



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME

Council Board Meeting – Minutes

July 28, 2022

4:30-6:40 p.m.

Presiding: Carole Johnson, Interim President

Present:

- *District Council Presidents:*
Jeanette Aubuchon, Ray Suda
via teleconference: Judy Belford, Bill Blow, Jeff Bunten, Bruce Gallion, David Little, Ernestine Jackson, Russ Struttman
- *Members at Large:*
John Luth, Phil Schwab
via teleconference: John Fallah, Christine Novalis, Bernie Sammons, Dan Schlafly
- *Ex Officio members:*
John Foppe, Fr. Daniel Thiess
via teleconference: Dave Winslett
- *SVdP staff:*
Mike Goering, Julie Komanetsky, Steve Poppe, Eric Weible

Absent: Wes Karna, Michael Kehoe

Guests: *via teleconference:* Mary Kreienkamp

Quorum: Yes

1. Opening Remarks and Agenda Review – Carole Johnson

There are added items for a Mission Moment and a Perryville building purchase.

On advice of Council attorneys, the item on Board Effectiveness has been removed.

Carole has cards for Elizabeth Barbieri in thanks for her years of service. Those in attendance are invited to sign them.

2. Opening Prayer and Spiritual Reflection – Fr. Daniel Thiess

Recent news about devastation from flash flooding has raised thoughts of economic poverty, spiritual poverty, and mental health challenges. Our vocation is to follow Christ through service to those in need. We serve in hope. Giving one's love, talent, and time

are much more important than giving money. It is so important to help eliminate root causes of poverty. We affirm the dignity of everyone and create a more just society. We evangelize through visible action. We give other people what they need, but we should also give ourselves what we need in a holistic manner.

3. Mission Moment – Julie Komanetsky

Julie shared the story of a young mother who has benefitted from the Pregnancy Care program. The mother is very grateful. Her son is now a one-year-old. Vincentian caring raises thoughts of Christ's messages about "Whatever you did for one of the least of these..." and "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." The mother and her son are moving their home with help from the Rapid Rehousing program, which brings even more reason to celebrate. The mother is working and learning a lot. Thanks to all.

4. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda – Carole Johnson

- Minutes of previous meeting
- Voice of the Poor Committee report
- Development Committee report
- Stores Committee report

The Board approved the minutes and reports.

5. Decisions to be made

a) Treasurer's report – Phil Schwab and Eric Weible

o FY22 Q3 Financials

Eric covered highlights of the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual report. Stores sales are off compared to budget. Contributing causes include a change in Store hours, the closing of one store, and the relocation of two others, along with various economic impacts. On the other hand, Net Income is favorable to budget, notably driven by \$1.6 million in the Bequest category. Overall, this is a strong financial position.

The Form 990 is to be reviewed by the Finance Committee and filed by August 5.

Phil shared that there are now \$6.2 million in investments. About 65% is in cash and fixed income, while 35% is in equities.

The Board approved the Treasurer's report and related statements.

b) Strategic Plan

- Credit Empowerment Task Force Report and Resolution for Pilot – Mary Kreienkamp

Work on this endeavor began before the pandemic. A pilot will draw on the best practices of 10-12 Conferences in diverse geographic areas. It will secure high interest loans while providing credit coaching to Neighbors in Need. Funds will be drawn from the \$40,000 deposit only if a Neighbor defaults on their loan. This program will have no overhead costs. It will be run by volunteers with administrative assistance from the Staff. This program is part of the Strategic Plan. It is a successful model used in other parts of the world. If the pilot is successful here, the program will be evaluated for how to expand it in future years. Ultimately, this program will provide economic empowerment for those who are struggling.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved a resolution to establish a Credit Empowerment Pilot Program, instruct the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding and service agreement with Midwest BankCentre (MBC) for the first year of this pilot, and authorize the deposit of \$40,000 in a Certificate of Deposit at MBC.

- Resolution to approve the FY22-25 Strategic Plan – John Foppe

There has been a lot of work on this plan this past year or so. There are many SMART goals organized into five Focus Areas. There is a lot of concurrent work. Several aspects, such as the wages for Stores employees and the Credit Empowerment program, have been handled separately. The Finance Committee has reviewed the financial aspects. Funding will be approved a year at a time. A timeline and many other details are on the spreadsheet that outlines the entire plan. Thanks to the committee for all their work in this regard.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved a resolution to approve the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, as presented in the “Strategic Plan Summary” document and the more detailed Excel spreadsheet entitled “Strategic Plan for the Board Meeting July 28.”

- Resolution to fund “A” Strategic Plan priorities for FY23 – John Foppe and Eric Weible

The Finance Committee reviewed this funding.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved a resolution to fund the “A” strategic goals for FY2023 from Board Designated Funds at a cost not to exceed \$533,500 and also to address the remaining FY24-25 goals during the annual budget process.

c) Perryville Building Purchase

Perryville is a very strong, active, and solvent Conference. It operates a very active thrift store. It performs twinning locally and internationally. They have an existing property, and they are looking to acquire a new property to which they can move their warehousing and visits with Neighbors in Need. They have over \$100,000 committed to this need, and they expect the upcoming purchase can be paid off in 6-8 months. The Finance Committee and attorneys have reviewed this proposed purchase. Since the Council is the legal entity that would actually own this property and secure the loan, the Board would need to approve this purchase. The Council would be liable if the loan were in default. However, given the strength of this Conference, the chance of that happening is very small. The property would be included under the Council's insurance policy. The Conference has performed due diligence on the property. It would handle all maintenance and operating costs, including paying the loan.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved a resolution to enter into a contract with Moonier-Reddick Building Association for the purchase of a property at 312 North Jackson Street, Perryville, Missouri. This includes a \$240,000 loan and deed of trust that John Foppe would execute.

6. Information for Board Members

- Stores Update – Mike Goering

The new Florissant Store has been open for six weeks. In that time, it had about \$125,000 in sales, which is up more than 44% from the same period last year. Unfortunately, it was damaged from the flash flooding that occurred this past week. All employees remain employed. Professionals are helping with the clean-up and restoration. Most materials are unaffected. The contaminated material is being removed. Drywall repair will occur over the next 1-2 weeks. The store should be open in 7-10 days.

The Lemay Store is looking good in anticipation of opening in its new location, planned for August 10.

Overall, the Stores business is 96% of last year and 93% of plan. Contributing reasons were covered in the Treasurer's report. Despite challenges, all stores are operating in the black.

- Executive Director Strategic Progress report – John Foppe

This has been a very busy and productive quarter. John discussed some highlights that were not covered in other parts of the meeting.

- Programs and Partnerships: The Staff addressed 518 Conference requests, bringing the total to over 1,000 for the year. There were 468 bed vouchers redeemed through June. This is only about half of those provided to Districts,

so please encourage follow-up with those. There were 31 pregnancy care referrals this quarter, bringing the total for the year to 91 referrals. Even more are expected in the future in light of the recent Supreme Court decision. The recent Vincentian Open House had reduced attendance due to the weather, but it was nevertheless very well received.

- Development: This work reached 92% of the annual goal through three quarters. That does not include \$100,000 that was received this morning.
 - Finance: Eric has been improving processes in his four months on the job.
 - Marketing: The Give STL Day helped raise \$9,000. The grand opening of the relocated Florissant store was very successful, with over 100 people lined up to receive promotional offerings. The Cool Breeze Fan Distribution in Fenton went very well.
 - Human Resources: There was a lot of good work to assist managers with over 40 new hires and to implement the \$15/hour minimum wage.
- All Things New initiative

A diagram outlines SVdP's engagement with this multi-year Archdiocesan initiative. The Council has a voice in the process. While a lot is not yet known, it is likely that change will be difficult for many. There could likely be impacts on Districts and the Council. There is coordination with other Councils that have dealt with consolidation. *The Rule* provides a great deal of guidance. Through this process it will be important that we recognize that service goes beyond parish boundaries. We will need to rely on Divine Providence.

- National Assembly Committee report – David Little

The 2022 National Assembly will be in Baltimore starting August 30. Carole Johnson, Jeanette Aubuchon, and David Little are among those who will be attending via scholarships. Please consider attending.

Planning is under way for the 2023 National Assembly in St. Louis. The committee is expecting on the order of 800 attendees. Most chair positions are filled at this point. Ideas are being explored for a city event. There is good input from a past chair and an event planner. Please consider helping.

SAVE THE DATE: The SVdP 2023 National Assembly, “Where It All Began,” will be in St. Louis, September 6-9, 2023.

- Nomination Committee report – John Luth

There will be an Information Session for those individuals discerning Council President candidacy. The session can be informative, answer questions, and also provide a way for more people to get to know each other. One of our key goals is to provide good information with which interested Vincentians can make an informed decision about their candidacy. There could be additional sessions if needed.

Dave Winslett stated that being the St. Louis Council President had changed his life. SVdP does tremendous work. A good understanding of the Society's history, spirituality, and *The Rule* provides very good underlying guidance for the role.

Normally the process to identify the next president starts at least nine months before the end of a president's term. This approach would provide an opportunity to job shadow. However, in this situation the timeline is compressed into just three months. The incoming President will benefit from good mentorships.

It was noted that an incoming President selects the At Large members. This can include an invitation to existing At Large members to remain on the Board, but it is the President's choice whether to do so.

SAVE THE DATE: An Information Session for those individuals discerning Council President candidacy will be on Monday, August 15, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. District Presidents will also be invited. Any others are welcome. It will be at the SVdP Council office, 1310 Papin Street.

7. Other business

Thanks to everyone for participating in this meeting despite various challenges, including very severe weather when the meeting was scheduled to begin.

There is a new password for Board members on the St. Louis SVdP Website. Documents on the site include a draft schedule for FY23.

8. Closing Prayer – Fr. Thiess

Fr. Thiess led the closing prayer.

Submitted by John Luth
SVdP Council Secretary