Saint Ann Conference, Saint Vincent de Paul

Meeting Minutes

Date March 8, 2022

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| Next meeting: |  | Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 3:30 PM at OLG |
|  |  | (No meeting week before Easter) |
|  |  | Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 3:30 PM in Delaney Hall |

1. **Call to Order**
   1. President Tish Galu convened the meeting at 9:33 AM.
   2. We welcomed 6 newcomers to the Conference
   3. Mary Ann Conlon led the opening prayer.
   4. Tish informed those present that, in view of the Ukraine invasion, the Ministerium has asked us to observe 5 minutes of silence at noon from 3/13 to 3/16.
2. **Approval of Minutes**
   1. The members present approved the revised minutes of the last meeting by a voice vote.
3. **Treasurer’s Report**

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|  | Balance | Revenue | Expenses |
| 2/1/2022 | $57,189 | $20,770 | $25,746 |
| 2/28/2022 | $52,213 |  |  |

* 1. We experienced a net loss of $206 on the Giving Tree project (expenses were $6,501; donations, $6,295). However, we were able to provide 325 children and 135 families with Christmas gift cards; due in part to generous donations from local businesses, as well as individuals. The Men’s Club donated $2,000 to the project.
  2. The Wreath Sale brought $1,047 in donations.

1. **Food Pantry Teams**
   1. A question was raised as to whether/how we were tracking donations specifically earmarked for the Food Pantry. Since we spent more than $42K in the fourth quarter to support the pantry, there was really no issue with FP donations being misdirected. However, those contributions are being tracked by Deb McCandless through a separate revenue column.
   2. We have a standing $5K order for the Food Pantry every two weeks.
2. **Neighbor Contact Teams**
   1. NCT calls remain sporadic. But we have been able to learn of families in need of assistance with rent, electric, etc. when they are served at the Food Pantry.
   2. Pyle currently has a considerable amount of money to draw upon, for assistance. What they do NOT have is a Spanish/English translator; we are blessed with three.
3. **Garden Team**
   1. The Garden Team is already beginning to prepare for the coming growing season; they will meet on February 10.
4. **Extended Care**
   1. The goal of the team is to stay in touch with those neighbors in their care, although their needs tend to ebb and flow over time.
      1. Tony is doing fine, is happy with his living arrangements.
      2. Kathleen has a permanent apartment at a very affordable cost, and is keeping an eye out on our behalf for any others that may come on the market.
   2. The long-term direction is to have our neighbors in charge of their own situations.
   3. We accomplish this by directing them to resources (e.g., Pyle, Christian Storehouse) that will help them fend for themselves.
5. **Visiting Vincentians**
   1. Many of our neighbors are physically and emotionally isolated and are in need of human contact. COVID has aggravated this condition. This is what the Visiting Vincentians are commissioned to address.
   2. We are in need of a Vincentian to co-lead this team with Lorraine.
6. **Reflection**
   1. We were asked to reflect on and share our experiences with the unfortunate fact that the minimum wage is not a living wage.
   2. One of the biggest challenges for our neighbors is finding living space.
   3. The minimum wage is $10.50/hour; a one room apartment will usually cost upward of $900/month. This means that a fully employed neighbor, working for the minimum wage, can expect to spend more than 50% of his/her income on housing.
   4. Opposition to low-income housing is difficult to overcome.
7. **President’s Remarks** 
   1. The monthly collection has been a big help in keeping us funded.
   2. The Food Pantry operation has made our Conference more visible to the surrounding community, leading to company donations, recognition in local news, etc.
   3. Please look at the list of items that our neighbors need on the agenda. If you have any to donate, or know anyone who does, please get in touch with Denise or Darlene.
   4. Volunteers are needed for computer support of the School Supplies and Giving Tree projects, and any other projects. Excel experience is welcome!
   5. There is a suggestion that we send out a talent/skill survey to our members.
   6. Anyone with experience in grant writing would be a help in applying to WalMart and Food Lion for assistance.
   7. The February 12 “Souper Bowl” cannot be held this year, to comply with diocesan guidelines (see below).
   8. The next Ozanam Training session is January 19; please RSVP by email so we can plan socially distanced seating.
8. **Fund raising**
   1. In lieu of the Souper Bowl, we will be holding a Super Bowl 50/50 pool. There will be two different levels of donations, $25/box and $50/box. The scores will be randomly generated the night before the game, and rewards will be by quarter, based on the score of the game at that point.
   2. We will need volunteers before and after mass, to collect donations, contact information, to block out boxes that have been claimed, and to write up receipts. Please check with Lorraine to volunteer.
9. **Next Meeting Dates**

See above.

1. **Closing Prayer; Adjournment**