Saint Ann Conference, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date November 9, 2021

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| Next meeting: |  | Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 9:30 AM in Delaney Hall |

1. **Call to Order**
   1. President Tish Galu convened the meeting at 9:34 AM. Mary Ann Conlon led the attendees in the opening prayer.
   2. We welcomed 6 newcomers to the Conference; in addition, two spouses of those newcomers are interested in joining, but were unable to attend.
   3. Mary Ann Conlon led the opening prayer.
2. **Introduction of Officers**

The current officers and team leads were introduced.

1. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. The members present approved the revised minutes of the last meeting by a voice vote.
2. **Treasurer’s Report**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Starting balance | Revenue | Expenses | Ending balance |
|  | $25,875 | $18,652 | $11,260 | $33,267 |
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* 1. Correction to last month’s minutes: Our first cornhole tournament netted (not grossed) the amount of $1,600.
  2. Our current operational account, which has stood at roughly $20,000, was recently augmented by another generous bequest of $9,700.

1. **Food Pantry Teams**
   1. Standing questions/issues revolve around adapting to the increased number of neighbors making use of our food pantry service, and possible new limitations to our use of OLG.
   2. The funds mentioned in IV.b above have tentatively been earmarked for the construction or refurbishment of a SVdP center/pantry on the church’s property at OLG.
2. **Neighbor Contact Teams**
   1. Still have some issues with the use of the computer
   2. Updates to the Resource Guide – including new resources - are in progress.
3. **Spiritual Reflection**

The reflection was based on Module 7 of our recent *Serving in Hope* program, “Listening with a Vincentian Heart”. The specific topic was to understand our own feelings about the neighbors we serve. Sometimes, they are resistant to our efforts or even hostile, blaming us for not being the “silver bullet” for their problems (which we are not). It’s important to understand that often the only control they see over their problems is this resistance, which demands that we suspend any judgement of them or of their needs.

1. **Extended Care**
   1. The application form for consideration for extended care support for a neighbor is in the contact team bag.
   2. Despite the relatively limited number of neighbors to whom we offer extended care, we should acknowledge the many times that our members form personal bonds with a neighbor, and that those neighbors are also being cared for by repeated contacts and conversations that may be “off the books”.
2. **President’s Remarks** 
   1. Hotel Bethany (formerly Holiday Inn Express) is offering rooms for emergency shelter needs for $85/night.
   2. Wreath Project has about 50 wreaths available for sale, and will be raffling off a three foot wreath on Thanksgiving weekend.
   3. We are planning on hosting a “Souper Bowl” weekend dinner/dance on February 12 in Delaney hall, in conjunction with the Men’s Club.
   4. Visiting Vincentians group is forming, with a mission to visit the homebound.
   5. Giving Tree is set up and ready to begin the final stages. We’ll need volunteers to help with putting together the cards in the Masterson Center at noon on December 5. Right now, we have 318 children registeres; each will receive a gift card, plus a food card for their family. The Men’s Club has donated $2,000 for food cards.
   6. We’ll need additional help at the pantry on 12/9 and 12/16, for Giving Tree gift distribution.
   7. The Knights of Columbus will be handing out winter coats at the Food Pantry this Thursday 11/11.
   8. The Soup and Sandwich program has started and will continue until March. Volunteer drivers will pick up food at 3:30 from Mariners Hope Center to bring to the Frankford firehouse, and will stay to assist with the distribution.
   9. To be investigated: Both WalMart and Food Lion have annual grant programs for organizations who shop there for charitable programs, like ours.
   10. The next Vincentian training session will be held on 11/17, specifically for team 2, but also for any who were unable to attend a prior session.
   11. There will be no December meeting; our next meeting is January 11 at 9:30 am.
3. **Next Meeting Dates**

See above.

1. **Closing Prayer; Adjournment**