

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL EVANSVILLE DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 3, 2024**

- **6:07pm President Dan Miller called meeting to order in Rager Hall of Sts. Mary & John parish**
- **IN ATTENDANCE:** Executive Board Members Dan Miller (President), Jeff Kropfl (Vice President), Melanie Seibert (Treasurer), Rosemary Beckman (Secretary), Sr. Doris Clippard (Spiritual Director), Joe Cook (Executive Director), Noah Werner (Dir. of Case Management), Mike McKee (Thrift Store Advisory Chair)
- **OPENING PRAYER:** Led by Sr. Doris
- **RULE 3.10:** Dan Miller read “All decisions are made by consensus after the necessary prayer, reflection and consultation. The democratic spirit is fundamental at all levels of the Society and, when appropriate, matters are put to a vote”.
- **REFLECTION:** Sr. Doris led us in group recitation of Antiphon and Psalm 63: 1-9. Gospel of Luke 10: 25-37 (“And who is my neighbor?” parable of the Good Samaritan) read aloud followed by reflection, silent response to discussion questions and ending prayer
- **MEETING MINUTES:** Aug. 6, 2024, minutes were reviewed. Dan asked for any corrections. The following errors were noted and corrected: (Re: Exec. Director's Update) Thrift store manager's last named amended to Garrison; Rice Bowl amended to Hunger Bowl; (Re: Ongoing Business) A/C coil replacement on roof of ‘Food Pantry’ amended to roof of ‘Thrift Store’. Dan called for approval of the amended meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes as amended was made by Deb Neufelder and seconded by Julie Buedel. Meeting minutes were approved as corrected
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Melanie Seibert reviewed the Financial Summary for July and Fiscal YTD July 31, 2024, for the District Council, Food Pantry and Thrift Store
 - District Council donations were up in part due to a single 10K donation. Wage and fuel expenditures were up. The year-to-date Net Receipts show a deficit of \$58,000 more than last year this time.
 - Year to date Food Pantry donations were down 48K; July food purchase expenditures up 3K and year to date up 33K (28%). Operating Expenses up 2K in July and year to date 10%. Net Receipts show deficit.
 - Thrift Store income down 10K and year to date down 6K (1%). July expenditures up 3%. Net Receipts down for month and year to date.

Melanie felt the extreme heat resulted in lower foot traffic, hence lower sales at Thrift Store during July

- **CENTERPOINT UPDATE:** Melanie noted current customer billing can now be viewed online (most of the time), however, some questions addressed to Jared Wells (company representative) are still unanswered.

Melanie noted a Friends of the Poor Program grant request was denied. The grant would have underwritten expenses incurred helping our immigrant population.

Melanie reminded those present that the fiscal year ends Sept 30 and annual end-of-year reports are due no later than Nov 30. Along with this report she requests conferences include 2 additional items for tax purposes: 1) Bank Statement as of 9/30/24 and 2) Names and addresses of all persons/entities making any single donation of 1K or more during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, along with the donation amount.

- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Joe Cook relayed the following:
 - Friends of Poor Walk will be held Sept. 28 at 9am on State Hospital grounds as in the past. Registration starts at 8am. Encourage participation from our conferences and parishes
 - 32K raised from 53 sponsors for FOP Walk
 - Re: Charity Tracker - Company that brought this system to Evansville currently allows us to use the system at no cost but in future we (SVdP) may be charged a fee to continue using the system...perhaps 1K per year
 - Some system records are being deleted. Conference electronic and paper 'Assistance' records must be kept for 3 years. Certain records must be kept 7 yrs. (example: meeting minutes, certain bank records, treasurer reports). Refer to Manual Record Retention Rule 2.2 for full disclosure
 - Most members of an ad hoc committee met to review the Thrift Store to determine its needs. A Sept 9 follow up meeting is scheduled.
 - Looking forward to Sept. 13 Friday Knights /Regent Promotions Hunger Bowl as this event has history (30K last year) of generous donations to Food Pantry
 - Next "Getting Ahead" cohort meeting scheduled for Wed., Sept 11. This program helps participants learn "how to fish"; develop self-sustainability, causes of poverty, how to find resources to overcome poverty. Noah works to determine which candidates would best benefit from this program and he follows up with them. Conference members are encouraged to attend these 2 classes of 16 weeks duration
 - Noah finishing grant request, "Forward Together", for up to 35K from interest earned on allocated but undistributed "Rescue Plan Act" funds

- Joe noted the many and varied resources available from the National Council and encourages the conferences to use them. He will email these resources to conferences
- **STORE REPORT:** Mike McKee will email new voucher information to conferences soon. Maggie Garrison said they are working on lowering pricing and creating a revised handbook for workers. Road construction on Walnut St will be ending soon; city buses will be making stops at store. In answer to a question Maggie said volunteers may still just “show up” to help. Some current needs: lamps and shoes
- **FOOD PANTRY REPORT:** Sr. Donna reported Aug. figures close to July with 2894 individuals and 1209 households served. August donations were higher at 30K and 14K debited for food purchases that did not include some produce and other items. Food purchases continue to be high. But there has been an abundance of fresh garden produce donated to the Food Pantry. The Sept 13 Hunger Bowl fund raiser hopefully will bring many donations. In the past seven years 90K has been raised. Sister Donna asked for prayers for 2 Food Pantry volunteers who are ill, Tom Kuhn and Dan Masterson.
- **ON-GOING BUSINESS:** Dan Miller
 - Resolution 2024.2 Budget for 2024-25 (Oct. 1, 2024, to Sept. 30, 2025) District Council, Thrift Store and Food Pantry comes from the Executive Committee. Dan asked if this Budget Resolution could be approved at this meeting. A concern was voiced regarding loss figures. Melanie addressed this concern by stating there is a sizeable amount of cash in reserves to absorb losses, nevertheless, we always try to keep expenses down and encourage donations. Joe and Melanie noted sums of money from the District Council had gone to help individual conferences. Dan called for a consensus vote of this resolution and the vote passed Resolution 2024.2.
 - Resolution 2024.1 Conference Financial and Accountability Review is being put on hold and will be addressed in November
 - District Council Secretary: Dan introduced Rosemary Beckman as candidate to fill vacated DC secretary position. She was approved as new DC secretary
 - Diocesan Council President: Dan asked for any names to put forth as candidate for Diocesan Council president on behalf of the District Council. The term is 3 years. With no names put forward, we advise and consent a vote for a second 3-year term for current Diocesan Council President, Jim Strosnider effective Sept 8
- **NEW BUSINESS:** Dan Miller noted the following:
 - Chairman of the Food Pantry Advisory Committee, Carolyn Harmon, has resigned. A replacement is currently being considered

- **News from the National Assembly:** Dan attended the Assembly and brought back post cards the conference members could leave when making home visits and copies of a 1700s painting of St. Vincent de Paul. The painting is the only known depiction of St. Vincent de Paul as a priest administering the Holy Eucharist. Dan encouraged us to visit the National Assembly website to view an online video of speaker, Donna Beegle. She is an exceptional speaker who comes from generational poverty and her efforts have influenced the Ozanam Orientation training. Dan made note of the new Executive Director of the National Assembly, Michael Acaldo of Baton Rouge, LA
 - **District Council Vision SVDP PowerPoint slides** will be reviewed at the October meeting (TV not available). It is a Visioning Process that the District Council followed by the conferences will be participating in with results recorded and sent to the National Assembly by November
 - **Quarterly Gathering** will be held Sept 29 at Annunciation Parish/Christ the King church at 11am Mass followed by Commissioning of Evansville District officers, Executive Director and Spiritual Advisor. Dinner and a speaker will follow at parish center. Please register and encourage attendance
 - **Ozanam Orientation** for the Loogootee area will be held Oct. 5 at St. Joseph Parish Annex in Bramble IN (off Rt 231 north of Jasper) and Oct. 26 at St Benedict Cathedral Woodward Center. Dan requests conferences to let him know asap each conference attendee count so Orientation Manuals can be ordered. An accurate count is appreciated as the manual may soon be edited and new editions used in future.
- **ROLL CALL (NEW/DECEASED VINCENTIANS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS):** Absent was Holy Redeemer Conference. No new or deceased members.
 - **CLOSING PRAYER:** Sr. Doris led us in reciting The VisionSVdP Prayer to the Holy Spirit and the “Hail Mary” for the Food Pantry volunteers noted earlier
 - **ADJOURNMENT:** Dan adjourned meeting at 7:20pm. Next meeting will be Oct. 1, 2024, at 6:00pm in Rager Hall of Sts. Mary and John Parish.