Saint Ann Conference, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date May 7, 2018

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| Next meeting: |  |  |
| Formation |  | Monday May 21 at 7:15 PM in Delaney Hall |
| Regular |  | Monday, June 11 at 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall |

1. **Opening**

President Mike Farrar convened the meeting at 9:35 AM.

Deacon Jack Freebery presided over the opening prayer.

1. **President’s Remarks**
   1. Mike Farrar called the attention of the members to a recent article in the Washington Post, entitled, “Where Will the Homeless Go?” This a recurring theme for some of our neighbors, and it was the main topic of discussion in the meeting last month of representatives of the three other southern Conferences (St. Jude, St. Edmund, and St. Michael/Mary Mother of Peace).
   2. A reminder that the 10-part series on the SVdP Society is airing on EWTN on Sunday mornings and Saturday evenings.
2. **Welcome to Newcomers**

Several newcomers were welcomed.

1. **Spiritual Formation** 
   1. Deacon Jack Freebery played a short video tied to Section 3.5 of the “Serving in Hope” program. The focus of Section 3.5 is B. Sister Rosalie Rendu, one of the Society’s co-founders and mentors. In the next meeting, we will be doing sections 3.4 and 3.5; members should read 3.4 beforehand.
   2. The Gospel reflection hinged on the statement of Jesus to “Remain in my love.” Caring for others involves laying down our lives – we see others as the beloved of the Father. In this light, Jack reviewed 4 sections of the Rule:
      * Section 1.7 pray before each encounter
      * Section 1.8 serve those created in God’s image cheerfully
      * Section 1.9 have empathy for those we serve
      * Section 1.10 build self sufficiency
   3. Copies of our opening and closing prayers, the “Serving in Hope” booklet, and the SVdP Rule were made available to those without.
2. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the April meeting were approved by a voice vote.

1. **Treasurer’s Report and succession planning**
   1. The quarterly report was distributed with the agenda.
   2. We had a busy month in April, expending $1,500 more than we received. The end of April balance in the treasury is approximately $30K.
   3. Helen Simmons is considering taking Susan Lewis’s position as one of the treasurers. A second person is needed for the other treasurer position.
2. **Financial Team Report** 
   1. The Bethany Blues fund raiser netted $488
   2. In two weeks NE Seafood Kitchen will host a similar event, with 15% of the proceeds going to the conference.
   3. The VIC evening in October is a big fundraiser and one of the organizations benefitting from it is SVdP. Joe Lane still has tickets for sale.
3. **Food Pantry, Neighbor Contact and Long-Term Follow-up Teams**

Reports Attached.

* 1. The number of home visits continues to be well over last year’s numbers.
  2. Because of the weather, we have experienced more of our neighbors with a need for assistance with gas and/or electric.
  3. Regarding the completion of forms, members are reminded to use the full date (including year) when completing the forms, to fill out the summary section at the top of the form, and to sign at the bottom.
  4. The Extended Care team will be meeting soon to address the needs of several neighbors who may require longer-term assistance.
  5. The question was raised as to whether or not the Pyle Center is contributing as in the past. This is not easy to answer at any one point in time, since Pyle’s available funds fluctuate. Short answer is “yes,” and Pyle is still coordinating efforts across multiple organizations to address neighbor needs. In addition to SVdP, Joseph House, the Christian Storehouse, and others are contacted to build packages of funding to meet the needs of those who are identified to them and who qualify.

1. **Reports of Other Teams**

When doing a home visit, please keep in mind that the neighbor may have a need for furniture items. We have had no recent issues with getting furniture moved, when it is needed by one of our neighbors, or when it is being donated. We have active arrangements with both ACTS and House of Mercy that allow us to provide furniture without the need of storing it ourselves.

The Garden team is in the ground, waiting for harvest.

Sue Cutter identified a need for a washing machine for one of our neighbors. Stan Clark, at Coastal Maytag, has been supportive of our mission in the past and may be a possible source.

1. **Upcoming Special Vincentian Events**

* This week (May 9) is the anniversary of the beatification by Benedict XV of Sr. Louise de Merillac, the co-founder of the Daughters of Charity. She was later canonized, and in 2016, her feast day was moved to May 9.
* The National Council of the United States has changed its mission statement to:

***“A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.”***

* The Eastern Regional Meeting will be in Emmitsburg, MD on June 22-23.

1. **Suggestions for and Discussion of Expanded Vincentian Activities**

Ceil Chodnicki was able to report back on the ride sharing program that was introduced at the March 12 meeting (Independent Transportation Network of America -ITNAmerica). As it turns out, it is very much a for-profit organization, and we will not include it as a resource.

1. **Information About non-Vincentian Charitable Programs** 
   1. The 30th annual Sussex CROP Walk for Hunger will be held in Bethany on Sunday October 14. This event is held locally throughout the nation to help end hunger at home and around the world. The Sussex walk brings together several area churches to raise funds for the cause, and is sponsored by the Ministerium.
   2. If anyone is interested in supporting a program to provide summer lunches for schoolchildren during the summer, please see Lenore Thommes.
   3. The South Coastal Library will have an afternoon presentation and Q&A with Habitat for Humanity on Tuesday, May 8 from 1:30 to 3:00.
2. **Next Meeting Dates**

See above.

Due to the Memorial Day holiday in May, the meeting date for the next meeting will be held on the third Monday, May 21. There will be a Team Leader meeting preceding it, beginning at 5:00 PM.

1. **Closing Prayer; Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM.