Saint Ann Council, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date July 6, 2017

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| Next meeting: |  |  |
| Formation |  | July 24 at OLG at 6:30 PM |
| Regular |  | August 15 in Delaney Hall at 9:30 AM |

President Mike Farrar convened the meeting at 9:32 AM.

## Call to Order; Opening Prayer

Deacon Jack Freebery presided over the opening prayer.

## Welcome to Newcomers

### No new members attended.

### Relative to future newcomers, Deacon Jack and Tish Galu are in the initial steps of investigating a more formal investiture process.

## President’s Remarks, including Succession Planning Process

### Mike Farrar welcomed two new officers, Susan Lewis (Council Co-Treasurer) and Dan DiLuzio (Council Secretary). The search for a Vice President who will eventually succeed Mike is in progress.

## Scheduling/Planning for two meetings per month – timing, content and emphasis

### We will continue two (2) meetings per month, each with a different emphasis. Our “Regular” monthly meeting (formerly “Business”) will focus on the running of the Council: operations planning and results, membership, committee/team reports, and finance. The monthly “Formation” meeting will focus on the spiritual growth and mission of the Council and its members.

Neither meeting is intended to be solely focused; in part, because the SVdP by-laws prohibit business-only meetings. So, while the principal focus of each meeting is different, spiritual growth will remain a part of the Regular meeting, and Council operations can be addressed during the Formation meeting, when necessary.

## Approval of Minutes

The previous minutes from the June 12 meeting were approved.

## Treasurer’s Report, including upcoming audit

### In round numbers, receipts during the previous month amounted to $10K, while expenditures were $5K. The net balance was $28,300, including the administrative monies, but excluding the recent $20K bequest that was received by the Council.

### Due to the state of the treasury, Mike Farrar requested ideas or suggestions as to anything that might require seed money, or other expenditures that might be timely at this point. He advised the members to feel free to be more relaxed in seeking exemptions to the maximum amount to distribute for a case, or the frequency with which a single neighbor can be granted assistance.

### The St. Ann Council will be audited in the near future. It’s believed that the current system that Elaine and Mary Ellen set up accurately captures the information that will be requested.

## Financial Team Report

No report on current/planned fund raising activities.

## Food Pantry Team Report

No report available.

## Neighbor Contact Team Report

No roll-up report available; however, individual teams reported the following:

### Team 2 currently has the phone. One client was helped with $200 for temporary lodging in Rehoboth. She is currently looking for a job in that area and is responsible for 5 children; so, although out of the area, we provided discretionary assistance to meet her immediate lodging needs. Three other calls were received to date, but all had just recently received assistance.

### Team 1: Nine people from 7 different neighbor families were assisted with close to $2,000 for various needs.

### Team 3: 5 individual neighbors were helped; mainly with electric bills

## Long-Term Follow-up Team Report

No report available at this time. The Council listened to the details of one specific case, involving the pending adoption by a couple of a brother’s two children. The case was used to underscore the importance of home visits.

## Spiritual Formation

Council members viewed a short video from Section 1.3 of the “Our Vincentian Vocation” module of the *Serving in Hope* formation program. The subject of the video was the spiritual formation of St. Vincent de Paul and Frederic Ozanam. Jack Freebery followed up with a reflection on how individuals with two very different vocations (priest and lay married) found the answer to their call to holiness in serving the poor, the same call which we seek to answer as members of our Council.

Our next formation meeting is scheduled for July 24 at 6:30 PM at OLG, during which we will focus on Section 1.4 of the module.

## Other Reports and Business

### At the end of the Neighbor Contact team reports, a discussion ensued regarding the practice of some Councils to involve the entire Council in voting on the distribution of funds. We follow a very different model, in order to be more responsive and to reduce our response time. Bill Clarke briefly reviewed our path to responding to a request, which involves the Pyle Center, discussion with the Team Lead and other member resources within the Council.

### Mary Ann Conlon reported on her attendance at the regional conference in Emmitsburg, particularly as related to member training. On behalf of our Council, she applied for part of the $6,000 in scholarship money available to member Councils for leadership development, member formation, and so forth. We were granted $1,000 for that purpose.

### A suggestion was made and tabled that we setup a training session for those of our neighbors in need who have difficulty in getting control of their situations.

### It was pointed out that we may need to clean up our member roster. We currently have 80 members on the roster, but the typical meeting attendance is only 30-40 members. A series of general question was posed, “What is a member?”, “Are there different levels of membership?”, “Are those who support us financially on a regular basis a type of member?”

### The Spiritual Formation team is looking for other materials which might be helpful in the training/spiritual development of our members. A short discussion regarding funding was held. Free will offerings, our admin treasury (currently $1,600), and the $1,000 scholarship funding obtained by Mary Ann Conlon were all cited as sources for financing these activities and were felt to be adequate at this time.

## Next Regular Monthly Meeting Date:

## Tuesday, August 15, 9:30 AM, Delaney Hall

## Closing Prayer; Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 AM.