



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME

Council Board Meeting – Minutes

September 22, 2022

4:00-6:30 p.m.

Presiding: Carole Johnson, Interim President

Present:

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

Absent: Wes Karna, Dave Winslett

Quorum: Yes

1. Welcoming Remarks and Agenda Review – Carole Johnson

An item regarding the free lunch program has been added to the agenda. The Board approved the agenda.

Carole handed Board members Thank You cards. A drawing of a three-legged stool reminds us to maintain balance. *“Love God with your whole heart, mind, soul and being. Love Your Neighbor as you Love Yourself.”*

Carole also had a couple dolls on the table during the meeting, to represent and remind us of our neighbors in need, who we serve.

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

Jesus identified WITH the poor. We are asked to be about mercy as opposed to sacrifice. Mercy requires compassion. The Society is about compassion. We feel compassion for our neighbors in need, and we see Christ in them.

3. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda – Carole Johnson

- Minutes of previous meeting
- Voice of the Poor Committee report
- Development Committee report
- Stores Committee report
- FY 2022 Scorecard, Strategic Progress, and Ends Report
- Credit Empowerment Task Force report (added to the agenda, included in the hand-out material)

The Board approved the minutes and reports.

4. Decisions to be made

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

The proposed budget was presented to the Finance Committee and approved unanimously.

Part of the budget is established in coordination with the Development Director, establishing a target based on giving histories and other factors. An example of "Gifts not received" would be a large gift given one year but not the next for whatever reason. Pass-through donations go to particular conferences that are designated.

Board Designated Funds (BDFs): Bequests are not budgeted since they are highly variable and uncertain until they happen. By policy, bequests go to the BDF. From there, they fund certain specified programs and other needs that the Board determines. In the future, the payment method for a BDF distribution should be specified with the request. The overall budget has a negative Net Income given the intent to spend down the BDF balance.

It is important that the Board members understand the overall financials without micro-managing. The budget summary helps in this regard, and it is very much appreciated. Future updates could include a visualization of the flow of dollars. Store vouchers and Store profitability are a couple concepts that perhaps could be explained more clearly.

The Council has \$5.2 million invested, and those investments are in relatively good shape. There is about \$2.5 million in BDF. The present 50% reserve ratio fits within the targeted 50-70% range, leaning to the lower end to spend the dollars.

Eric will send information to clarify the W-9 process. A policy would help. Among other aspects, the process helps identify whether an organization that does business with a conference is subject to backup withholding.

b) Resolution to approve the FY2023 budget

RESOLUTION: The Board approved the FY2023 Financial Budget.

c) Resolution to renew the lease for the Christy Store – Mike Goering

This is a good store in a good location. The rent is going up. The positive Net Income will more than cover the added expense. Risks are minimal.

RESOLUTION: The Board approved a resolution to renew the lease for the Christy Store.

5. Information for Board Members

- All Things New initiative – John Foppe

The staff is staying engaged with the Archdiocese. SVdP is unique among social service organizations in that it has extensive presence in parishes throughout the Archdiocese.

A report is due in October. The Church is looking to close as many as 80 of the 180 parishes. Much is unknown at this point, including decisions on schools and locations for sacraments. There will be many logistical issues. One set of ideas suggests that vacant buildings can perhaps be used to help the poor.

There will be many issues to sort out for SVdP. There may be impacts on conferences and districts, as well as food pantries and other special works.

Evangelization, prayer, and change management will be very important. It starts with each other, to help each other.

- Employee Survey Results – Mike Goering

The annual employee survey had a Net Promoter Score of 55.3. This is considered very positive and somewhat rare. Although there are a few areas to address, the results are a very positive sign that employees feel they are heard and well valued.

- St. Louis Council President Nomination Committee Report – John Luth

District Presidents are asked to attend this important meeting in person. Alternatively, an individual can send a proxy, but in that case, they are asked to complete a proxy form.

SAVE THE DATE: The election will be held via secret ballot at the St. Louis Council Office on Thursday, September 29, starting at 4:00 p.m.

- School Lunches – John Foppe

Some recent news articles were confusing, suggesting that school lunches would be discontinued due to federal policy changes. In reality, the Church will continue to provide lunches to the children, using private funding.

- Committee report for 2023 National Assembly in St. Louis – Dave Little

Planning meetings are helping to work out issues. A key goal is to provide a well-coordinated, meaningful experience for the attendees.

There were a few lessons learned from those who attended the recent assembly in Baltimore. For example, ideally there should be volunteers very visible to help direct people to their destinations and answer questions. There will be training for volunteers as the event draws near.

Attendance in the National Assembly will be encouraged. Turn out should be strong, with 800-some anticipated attendees.

- SVdP National President Election Process – Barry Schoedel

Ralph Middlecamp is nearing the end of six years in his position. There is a significant local role to coordinate District Presidents, explain the process, handle the confidential ballots, and very importantly, encourage prayer.

- FY2022 Strategic Ends Presentation – John Foppe and the Leadership Team

Jesus told His disciples to put out their fishing nets, and the nets came back full. We are obedient to Christ. The Society is alive and doing well.

The FY2022 Strategic Priorities Scorecard Summary, with various weighted elements, has an overall score of 94%.

There are many programs and strategic partnerships delivering large numbers of services to neighbors. Development exceeded its goal with a good number of large donors. New staff and new software will help the Finance team provide better transparency as it performs its work. Various changes in the Stores help that operation

advance its mission while they exceed sales records. Work in the HR area, including new wages and daily prayers, help support the team's mission. Communications and Marketing through various media help to support the stores, volunteers, and fundraising. The Vincentian formation work provides various in-person assemblies, training, and workshops, all with a focus on spirituality and helping each other.

This was a very strong conclusion to the previous strategic plan as the Council looks ahead to the new three-year strategic plan. Among the greatest challenges ahead will be the journey through All Things New.

Thanks to the Board for all its support. The presentation received a round of applause.

6. Recognition of At-Large Members

The terms of the At Large members come to an end as the president's term ends. Whether or not the next president opts to ask any of the existing At Large members to continue for additional years will be up to that president.

Carole gave departing members each a book as a gift of gratitude, *Antoine Frédéric Ozanam*, by Raymond L. Sickinger, along with a Thank You card.

7. Other business

Bruce Gallion, Festus District President, has announced that he is leaving the Board.

Ray Suda, Southeast District President, has resigned from the Board. Ray's replacement is the Southeast VP, Wayne Basler.

Thanks to these two presidents for all they have done in their service.

Thanks in particular to Carole Johnson for all her outstanding work as Interim President.

8. Closing Prayer – Fr. Thiess

Fr. Thiess led the closing prayer.

Submitted by John Luth
SVdP Council Secretary