

**SOCIETY ST VINCENT de PAUL EVANSVILLE DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES 7/1/2025**

6:00PM - President Dan Miller called the meeting to order in Rager Hall of Sts. Mary and John Parish

IN ATTENDANCE: Executive Committee members Dan Miller (President), Jeff Kropfl (Vice President), Melanie Seibert (Treasurer), Rosemary Beckman (Secretary), Sr. Doris Clippard (Spiritual Advisor), Dr. Ashley Newell (Executive Director), Mike McKee (Thrift Store Advisory Board Chair), Jennifer Gieselman (Thrift Store Acting Manager), Mary Reed (Food Pantry Manager), Bill Hussmann (Food Pantry Advisory Board Chair), Noah Werner (Director of Case Management and Office of Emergency Assistance)

OPENING PRAYER: Sr. Doris led us in reciting the traditional SVdP Opening Prayer

REFLECTION: Sr Doris used the Gospel according to Matthew 16: 13-19 for the June 29 feast of Sts. Peter and Paul with written reflections on both Saints to “show us that the mission of the Church and the Society of SVdP is both contemplative and active”. In small group discussion we told how (1) my prayer leads me to action; (2) whether my actions and encounters with others lead me to prayer; and (3) is there something about Peter or Paul's life that speaks to me in my life. In closing we prayed asking Sts. Peter and Paul to help us be more faithful disciples, servants of the poor and one another and joyful bearers of hope.

RULE 4.1.3: Read by Dan

“Emergency Assistance: When disasters, war or major accidents occur, the Society launches emergency initiatives on the spot and provides funds for the local Society to help victims”. (The monthly newsletter for the Mideast Region Disaster Committee is distributed at our District Council meetings each month and keeps us abreast of recent disasters in our SVdP region and how the Society responds with both funds and other assistance).

MINUTES: The June 3, 2025 SVdP Evansville District Council Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Melanie

In response to the recent termination of the Thrift Store Manager, Melanie announced her resignation as District Council Treasurer. In her statement Melanie noted the recent increase in store sales and the innovative initiatives implemented by the Thrift Store manager. She took issue with the manner in which the termination occurred and felt it was based in large part on subjective personal feelings and differences of management style.

Dan thanked Melanie for her many years of service to the District Council and noted she would be missed.

Dan then gave a brief review of the Financial Summary March-May 2025 and Fiscal YTD May 2025 in comparison to March-May 2024 and May 2024 Fiscal YTD for District Council, Food Pantry and Thrift Store. There were no questions or further discussion.

Dan noted there were some significant numbers that came in at the end of June making it difficult to prepare the 2025-2026 Budget for review at the meeting tonight as planned. The proposed '25-'26 budget will be presented at the August meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Ashley

Grant Updates

- **DHS (Dept of Homeland Security) - Donna (Hurm) and Ashley filed the milestone check-in for the grant, as well as the financial report to remain in compliance with the grant requirements. We have 2 years in which to spend grant monies for security upgrades at the Food Pantry and Thrift Store.**
- **CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) - Evansville City Council met Monday, June 23 to consider Mayor Terry's recommendations for CDBG funding where they gave a chance for CDBG/ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) agencies to state their case for the grant allocations this year. Noah attended. Thursday, June 25 was a training for the upcoming CDBG grant cycle attended by Noah and Donna. Noah and Ashley are meeting with Gayl later this week to discuss ways to better present our case for the grant, show her Charity Tracker information on the neighbors we serve, etc. Dan asked if we have received any word yet as to whether we are being awarded funds and Ashley said no, not yet. Noah noted they work one year ahead, so the 19K we applied for and were granted last year is being distributed this year. The request we submitted this year if awarded will be distributed for next year.**
- **Evansville Endowment Fund - to be used for Capital Improvements. Our Letter of Intent was filed on June 16. Noah and Melanie got a quote from Happe Const. Co. on the cost of asbestos abatement at the Thrift Store for floor replacement. Testing was done by PACE Field Services Monday, June 30. Results typically take a week to receive.**
- **Sacred Heart Fund - This is a private donor, and we were invited to apply for up to 50K. Noah applied for a one-year grant of \$50,000. It was decided to award \$10,000 (each) to the following conferences: All Saints, Annunciation and Sts. Mary & John. \$5,000 will be awarded to each of the following conferences: Good Shepherd, Holy Rosary, St. Boniface and St. Clement.**
- **CenterPoint Foundation Grant - will be applied for when their grant cycle opens.**
- **Conference grants - there have been a flurry of requests recently. All have been approved and distributed.**

- **SVdP Mideast Region Friends of the Poor Grants** - last month Joe reminded conferences not to forget to submit their requests (July 23-Aug. 13) to National Council for up to 5K per conference to help with their cases.

Friends of the Poor Walk - to be held Sept 27. So far we have \$22,850 from 36 sponsors. We have initial meetings established with United Fidelity, Operation Rolling Thunder, Koch Enterprises, Toyota Motors Manufacturing Indiana for potential new corporate sponsors. Additionally, these companies offer PTO (Paid Time Off) to employees who volunteer, so I am also coordinating with their Community Outreach Liaisons.

Similarly, both UE and USI athletics require student athletes to complete a set number of volunteer hours. I have reached out to their Athletic Directors about inviting teams to volunteer at our Food Pantry and Thrift Store. Their team coach would be onsite to hold teams accountable for attendance and participation.

The Fall Quarterly Gathering belongs (alphabetically) to Holy Rosary. Because the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul falls on Sept. 27 (day scheduled for FOP Walk), perhaps the gathering could be held Sunday, Sept. 28.

Ozanam Orientation - date scheduled for Sat., Oct 25 at St. Benedict Woodward Center from 9am- 3pm. We have had a very sizeable turnout of Vincentians for this training in the last five years; 60-70%, which is a high percentage when compared with other districts. This training is very important for Formation as a Vincentian.

Presidential terms - Presidential terms are 3 years and begin Oct 1. A president may serve 2 consecutive 3-year terms before a different president serves at least one 3-year term. If you replaced the previous president on a date other than Oct 1, the clock already started ticking and at Oct 1 you are starting your second year in the 3-year term. Conference Presidents completing six years on Sept 30, 2025 are Annunciation, Corpus Christi, Good Shepherd and St. Clement. Those completing their first 3-year term this year are St Boniface, St James, St John Evangelist Daylight and St John Baptist Newburgh. Now is the time to start working on getting your candidates lined up for your September election. It is important to cultivate and share leadership.

Since our last meeting, the Young Adult/Crisis Fund Conference has decided to discontinue operations. We will need to determine how to proceed with earmarks and endowments set aside to disburse. Typically, when a parish-tethered conference closes, any money is held in perpetuity by the District Council until such time as another conference is formed at that parish. Given that the Young Adult/Crisis Fund Conference was structured non-traditionally, we must now decide how to proceed.

Bill Hussmann noted the good job Ashley is doing obtaining additional sponsors for the FOP Walk. He asked conferences to encourage volunteers for the FOP Walk event and

let him know who will be helping to better utilize their help. Bill also asks conferences to seek sponsors for the FOP Walk T-Shirts and Shopping Bags by the August 30 deadline. Dan said he will be sending the agenda and link for registering to attend the National Assembly Aug. 26-30 in Louisville, KY. Being so close to home, he encourages attendance even if for a day.

THRIFT STORE REPORT - Mike

Referencing the Thrift Store Voucher and Volunteer Tracking Report of Rolling Previous 12 months, Mike noted the following:

- Volunteer Hours have been up the last 2 months (April and May), 251/250 respectively. For comparison, the monthly average for last 12 months is 217.
- Clothing Vouchers redeemed for adults and children have also increased making Total Served in May (293) and Number of Items Sold in May (2426) the highest in the past 12 month period
- These increases resulted in an Items Sold dollar figure of \$7,142.21; the highest figure in last 12 months
- Furniture dollar amount sold was lower for May (\$1,537.87), however, donations of furniture were down in the same time period.
- Families helped with Bedding figures for May were up for both twin and full size beds. Queen bed figures were lower. The overall total number of beds sold by voucher for May (41) was highest in last 12 months.
- Mike introduced Jennifer Gieselman, Thrift Store Acting Manager.
- Jennifer thanked the conferences for the recent volunteer help and said more help is always needed and appreciated. She noted the store is concentrating on organization and cleaning, the results of which have been noticed and favorably commented on by customers. She praised the good teamwork at the store and how busy it has been all day. There has been a recent increase in furniture donations with 9 couches currently on the sales floor. Jennifer also noted the recently hired truck driver quit his job today. He needed higher wages due to being the sole provider and medical issues in his family. A replacement driver is promptly being sought. When asked about air conditioners and microwaves, Mike responded the store does receive those type donations but they go quickly.

FOOD PANTRY REPORT: Mary

- 2550 Individuals and 1073 Households were served by the Food Pantry in June. This was down from May figures of 2664 Individuals and 1214 Households served.
- A wonderful retirement reception was held in honor of Sister Donna June 29. Mary was able to meet many people associated with the Food Pantry, both volunteers and donors at the reception.
- Mary has a list of clients but needs email addresses for some of them.
- Current Pantry needs include peanut butter, macaroni, saltine crackers and cereal. The homeless are given canned protein food items (protein/meal-in-a-can type).

- Donations are coming in and are appreciated
- Dan noted MMI Grant funds are available now too for the Food Pantry needs.

ON-GOING BUSINESS: Dan

- **Progress on District Council Safeguarding Policy** - Dan and Ashley have been working on implementation of the policy. They have met with Virtus Training and have gone online to complete the Virtus training. Having experienced the training they now question whether all volunteers would need to complete it. It would still be necessary for those involved with home visits but perhaps not all volunteers. Noah has been asked for his input in this regard. There may be modifications to the policy requirements in the future. When asked whether a certificate from a recently retired EVSC teacher and Vincentian would 'count' towards our Safeguarding Policy, Dan said to hold on to the certificate as it may apply. Also, Catholic Schools teachers/employees who have completed the same or similar training might also count towards our Safeguarding Policy requirements. He noted the issue is the 'Child Protection' aspect of the training does not cover 'Vulnerable Adults'. Dan also advised conferences to keep all signed Harassment Policy forms. It now appears the Virtus online training will include electronic signature form(s) that will be transmitted upon completion of the training and be available to us for our records. Next month the hope is this policy will be rolled out.
- **Treasurer's Training on-line:** Conference Treasurers and Presidents who have not attended the previous training workshops can now view all related forms and accompanying instructions in a PowerPoint presentation on line at svdpevansville.org. Go to Resources page and log into Members section using User Name: Vincentian and Password: SVdPEvansville

NEW BUSINESS: Dan

- The first reading/review of the 2025-26 budget will be at the next District Council (DC) meeting, August 5, 2025. The vote on the budget will be taken at the September DC meeting and implemented Oct 1, 2025

ROLL CALL of Conferences, New Members, ill and deceased Vincentians, announcements:

- Conferences not in attendance - All Saints, Holy Redeemer, St. James, St. Matthew
- Sts. Peter and Paul has a new member - Don Kissel
- Resurrection lost Vincentian Gerald (Jerry) Tieken who died recently at age 76. He was a very dedicated and exemplary member of the conference and also very active In the Food Pantry

CLOSING PRAYER: Sr Doris led us in reciting the SVdP Vision Prayer in thanksgiving for new members, for the soul of Gerald Tieken and for all the conferences

6:54PM ADJOURN to EXECUTIVE SESSION (DC Treasurer, any guests and Food Pantry Manager to be excused)

BUSINESS: Dan

- **Management of the Thrift Store - Dan reported to the Board the reasons for the Thrift Store Manager's termination. He urged the Board to keep the reasons for the termination and the people involved confidential**

7:14PM Dan adjourned the Executive Session

Next District Council meeting is August 5, 2025, at 6pm at St. Mary's Rager Hall