Society of St. Vincent DePaul

St. Ann, Bethany Beach DE Conference

Minutes for September 12, 2016

President Mike Farrar called the meeting to order at 9:33 Am in Delaney Hall. Deacon Jack led us in opening prayer, then a Vincentian meditation on The Lost Sheep.

**Newcomers:** Sister Loretta, Kathy Appel, and Carole Bartus were introduced. Jim and Fran Karns have joined the Food Pantry Team.

**Minutes from Last Meeting**: Approved.

**Treasurer**: Eileen Mulaney reported a balance, in round numbers, of $12,000; $1200 was taken in; $2500 was spent. One- time expenses included renewing the Verizon phone contract and two-year PO Box renewal of $140. We are heading into the winter season when outgo has been greater than income. Approved.

**President’s Report**: Teams seem well organized and no trouble has been reported getting checks written. The Client Contact (CC) team resource guide keeps expanding and being updated; it is now on the St. Vincent de Paul website. There is also a growing list of Food Pantry (FP) resources. No e-mails have been received regarding changes in Conference procedure. On-the-job training is combining with theory. We need to prepare our annual report to the Vincentian home office.

The **St. Vincent de Paul State Council of Wilmington Annual Meeting** will be Sunday, September 25, at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Hockessin, Delaware. Mass will be at 2 PM, followed by dinner. Deacon Jack Freebery and Marilyn Janus volunteered to attend.

**Team Reports**:

**CC Team Four**: Tish Galu reported 8 client contacts and two home visits (HV), including one at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry. They wrote checks for $850 for electric bills; also, medication and rent issues. The distressed cancer patient Tish dealt with over the phone called back, thanking the Conference.

**FP Team Four**: saw three clients, gave away six bags of food.

**CC Team One**: Jackie Boyd reported 1 HV with Sue Cutter, which she will follow up on.

**FP Team One**: Mike Galu reported 2 clients seen; 4 bags of food distributed.

**Team Two**: John Traina reported 2 FP clients and 2 bags of food; 4 calls; $200 spent for Electric Bill.

**Team Three**: Bill Clarke reported $1,000 spent, mostly on electric bills, water, and rent deposits. Set one client up with the Homeless Planning Council.

**Committee to expand our SVDP Mission**: (Tish, Bill, Ron Forgnoni, Deacon Jack)

Tish Galu asked for **Fund Raising volunteers**, in addition to Joe Lane and Jim Fitzgerald. Mike Farrar suggested Tom Marvaso and Ray Aumiller.

A **Christmas Giving Tree** - which St. Ann’s used to have -has been suggested. In addition to our own CC list, we could use the Pyle Center as a resource. Mike Farrar asked if we use our own money for the tree. (No, the church will fund St. Ann and OLG. ) Mary Ellen Gonski, Eileen Quigley, Linda Palladino and Carol Palmai volunteered to help. Deacon Jack will contact Father Klevence. John Traina suggested we focus on a particular group. After a lengthy discussion, no consensus was reached. Sister Loretta suggested November 20as a start date, the Feast of Christ the King and the end of the Papal Year of Mercy.

**Spiritual Enrichment**: Marilyn Janus took over planning for the proposed **Day of Reflection** from Ronnie Malone before she left. Rosemary Wlaschin, Mary Ann Conlon and Deacon Jack will assist. They will meet before the next General Chapter meeting.

**Extended Care**: Ron said a Review Committee is needed to determine long-term needs. Should the current CC teams continue to deal with this? Jackie asked if they should have a separate phone. Mike Farrar said yes. CC members would not leave their current team, but would add long-term follow-up where it is needed. After lengthy discussion, no consensus was reached.

**Spreading the SVDP word:** Mike Farrar will talk to Fr. Klevence about a Vincentian representative speaking at Mass. We have a contact at Coastal Point; an interview would reach more clients and more resources (Mike pointed out that clients most in need would probably not be newspaper readers.) Sister Loretta is Vice-Chairman of the Christian Committee of Churches. Mary Ellen suggested *Hoy,* the Spanish newspaper. Ron suggested asking Patricia or Rosa about the needs of the Spanish community. Myra Stock asked about printed cards for Meals on Wheels to distribute at the Food Pantry. Eileen said we have them. We would need about 200. Carole Bartus asked about contacting Guidance Counselors in schools. Mike Galu has access to FP t-shirts saying “Catholics care.”

**New Business:** Mike Farrar asked what our relationship should be with the **Salt and Light project** at St. Ann’s, chaired by Howard Boyd (Jackie’s husband). Their goal is lifting people out of poverty by education. Consensus was to invite him to our next meeting. Jackie will do so.

Since more Conference work is being accomplished outside meetings, **Mike Farrar proposed we have one just morning meeting a month, rather than two. Proposed dates:**

**October 17 (invite Howard Boyd); November 14; December 5; January 9.**

If needed, we can always call an emergency meeting before those dates. Mary Ellen reminded us it is even more important that members report their monthly hours and dates.

Conference member **Kay Gebhardt** has died. Her funeral is Thursday at 11 AM. Donations may be made to Hospice Delaware.

Meeting adjourned at 11 AM.

**Reminder: Next monthly meeting is October 17, 2016 in Delaney Hall.**

Marilyn Janus

Conference Secretary