



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME

Council Board Meeting – Minutes

July 26, 2018

4:05-6:00 p.m.

Fenton Store, 625 Gravois Road, Fenton, Missouri

Presiding: Elizabeth Barbieri, Board President

Present:

- *District Council Presidents:*
Jeff Bunten, Ken Gebken, Bob Hook, Wes Karna, Ed McCarthy, Matt Medina, Phil Schwab
- *Members at Large:*
John Fallah, Ellen Harshmann, John Luth, Dan Schlafly, Jim Wilson
- *Ex Officio members:*
Rev. James Cormack
- *SVDP staff:*
John Foppe, Gena Bast, Ryan Carney, Denise Chachere, Debra Downey, John Heithaus, Anne Kirwan, John Walters

Absent: Annette Bligh, Derek Collins, Steve Polk, Clay Whitener, Dave Winslett, Rhae Yancey

Quorum: Yes

1. Opening Prayer

Fr. James Cormack led the opening prayer.

2. Spiritual Reflection / Mission Moment

John Foppe led a discussion on the core values of being a Vincentian.

3. Review of Agenda / Any Other Business

No additions

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Approval

The Board approved the previous meeting minutes.

5. Treasurer's Report – Ed McCarthy and Debra Downey

a) Q3 Financial review

The council is spending more than this year's income, per the funded deficit plan. The next budget meeting is in August. Contact Ed with any questions or concerns.

There was a suggestion to include more specific items in next year's budget in lieu of having more extraneous expenses. There was also a suggestion to include a narrative with a spreadsheet report to help communicate the overall situation.

6. Executive Director's Report – John Foppe

a) FY2018 Q3 Strategic Progress report

There is a great deal of activity under way. Highlights include increasing collaborations in the community and resource referrals. There is work on conference renewal and stabilization. The Creve Coeur Store had a strong opening. The Dellwood Store has had a change of staff and various other changes, and sales are now up 12%. The HR team arranged active shooter training. The Finance team is looking at vendors for IT audits. An article in the *St. Louis Review* included Archbishop Carlson mentioning SVDP. April was Volunteer month, which brought another opportunity to recognize those folks.

b) FY2019-21 Strategic Planning update

A group of about 18 people are engaged in strategy planning. A full-day meeting in June focused on formulating goals in four categories: Vincentian experiences, staff experiences, financial stewardship, and Gospel partnership. The next meeting is August 17, targeting a draft by the end of August.

c) United Way funding process changes

The SVDP St. Louis Council is receiving approximately \$83,000 from the United Way in 2018 and anticipates on the order of \$70,000 in 2019. Starting in 2020 the United Way will be moving to a grant-funded model.

This change has brought some discussion among the Board. It is good to be part of a network of similar service providers. On the other hand, it is not yet clear whether SVDP will fit the community needs that the United Way identifies. The reporting requirements are not always worth the time. The fund-raising blackout period in the fall limits SVDP's development opportunities. No decision needs to be made at this time. There will be continued review of this developing situation.

7. Vincentian Services – John Heithaus

a) Car Program

This program is increasing with good partners and good donations.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved an update of the Car Purchase Program guideline to \$6,000 per automobile purchase effective FY2019.

8. Governance Committee Report – John Luth

a) Board Retreat

The Two Feet of Love in Action program can provide Vincentians education on social teachings of the Church. This can be good considering various political and social issues of today. There is a proposal to offer a retreat to the Board plus the Voice of the Poor Committee. The day could start with a Mass. John Heithaus or Andrew Kassebaum could possibly lead the retreat.

Hold the date: The retreat would be on Saturday morning, November 10, 2018.

9. Development Report – Ryan Carney and Anne Kirwan

a) Major Gift update

Development program successes in recent years have helped to support great growth of the conferences and councils. Work from marketing and the stores are also part of this success. Development continues to do well this year, in part due to cultivated relationships of major gifts, those over \$500. Two additional areas will receive even greater focus:

- Restricted gifts bring about half of the revenue from just seven individuals. There will be an outreach to 50 people for additional opportunities.
- Planned giving will target 25 people. This can be transformational.

There was also discussion on opportunities from social media and Web-based outreach to help grow the donor base. More generally it would also be good to continue focus on small donors, bringing visibility in local parishes.

b) Donor Privacy Policy

It is a recommended good practice for any organization that collects donor information to adopt a privacy policy. After some discussion, it was decided that a proposed Donor Privacy Policy will receive additional review, including a legal review.

c) Remmert Bequest Update

This case involves a large bequest. The estate is under contention. SVDP has retained legal counsel. There is a trial date set in Florida. The parties have agreed to mediation.

MOTION: The Board approved \$40,000 to cover legal fees for this case.

10. Voice of the Poor Report

Jim Wilson and John Fallah discussed development of a strategic plan, targeting to have it in place by around the end of this year. The committee is adding members. They will be looking at concerns dealing with housing, focusing more on local advocacy.

11. Human Resources – Denise Chachere

a) Turnover cost presentation

Denise's report shows that turnover costs \$2,000 per hourly position. Across 65 people that equals \$130,000 in a fiscal year. The turnover situation has improved this past year, now cut in half. The goal is to keep it under 25%. Various actions are under way to reduce turnover.

12. Other Business

a) Meeting with Archbishop Carlson

Elizabeth Barbieri and John Foppe met with the archbishop. Among other topics they discussed SVDP programs, Vincentians, and the staff. They offered support of the St. Joseph Housing Initiative, a new faith-based housing initiative for low- and moderate-income families in St. Louis. There was discussion on the need for more Catholic Charities activity in rural areas. There was a request for the archbishop to endorse a letter to pastors, identifying the value of SVDP to parishes and work of the local conferences. There was also a request for support of the SVDP 175th anniversary event coming in 2020. The archbishop was supportive of all these activities.

b) Visit by International President General Renato de Lima Oliverio

John Foppe reviewed highlights of a schedule now under development. The biggest day will be Saturday, January 12, which will include a visit to SVDP roots in Perryville and possibly some featured stops in St. Louis.

Hold the date: Board members and their spouses are invited to have dinner with the president general on the evening of Thursday, January 10, 2019. Details will follow.

c) Thomas Thibodeau Servant Leadership Formation opportunity

This opportunity in the Vincentian Formation Speaker Event Series promises to be enriching and entertaining.

Hold the date: Thomas Thibodeau will be speaking at St. Richard Church starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 20, 2018.

13. Closing Prayer

Fr. James Cormack led the closing prayer and some moments of reflection.

The Rupp family is in our prayers on the tragic death of their son, Michael.

Submitted by John Luth
SVDP Council Secretary