Saint Ann Conference, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date January 8, 2018

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| Next meeting: |  |  |
| Regular |  | Monday February 12 at 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall |
| Formation |  | Monday, January 22 at 5:30 PM in Delaney Hall |
| Leadership |  | Monday, January 22 at 4:00 PM in Delaney Hall |

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

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

Deacon Jack Freebery presided over the opening prayer.

1. **President’s Remarks**

Mike Farrar informed those members present that there would be a Leadership Meeting on 1/22, with team leaders/co-leaders and conference officers attending. One goal of the meeting will be to capture new things and new ideas that will either support or augment the conference’s current work.

1. **Welcome to Newcomers**

Three newcomers were welcomed to the Council.

1. **Spiritual Formation**

The review of the next section of the formation booklet, “Journey Together in Holiness” was deferred to the end of the meeting. Jack Freebery guided the members through Section 3.1, a study of Bl. Frederic Ozanam.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the December meeting were approved by voice vote.

1. **Treasurer’s Report, including audit**
   1. For the month of December, we started the month with about $32K in our account. Our expenses totaled $5,500, while our revenues were $8K.
   2. The Pyle Center was closed since the New Year; so, there were no major expenses attributable to referrals from the Center.
   3. There has still been no response to the audit of our conference.
   4. A quarterly report is due at the end of this month.
2. **Financial Team Report**

Mike Galu, Joe Lane and Lenore Thommes are coordinating a Valentine’s Day sing-a-long at the Drifting Grounds, to promote fundraiser sales of Sees Candies. More information will follow.

1. **Food Pantry, Neighbor Contact and Long-Term Follow-up Teams**
   1. Pantry
      1. Approximately $1,100 of foodstuffs were purchased this past month to replenish the pantry stores.
      2. Activity for the month was relatively low, due to both the holidays and the weather.
         1. Twelve to fifteen donated blankets were given away at the pantry. This was well received, and a discussion re a winter coat giveaway ensued. Some issues were raised related to storage and accounting.
         2. The House of Mercy was mentioned as a resource for any storage issues. ACTS also provides vouchers for any items that the Conference drops off.
   2. Contact
      1. Between December 11 and January 7, we had 34 contacts involving 73 individuals. Nine visits were carried out and $4,056 was disbursed for rent and utilities.
      2. Food cards not used for the Giving Tree project are in the contact bag, available for neighbors who have a need. The Conference purchased $200 worth, and will purchase another $200 with Giving Tree donations that were specifically earmarked for that purpose.
         1. Discussion as to whether or not food cards could be construed as cash, forcing them to be handled under the same constraints. Suggested that we get clarification from Frank Walder.
      3. Team assignments for the Neighbor Contact teams are still in progress.
      4. A suggestion was made that, before setting up a home visit, the neighbor should be asked about any pets they may have. This could avoid any issues with allergies or other unpleasantness.
      5. Pyle has more funds available at this time of year and will help with things like propane, heating oil, and eviction notices; even if their client has received assistance within the last 12 months.
      6. Team members are reminded that the $250/case limit is a guideline; that number can be exceeded after discussing it with a team lead, if necessary. The same holds true for the 6 month waiting period between requests from a single neighbor; frequent requests may underline the need for a home visit.
      7. If a Spanish-speaking neighbor calls in and translation is a problem, be aware that they can call Pyle where translators are available.
      8. A number of transportation resources were emailed to team leads. The information will be included in the resource packet as well. Members are reminded of liability issues that may arise if we are the ones transporting neighbors.

1. **Reports of Special or Unusual Activity**
   * 1. **Furniture**: Right now, furniture is being handled on an ad hoc basis. If storage is an issue, we usually deliver it to House of Mercy and receive a voucher. If we identify a need for one of our neighbors, we can use that voucher (also ACTS vouchers) to fill a need from whatever House of Mercy has available at that time.
     2. **Garden**: The Garden Team has doubled in membership and the spring planting is being planned. A storage shed is still a part of the future outlook, but John Baywood has requested that we delay that procurement until after the parking lot project is completed.
     3. **Giving Tree**: 75 families were helped by this project, with a total of 330 people, including 186 children. The team was still processing donations after the deadline, and some of those are still being distributed.
2. **Reports on and Suggestions for Expanded or Ad Hoc Activities**
   1. **Related activities**
      1. There will be a Christian Unity Meeting hosted at St. Ann’s on January 23.
      2. Tim Weschler informed members of the activities of the Kairos Prison Ministry; for further information about the group and activities in this area, see Tim.
      3. Therew is also a Veterans Treatment Court in Sussex county, which actively assists veterans who have gotten I trouble through a mentor program.
3. **Other Business/Questions** 
   1. There was a question re Pyle’s unwillingness (or inability) to pay for a 90 day prescription for one of our neighbors. Paying for this is within the scope of our conference; however, know that some medicines can only be prescribed for a shorter period of time than 90 days.
4. **Next Meeting Dates**

See above

1. **Closing Prayer; Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 with a closing prayer.