



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME

Council Board Meeting – Minutes

January 5, 2021

4:00-4:35 p.m.

All attended via teleconference.

Presiding: Elizabeth Barbieri, President

Present:

- *District Council Presidents:* Dan Asahl, Jeanette Aubuchon, Judy Belford, Bill Blow, Jeff Bunten, Bruce Gallion, Ken Gebken, Ernestine Jackson, Carole Johnson, Wes Karna, Ray Suda
- *Members at Large:* Ellen Harshmann, Michael Kehoe, John Luth, Laurie Phillips, Bernie Sammons, Dan Schlafly, Phil Schwab
- *Ex Officio members:* John Foppe, Dave Winslett
- *SVdP staff:* Gena Bast, Ryan Carney, Debra Downey, Julie Komanetsky

Absent: John Fallah, Rhae Yancey

Quorum: Yes

1. Opening Reflection

Elizabeth Barbieri provided a reflection on St. John Neumann, whose feast day was celebrated on this day.

2. United Way

Elizabeth reviewed pros and cons of being a United Way agency and receiving United Way funding. This included a written summary from John Foppe plus input from several others.

The Board discussed various negatives. There have been conflicts with the Catholic faith, campaigns for employee participation, United Way agents who struggle to understand SVdP's federated structure, a fund raising black-out period, time and opportunities that are lost, and a declining value in branding as a United Way agency.

On the positive side, there was strong interest to retain a relationship with the United Way for 211 referrals, emergency response, and other community collaboration. A change in the agency status should be communicated diplomatically, noting that the funds can be used by other agencies in need. The change could bring new support for SVdP from certain

corporate foundations. The change may be of interest to the Archdiocese for their consideration, noting benefits that SVdP is finding. For the long term, SVdP still has options to pursue an agency status, should circumstances change.

MOTION: The Board approved a proposal to discontinue being a United Way agency.

3. Closing Prayer

Elizabeth Barbieri led the closing prayer.

Submitted by John Luth
SVdP Council Secretary