

ST VINCENT DE PAUL – DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 7/02/2024

- Dan Miller (President) called the meeting to order at 6pm, July 2, 2024 at the Sts. Mary & John parish in Rager Hall
- **In Attendance:** Executive Board Members: Dan Miller (President), Jeff Kropfl (Vice President), Melanie Seibert (Treasurer), Sr Doris Clippard (Spiritual Director), Joe Cook (Executive Director), Noah Werner (Dir Of Case Management), and Mike McKee (Thrift Store Advisory Chair)
- Also present at this meeting was Jim Strosnider (Diocesan Council President) who was introduced around the room
- **OPEN POSITION ON EXECUTIVE BOARD (SECRETARY):** We are still in need of someone to step up and join the District Council as Secretary on the Executive Board. This slot has been open for a month now and we ask you to help us identify candidates.
- **MINUTES:** Minutes from the previous DC meeting on 6/4/2024 were reviewed and approved
- **FINANCIALS:** The District Council financial summary for the month and YTD May 2024 were presented by Melanie Seibert.
- Melanie reviewed a high level summary financials for all three special entities (District Council, Food Pantry, and Thrift Store). Both the District Council and Food Pantry have higher expenses YTD and less earnings. Through May 2024 the Thrift Store is ahead of the prior year's earnings pace.
- **2024-2025 Budget:** The Treasurer presented a "first draft" of the 2024-2025 budget financials for the District Council, the Food Pantry, and the Thrift Store. Over the next 30-60 days we will have to finalize the budget for the following fiscal year which begins on 10/1/2024. Melanie asked Presidents to review the information with their respective conferences and bring any questions to the next DC meeting on 8/6/2024.
- **Centerpoint Online Access Screen for SVDP to inquire on bill & input pledges:** Since the last meeting CenterPoint has gone live with a new online system and new customer account number structure. Many Vincentians in the room were expressing they were having troubles getting into the system at first. A lot of discussion in the room about how this new system has a lot less information for us to review (not much history, and not a lot of visibility on pledges) compared to the old system.
- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:** Joe Cook gave updates on many important topics
 - By-Laws – As of the start of this meeting there are still 7 conferences tardy in returning the signature page of their by-laws.
 - Bridges out of poverty – Only 4 out of 10 spots purchased for Vincentians to attend the June 26 Bridges Out Of Poverty training were utilized. Of those four, three attended. Noah Werner finished his training for this certification today.
 - Getting Ahead News - 7/3/2024 is the graduation date for the second cohort. Staying Ahead is to begin soon. Recruiting for the next cohort will begin in force at the beginning of August. Focus is to be on "preservation or restoration of dignity".
 - MicroLoan News – Looking for one more loan committee member to set process, policies, and review applications with the team. First Federal deal is in place. Working on another opportunity with Banterra.
 - Food pantry sign – The new sign is erected, in place, and has been tested. Training for us on how to program the sign is set for 7/8/2024.

- Quarterly Gathering – next quarterly gathering is set for 9/8/2024 at Annunciation (Cathy Spindler affirmed at meeting).
- Friends of the Poor (FOP) Walk - currently sitting at \$21,600 raised through sponsors who now number 42. Bill Hussman and Donna Hurm did a great job of identifying new possible sponsor candidates by going through all parish bulletin's advertisers and identifying ones who haven't been FOP sponsors in past so we can approach/call them to see their interest in sponsoring the FOP walk.
- **STORE REPORT** – There have been personnel changes in the Thrift Store management since the last meeting. A new manager for the store will be in place starting on 7/9/2024. Please be patient during this transition process.
- Mike McKee gave a full store update on store activity and metrics for the prior month.
- Joe Cook gave an update on the bedding prices and how they're changing. This is due to a new design that costs a bit more so it has to be passed on. The new design in 8" foam pad instead of the 6" pad in the old design - - - Melanie has factored in freight, too.
- **FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT FROM 2022-2023 (TIM OTTE)**: Dan Miller discussed how the outside auditor's report was sent out to all District Council members via email after the last meeting for all to review and bring any questions back to this meeting. Dan asked the members if there were any questions on the financials or Tim Otte report to which there were none presented. Melanie Seibert motioned that we approve the 2022-2023 Audit and Audit Report. Tom Bryan (Sts Mary & John) seconded the motion and the audit report was accepted.
- **RESOLUTION 2024.1 CONFERENCE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY & REVIEW**:
 - A lot of discussion around this topic and Dan Miller asked for input from President's after this topic was brought up at prior meeting.
 - There was a lot of input from many different president's viewpoints.
 - Not a lot of unanimity on this yet
 - A lot of angst about using the phrase "audit" was expressed
 - Dan proposed we launch a subcommittee (we need people to step up and agree to be a part of this!) to flesh this out some more
- **THRIFT STORE EXPANSION/ADDITION**: Joe Cook talked for a bit about wanting to "take a step back" and do a thorough examination with a subcommittee and analyze the thrift store's operations and processes and assure ourselves whether what we do today is as efficient as it can be with respect to floor space and resources. [We will do a workshopping of the current processes]
- **ANNUAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM CERTIFICATIONS**: Handed out to conference presidents and executive board members was the annual conflict of interest signoff forms for them to review and attest to there is no conflict of interest existing within their conference or the district council.
- **NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN DRIVE**: We were made aware of support from National on helping the society push forward with renewed vigor a campaign to drive new membership.
- **DIOCESAN UPDATE FROM JIM STROSNIDER**: Our guest Jim Strosnider thanked all conferences and individuals who were part of the ~ \$38,000 +/- raised for tornado/disaster funds for tornado victims up in the greater Sullivan area.
- **ROLL CALL TAKEN**: Absent this month were All Saints, Corpus Chrsi, St Fr and Wendel,
- **Next Meeting**: Tuesday 8/6/2024 – meeting was adjourned with prayer