



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

MINUTES FOR NORTHWEST DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S MEETING  
January 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Matt Medina, President of the Northwest District.

OPENING PRAYER was led by Lynda Atchison from ICD, Vice President of the Northwest District

**PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE MANUAL AND PRESIDENT'S CHECKLIST**

Matt distributed a copy of the President's Conference Manual to each of the presidents. He reviewed the one page checklist which serves as a guide to the conference president's duties. Matt recommended that each conference include training successors for officers, especially for the President and Treasurer positions. This will insure a backup to each officer in case of illness or a vacancy in offices.

**PROPOSAL FOR NEW YOUTH GROUP FOR 18 TO 40 YEAR OLDS-DISCUSSION**

A proposal was handed out for a New Young Adult Conference in the Northwest District by Bryan Kirchoff. Matt reviewed the proposal stating that the group would need a meeting place, funding, fundraising events, twinning from a sponsor conference, referrals for cases from the sponsor conference. The goal is to train young adults from all areas of the NW District in conference duties so that eventually they would transition into work into parish conferences. Matt asked conference presidents continue discussion at their Conference level regarding the proposal. Further discussion at the April meeting.

**FEBRUARY 13, 2015 HEAT UP ST. LOUIS**

Matt distributed a copy of the volunteer sign-up sheet for Hardee's Rise and Shine Heat St. Louis for 2015. Over \$100,000.00 was distributed to the Downtown SVDP last year from Heat Up St. Louis. Last year's revenues were distributed based on participation by the Districts. Since the NW District had the second most participants, it received the second most utilities revenue for the Hardee's event. Matt encouraged conferences to participate in this year's Heat Up St. Louis fundraiser.

**CONFERENCE PRESIDENT SUCCESS STORIES FOR 2014**

Matt asked each president to share successes for 2014.

Butch Henke: Immaculate Conception, Old Monroe

Since this is a newly formed conference, the conference is working on organization. Membership grew from 10 to 20 people; Food pantry recipients from 487 in 2013 to 888 served in 2014. Every Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders help in the pantry.

Joyce Holloway: Holy Rosary:

18 active members, added 1 new member. Participated in No Hunger Holiday, Christmas Sharing Tree, and pantry volunteers. Had a 3 day rummage sale generating \$4000. They collect good useable furniture for clients.

Cullen Henson: St. Patrick, Wentzville

Major project is the food pantry; 30-40 volunteer per week; help 60-70 families. Volunteers come from word of mouth, church ministry. Youth in the community help. Have refrigeration available, Chic-fil-a donates food; Have vouchers for clothing

Note: Festival of Sharing: One weekend a year in Sedalia. Youth go down to get supplies for pantry-food items, paper products, etc.

Joyce Cain: St. Charles Borromeo

Homeless project in conjunction with the NW District is doing better this year. Conference is working with hotels on direct billing for homeless clients. Joyce Cain shared both SCB memorial cards and SVDP Thanks You Cards with presidents. Memorial Cards are placed in narthex, funeral homes and notices in bulletin. Local funeral home responsive to using church memorial cards as well as generic cards. Revenues from the Memorial Cards amounted to over \$6000 during 2014. Matt mentioned that Joyce places a year end summary in church bulletin so parishioners can see how donations have helped during the year. This year end summary also encourages people to join the SVDP Conference. As a result of monthly church bulletin articles about SVDP twelve new members have joined SCB Conference. Joyce Cain also talked about the mentor program established to help train new members. Mini Vinnie's, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students take care of back pack program for kids who need food on weekends. They helped with Giving Tree and will help with Heat Up St. Louis.

Robert Grillion: St. Gianna, Wentzville

New conference in 2014 with 12 members, 6 care members. Parish has about 400 families, but no school, no food pantry. Will have a clothing drive in 2015; have monthly envelope donation; help with homeless; meet in a PSR classroom. Parish support has been good.

Susan Crowder: Assumption

2014 focus has been on marketing to parishioners. Share information about SVCP in church bulletin. The Thrift Store truck donations a huge success. Two years casework now online. Giving Trees 105 families, 92 adopted.

Paul Cook: St. Joseph's, Cottleville

Walk for Poor, 100+ walkers, donations of almost \$7000. Biggest events are Thanksgiving and Christmas. School and PSR conduct a food drive with about 50 families served. Donations of produce and turkeys from local stores. The school, the parish and the Fire Dept. adopt families at Christmas. Local businesses donate toys. Many leftover items go to different parishes/Conferences.

Judy Meiser: St. Robert

Parish has 400 families. Christmas giving tree served 45 families. Highlight in 2014-treasury was down to \$2.00. Requests were made from the pulpit, and parishioners made donations so the conference could work the remainder of the year. No food pantry, but a food bin for donations to J&A is available. Referrals to Oasis Food pantry. Fundraisers: two scrap booking fundraisers per year- vendor runs the sessions and conference provides space and food.

Kathy Wade: All Saints

2014-8-10 core workers with 2 more added this year; 10 associate members  
Emergency food pantry, beef from local farmers. Giving Tree-300 gifts donated in 2014. Help with school supplies and cleaning supplies at Theresa of Calcutta; receive a quarterly collection.  
Funding received from quilt social and Fair Trade sales.  
Full time school and PSR students collect items for Easter Baskets for kids. Youth are involved with special projects.

Bobby Slattery: St. Peters

New president this year. Is grateful for Matt's check list in President's manual. Working with officers and new procedures for each office and for calendar of events. Examination of policies and funding. SVDP has been in this parish for 100 years; parish has lots of rental property. Many homeless clients this year. The parish is very generous.

Rose Ann Weeks: St. Cletus (Mary Ellen Ahlheim-President)

Great support of parishioners. Adding new members- 20-25 current members. Envelope for SVDP at Thanksgiving; Quilt social brings in \$5000-\$6000 in donations. Conference has computer database. Business cards given to clients with Mass times and phone number. Giving Tree at Christmas time.

Amy Kortkamp: ICD Dardenne

Monthly SVDP envelopes, Thanksgiving and Holy Week collections for SVDP. 4200 families- Food pantry provides for 15,000 people. Help 851 clients financially. Food bank is open to everyone-provides fresh food. Receive food from Shop N Save, Walmart, Target, Sam's.

Stewardship drive and bulletin announcements to attract new members. 2014 – 15 new associate members, 9 new members, two are new caseworkers.

Other events included a clothing drive, Thanksgiving for 133 families, Christmas for 104 families, Christmas shop for 33; 21 families for dinner. Provide volunteers for the Thrift Store in Wentzville. Special project in 2014 provided support for a homeless man with cancer and his family.

Theresa Waddington: Immaculate Heart of Mary, New Melle

New President. 25 families helped regularly with food. Conference has 12 active members, 10 associate members. Teams set up for home visits and calls. Giving Tree at Christmas time. Conference works with families about goals.

#### OPEN TOPICS, DISCUSSION FOR ON GOING SVDP PROGRAMS

Brother Raphael discussed a caution list for the homeless. An example of a homeless client that was put up for lodging only to have a drug party later and they did \$1000 worth of damages to the room. The Conference had to pay the \$1000 in damages as a result of this client. This client was put on a No Help List and this would be an example of the Caution list for the NW District Homeless Project. Discussion among those present regarding caution lists and need for further help for the homeless. Need for keeping a central database and list when working with the homeless clients. It was highlighted that we should not be judgmental when dealing with our clients but at the same time we have to be good stewards of the funds and donations that are provided by our Parishes. In specific cases, it is recommended that each conference pray and discuss any client that might end up on a caution list before a final decision is made. If the caution list is used, it is still the Conference's final decision to help or not to help a specific client.

The Northwest District meeting will be held on April 8, 2015 hosted by St. Robert's Conference

Thank you to ICD for hosting the meeting.

Closing prayer was led by Lynda Atchison.

NOTE: 13 Conference president's or substitutes were in attendance. Four conferences absent: St. Theodore, St. Francis, St. Barnabas, and Sacred Heart.

jcd