Saint Ann Conference, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date August 14, 2018

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| Next meeting: |  |   |
| Regular |  | Tuesday, September 11 at 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall |
| Formation |  | Monday August 27 at 7:15 PM in Delaney Hall  |
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1. **Opening**

President Mike Farrar convened the meeting at 9:30 AM.

Deacon Jack Freebery presided over the opening prayer.

1. **President’s Remarks**
	1. Rather than setting aside time for specifically hearing about teams’ experiences with our neighbors, Mike requested that we intersperse such stories with the entire agenda, wherever it seems appropriate.
	2. Thanks to Mike Galu for his work during the bazaar. Mike took the initiative to assist with moving purchased furniture items to purchasers’ homes, in return for a free-will offering to SVdP. Mike and his team made 14 different runs and obtained $255 in donations. Next year Alexis agreed to set up a schedule of suggested donation amounts. We’ll need more volunteers!
2. **Welcome to Newcomers**

There were three newcomers present who were interested in the Society.

1. **Approval of Minutes and Membership Update**
	1. The members present approved the minutes of the July meeting by a voice vote.
	2. Dan gave a brief summary of our membership: There are currently 112 members in our Conference. We have spoken about the importance of meeting attendance in recent meetings; only half of our members have attended 50% or more of the meetings.
	3. To align with the membership categories set forth by the national SVdP USA Council, the officers are looking at meeting attendance as a possible criteria for whether or not a member should be categorized as “Attending” or “Participating”. Those two categories correspond to the national “Active” and “Associate” categories, respectively.
	4. We are still looking for a volunteer to work as a recording secretary.
2. **Treasurer’s Report and succession planning**
	1. The Treasurer’s report was attached to the agenda.
3. **Financial Team Report**
	1. On September 10 there will be a “dine and donate” at DiFebo's Restaurant Bethany Beach from 5:00PM to 9:00PM. DiFebo’s has agreed to donate 15% of the proceeds to SVdP, but diners must present a voucher at the time of the dinner. Joe Lane, Mike Galu, and Lenore Thommes can provide vouchers on request.

Fr. Klevence will be the guest bartender.

1. **Spiritual Formation**
	1. Deacon Jack Freebery did a recap of Module 4 Section 4.2 of the *Serving in Hope* program (“Catholic Social Teaching”) and introduced the next section, Section 4.3 “Life and Dignity”, which focuses on charity and justice.
	2. Deacon Jack presented a proposal (attached) for a special observance of the memorial of St. Vincent de Paul, which is observed on September 27. Details are attached. In addition to SVdP members and other parishioners, we will be inviting some of our neighbors who have allowed us to assist them in the past.
	3. The diocese is holding a special mass on September 30 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of SVdP in the Wilmington Diocese.
2. **Food Pantry, Neighbor Contact and Long-Term Follow-up Teams**
	1. Reports attached to agenda
	2. Members heard of a case of a neighbor who suffered a miscarriage and was sent home without meds meant to control the hemorrhaging she was experiencing. The immediate issue was addressed through splitting the $600 cost between the Pyle Center and our conference. Carol Curran and Sandy Kren have both spoken about the need for patient advocacy in cases such as this. This will remain an open issue for our conference to review and address.
	3. We referred two of our neighbors to Catholic Charities to participate in their winterization program. Both neighbors qualified and had their homes insulated and a new heat pump installed; both are extremely grateful for our referral.
	4. Darlene Gray pointed out the “band-aid” nature of much of our work, and recommended that we start long-term follow-ups of some of our neighbors who may have deeper issues. The officers will look at possibly re-commissioning the Extended Care team or addressing this issue in another fashion.
3. **Reports of Other Teams**
	1. None at this time.
4. **Upcoming Special Vincentian Events**
	1. Tish Galu reported out on the school supplies program. We’ll remain open for donations during the coming week. Volunteers will meet on 9/20 and 9/21 at 10:00AM to organize and divide the contributions, for delivery to our neighbors at the Food Pantry on 9/23 and 9/30. We’ll be assisting more than 30 families with about 70 backpacks of school supplies. Left-over supplies will be donated directly to the schools.
5. **Suggestions for and Discussion of Expanded Vincentian Activities**
	1. None at this time.
6. **Information About non-Vincentian Charitable Programs**
	1. None at this time.
7. **Next Meeting Dates**

See above.

1. **Closing Prayer; Adjournment**

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