



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

MINUTES FOR NW DISTRICT MEETING APRIL 8, 2015

1. OPENING PRAYER was led by Carol Fogle
2. SPIRITUAL READING  
Carol Fogle read a handout from the Road to Emmaus about being hospitable both as host and as a guest and related it to our work within SVDP.
3. ST. LOUIS COUNCIL/NEW PROGRAM UPDATES-STEVE RUPP  
Steve Rupp stated that the Council is in good financial condition at this time. John Foppe has sought out funding sources, is spreading the news about the different programs within SVDP. Steve reported on the following programs:
  - A. Car program- the lifeblood of the newly revised car program has been car donations. Proceeds from the donations go to the Council for repairs. A revised purchase program is soon to be implemented. Advertising donations has helped the program. Currently a partnership with used car lots is being developed, so clients can purchase cars (up to \$5000.). Low interest loans and classes on car care will be available. Steve is working on towing services to repair shops. Call his office for questions about towing services. A menu of services is on the St. Louis Council's website. Contact Kevin Kolasch, Vinnie's Motors St. Charles Car Czar, 636-447-6561 or 636-541-3102 (cell)
  - B. Pharmacy program- Steve reminded the conferences that the pharmacy program is available to some of our clients at no cost. The meds are free for clients. Call Steve Rupp for information at 314-881-6018.
  - C. Bridges Fund- these funds are available for those clients who may need a furnace repair or help with larger bills, on a one time basis. Program forms are available on the Council's conference website [www.svdpstl.org/conferences](http://www.svdpstl.org/conferences) (not for use by the public)
  - D. Beds for Our Neighbors- Twin or full-size mattresses and bed frames are available at no cost to conferences or clients. If clients would like queen or king sized beds, they must pay the difference; please note this on the voucher. If several beds are needed, please call the Thrift Stores first so beds will be available. Conference volunteers can pick up mattresses for clients, but recommended that the store be called first.

- E. Thrift Store Vouchers- new voucher forms in letter-sized format will be available soon. Conferences will be notified of the change in a few weeks.
- F. Marketing- November 8, 2015 is SVDP Sunday. Watch for ads regarding the SVDP Society in the *Review* and *Catholic* magazine. Four different posters will be posted during the year on Parish bulletin boards and various other locations throughout the area. The marketing plan will inform people about services available to increase monthly gifts, and to advertise about shopping at the Thrift Stores.
- G. Anniversary of SVDP- a Mass celebrating the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SVDP Society will be celebrated at the Old Cathedral in St. Louis on September, 13, 2015 at 2 pm.
- H. Weekly Communication- Members will be receiving a weekly communication regarding hot button issues and reminders. E-mail the St. Louis office if there are any questions.
- I. Steve introduced Mike Halterman who took over Ryan Carney's position. Mike is working part-time to build the various programs, analyzing and helping to implement needed changes at the Council level.
- J. CAR Reports- The CAR report forms are currently being revised.

4. JOHN FOPPE

John stated the hopes for the new marketing plan is to draw support for conferences. He asked that conferences please rotate the 4 new posters bimonthly. Each poster has a new theme (Helping, Donate, Volunteer, and Shop). The final posters will come out in the fall all over the country prior to SVDP Sunday on November 8<sup>th</sup>, the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SVDP Society.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Brother Kreikemeier reviewed the financial report. A meeting is needed to discuss changing to the new data system and how it will be used. When requesting funds from the District, include the name of the conference, the clients name, and how the funds will be used. E-mail questions to: [svdp.brother@gmail.com](mailto:svdp.brother@gmail.com). The Treasurer's Report was approved as read. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The October 15, 2014 meeting minutes (Previously e-mailed) were approved by a voice vote.

7. ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE REPORT

Judy Meiser reported on the activities of St. Robert conference for 2014. They served 345 families, 905 individuals. They served 40-50 people for the No Hunger Holiday. They have 13 active members with 6 visit teams, 4 phone crew, and one spiritual advisor. They average 75 calls per month. Each team keeps the same clients and they leave a card with first names and phone numbers for the client. They receive funds from two scrapbook events per year, collections from the fifth Sunday and Thanksgiving,

the youth sleep out event, donations from the Ladies and Men's Clubs, and requests from the parish when needed. They also participate with helping the homeless program.

8. NW DISTRICT UTILITY COORDINATOR

Theresa Weber announced that \$3000.00 of the \$6000.00 remains in the NW Utility funds and there is a \$275.00 maximum per client.

9. TERM LIMITS SIX YEARS-PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS

Matt advised that conferences begin training successors to presidents and treasurers since there are term limits of six years.

10. WALK FOR THE POOR

Theresa Waddington announced that the 2015 Walk for the Poor is September 26<sup>th</sup> at Quail Ridge Park. Her co-captain is Judy from St. Joseph's in Cottleville.

11. FORMATION COMMITTEE/OZANAM TRAINING/SPIRITUAL ADVISORS-CAROL FOGLE

The Formation Committee has not met recently.

Carol reminded members of the Ozanam training session to be held at Assumption Parish on April 25<sup>th</sup> -8:30-4:30. New presenters would be welcome for new ideas.

There are currently 14 spiritual advisors and most of them have had training

12. NW DISTRICT NEW MEMBERSHIP

Matt Medina asked that members advertise in church bulletins about membership in SVDP. The goal is an increase of 10% this year for each Conference.

13. HOMELESS PROJECT UPDATE

In Lynda's absence, Matt reported that 50 homeless persons were helped so far 10-1-14 till 4/8/15 (\$13,781.00). A total of 177 have been helped from the beginning.

He also stated that if a person becomes homeless, the cost for housing them again is about 4000 to \$5000. He suggested that we do what can be done to keep clients from being evicted. There are 7 conferences participating, but Matt asked for additional coordinators and financial help from other conferences. He complimented Lynda Atchison for an outstanding job as well as the other coordinators.

14. NW DISTRICT WEBSITE

[www.northwestsvdpstl.org](http://www.northwestsvdpstl.org)

15. AUDITS

Matt announced that 8 conferences have completed their required audit.

16. CAR REPORTS

Matt reminded conferences that CAR quarterly reports are due the end of April.

17. NOMINATION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES- NW DISTRICT PRESIDENT --PAUL COOK-- COMMITTEE LEADER

Paul Cook distributed a handout regarding the procedure for the process for nominations for the NW District Council. Matt asked for volunteers for the nominating committee.

Judy Meiser of St. Robert's conference volunteered.

18. JOBS FOR LIFE

Call Bob Schrieber 636-441-3981. The goal is two referrals for each St. Charles County Conference. NW District has referred 15 total with 12 people getting jobs and 3 are currently enrolled.

19. NEXT MEETING- HOSTED BY ST. JOSEPH COTTLEVILLE, OCT 14, 2015

20. THANKS TO ST. ROBERT'S FOR HOSTING THE MEETING

21. CLOSING PRAYER

Matt led the members in the closing prayer.

Note: 14 Conferences were in attendance with 30 Vincentians present. All Saints, Immaculate Conception Old Monroe, St. Francis Assisi, and St. Patrick Wentzville conferences were absent.

Respectfully Submitted  
Judy Doucette, NW District Secretary