

# MINUTES FOR ST. ANDREW'S CONFERENCE MEETING

**Date: 25 August 2025**

**Call to Order/Opening Prayer:** Pauline/Father Greg

**Time:** 5:03 PM

**Spiritual Enrichment:** Father Greg

**Minutes of Previous Meeting: (X) Read/Approved; Approved with Changes**

Motion by: Dennis    Seconded by: Jerry

**Attendance: Total Active Members (33) LOA (0) Present (18) Absent (15) Quorum (16)**

<b>MEMBERS</b>		<b>MEMBERS</b>		<b>MEMBERS</b>		<b>Associate Member</b>	
Al	A	Margaret	X			JoAnn	
Ann F.	X	Marge	A			Martha	
Ann L.	A	Mary Ellen	X			Mechelle	
Colleen	A	Mary	A			Michaela	
Dennis	X	Michael	X				
Diane	A	Norm	X				
Dotti	X	Pam	X				
Estela	X	Pat	X				
Francisca	A	Pauline	X				
Gini	A	Sandra	A				
Glenn	X	Scotty	A			<b>Visitors</b>	
Gloria	A	Stephen	X				
Hilary	A	Tom	X				
Ilona	X	Toni	A			<b>Training</b>	
Janet	A						
Jerry	X			Father Greg *	X		
Judy	A			Stan *		Berlynda Schaff	
Kathy	X						
Larry	X						

\*Stan and Father Greg - Not included in Quorum

August Birthdays – 7 August – Hilary; 9 August – Ann Lund; 16 August – Stephen; 17 August – Larry; 26 August – JoAnn Schneider

Let's congratulate Blanca for celebrating 20 years with St. Vincent de Paul. Thanks, Blanca.

1. CPL Scott Borgstadt, SVPD, gave a talk on the Better Bucks Program. The program started in Flagstaff in 2015 and in Sierra Vista in 2021. The objective of the program is to help with the homeless and pan handlers. The Better Bucks program is a non-profit run by the City of Sierra Vista. Booklets are \$6.00 and can be found at the library, City Hall, the food co-op and Goodwill. The three main programs supported by the program are:

a. Better Bucks Program which consists of a booklet with 5 vouchers that can be used for food, clothing, toiletries, and pet food. The booklet also lists different service organizations that can help the homeless.

b. Better Works Program which creates day jobs for the homeless, who work for approximately 4 hours per day and are provided lunch. City properties and state trust lands have been cleaned up through the Better Works Program. The program hopes to expand to help clean up low-income properties of individuals in need. The program is usually only once-a-month and the homeless can sign up for the program at GNA. A person's criminal history is not checked to be considered for the program; however, the person is checked for outstanding warrants.

c. Better Meals Program which provides food to the different schools for students who are unable to pay for their food.

The Better Bucks Program sponsors the Sierra Vista Community Connect event at the Salvation Army which brings service providers together in one place for the homeless and needy in the community.

CPL Borgstadt related several success stories that resulted from a person participating in the Better Works Program.

2. Father Greg handed out an article by Father Ronald Rolheiser on "compassion fatigue" (attached). He reminded us that compassion fatigue is real and that if we need to step back from the conference, we can shift our volunteerism to the store or food bank. It's normal – step back, pray and get back to service.

### **Current Events:**

### **Upcoming Events:**

- 1 September 2025, Labor Day – the conference, food bank and store are closed.
- 8 September 2025 – Vincentian Meeting, 5:00 PM, Kino Hall
- 27 September 2025 – Walk for the Poor. 27 September is the feast of St. Vincent de Paul and after the 9:00 AM Mass, we'll walk from the Church to the food bank. Grocery bags will have to be handed out after all the Masses the week before.

**Old Business:** SSVEC: please make sure the friend's notice has a disconnect warning on it. Please make sure you call the respective utility company (gas, electric, water) to verify the friend's information.

### **NEW Business:**

**1. PLEASE READ:** The following was approved by the board on 26 August 2025:

a. Effective 1 September 2025 – utilities - SVdP will only pay a friend's utility bill once a year and there has to be a disconnect notice.

b. Effective 1 September 2025 – rent - a friend must have a way to pay rent for the following month before SVdP helps with rent.

c. Effective 1 September 2025 – homeless – only 1 night in a hotel is authorized.

2. The gutter system was replaced at a cost of \$3,000. However, the contractor did the job for free. If you need gutters, contact Artistic Roofing and Gutters. **They requested it's not to be announced on any public media that they did this service for us.**

3. The updated security cameras are being installed and paid for by a private donor. Also, the donor paid for tires on the store truck.
4. Coats for Kids will begin again in October. The Real Wishes grant provided the money for the new coats. Last year SVdP provided 193 coats; community partners provided 30 coats; and the area schools provided 25 coats. The friend's phone number and the school their children attend will be required on the application. More information will be discussed at a future meeting.
5. The store needs your help for a couple hours a week to help with sorting. Leah and the store employees will tell you what's needed.
6. Ilona mentioned a friend, Rachel Kacenga, who owns some tiny houses and is renting them to others. However, the houses are not finished nor do they seem to be true tiny houses. Before we pay any money to her for someone's rent, a home visit must be done.
7. The water leak at the conference/food bank will not be a quick fix, nor will it be inexpensive. Larry, Stan and Pauline are working the issue. The water will not be on at the conference/food bank. Pauline mentioned that she may contact the Blake Foundation (across the street) to see if the Vincentians can use their facilities. The friend's bathroom is out of order for use.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Due 8 September 2025

- A. Food Bank Report:
- B. Thrift Store Report:
- C. Finance Report:
- D. Poor Box Report:

**Vincentian Reports on difficult or touching cases:**

**Home visits:** Toni did a food delivery to an apartment office for a friend who was in on Friday.

**Special cases:**

**For the Good of the Order:** From St. Alphonsus Liguori – Act as if every day were the last of your life, and each action the last you perform.

**Spiritual Reading:** Margaret

**Conference Members Sick or in Distress:**

**Prayers for others:** Will be emailed separately

**Vincentian Schedule:** Will be emailed separately. Ilona will work from 12:00 to 2:00 on Tuesday and Margaret will work from 2:00 to 4:00.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

- Food Bank Meeting:
- Finance Meeting:
- Thrift Store Meeting:
- Ad Hoc Meeting:

- Board Meeting: 26 August 2025, 10:00 AM, Madonna Hall

**Vincentian** Meeting: - 8 September 2025, Kino Hall - Weekly Meeting

**Closing Prayer:** Father Greg

**Adjourned:** 6:20 PM

**Recorder:** Pat