



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

MINUTES FOR NW DISTRICT MEETING APRIL 16, 2014

1. OPENING PRAYER was led by Father Robert Banken of St. Francis Parish.
2. SPIRITUAL READING was led by Carol Fogle of ICD Conference. Carol read excerpts about Lent and reflections from the book, Walk with Me.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT
Treasurer's Report approved
4. SECRETARY'S REPORT
The September 18, 2013 meeting minutes (Previously e-mailed) were approved by a voice vote.
5. ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO-MINI-VINNIE PRESENTATION-PAULA WAGNER
Emmy, Blake and, Liz, and Adult Coordinator, Paul Wagner, gave a presentation regarding the activities of the SCB Mini-Vinnie's.
Highlights of the group activities include: An increase in membership from a few students in 2011 to 36 students in 2014 (7th and 8th students; Operation Backpack-members fill 50 backpacks for students who are in need of food for the weekend for an area school.
Members volunteer in the food bank (repackage donations from large food banks. They volunteer in the local soup kitchen (prepare and serve meals), the Crisis Nursery (provide family dinners and games for residents). They bring awareness to homelessness while participating in Freezin' for a Reason (sleep outside in cardboard boxes to bring awareness to homelessness); Easter Baskets (fill food baskets and deliver to needy families); Thanksgiving food baskets and Christmas food and gift boxes (assist the St. Vincent de Paul members assemble food boxes and gift bags during the holidays).
In 2013, the Mini-Vinnie's volunteered 1147 hours. Paula Wagner announced that grants are written to help fund the projects, as well as donations from parishioners.
Matt suggested that District members consider starting youth groups in the conferences to help with projects.
6. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION DARDENNE SVDP
President of Immaculate Conception Dardenne, Amy Kortkamp welcomed the NW District members. Amy stated that her conference started 27 years ago, and now has 31 active and 36 associate members, and 8 contributing members. She reported on the food pantry (16,000 lbs of food last month), 15 caseworkers who work part-time, 5 days/week, In addition, the parish has monthly food collections and envelope collections.

7. NORTHWEST DISTRICT UTILITY COORDINATOR SUMMARY
NW Utility Coordinator, Theresa Weber, announced that in Feb, 2014, 20 clients received \$6281.00 with 7 conferences participating. Contact Theresa with requests or questions at 636-795-1937. Fax 1-888-997-8088, or e-mail at northwestutility@svdpstl.org
8. FORMATION COMMITTEE/OZANAM TRAINING/SPIRITUAL ADVISORS
Ozanam Training: Steve Fogle reported that the NW Council goal is to have 2 training sessions per district. There were 33 attendees at the last training session. Comments from the session stated that the home visits were an important part of working with clients. The next Ozanam training session is October 4, 2014 at Assumption Parish.

Spiritual Advisors: Carol Fogle stated that Conference Spiritual advisors could be appointed if a priest or deacon is unavailable, and could be member reading a spiritual reflection.
A training session for Spiritual Advisors or Assistants will be help on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at ICD from 9am-12pm. She asked Presidents to approach members to come to the training.
9. NW DISTRICT WEBSITE
The NW District Website is: <http://www.northwestsvdpstl.org>
Webmaster, Chris Smith stated the website is available to all conferences.
Contact Chris at chrispysmith@hotmail.com or 314-616-6476.
10. PARISH FINDER
Matt reminded members that the parish finder's website is very helpful when needing to find parishes boundaries. <http://archstl.org/app/directory/parishes/finder>
Later in this meeting, Steve Rupp announced that there is a parish finder through the Council office also: <http://www.svdpstlouis.org/how-to-help/parish-finder-page/> Go to front page; find help, type in address.
11. AUDITS-CURRENT STATUS
Matt announced that Audits are due September 30, 2014
12. TERM LIMITS-SIX YEARS-TREASURERS AND PRESIDENTS
Matt reminded members that term limits for treasurers and presidents are six years. A one year extension is permitted with approval from the district council. He stated the importance of having a backup person for Treasurer and President.
13. CAR REPORTS
Matt reminded members to send in CAR reports as required.
14. NEW MEMBERSHIP GOAL
Matt announced that a 10% increase goal for new membership was met. St. Joseph's Conference membership grew from 19 to 48 active members. A video about SVDP and the food pantry, and advertising about the need for members and workers, helped with membership growth.

15. CLOTHING DRIVES FOR THE SVDP THRIFT STORES

Matt stated that he would like each conference to have a goal of one clothing drive per year. He gave the example that one truckload of clothing would give conferences 10,000 credits at the Thrift Stores.

16. JOBS FOR LIFE- OASIS-ST. CHARLES COUNTY

Contact Bob Schreiber, Board Member at 636-441-3981 or shribe2@sbcglobal.net or their website www.jobsforlife.org with questions about Jobs for Life. Matt called for a goal of referring 2 clients per conference. About 40 churches in St. Charles County run the Jobs for Life Program. At this time, 10 referrals are from SVDP. Interviews will be held through this summer for new clients for the fall classes, which resume in Sept.

17. ST. LOUIS COUNCIL-SYSTEMIC CHANGE, ST LOUIS COUNCIL UPDATES- DAVE WINSLETT

Dave announced that there are 3000 Vincentians in the St. Louis Council. The Systemic Change calls for more home visits. The video Bridges Out of Poverty showing differences between situational poverty vs. generational poverty, and shows a distinct difference in classes. There will be discussion about building empowerment, skills and education, mentoring with families, advocacy from parishioners, and collaboration with other agencies.

18. ST. LOUIS COUNCIL-RX PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM, WALK FOR THE POOR, THRIFT STORES

Steve Rupp thanked members for the surveys that were online.

The Walk for the Poor is scheduled for Sept 20th 2014. Steve encouraged members to sign up for the walk and ask for sponsors. If members cannot walk themselves, someone can walk in their place.

Steve announced a Midwest meeting will be held at the NW Council office on June 7th. The directory is complete and will be sent to Conference presidents via e-mail. Please treat the information securely.

Thrift Store Credits - A question arose regarding the credits given to the conferences once donations are made by the conferences or by parishioners.

To check on store credits, conferences can call Mike Grib at 314-881-6011 or email at michaelg@svdpstl.org

RX Program- Please take advantage of the Rx prescription program. It is easy to fill out the form for clients to get help with prescription meds. The meds are free for clients. Call Steve Rupp for information at 314-881-6018.

19. VINNIE'S AUTOS-KEVIN KOLASCH

An additional pre-qualification change is added prior to delivery of the auto-Once the paperwork is completed, a driving record is attached prior to auto delivery.

In addition, when cars are delivered, clients must have a valid ID, permanent/temporary proof of insurance for the auto provided, and a cashier's check for \$400.

The fiscal year ended in Sept 2013, with 18 cars delivered.

As of Oct, 2013, 10 more cars have been delivered.

Contact Kevin Kolasch, Vinnie's Motors St. Charles Car Czar, 636-447-6561 or 636-541-3102 (cell).

There is a need for more car donations. Announcement could be put in parish bulletins, Call Greg Marino for flyers at 314-881-6005.

20. NW DISTRICT HOMELESS PROJECT-LYNDA ATCHISON

Lynda stated that 45 families were helped since January, 2014. She gave an example about helping a family who were homeless and how much time and how many resources were needed to follow up to help the family. Ken Kapellar also shared a story about helping a homeless person. Lynda announced that the next Homeless Update meeting will be on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 6 pm at the Hope Center at ICD.

21. NEXT MEETING-OCTOBER 15, 2014 HOSTED BY ST. CLETUS

22. THANKS TO ICD FOR HOSTING THE MEETING

23. CLOSING PRAYER-FATHER BANKEN

NOTES: 14 Conferences were in attendance with 39 Vincentians present. All Saints and St. Peters conferences were absent.

Respectfully Submitted

Judy Doucette, NW District Secretary