Saint Ann Council, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date October 9, 2017

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| Next meeting: |  |  |
| Formation |  | Monday October 23 at 5:30 PM in Delaney Hall |
| Regular |  | Monday, November 13 at 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall |

President Mike Farrar convened the meeting at 9:34 AM.

1. **Call to Order; Opening Prayer; Meeting Structure**

Mary Ann Conlon presided over the opening prayer.

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## Report on Feast Day Celebration (Sept. 27)

Mike Farrar reflected on a prayer that was offered September 27 spirituality gathering. Mary Ann Conlon related the positive experiences she has had, and encouraged more members to attend diocesan, regional, and national meetings, when able.

## Spiritual Formation

Mary Ann Conlon and Tish Galu led a short meditation on Session 2.2, “Jesus, Evangelizer and Servant of the Poor”. Tish related how following Christ’s example of serving the poor can make a difference in their lives, economically but especiallly spiritually, by relating the story of one of our neighbors Shamique.

## President’s Remarks

Above: Item II

## New Members

A new member (Gail) recently moved into the area with her husband and is in the process of going through the newcomer’s packet.

## Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded, and carried by voice vote.

## Membership Roster Review

### Dan has made no progress to date on the task of (a) updating the national registry, and (b) surveying members who may be inactive.

## Treasurer’s Report

### The balance in the checking account currently stands at approximately $26,600, with $4,600 in collections during the previous month and $9,300 in expenditures. This does not include the $20,000 bequest that was made to the Council, but does include a one time contribution of $1,000 from a parishioner.

* 1. Mike and Sue will both be out of town and unavailable for check writing during the next 2-3 weeks; however, Vince3 Bertone is able to issue checks. Members were reminded that, if Vince is unavailable, they have the choice of covering incurred expenses out-of-pocket and requesting reimbursement, or requesting a personal check from John Traina, who will likewise be reimbursed at a later time.
  2. No additional update on the audit.

## Financial Team Report

There was no report from the Financial Team regarding fund raising.

## Spiritual Formation/Enhancement Team Report

## Continuing Study of Spiritual Formation Modules

### The team is hoping to complete the second module by the time of Frederic Ozanam’s memorial day in April. On or near that date, we will hold a rededication / recommitment ceremony for the general membership.

## Report on Wilmington Council Feast Day Celebration (Dover, Sun. Sept. 24)

Mary Ann gave a few quick observations on the diocesan observation on the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul.

## Reports of Special or Unusual Activity

### Regular reports of the Neighbor Contact and Food Pantry teams are attached.

### Food Pantry Teams

### November 9 will begin the winter schedule for the food pantry’s monthly evening hours; the pantry will be open from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

The Pyle Center’s bus stopped by the pantry for the second time. The bus transports “very senior” individuals who were given food from the pantry; about 7 of our neighbors were served. Ron is informed of the visit in advance, in order to prepare the extra bags.

As an FYI, any excess produce from the garden is delivered to the Pyle Center by Ron.

### Neighbor Contact Teams

No unusual activity for this month.

### Long term care Team

Tish Galu reviewed the guidelines for referrals to the Extended Care team; these include, but are not limited to:

* Neighbors who are unemployed, sick, or disabled
* Neighbors living in sub-standard conditions
* Neighbors forced to work multiple jobs

The primary criterion is and should be the personal judgement of the member(s) involved with the case. If a referral is felt to be warranted, the team lead should be consulted after the initial follow-up, and one of the extended care forms should be completed and gotten to Madelyn Lazaro, who leads the team.

## Suggestions for Expanded or Ad Hoc Activities

## A question arose regarding the transport of neighbors in personal vehicles. As was noted in the past, there are concerns with liability in the event of an accident or other incident. As was also noted, members do transport neighbors if necessary, and the question of a more formal policy was raised.

## External resources such as the Cheer Center or DART Paratransport are available in some circumstances. There is also a cooperative transport service (ITN SouthernDelaware) that operates in Sussex county.

## The discussion was tabled for the time being, although it was pointed out that neither the Council nor individual members should ever accept compensation for transporting neighbors, as this would de facto make the transporter a livery service and personal insurance will not cover any incidents that it ordinarily would.

#### Mike Galu stated that he would rather have someone else be in charge of the furniture donations, with that person having access to a truck. Mike pointed out that he has lost contributions in the past due to his inability to obtain transportation.

#### A discussion followed re the feasibility of the Council obtaining a vehicle for the purpose of moving furniture, transporting garden equipment and supplies, and any other necessary transportation.

#### Mike Farrar observed that the Easton Council had, not only a truck, but also ran a storage area; Mike asked if the truck discussion should be expanded to include the feasibility of our acquiring a similar storage area.

#### Mary Ellen Gonski questioned as to whether or not the donations we receive could be used to cover the costs of a vehicle, or if those donations must be applied to direct neighbor support.

#### Tish asked if we have a real need for a truck. Other possibilities were raised, such as renting a truck as one is needed (approximately $70/day), or if Soul Ministry or House of Mercy would help (both operate vehicles for their work).

#### It was agreed that Mike Galu will form a committee to investigate both the need and the feasibility of buying/renting/borrowing a vehicle. Mary Ann Conlon will try to get some clarity and insight from the diocesan office.

#### Dan DiLuzio raised a question re the use of donation cards which would be used to assist/acknowledge those who wish to make a donation to the Council on behalf of another person. This came up in response to Deacon Dennis Hayden’s request that donations to the Council be made on behalf of his recently deceased wife Denise. The general idea would be to have the cards available to be purchased by a parishioner for enclosure with a greeting / condolence / congratulatory card from that person. Dan had put together a sample of what that kind of card might look like, and will turn that over to the Finance Team.

## Other Business/Questions

A sign-up sheet for volunteers for the Giving Tree holiday charity was made available.

SVdP will be running the Stop Hunger project on 10/22. Ordinarily Joe Lane covers and coordinates that activity, but in his absence, he has asked the Council to step in.

It was noted that information on Thanksgiving outreach programs (e.g., Lions Club. Montaire, etc) should be available for distribution to those in need at the food pantry.

## Next Meeting Dates:

Monday, Oct. 23 -- 5:30 PM in Delaney Hall

Monday, Nov. 13 -- 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall

Monday, Nov. 27 – 5:30 PM in Delaney Hall

## Closing Prayer; Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

**Neighbor Contact Teams – Summary of Activity**

9/19-10/15/17

29 Neighbor Contacts

70 in household

3 HVs 4 pending

$3,431.58 medicine, rent, electric

$535 given to extended care members - not included in team summary ($500 - rent; $35 food gift card)

