members comply with the Archdiocesan Safe Environment / Prevent & Protect Program.

The Board approved the Resolution.

5. Information for Board Members:

- With respect for time, the FY 2023 Strategic Progress Report and Scorecard Summary were filed
- All Things New Update – Julie Komanetsky

Julie gave a brief summary of Council activity and virtual presentations on various aspects of conferences merging.

- 2023 National Assembly Committee report – Sharon Steis

Sharon reported the highlights of her Update that was included with Board Meeting materials

6. Other business: At the end of the meeting, Carole Johnson called on John Fitzpatrick to share Donor Engagement efforts by the Board and offer notecards to be used when unable to contact the Donors by phone to thank them.

7. Closing prayer: If we had no money, would we still love the poor? Trust in the providence of God – Fr. Theiss

Special intentions were added for Dave Winslett president emeritus who is gravely ill, Yolanda Diaz Board Member who is recuperating from surgery, and Jeanette Aubuchon Board Member whose family member has sustained a devastating illness

The Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Belford
Board Secretary