



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME

Council Board Meeting – Minutes

September 27, 2018

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Elizabeth Barbieri, Board President

Present:

- *District Council Presidents:* Annette Bligh, William Blow (filling in for Phil Schwab), Jeff Bunten, Ken Gebken, Bob Hook, Wes Karna, Ed McCarthy, Matt Medina, Steve Polk, Clay Whitener
- *Members at Large:* John Fallah, Ellen Harshmann, John Luth, Dan Schlafly, Jim Wilson, Rhae Yancey
- *Ex Officio members:* Dave Winslett
- *SVPD staff:* John Foppe, Gena Bast, Ryan Carney, Denise Chachere, Debra Downey, John Heithaus, John Walters
- *Guests:* Dan Asahl (Northwest District president-elect), Julie Bohnenkemper (student of Social Work, College of Public Health and Social Justice at St. Louis University)

Absent: Derek Collins, Rev. James Cormack

Quorum: Yes

1. Opening Prayer

Elizabeth Barbieri led the opening prayer.

2. Spiritual Reflection / Mission Moment

John Foppe led a discussion on inspirational aspects of the legacy and heritage of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

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) Q4 Financial review

Three key areas are doing very well: stores, contributions, and investments. The intentional \$1.4 million deficit supports the rule against hoarding. It allows \$2.4 million in support of Program Services.

b) FY2019 Budget approval

The Board discussed the FY2018 Consolidated Forecast and FY2019 Consolidated Budget. The \$1.4 million deficit for FY2019 will match a similar amount from Board Designated Funding. Any variances in estimated amounts, such as from investment income, will have a relatively small effect on the reserve ratio.

MOTION: The Board approved the FY2019 Financial Budget.

6. Executive Director's Report – John Foppe

a) FY2018 Scorecard and Strategic Progress/Ends report

This has been a record year impacting the three Vincentian pillars. The Scorecard shows an overall 88% success. John outlined many areas that are exceeding their goals. Kudos to all. The Staff is showing strong support and leadership. Many others are very well engaged. It is critical that we avoid mission creep. We should continue to know and use our strengths.

b) FY2019-21 Strategic Plan approval

The Board provided very positive feedback for the three-year strategic plan, "Seeking and Serving All in Need." It focuses on four priorities: Gospel Leadership, Vincentian Experience, Financial Stewardship, and Staff Experience. The seventeen committee members utilized a great deal of input from various listening sessions. Starting in October there will be further breakdown into an Executive Plan.

MOTION: The Board approved the FY2019-2021 Strategic Plan.

c) Bridges/Housing Program approval

The Bridges program that started three years ago has helped address a growing call from Vincentians for housing assistance. This change puts a "face" on housing needs, creating more opportunities for systemic change in neighbors' lives.

MOTION: The Board approved the addition of a Housing Assistance Program to the existing Council Program offerings.

7. Development Report – Ryan Carney

Thanks to Anne Kirwan for great work over the past several years.

Performance is above forecast. Keys to the success include demonstration of the Vincentians' work, joy of those involved, and the impact from one-on-one engagement. Future work will include more Website development, monthly giving opportunities, focus on the seven largest donors, and work to increase major donors, particularly those donating over \$5,000 annually.

Information not yet public: The Remmert bequest will likely provide \$6.75 million to \$7 million for SVDP. There are details to be sorted out over the next six to nine months before the funding is available. SVDP will need to perform a needs assessment. Examples of special areas to consider could include a Stores distribution center or twinning around the world. Appropriate messaging is yet to be determined. For the time being, the Society should continue to focus on its normal fundraising to help our neighbors in need.

Hold the date: All Board members are invited to an Apostles of Charity Appreciation Luncheon at the SVDP offices on Wednesday, October 17, 2018. There will be a Mass at noon followed by a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Ryan or Claire in the Council office.

8. Vincentian Services – John Heithaus

a) North Central District Split

There have been ten districts for several years. The North Central District has 23 conferences, which is well above the 3-12 recommended in the SVDP Manual. The North Central District Council presidents recommend subdividing it in two: a Mid Central District, with Ed McCarthy as president, and a North Central District, with a president to be named.

There was a suggestion in the Board for District Presidents to consider a possible reorganization of all 140-some conferences for a different geographic consolidation.

There was a request for an electronic copy of all District main contacts. Such information is under development.

MOTION: The Board voted to accept the recommendation of the North Central District Conference presidents to subdivide it into two district councils.

- b) Thomas Thibodeau Servant Leadership Event

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

- c) SVDP Sunday is November 4. District presidents have been provided bags with promotional material for their conferences.

9. Stores Report – John Walters

The Christy Store is finding good success in selling men's and women's clothing by the pound. In 33 days, the process produced \$5800 in revenue. The same amount of material would have raised only \$750 wholesale.

A central distribution warehouse can help manage operations of the six trucks and related stock movement. Pick-ups have increased 39% this past year. This volume adds to the need to get donations to the stores that need them the most.

10. Governance Committee Report – John Luth

- a) Board Retreat

John Heithaus and Andrew Kassebaum will facilitate the retreat, "Two Feet of Love in Action." It will provide education on social teachings of the Church. The new District Presidents will be installed. The Board and the Voice of the Poor Committee are invited.

Hold the date: The retreat will be on Saturday, November 10, 2018. There will be a Mass at 9 a.m. The retreat will end by noon.

11. Voice of the Poor Report – Steve Polk

Representatives of SVDP, the Missouri Catholic Conference, and Catholic Charities met recently and identified opportunities for collaboration. By working together and building networks, the three organizations can have an impact on advocacy for the poor. There will be focus on the 2019 legislative session in Jefferson City. SVDP is looking to join the other two groups in the use of Voter Voice, which alerts people about upcoming legislation so they can show their support.

The most critical issues are transportation, housing, utilities, and predatory lending. There will be an interest to start with one main issue.

The committee is looking for more people to help spread the message. They are looking for compelling stories to share with legislators to help build understanding of the need.

12. Other Business

- a) Visit by International President General Renato de Lima Oliverio, January 10-12

Details of the president general's visit are coming together. Visits will include a local Thrift Store, the Vincentian Shrine and Association of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, and possibly other area attractions.

Hold the date: Board members and their spouses are invited to have dinner with the president general the evening of Thursday, January 10, 2019. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. at Kemoll's Downtown.

- b) St. Louis University is celebrating its 200-year history. There will be an event open to the public and featuring various activities at the Chaifetz Arena on Thursday, November 15.

13. Closing Prayer

John Foppe led the closing prayer.

The Board presented Matt Medina a plaque of St. Vincent de Paul in recognition of his term that is ending as the Northwest District president.

Submitted by John Luth
SVDP Council Secretary