



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME

Council Board Meeting – Minutes

September 23, 2021

2:00-3:55 p.m.

This meeting was held at St. Rose of Lima Parish, 523 S. 4th Street, De Soto, Missouri. Some attended via teleconference, as indicated.

Presiding: Elizabeth Barbieri, President

Present:

- *District Council Presidents:*
Dan Asahl, Judy Belford, Jeff Bunten, Bruce Gallion, Ernestine Jackson, Carole Johnson, Ray Suda; *via teleconference:* Bill Blow, Ken Gebken
- *Members at Large:*
Ellen Harshmann, John Luth, Phil Schwab; *via teleconference:* John Fallah, Bernie Sammons, Dan Schlafly, Rhae Yancey
- *Ex Officio members:*
John Foppe, Fr. Mark Pranaitis
- *SVdP staff:*
Denise Chachere, Debra Downey, John Fitzpatrick, Mike Goering, Julie Komanetsky, Steve Poppe, Barry Schoedel

Absent: Jeanette Aubuchon, Wes Karna, Michael Kehoe, Dave Winslett

Guests: Grace Boyer, Marian Branson, Dan Byers, Mary Byers, Kay Emerson, Ann Love, Laura Love, Frances Missey, Paulette Northcutt, Jane Saggio, Catherine Stainway, Diane Stoverink; *via teleconference:* Russ Struttman

Quorum: Yes

1. Opening Prayer – Fr. Mark Pranaitis

There are many examples of people coming apart, such as with war and schism, and coming together, such as with gatherings and celebrations. Both have elements of holiness. Where do you find yourself?

2. Mission Reflection – Bill Blow

Bill was in the Philippines for many years while working for the Navy. He was exposed to abject poverty, and it made a tremendous impact on him. In his work with the Knights

of Columbus, dollars were donated, but it wasn't enough. He wanted to see people face-to-face. Since becoming a Vincentian in 2006, Bill has very much appreciated the home visits with neighbors in need and the Society's strong religious element.

3. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes of Previous Meeting
- b) Stores Committee report: Mike Goering highlighted the financial aspects of the report. Sales are very strong. The team appreciates the guidance and support from the Board. John Foppe reported that the Stores are the Council's largest program, and they help underwrite other programs. Carole Johnson urged everyone please to volunteer and encourage others to shop at the Stores.
- c) Voice of the Poor Committee report
- d) Disaster Committee report
- e) Development Committee report

The Board approved the minutes and various reports.

4. Decisions to be made

- a) Treasurer's report – Phil Schwab & Debra Downey

The Finance Committee reviewed the impact of the rent moratorium and Rapid Rehousing program. It agreed in the value of the Council and Districts covering the Servware license expenses. It helped to develop metrics that will give more insight into the Stores performance. It approved next year's Development plan. The committee recommends that the Board approve the Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

The forecast is affected by many regular updates. The Staff appreciates the great ideas and challenges offered by the Finance Committee.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved by consensus the FY2022 Financial Budget.

- b) Expansion of the Rapid Rehousing Pilot Program – Julie Komanetsky

Yvonne Allen will be a co-chair of the committee.

In Mother Teresa's words, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." This program has started small and is growing. It has now supported 21 neighbors from 18 conferences. Of those, 15 are rehoused, and two more will be by October 1. The goal has been to provide permanent housing within 60 days. The average has been 51 days.

The \$360,000 expansion will cover expenses to finish this year and add another 37 neighbors next year. It will add a part-time case manager in addition to the one who is full-time.

It was noted that the program has helped more women and children than men.

Vincentians follow the neighbors in need throughout the process. They introduce the neighbors to new conferences after they move. As a follow up, there was a suggestion to ask the Vincentians about their experiences with this program to see what else we can learn from them.

The program was shared with other Councils at the recent National Assembly.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved by consensus a resolution to expand the Rapid Rehousing Program Pilot with a larger geographic service area, an increased number of neighbors who are helped, and the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding with the St. Patrick Center for a maximum \$360,000.

c) Governance Committee report – Ellen Harshmann

Thanks to Steve Poppe and Gena Bast for their support of the 2021 SVdP Board Survey. There were 19 responses to this year's revamped and shortened survey. Thanks for the thoughtful comments. One notable theme was the recognition that we are here for our neighbors in need.

Next steps will map out some themes. Potential focus areas going forward may include training, the responsibilities of a Board member, and the relationships among the Board, Staff, and the Executive Director. There will be need for periodic visits with Board members. We are looking at a possible Board retreat in February. There is more to come.

The strategic planning process started to identify the scope of work, timeline, and high-level plan. An RFP was drafted for facilitation services, including criteria and a timeline. Prospective service providers were reviewed and narrowed to one recommendation. Kelly Pingleton is very familiar with Catholic organizations. Her services are expected to run on the order of \$7,500.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved by consensus a resolution establishing the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved by consensus a resolution to engage Kelly A. Pingleton of the GAERI Consulting Group as the facilitator for the Council's strategic planning process, with oversight from the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

d) Credit Empowerment Task Force

The Voice of the Poor Committee has endorsed the formation of this task force. Mary Kreienkamp will be a co-chair.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved by consensus a resolution establishing the Credit Empowerment Pilot Program and Task Force.

5. Information for Board Members

a) Highlights of the National Assembly – Carole Johnson and Catherine Stainway

The ten who attended from the St. Louis area felt recharged with a strong spiritual connection. There were feelings of strong unity in a relaxed, open environment. The workshops covered many projects, and they were very well attended. Spiritual aspects included Masses and the Rosary. Friendships were developed through networking opportunities.

b) St. Joseph Hill update – Julie Komanetsky

Julie reviewed findings from a visit to the site and an e-mail report that was sent to the Board. While Vincentians see homelessness and want to help neighbors, there are questions of what areas can be served and if there are enough resources to create and run an operation at this site. A recommendation calls for continued support of the Rapid Rehousing expansion and clearer direction from the strategic planning process.

There is not necessarily complete support of points in the e-mail report. Conferences see chronic homelessness. Some neighbors who pass through an area have absolutely nothing. There is concern that there is no place to take these people and not enough being done to address their needs.

c) Executive Director Strategic Progress report – John Foppe

John thanks everyone for their prayers and support during his most recent absence. Every department lead and particularly Julie Komanetsky did a great job in helping to provide continued service while John was away.

John had a great deal of information in the three pillars of the Ends Report. There is a great focus on helping our neighbors, who are everyone.

Each department lead covered highlights of how they seek and serve all in need.

- The Vincentian Programs & Strategic Partnerships team responded to over 1700 requests, provided various information sessions for Vincentians, supported programs such as Rapid Rehousing, and offered other services to help Vincentians as they work to help those in need and see Christ in their neighbors.

- The Development team exceeded a \$1.6 million goal by \$1 million. Benefactors and donors love the model that supports Vincentians and provides the Thrift Stores.
- The Stores team runs the largest program as special works. The stores are fresh, clean, and bright. They are good for cost-conscious customers. They provide employment, and the team is grateful for that.
- The Human Resources team recognizes that the employees are our neighbors. They have been provided a midyear market adjustment and benefits. There is investment in our employees, some of whom see this as a great first step into retail.
- The Accounting and Finance and Marketing teams support various stakeholders among all these services.
- The Vincentian Services team has continued to help revitalize conferences and support interest in special conferences such as Hispanic and Youth. They have helped with pregnancy care in the Mothers in Need program. They supported various on-line programs and training during the pandemic. The Servware software is helping to organize records for 98 conferences, with the goal for all to be licensed by year end. The team is also in contact with the Archdiocese's Pastoral Ministry, as they potentially look to rearrange parishes, which could impact conferences.

Among all the measured activities in these reports, the FY2021 Strategic Priorities Scorecard reached a score of 93 out of 100.

6. Other business

Please note the dates of upcoming events on the yellow sheet.

We offer gratitude and best wishes for three Board members whose terms are expiring: Dan Asahl, Ken Gebken, and Rhae Yancey.

We welcome Russ Struttmann, who will be taking Dan's place as the President of the Northwest District.

Please pray for Wes Karna, who has been ill.

7. How did it go?

The consensus was that the meeting went well.

8. Closing Prayer

Fr. Pranaitis led the closing prayer.

Submitted by John Luth
SVdP Council Secretary