

MINUTES FOR ST. ANDREW'S CONFERENCE MEETING

Date: 21 AUGUST 2023

Call to Order/Opening Prayer: Time: 5:05 PM

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (X) Read/Approved: Motion by: Ann Lund, seconded by: Larry

Attendance: Total Active Members (36) LOA (3) Present (19) Absent (14) Quorum (17)

<u>MEMBERS</u>		<u>MEMBERS</u>		<u>MEMBERS</u>		<u>Associate Member</u>	
Al	X	Janet	X	Pat	A	Maria	
Ann F.	A	Jerry	X	Pauline	X	Barbara S	
Ann L.	X	JoAnn	LOA	Sandra	X	Ann Fellrath	
Colleen	A	Jose	X	Scotty	X	Michaela	
Dennis	X	Kathy	A	Stephen	A		
Diane	A	Larry	X	Toni	A	Visitors	
Dotti	A	Margaret	X	Yolanda	A	Ann L./OLM	
Estela	A	Marianne	A				
Francisca	A	Marge	X				
George	LOA	Martha G.	LOA				
Gini	A	Mary Ellen	X			Training	
Glenn	X	Mary	X	Father Greg *	A		
Gloria	X	Michael C	A	Stan *	A	Tillie Munoz	
Hilary	X	Norm	X				
Ilona	X						

*Stan and Father Greg - Not included in Quorum

Upcoming Events:

1. Ministry Sunday September 10th. Signup will be needed for Vincentians to cover the table.
2. Feast of St. Vincent de Paul September 27th
3. Walk for the Poor Saturday, September 30th

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Fellowship gathering with Rose on August 14th was a great event.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Community Partners (“CP”):
 - The purpose of the program is to prevent homelessness.
 - A fund of \$6,000 per month has been allocated to this end.
 - There is supposed to be a 36-hour turnaround when the case is submitted to CP. Follow-up should occur if it goes beyond.
 - When the funds are paid out, SVdP can request reimbursement immediately.
 - Funds are wired into our account.
 - A receipt must be generated for documentation. A copy of the check will do.
 - Lengthy discussion ensued covering how the funds should be distributed. While CP has no cap or guidelines, it was generally felt it would be wise to utilize SVdP guidelines. That will allow assistance to more Friends.

That being said, if a compelling situation arises which calls for extraordinary assistance, after discernment, that case may be submitted to CP for determination.

In some cases, even deposits may be covered if a case can be made it will prevent homelessness. (Important to note that deposits can only be submitted using Community Partners funds. No change in the rule regarding no deposits with SVdP funds.)

The funds may also be used to cover expenses other than rent IF a case can be made that the help will prevent homelessness.

- **SVdP's CP funds are only available to our service zip codes: 85635, 85636, 85650 this side of Buffalo Soldier Trail, and Huachuca City.**
- How can Cochise County residents outside of our service get help? They should have access to the funds also. Who can they be referred to?
- Scotty shared the rise in the homeless population: 2020 Arizona homeless statistic: 23.4% vs the National average of 1%. He is working on a \$5,000 grant.

Ann Lund made a motion, seconded by Jose THAT assistance via Community Partners funds be limited to \$600 per household. Motion carried.

As always, our traditional vetting and discernment must be used to help Friends and help them help themselves. Concern was raised that there is no mechanism involved to identify how many people are NOT being helped each month after the \$6,000 cap has been reached.

2. Free Phone Promoters will no longer be allowed to solicit at the Conference due to concern about the privacy of the information they collect. Friends may go to Metro T Mobile 1618 E Fry Blvd to apply for a free phone. **Motion was made by Larry, seconded by Ann Lund and carried THAT "free phone" solicitation will not be allowed on the property of St. Vincent de Paul.**
3. Ozanam Training will be offered on September 23rd in Tucson, and the District 5 meeting will take place on September 9th in Tombstone. As Pauline will be out of town, Ann Lund offered represent the Conference at the District meeting.
4. Sierra MHP will not take a check for rent, and has taken the position SVdP must use their Portal. We have experienced serious problems with that payment process and Pauline announced we will not use their Portal for payment of rent. She will discuss alternate methods with the management.
5. Labor Day schedule: the Conference and the Thrift Store will be closed on Labor Day.
6. Committee reports are due at the September 11th meeting.
7. Reports on difficult or touching cases.
 - Gloria shared kudos for the Store and Knights of Columbus in helping a Friend refit her trailer with a refrigerator and portable air conditioner.
 - Friend in Huachuca City in need of water has been handled and was referred to Sahara.
 - Janet shared the sad and upsetting story of a homeless Friend who was dropped off by Slicks after being discharged from a Canyon Vista Hospital. Although he was placed in a room at Knights Inn after perseverance by Janet, there was no good outcome.
 - This was not the first of these incidents and the practice will be addressed by Pauline and Ann Lund with the Hospital CEO.
8. Home visits: None.
9. Special cases: Amount available _____

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Norm had two cases where the "needed" funds were secured by SVdP and then not required.
- Pauline related a situation which identified that SSVEC will not accept cash in payment of a bill when there is an outstanding balance.
- Hilary reported his and Jolie's niece had joined the order "Little Sisters Disciples of the Lamb" located in France.

- Glenn suggested the podcast *The God Minute*, which will focus on St. Vincent de Paul during September.

Spiritual Reading by Margaret: Love each other deeply because love covers a multitude of sins.

Conference Members Sick or in Distress:

- Colleen will be having back surgery and off the schedule.

Prayers for others: Will be Emailed separately

Vincentian Schedule: Will be Emailed separately.

Closing Prayer: Ann Lund

Adjourned: 6:05 PM

Recorder: Mary Ellen Bianchino