St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Ann Church, Bethany Beach DE

June 27, 2016

President Mike Farrar called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Deacon Jack Freebery led us in prayer and a meditation on the decision to follow Jesus.

**Newcomers:** Sue Cutter; Maureen Murray; Carol Connolly; Tom Marvaso.

**President’s Report:**  Our mission has been evolving. St. Vincent de Paul said any work that helps is good; also, that Presidents should be servant leaders. To further these ends, the second half of the meeting will split into two workshops: Food Pantry/Garden in Masterson with Ron Forgnoni and Home Visits/Phone here in Delaney with Tish Galu and Deacon Jack. Groups will brainstorm and develop plans of action. Because of the upcoming St. Ann’s Bazaar, our July and August meetings will take place in the Masterson Center.

**Secretary’s Report**: Minutes approved as read.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Mary Ellen Gonski reported $9,814 balance including $2061.75 in Admin. $903.50 was spent (includes yearly insurance premium) from Main Balance and $245.60 from Admin balance. $1,181.97 came in from envelope donations. Treasury Team has already met to discuss internal audits.

**Team 2 Report**: Tom Fallon report one Food Pantry client and 3 calls. Spent $710. Tom asked if foreign students should be part of our client base. Mike said he’d been told they came from fairly well-off families, and was inclined to say no.

**Team 3 Report**: Joe Lane reported 16 Food Pantry clients. Six were foreign students, who were given 1 bag of food apiece. There were 2 calls, with $204.82 paid out for rent help, with the Pyle Center. There is one case pending; a home visit was made. Pyle Center is working with us.

**Food Pantry**: Chairman Ron Forgnoni said pantry team re-organization starts this week with newly-formed Team One on duty. (The original Team Four still has the phone.) He will publish a schedule. Teams on duty will now do every function: shopping; set-up including display table; clean-up, etc. If Home Visit teams need food, the team on duty will arrange to get it to them.

**Team Surveys**: Bill Clarke says the survey indicate membership interests beyond Pantry and Home Visits.

**Garden**: Mike Galu presented Mary Ellen with the first garden zucchini and pepper. Mike said we do have funds available for use from the prior garden. He called for volunteers to schedule watering.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

**Next meetings: July 11 and July 25, both in the Masterson Center**

Marilyn Janus, Secretary

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Home Visit/Phone Brainstorming Session

**Tish Galu** explained that a Home Visit (HV) is the essence of the St. de Paul Society. When a client calls, the team member determines the immediate emergency need. However, every emergency has a background. HV helps to determine this. Always go in pairs, male/female. HV is best at home; because it helps the HV team learn better how to help. However, it can be wherever the client feels more comfortable: at St. Ann, at OLG on Thursday in conjunction with the Food Pantry, a coffee shop.

Procedure

* When client falls, fill out the Client Interview Form.
* From the address and zip code, determine if they are in our client area. (If not, refer them to closest SVDP chapter.)
* Ask if they have visited the Pyle Center. If they have not, refer them. If Pyle has already told client they cannot help, ask for their Denial Letter. Explain Tell them a Denial Letter from Pyle opens up their ability to get other services. **Assure them we can still work with them.**
* Tell them “our practice” is to set up a HV. Arrange that over the phone if possible. HV could be done at the Food Pantry, but is harder to do over the phone.
* Use the Resource Guide (Catholic Charities in Georgetown offers a lot of help.)
* Bring Food to the HV
* Explains that our giving limit is $200 every 6 months, but that we work with Pyle Center and other services to match funds.
* Do not panic! If you are unsure how to proceed, tell the client you will get back to them and call your team captain or Tish for feedback.

**Tish and Myra Stock** role-played a typical home visit. Tish passed out a handout called “The Art of Listening.” Also, some pages from the “Home Visit Journal” an SVDP publication.

**Deacon Jack**: five team captains are willing to continue on re-formed HV/ phone teams. Please sign up for a new team before you leave. This does not exclude anyone from also doing the Food Pantry. Currently, 5 new teams are set up. Should we have only 4 teams, to mirror the 4 new Food Pantry teams? Each team should do its own follow-up, including re-contacting previous client, even if just a phone call or to pray with them. Extended care ministry is still under development. .

There is an HV folder for the team on duty containing client interview forms and the resource list. Team members keep their own private notes. They can use their own phone by dialing \*67 first, or wait until they have the SVDP phone again, for follow-ups. Keep your team captains informed of your progress, so their reports can remain up-to-date.

Q & A

Carol Connolly: Is Social Services the umbrella agency over everything? Yes. Is drug-addiction a client issue? Pyle Center knows the system users.

Sue Cutter: Does the Home Visitor make the decision to help? Yes

Rosemary Wlaschin: Are we reforming our teams today? Yes, but they will not go into effect until the end of the current cycle.