



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME

Council Board Meeting – Minutes

April 2, 2020

2:00-3:00 p.m.

This was a special meeting to address impacts from the world pandemic. All attended via teleconference.

Presiding: Elizabeth Barbieri, President

Present:

- *District Council Presidents:* Dan Asahl, Jeanette Aubuchon, Judy Belford, Bill Blow, Jeff Buntin, Ken Gebken, Bob Hook, Ernestine Jackson, Carole Johnson, Wes Karna, Ray Suda
- *Members at Large:* John Fallah, Ellen Harshmann, Michael Kehoe, John Luth, Laurie Phillips, Phil Schwab
- *Ex Officio members:* Rev. James Cormack, Dave Winslett
- *SVdP staff:* John Foppe, Gena Bast, Ryan Carney, Denise Chachere, Debra Downey, Mike Goering, John Heithaus, Julie Komanetsky, John Walters

Absent: Dan Schlafly, Rhae Yancey

Quorum: Yes

1. Opening Prayer

Elizabeth Barbieri led the opening prayer.

2. Additional Emergency Response

John Foppe reviewed the situation. The Council is reprioritizing and making various adjustments due to the loss of revenue from the store closures and the desire to maintain payroll for the time being. The plans are based on the assumptions that stores will be closed for another month and there would be no government aid.

Board members had many questions. There will be some savings from scaling back aspects of the National Convention. There have been a few changes to the staff, including one layoff and a position not filled. Store employees remain employed for the time being. The Stores team is taking reasonable precautions in a cleaning program. The reopening dates and format will all depend on how things develop in the coming weeks and months. While the Bed Program is closed for the remainder of this fiscal year, Conferences will still be

able to use vouchers to get bedding for neighbors in need. This and many other updates will be communicated to the Vincentians. The Council is receiving and using funds in various ways with other agencies in the area. The Council is in decent shape financially. There will be a need for continued daily assessments and likely a need to reconvene to address the situation beyond six weeks from now.

The Council is blessed to be in a good position based on work of the past eight years, with trust and faith in Divine Providence.

MOTION: The Board approved a resolution to liquidate \$746,000 from the unrestricted assets as part of an additional six-week emergency response.

3. Severance Policy

John Foppe and Denise Chachere reviewed the situation. Updated information removes the need for the Severance Policy that was adopted in January 2020. The Council has no plans for mass layoffs at this time. It was noted that the Council's interest to retain its employees speaks volumes.

MOTION: The Board approved the removal of the Severance Policy that was adopted in January 2020.

4. Other Business

There was a request that gift cards, whether handled by the Disaster Committee or other avenues, should consider what stores are available to the neighbors in need in the various affected areas. Rural residents typically have limited choices of stores in their areas. There was also a request to involve a broader group of the Board when deciding various details in an emergency response, as best as possible.

5. Closing Prayer

Elizabeth Barbieri led the closing prayer.

Submitted by John Luth
SVdP Council Secretary