

**SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT de PAUL
EVANSVILLE DISTRICT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES FOR OCT 7, 2025**

6:01PM President Dan Miller called the meeting to order in Rager Hall of Sts. Mary & John Parish.

IN ATTENDANCE: Executive Committee members President Dan Miller; Vice President Jeff Kropfl; Secretary Rosemary Beckman; Spiritual Advisor Sr. Doris Clippard; Executive Director Dr. Ashley Newall; Thrift Store Advisory Board Chair Mike McKee, Thrift Store Manager Jennifer Gieselman; Food Pantry Manager Mary Reed; Director of Case Management and OEA Noah Werner. Absent: Food Pantry Advisory Board Chair Bill Hussmann and District Council Staff Accountant Donna Hurm.

OPENING PRAYER - Sr Doris led us in reciting the traditional SVdP prayer. Sister then reminded conference presidents to complete and submit the form disclosing conference Spiritual Advisor information. Sister is hoping to form a Spiritual Advisor team soon to help with planning the Lenten Retreat and perhaps other things.

REFLECTION - Sr Doris

We read aloud from 'United in Works and Prayers' which featured Frederic Ozanam's requests for prayers, both general and specific. He had a deep sense that prayer is the most essential bond of love and friendship uniting friends with each other and with God. We also connect in prayer with those who have past from this life - in the Communion of Saints. And our prayers extend to our neighbors in need. Several of us shared the persons and their circumstances being raised in prayer. We prayed the 'Hail Mary' on this Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary keeping in mind a Vincentian friend or a neighbor.

RULE 5.2: The Society is legally autonomous as to its existence, constitution, organization, rules, activities and internal government. Vincentians freely choose their own officers and manage the Society's activities and assets with full autonomy, in accordance with their own Statutes and legislation in effect in each county. Read by Dan.

MINUTES: After review and with no further discussion the meeting minutes for the Sept 2, 2025 District Council meeting were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT - prepared by Donna Hurm and delivered by Ashley
Financial Summary Comments 10/7/25

District Council

- General Donations are about \$15,400 ahead for the YTD versus last year.
August's donations total of \$4,754 were actually net donations for Aug. \$9,368 was

actually received, but \$4,614 was transferred to the Crisis Fund in August that was deposited in late June.

- Operating Expenses YTD are on pace with last year's YTD. The District Council net loss for the YTD is about \$65,300 more than last year's YTD, most of which can be attributed to the \$60,000 decrease in grants received for a one year only for the payroll grant for my position.

Food Pantry

- For the first nine months of the year, cash donations are down about \$50,400; however, the Hunger Bowl is anticipating donations totaling almost \$37,000 and we had only received about \$1,300 through the end of August.
- Food Purchases are about 24% less than last year and are down about \$41,300 year-to-date.
- Operating Expenses in August are up \$62,934, but we wrote a check for about \$64,000 to BCS for the next phase of the installation of items. We anticipate getting our reimbursement in late October.
- There was a \$130,000 CD yielding 4.25% with Charles Schwab that matured in September, and those funds have been transferred to the FP checking account at Banterra Bank. From those funds, a \$43,909.03 check was mailed to Tri-State Food Bank for the food purchased from April - mid July and the balance will pay for food purchases going forward.

Thrift Store

- August store sales were about \$1,700 more than last August, making year-to-date sales about \$15,200 more than last year.
- August payroll was about \$1,000 more than last August, but year-to-date payroll is about \$44,000 more compared to last YTD, in line with July YTD figures.
- The balance of the Operating Expenses for August was about \$6,500 less than last August.
- YTD net income is about \$34,500 less compared to YTD last year.
- There were 2 CDs totaling \$325,000 yielding 4.25% with Charles Schwab that matured in September. The Executive Committee decided to have the \$325,000 invested with a financial advisor. Two financial advisor companies; Terri Hollander Albin - Tricia Hollander Henning with Baird Financial and Terry Prather with United Capital Wealth have been contacted and we are awaiting proposals from both regarding their thoughts on how to invest those funds.

The District Evansville Society SVdP Cash Balances Report as of August 31, 2025, was also provided.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Ashley

Events & Fundraising

- **9th Annual Hunger Bowl (Mater Dei vs Memorial) - SVdP has currently deposited \$29,131.58 in checks, cash and on-line donations. The event spreadsheet shows \$38,193.26 anticipated in total leaving about \$9,000 still outstanding. The Knights of Columbus are following up with remaining pledges, and SVdP reminder letters are going out this week to help close that gap. Also, the national KofC has a Food for Family program where National will match \$500 a council, bringing our total raised closer to \$45K.**
- **Gibson County Inaugural Hunger Bowl (Princeton vs Gibson Southern - Oct 17, 7PM). This is the first-ever Gibson County Hunger Bowl, and we're thrilled that the Knights of Columbus selected the SVdP Food Pantry as the beneficiary. Because the decision was made only five weeks before kickoff, a smaller - but still meaningful - collection is anticipated. I have personally contacted more than 80 businesses to request financial support. All are encouraged to attend the game (held at Gibson Southern) or share the donation link with your networks. Additionally, the Gibson County councils plan to launch a "Hunger Ball" during basketball season. To support this initiative, I will be applying this week for a State of Indiana grant (up to \$20,000) that funds sporting events benefiting local nonprofits. Once their councils provide final details, I'll complete and submit the application.**
- **Friends of the Poor Walk (September 2025) - We exceeded our sponsorship goal this year, raising \$40,300 from over 66 corporate sponsors, with another \$8,000 from walkers and day-of donations. Operation Rolling Thunder was so impressed by the event that they've pledged to become annual sponsors moving forward. Several corporate partners including Ascension St Vincent plan to show their support at the start of their next fiscal year. Follow-ups are already calendared to ensure we stay top of mind for inclusion in those budgets. Note: Ashley updated that the day of the FOP Walk we actually received \$12,200 (\$4,200 over \$8,000 noted above). It turned out to be a \$52,511.36 total for our best year ever.**

Grants & Funding Updates

- **MMI Grant - The first disbursement is expected any day now (approx. \$22K); Donna is monitoring the account.**
- **IDHS Grant - Phase 3 Food Pantry improvement reimbursements have been approved with a check for approximately \$63,000 forthcoming.**
- **Pending Grants: We currently have nine new applications pending, ranging from \$1,000 to \$250,000, supporting pantry operations, infrastructure and program development.**

Ascension St Vincent Collaboration - Ascension has invited SVdP to become a sub-grantee on their upcoming community health grants. This partnership could provide direct funding to the Food Pantry as well as potential support for our Getting Ahead program and even for some conferences. A meeting is tentatively set for Oct 21 to finalize details and funding structures and would establish a steady revenue through at least 2027 and perhaps to 2029.

Youth Conferences - At the request of our Council President, I've begun outreach to possibly establish SVdP Youth Conferences at USI and UE. While full establishment may take 12-18 months, both universities' Spiritual Advisors are highly supportive and have pledged to include SVdP as an approved volunteer site for other campus Christian groups. The most important next step requires student-led interest to formally organize each club. If anyone knows a USI or UE student, please send them my way. Personal outreach can make all the difference in getting these groups started.

Looking Ahead

- **Thanksgiving Boxes - Mary will coordinate our Thanksgiving box distribution this year through early sign-ups to better manage volume. She is requesting Monday volunteers on Nov 10 and 17 to help distribute these boxes more efficiently and reduce chaos or confusion on regular pantry days (Tues-Fri).**
- **Social Media Giving Campaign - Laila of Regent Promotions will schedule themed donation requests across our social media platforms. One week would be focused on "Season the Season" (spices and seasonings) followed by a week dedicated to side dishes, desserts and Thanksgiving staples. Please share these as they post and bring the message back to your conferences to encourage participation.**
- **Food Pantry Operations - The Food Pantry has officially paid the invoice to Tri-State Food Bank accrued through the Consortium, ensuring we have honored our commitment as decided at last DC meeting.**
- **New Meat Supplier Partnership - We're pleased to announce a new partnership with Dewig Meats, who have agreed to serve as our meat supplier below retail prices - and they will also provide our Thanksgiving turkeys. Since the partnership began in late September, Dewigs has already donated additional meats outside of our regular orders, making this a deeply valuable and generous relationship.**

Non-Financial Twinning Initiative - Special thanks to Jennifer Schmitz with the Resurrection Conference for originating this idea.

While some conferences require financial twinning, others simply need extra hands. I respectfully ask each conference president to return to your members and identify individuals willing to be on a district-wide "manpower call list". These Vincentians would have the freedom to say no when unavailable - but when possible, they could:

- **Partner with another conference member for home visits**
- **Assist with follow-up calls to verify requests**
- **Help schedule visits for overwhelmed conferences**

This approach not only alleviates workload but also deepens the Vincentian experience - allowing members to encounter the face of Christ in new and humbling ways across our broader district community.

Closing Note - Between two Hunger Bowls, a record-breaking FOP Walk, multiple pending grants and a growing network of partners, SVdP continues to move forward with

purpose and promise. Thank you all for the incredible support, collaboration and compassion you bring to your communities every day.

STORE REPORT - Mike and Jennifer

- Mike reviewed the TS Voucher and Volunteer Tracking report. August is the latest month tracked in the report and shows Volunteer Hours, Adults and Children's Clothing and total Number of Items and Total Sales dollar amount all greatly increased for the month over the previous month, and the figures were also all above the monthly average (last 12 months) in each category. August Furniture sales were below July figures but still above the monthly average. Families helped with bedding vouchers decreased in August from July.
- Jennifer discussed a 'Daily Sales' report for July through September. This report showed All Categories of Inventory in alphabetical order with the percentage of change in sales from previous 3-month period. Nearly all categories showed a 10% or higher increase in sales.
- Other comments related to the store:
 - Both store trucks go out 2x per day (am and pm). The shelves and racks are full, and donations are strong.
 - No longer offer direct delivery of beds from the company to the neighbor.
 - Beds are stored at the TS and neighbors can pick up bedding there or the beds can be delivered to the neighbor by our store trucks that go out 2x every day at no charge. Drivers will not, however, go up or down stairs to deliver beds not on the ground floor. We are no longer offering online bedding sales.
 - Starting a new practice of giving out 'Hygiene Packets' to homeless who come to the TS for clothing. The packets include a pair of socks and underwear along with soap, toothpaste/brush, deodorant, shaving items and feminine hygiene products for women. Bulk ordering of the socks and underwear allows for low cost, and the packages can be opened and repackaged for sale as well.
 - Oct 28 will be Employee Appreciation Day and celebrated with a dinner at Nellie's on First Ave. Employees will also receive gifts from the TS.
 - Mike, TS box truck driver, is celebrating 45 years of employment with the SVdP Thrift Store. A lunch for him is planned for this Friday. A decorated 'card' box is at the front of the store for anyone wishing to drop off a card for Mike. And congratulations can be made on our website for Mike.
 - Jennifer said everyone is working hard and working well together at the store. And the increase in store sales reflects this team effort.

PANTRY REPORT - Mary

- 2860 Individuals and 1206 Households were served in September
- The new phones are now installed -
 - 812 425-3485 public number
 - 812 423-7842 private number

- 812 425-2878 Mary's office number
- Mary provided the pantry staples sheet as well as her business card to conference presidents in attendance
- Mary summarized by saying things are coming together at the Food Pantry. She no longer worries excessively when challenges arise as she now knows things will be handled with prayers and everyone's help

ON GOING BUSINESS - Dan

- Mini Vinnies - Peggy Vogt of Annunciation Conference announced the formation of a Mini Vinnie group meeting after school two times a month at Christ the King School for grades 2-8. Fifteen students are currently enrolled. Each student receives a pin, a handbook/manual, prayer cards (for St Vincent de Paul, St Louise de Marillac, Blessed Frederic Ozanam et al), and a certificate given at the end of the school year. The purpose of the Mini Vinnies is to meet regularly to grow in faith and help those in need within their school and local community. The same program will be started at Holy Spirit School in the near future and will be held during the school day as opposed to meeting after school.
- Crisis Fund Management - Dan noted the Executive Committee made the decision for a special Crisis Fund Committee to be formed to evaluate and make decisions regarding requests to the Crisis Fund. The committee would consist of persons from the District Council (Bill Hussmann, who has volunteered; Noah Werner, who would initially receive the requests for assistance; and Ashley, who would have oversight but no voting power) and 3(+) conference presidents or conference members. The committee would need to set up the governing rules/guidelines for the Crisis Fund Committee. Dan anticipates money coming to the fund every year. The German American Bank account would be closed out and a new account opened for Noah to have check signing authority.
- Friends of the Poor Walk - Bill Hussmann could not attend tonight but Ashley covered the FOP Walk financials in her Exec. Dir. report above.
- Quarterly Gathering - Will be held this Sunday, Oct 12, at Holy Rosary with 9am Mass followed by breakfast in the multi-purpose building. Fr Estrada will be Mass celebrant. The Commissioning of Dr Ashley Newell will be held after the breakfast followed by the speaker. So far, the count is now 60 for attending.

NEW BUSINESS: Dan

- Solidarity Dues - we received the bill (approximately \$10K) from National and plan to continue paying the dues from the District Council rather than assessing each conference for a portion.
- Annual Reporting Cycle - Reminder that the Conference Annual Reports are due by the end of November. The District Council Annual Report is sent to National by the end of December.

- Ozanam Orientation - 15 are currently signed up to attend Oct 25 at St. Benedict Woodward Center. Dan asks conference presidents to get new conference members signed up soon.

OTHER - for the good of the Vincentian Cause

- Cathy Spindler of Annunciation Conference introduced their new conference president, Frank Conkling.
- Ashley noted if your conference was impacted by a recent Evansville apartment fire, resources are available by contacting the Indiana representatives listed in the monthly newsletter for the SVdP Disaster Services Mideast Region.
- St James Parish in Haubstadt is holding a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast Sunday, Oct 19, from 7:30-10:30 am. 100% of the proceeds will go to the SVdP Food Pantry.

Roll Call of Conferences, New Members, ill and deceased Vincentians, announcements -

- Conferences not in attendance were Holy Redeemer, St James, Sts. Mary & John and St. Matthew (4).
- Deceased Vincentian - Joe Braker from Good Shepherd

CLOSING PRAYER - Sr Doris led us in reciting the SVdP Vision Prayer

7:16PM Dan adjourned the meeting

Next meeting is November 4, 2025, 6PM at St. Mary's Rager Hall