



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

MINUTES FOR NW DISTRICT PRESIDENTS MEETING – JANUARY 15, 2014

ATTENDEES:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Matt Medina, NW District | Ken Kapeller, SCB |
| Theresa Weber, SCB | Joyce Cain, SCB |
| Amy Kortkamp, ICD | Joyce Hollaway, Holy Rosary |
| Lonnie Hollaway, Holy Rosary | Dick Raupp, Holy Rosary |
| Jane Gerth, St. Cletus | Dennis Gerth, St. Cletus |
| Carol Fogle, ICD | Suzann Crowder, Assumption |
| Ralph Biddy, IHM | Robert Grillion, St. Gianna |
| Br. Raphael Krekemeier, NW District | Judy Meiser, St. Roberts |
| Susan Kallash-Bailey, Sacred Heart | Cullen Henson, St. Patricks |
| Jane Henson, St. Patrick | Paul Cook, St. Joseph Cottleville |
| Lynda Atchison, NW District | Butch Henke, IC, Old Monroe |

OPENING PRAYER was led by Carol Fogle from ICD.

FORMATION COMMITTEE -- Carol Fogle reminded the group of the many resources available on the SVdP website (svdpusa.org). As conference leaders, officers should promote spiritual growth of members and increased knowledge of our Vincentian heritage. We strive for daily conversion and increased unity of all Vincentians.

NW DISTRICT OZAMAN TRAINING – The next training session is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, 2014 at St. Joseph Church in Cottleville. Mass will be held at 8:00 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. All materials are provided. A continental breakfast and light lunch will be served. All new members should attend this training. Please RSVP to Carol Fogle at 636-294-2832 or ckellinger@hotmail.com. The next training session will be held on October 4, 2014.

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS -- Calendars were distributed. The Hardee's Rise and Shine for Heat 2014 (Heat Up St. Louis) event is coming up soon! It is scheduled for Friday, February 14. Handouts listing participating locations and sign-up sheets were distributed. Please encourage members to volunteer! Money raised during this event will be made available to the NW District.

NW DISTRICT FUNDING/TWINNING -- The Northwest District currently has some funds available for twinning. Matt encouraged members to access this money before approaching another conference for twinning. Requests should be sent to Brother Raphael Kreikemeier at bkreikemeier@gmail.com. His phone number is 636-980-6167.

NW DISTRICT UTILITY COORDINATOR -- Theresa Weber was introduced as the new NW District Utility Coordinator. We are currently waiting for a functional fax line. Forms and instructions were distributed. Theresa can be reached at northwestutility@svdpstl.org or by phone at 636-795-1937. An email will be sent when we know the fax number to use for funding requests. Requests can also be sent as email attachments if that is easier for you.

NW DISTRICT WEBSITE -- The new NW District website, <http://www.northwestsvdpstl.org>, is operational. Chris Smith from ICD is the webmaster. His email address is chrispysmith@hotmail.com or you can reach him at 314-616-6476.

FUNDRAISING/MONTHLY CHURCH ENVELOPES -- Matt encouraged Presidents to speak with their pastors about starting a monthly envelope collection for St. Vincent DePaul. Holy Rosary reported a 30% increase in donations after initiating this practice. Remind potential donors that all money collected is used within parish boundaries.

AUDITS -- Remember that annual conference audits are mandatory. Please submit your report as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

NEW MEMBERSHIP AND FEEDBACK TO PARISHES – The NW District currently has 628 members. Together we provided \$835,282.00 in assistance and \$873,116.00 of in-kind goods to the community last year. We logged 34,551 volunteer hours, made 8,078 home visits, and assisted 40,259 people! Members shared techniques they use to publicize St. Vincent dePaul activities and attract new members to their conference. Most parishes are actively recruiting members on Stewardship Sunday. Many utilize bulletin notices. Some mentioned pulpit talks. The pastor at IHM in New Melle hosts a wine and cheese gathering for new parishioners and encourages them to join. We might try approaching recent CRHP attendees and RCIA members. Try to publish conference accomplishments in the bulletin to give parishioners ownership of work that is being done for the poor through their generosity.

GOAL: Increase each Conference Membership by 10% during 2014.

FINANCIAL POLICIES AND WAIVER PROCEDURES -- The Rule limits the term of conference Treasurer to six years. The Rule also restricts conferences from donating money to any other outside agency.

ANNUAL REPORTS/CAR REPORTS -- Thank you for your prompt submission of these reports. Ryan Carney from the Downtown Office is writing guidelines for completed the reports so that information is more uniformly submitted. Judy Meiser from St. Cletus requested that Ryan include clarification about twinning vs. co-payments. Action Item: Matt Medina to send annual reports back to conferences.

NEW NW DISTRICT CONFERENCES -- Robert Grillion from St. Gianna conference and Butch Henke from Immaculate Conception conference in Old Monroe were introduced and welcomed to the group.

CLOTHING DRIVES FOR SVDP THRIFT STORES -- Matt suggested that holding a parish clothing drive for St. Vincent dePaul is a relatively easy way for conferences to boost their store credit balances. Members reported issues with vouchers being properly credited and finding out their current credit balance. Matt suggested purchasing a stamp "USE AVAILABLE CREDITS – PARISH/CONFERENCE NAME" to use on vouchers. SCB conference has initiated this practice with favorable results. NCR copies are stamped on each page of the voucher.

GOAL: Each Conference have one Clothing Drive per year.

JOBS FOR LIFE FOR OUR SVDP CLIENTS -- As we step up efforts to promote systemic change, keep in mind the resource we have in Jobs for Life. Clients from St. Charles County can be referred to Jobs for Life for assistance with obtaining a GED and finding employment. It is a comprehensive program backed by 40+ churches and 600 volunteers who utilize a team approach to assist motivated clients with whatever they need to be successful, from transportation, to mentoring, to child care, etc. Our contact at Jobs for Life is Bob Schreiber. He can be reached by email at shribe2@sbcglobal.net or at 636-441-3981. The website is www.jobsforlife.org.

GOAL: Each Conference in St. Charles County should submit two candidates per year.

HOMELESS PROJECT STATUS – Lynda Atchison from ICD reported that the program is currently being piloted by St. Charles Borromeo and Immaculate Conception/Dardenne to identify potential issues before rolling it out to all conferences in the NW District. Website reporting will be used to eliminate duplication

of services and hopefully provide better assistance to clients. Lynda distributed a form outlining additional information needed from conferences.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE – The DVD, “Bridges out of Poverty” was shown. In order to effectively end poverty, it is important that we put an end to judgmental attitudes and to come understand the unspoken class rules shaping reality for the poor – what factors influence their perspective on life and what motivates them. The video provided valuable insight into generational poverty and attempts to explain why the poor frequently have different habits than those of us raised in the middle class. Lynda Atchison has the entire set of “Bridges to Sustainable Communities” videos and they are available for conferences to use.

The next NW District meeting will be held at ICD on April 16, 2014.

NOTE: 12 Conferences were in attendance with 21 Vincentians present. St.Peter, St.Theodore, St. Francis, All Saints, and St. Barnabas conferences were not represented.