June 22, 2023

A LETTER FROM OUR SERVANT LEADERS

At some point we lamented the loss of our local Sears, Montgomery Ward, at least one major family-owned downtown department store, Blockbuster, Circuit City, Tandy Leather, Burger Chef, Lums, Howard Johnson’s, K Mart, Toys R Us, and currently Bed Bath & Beyond and Party City. Add to these national players the restaurant we loved and some small neighborhood retailers.

We hold these as beloved establishments. However, when asked about them we often say something like “I loved the Sears store. My mom used to take us there as children” or some such memory that shows that we didn’t go there much, or at least not recently. We remember with our hearts, but we keep them alive (or not) with our feet.

The list includes many establishments that once thrived and were regarded as leaders in their category and in sales. They had devoted followers and popular offerings. So, what happened and what can we as Vincentians learn from this?

Yours in Christ,

Dave Barringer
CEO

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS
Friday, June 23 – Saturday, June 24
- National Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 27 at 1:00 PM CENTRAL
- Tuesday Advancement Call — Your Fundraising Strategy: Key Insights Into the Top 5 Fundraising Trends of the Year

Tuesday, June 27 at 2:30 PM CENTRAL
- Systemic Change Grant Program Informational Webinar

Tuesday, June 27 at 6:00 PM CENTRAL
- G&R Gathering — Retention of Members

Wednesday, June 28 at 6:30 PM CENTRAL
- Seven Duties of a Council President

Friday, June 30 – Saturday, July 1
- Midwest Region Meeting

To view the complete calendar, click here.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL UPDATES

Council General Launches International Literary Contest
Earlier this year, the International Council General launched a literary contest, “Vincentian Historical Characters — Jules Gossin.” For more information about the contest, including submission requirements, click here. Submissions are due by Saturday, July 8.

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES

National Council Welcomes New International Twinning Coordinator
The National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul is excited to welcome the new International Twinning Coordinator, Valeria Vlasich. To learn more about Valeria, click here.
**Pre- and Post-Assembly Opportunities**

Plan to arrive early or stay late for the 2023 St. Louis National Assembly! We have some fun activities planned before the National Assembly such as golf, the History Museum, the Saint Louis Zoo, the Botanical Gardens, and more. Wednesday, you have the opportunity to visit three St. Louis Religious Sites: St. Mary of Victories, St. Francis de Sales, and St. Joseph’s Shrine. Following the Assembly we have planned a day trip to the National Shrine of our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, [click here](#) for more details.

Early Registration Fee is $450 per person, and includes registration fees and all group meals. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Schurk at [mschurk@svdpusa.org](mailto:mschurk@svdpusa.org).


**Still Time to Register for the 2023 Midwest Regional Meeting**

**June 30 – July 1 at the Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown** Register [here](#)

Program begins at noon on Friday, with a Welcome & Keynote: “What Must Be Done” by our National President, Ralph Middlecamp; other presentations include Development & the Direct Mail Program, Growth & Revitalization, Standards of Excellence, Safeguarding, Back2Work, & Immersion. A Spiritual Retreat, “The New Beatitudes from Pope Francis with Vincentian Charism,” will be presented by Gail Rowe, Midwest Spiritual Advisor.

Registration Fee is $150 per person, and includes registration fees and meals.

We have secured a block of rooms at the Embassy Suites at our group rate of $165. Please contact Michele Schurk to reserve your guest room at [mschurk@svdpusa.org](mailto:mschurk@svdpusa.org). Once this block is filled, rooms will be available at the prevailing rate, and you will need to book directly with the facility.

**THRIFT STORES UPDATE**

**Promoting Clothing Drives**

A good opportunity to increase clothing donations and promote awareness of the Society and our mission is to work collaboratively with our stores and Conferences to promote and execute clothing drives. [Click here](#) to learn how clothing drives can help your Thrift Store and find helpful information about the SVdP National Assembly.

**Have a Suggested Topic for the Stores Corner or Questions Regarding Stores?**

Contact Jeff Beamguard, Stores Support Director

(314) 576-3993 ext. 224

[beamguard@svdpusa.org](mailto:beamguard@svdpusa.org)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q: Our parish Social Outreach Director received a $3,000 anonymous donation. The donor stipulated that it be used by the SVdP Conference to help the needy. The Outreach Director wants our Conference members to contact him individually for the amount of money needed
after visiting a neighbor in need. Is this the proper way to handle a donation given to our Conference?

A: The money received should be given to the Conference treasurer to be deposited in the Conference bank account, and individual checks then be written for each purpose. The Outreach Director should not try to micro-manage the use of the funds.

Q: In the Rule, is there an age limit on nominees for local Council or Conference President?

A: The age limit was removed in the 1980s, when it was determined to be age discrimination. The new Rule, adopted in 2003, has no age limit for local Council and Conference Presidents.

To view this week’s Q&A, including the Spanish Translation, click here. Find the full Q&A Index here, and visit the SVDp Thrift Store website for stores-related Q&As.

Submit your questions to Pam Hudson Johnson at phudson@svdpusa.org

FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY UPDATES

Webinar: Seven Duties of a Council President
Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 6:30 PM CENTRAL Register here

This webinar, designed for Council Presidents (and potential future Council Presidents) draws from the Council President Handbook, including recent errata. Ray Sickinger, Chair of the National Leadership Task Force, will share insights into the President’s seven essential goals. Attendees will be able to ask questions.

Formation Video Library
- Fred Talks — Spirituality & Heritage in small doses
- Servant Leadership — Recorded Workshops
- Spirituality & Formation
- Vincentian Heritage & History

Formation Resources Quick Reference
- Reflections for Conference meetings
- Contemplations for individuals
- Resources for Formation Teams and for Members
- Materials Store to purchase books

Questions Regarding Spirituality and Formation?
Contact Tim Williams, National Formation Director
(314) 576-3993 ext. 207
twilliams@svdpusa.org

ADVANCEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

Tuesday Advancement Call — Your Fundraising Strategy: Key Insights Into the Top 5 Fundraising Trends of the Year
Tuesday, June 27 at 1:00 PM CENTRAL Register here
Join us to explore the top five fundraising trends that are shaping the nonprofit sector. From donor retention strategies to personalized experiences, recurring giving programs to navigating budget constraints, and leveraging fundraising technology, these trends provide valuable insights for organizations seeking to maximize their fundraising impact. Special guest Bryna Dilman, Vice President of Growth & Marketing at Keela, will help us dive into these trends and discover innovative approaches that drive success in today's ever-changing fundraising landscape.

**National Partner Highlight:**
**SELECTION.COM®**
SELECTION.COM is a leading provider of pre-employment screening services with an average turn-around time of less than two business days. SELECTION.COM has offered exclusive pricing for SVdP, including free Quarterly Watch Reports (once an applicant has been entered into their system). For more information, please contact Julie Burke at jfburke@selection.com.

**Questions Regarding National Partners?**
Contact Alyssa Bergman, Director of National Fundraising Programs
(314) 576-3993 ext. 218
abergman@svdpusa.org

**GOVERNANCE, GROWTH, & REVITALIZATION UPDATES**

**Webinar: "Hoarding — What It Means"**
Monday, July 10 at 6:30 PM CENTRAL Register here

The concern about hoarding is one that comes up on a regular basis. A newly approved Governance paper on hoarding will be presented and explained, and various concerns related to types of funding received by Conferences and Councils will be addressed. Discussion and Q&A will be included. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Growth and Revitalization Gatherings**
Join us for our Summer Series at 6:00 PM CENTRAL on the fourth Tuesday of each month for Best Practices and Lessons Learned: A Gathering Series Focusing on Growth & Revitalization

Upcoming Summer Gatherings • Register Here
- **June 27:** Retention of Members
- **July 25:** How Do We Bring Diversity to a Conference?

Gatherings are recorded and available here. The Growth & Revitalization Committee hopes that this gathering series will be an opportunity to share ideas and best practices in a progressive and beneficial experience for all attendees.

**Questions Regarding Growth and Revitalization?**
Contact Julie Witzel, National Membership Services & Extension Manager
(314) 576-3993 ext. 221
2023 Annual Report Hard Copy Forms Are NOW Available!
Click here to access the hard copy form. The 2023 online annual report data entry program will be available after October 1, 2023.

10 Reasons To Love High-Performing Nonprofit Boards
This week we offer an article by management consultant Alyce Lee Stansbury focused on the performance of effective nonprofit Boards. Click here to read her meaningful comments.

Questions Regarding Governance and Membership Services?
Contact Pam Hudson Johnson, National Director of Governance & Membership Services
(314) 576-3993 ext. 214
phudson@svdpusa.org

POVERTY PROGRAMS UPDATES

Getting Ahead Practitioner Call — Module 0: What, Why, and How
Monday, July 17 at 12:00 PM CENTRAL Register here

Develop ground rules and expectations with Getting Ahead Investigators for group cohesion and accountability. Join this Getting Ahead Practitioner Call to learn how to incorporate these principles into your sessions.

Getting Ahead Facilitator Training — Summer 2023
Wednesday, July 19 and 26 from 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM CENTRAL Register here

Conferences and Councils across the county are running Getting Ahead in a Just—Getting—By World, a comprehensive program that empowers individuals to build their own personal plans for economic security and create Systemic Change. The online Facilitator Training Webinars will equip you with all the knowledge and resources to start a Getting Ahead program in your area or get involved with an existing program. Registration will end on July 10 to allow time for purchasing materials and pre-reading.

Getting Ahead in a Just—Gettin'—By World is a licensed work of aha! Process, Inc. The National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a licensed provider of facilitator training for the Getting Ahead program.

Systemic Change Grant Program Informational Webinar
Tuesday, June 27 at 2:30 PM CENTRAL Register here
Hosted by the Systemic Change Task Force, this informational webinar that will explain the Systemic Change grant application and decision process. Learn what makes a strong application and find out if your program idea meets the criteria.

The National Council is offering one-year grants of up to $20,000 to support Systemic Change projects at Vincentian Councils or Conferences. The grant application form, Systemic Change
criteria, and application timeline can be found here. Completed forms are due on Friday, July 21, 2023.

Questions Regarding Poverty Programs?
Contact Steve Uram, National Director of Poverty Programs
314-576-3993 ext. 215
suram@svdpusa.org

VINCENTIAN PRAYER LIST
Are you or another Vincentian you know in need of prayers from fellow SVdP members? Send the prayer intention to Pam Hudson Johnson at phudson@svdpusa.org and we will add the name to the Vincentian Prayer List on our website. Thank you and God Bless.

SOME VINCENTIANS AREN'T GETTING THE E-GAZETTE!
If you’d like to subscribe to the e-Gazette, email mboyer@svdpusa.org.
If you removed your email address from our system or designated "Do Not Mail," your email address cannot be re-added by the National Council office. Sign up to resume receiving the e-Gazette at http://bit.ly/1GKXYJ6

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!