



NORTHWEST DISTRICT-ST LOUIS COUNCIL
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL

Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2017

1. Opening Prayer was led by Lynda Atchison

2. Spiritual Reading: Carol Fogle spoke about the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the charism of St. Vincent de Paul, loving and serving the poor. A video about “Welcoming the Stranger” showed how the people around the world are connected.

3. Secretary’s Report - Judy Doucette (Previously approved via email) Minutes approved as written.

4. Treasurer’s Report -- Brother Raphael Kreikemeier reported that income for Oct 1-Mar 31 was \$49,870.14. Expenses for the same time period, \$58,972.72 for a loss of \$9102.58. A beginning positive balance allowed the expenses in excess of our income.

5. NW District Utility Coordinator, Theresa Weber announced that there are \$5250.00 in the Heat Up St. Louis fund, and is limited to \$250.00 per household.

6. Homeless Ministry Update: Lynda Atchison reported there were about 60 homeless cases since Oct 1, 2016. Some clients needed emergency help, others needed one or two weeks help and a plan for housing. The St. Louis Council donated \$25,000.00 towards the homeless fund. Six to seven families were helped since Oct. Lynda asked for continued prayer for the homeless needs in our area. Matt stated that the \$25,000.00 for the homeless fund will be given for an additional two years.

7. Conference Client Reports --- Jim Beaudry from Assumption Conference gave an overview of the new database system for their conference. He introduced Dr. Chris Willard, Creator of Administry, who demonstrated a web-based database for use in our conferences. The database will keep track of client information in a user friendly program. All conference caseworkers would be able to access the information on clients on this database. There is a secure login to the site. There were many questions and positive feedback regarding the new system. Not all conferences felt a need for the new database. There is a nominal monthly fee for this service. Dr. Willard will work with conferences who are interested in using the database. A free demo is available at www.administry.io

8. Break

9. St. Louis Council Updates -- Steve Rupp introduced St. Louis Council Members John Heithaus, Tim Massey, and Ann Steffens. Steve reviewed several items:

- * Conferences are asked to forward roster information to the St. Louis office
- * A pilot study of 22 conferences conducted a self-assessment. A Vincentian leadership committee (consisting of conferences, stores and the SL Council) worked together to review the assessment. Listening sessions were held. Vincentians asked to look at their best day helping others to represent Christ.
- * Conference forms are being tweaked. (Going to love them)
- * Reminder that we have a Pharmacy program for those needing help with certain medications.
- * Ozanam training -3 more sessions planned this year.
- * People want more training. Plans for training sessions are being worked on and will be coming this year.
- * American Red Cross-May 23rd, disaster training. More info to follow. A disaster plan is in the works-may need a NWD coordinator
- * Home Visit training and resources coming this summer and fall
- * Friends of the Poor Walk, Sat Sept 30th. Need a conference sponsor. Donations raised stay in the sponsoring conference.
- *Thrift Store update: Some conferences have fund raisers at the Thrift Stores to entice people to shop in the Thrift Stores.
- * The SL Council is spending down reserves and encourage conferences to do the same.

10. Next NW District Meeting – October 18, 2017 St. Robert’s conference in St. Charles

11. Thanks to St. Gianna for hosting this meeting. Lots of compliments on the homemade pies.

12. Closing Prayers -- Matt Medina led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted by:
Judy Doucette, NWD Secretary

There were 36 Vincentians present, represented by 13 conferences and 5 St. Louis Council members.

These numbers might be understated since some members failed to sign in.