July 13, 2023

A LETTER FROM OUR SERVANT LEADERS

Dear Vincentian Friends,

Conferences and Councils are the heart of the Society. They are where we live out our spirituality, friendship, and service on a daily basis. To meet the Society’s primary purpose of helping our members grow in holiness, there is an ongoing need to strengthen, grow, revitalize and support Conferences and Councils. The National Vice Presidents responsible for our regions have a major servant leadership responsibility to help councils and conferences in fulfilling their mission. It’s a big job.

In order to increase the support provided by the National Vice Presidents to Councils and Conferences, we have decided to add a 9th Regional Vice President. In doing this, changes are being made to several of our regions’ coverage responsibility effective October 1 to better balance the workload across all VPs.

Since formed almost 50 years ago, our regional structure has not been adjusted to match the shift in the demographics of our Catholic communities. The value of changing our regional structure has been a topic of discussion in the past and now at the beginning of the term for our new National Council officers it seems like the best time to make this realignment.

Serviens in spe,

[Signature]
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

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

Wednesday, July 19 from 10:30 AM – 1:30PM
  • Getting Ahead Facilitator Training

Thursday, July 20 at 2:00 PM CENTRAL
  • Third Thursday Voice of the Poor Webinar: Can They Live on What They Make?

Wednesday, July 26 from 10:30 AM – 1:30PM
  • Getting Ahead Facilitator Training

Wednesday, July 16 at 6:30 PM CENTRAL
  • Five Goals of a Conference President Webinar

Tuesday, July 25 at 6:00 PM CENTRAL
  • Growth and Revitalization Gathering — How do We Bring Diversity to a Conference?

To view the complete calendar, click here.
SVdP Young Adult Summer Newsletter
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was started by young adults nearly 200 years ago, and today, their legacy continues with our vibrant Young Adult Conferences!

Click here to catch up on the latest SVdP Young Adult news with their latest newsletter!

SVdP Disaster Services Corporation Welcomes New Chairman of the Board
SVdP USA’s Disaster Services Corporation (DSC) is thrilled to announce the appointment of Brian Burgess as the new Chairman of the Board. Brian will succeed Chairman Emeritus Christopher Disney, assuming the position at the conclusion of his appointment. Click here to read more.

Hispanic Latino Task Force Hosting Q&A Session / El Grupo Trabajo Hispanic-Latino invitando a una sesión de preguntas y respuestas

Saturday, August 5 at 10:00 AM CENTRAL  Register here

Sábado, 5 de Agosto a 10:00 AM CENTRAL  Registrar aquí

2023 North American Vincentian Family Gathering
October 26 – 29 at DePaul University in Chicago, IL  Register here

The gathering at DePaul University-Lincoln Park Campus, in Chicago will start on Thursday, October 26 at 5 PM (Registration starting at 2 PM) and will conclude with a final Mass on Sunday, October 29 at noon.

The program includes a concert with Gen Verde at the Athenaeum Center on Saturday evening. The principal morning sessions (gathering, prayer, and main talks) will be held in the main hall for all present, but participants can choose between two different tracks for other parts of the program: the Performance Track and the Conference Track. For more information, click here.

Keynote Speakers
National Council Society of St. Vincent de Paul invites you to the 2023 National Assembly, September 6 – 9 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Attendees will enjoy keynote addresses from, John Foppe, Executive Director, Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis and Fr. John Rybolt, of DePaul University. Don’t miss their inspiring presentations! For more information, click here.
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.

Register Now

THRIFT STORES UPDATE

"Bringing Home Hope" Program
In this month's Stores Corner, read about SVdP Phoenix's "Bringing Home Hope" program, helping provide furniture and household goods to those in need. Click here to read more.

Have a Suggested Topic for the Stores Corner or Questions Regarding Stores?
Contact Jeff Beamguard, Stores Support Director
(314) 576-3993 ext. 224
jbeamguard@svdpusa.org

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: I have a question about volunteer of the year awards. Our rules talk about members living with simplicity and not looking for personal accolades or glory. How would volunteer of the year fit into that?

A: The Conference has to decide that an award would be appropriate. If deemed appropriate to do so, Conference members have to contribute or donate to purchase the award. It is still a Conference expense, however funds given to help the poor may not be used for this expense. In addition, not all awards and recognitions need to be purchased.

A traditional award given by Conferences and Councils is the “Top Hat Award.” Criteria for this award are determined by the local Council (or Conference), and the award itself may be as simple as designing and printing your own certificates.

Q: One of our members has suggested that for Home Visits we partner with graduate students in social work from a nearby university. So many of the neighbors we meet need multiple layers of assistance from different agencies. Is this allowed? The students would gain experience but would not be paid, and they would not be Vincentians. This seems out of keeping with our Vincentian spirit and with rules of confidentiality.

A: Social workers are governed by a whole set of rules that (may not apply equally) for Vincentians. Therefore, in good SVdP governance guidance, this would not be a good partnership for Home Visits. It might be good for seeking advice as to resources available to help those who come to us.

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

Five Goals of a Conference President Webinar
Wednesday, July 26 at 6:30 PM CENTRAL Register here

Presented by the Leadership Task Force, this session is designed for all Conference Presidents, new or experienced, as well as Members who may be considering becoming Conference Presidents. With references to guidelines and publications, such as the Conference President Handbook, this presentation will help you prepare to be a more effective Servant Leader, focusing on the Five Goals of a Conference President:

- Formation
- Work for your Conference as a servant leader
- Your Team
- Your Spiritual Advisor
- Your Members

You’ll have opportunities to interact and ask questions during this live session!

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

National Partner Highlight: Penske
A National Partner for over 20 years, Penske is proud to offer discounts on truck rental and full-service leases.
Learn more about the services this industry leader can provide your Council or Conference by contacting David Weisser at david.weisser@penske.com or (610) 334-5478.

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

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

July 25: How Do We Bring Diversity to a Conference? Register here

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
jwitzel@svdpusa.org

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.

Am I A Vincentian?
This week we offer a personal perspective on an important question which is asked frequently: “How do you get the Conferences and the members to comply with the Rule?” Click here for thoughts on this question from Mike Syslo, Chair of the National Governance Committee.

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

Tell Congress to Pass the RESTORE Act!
Twenty-two states currently ban those who have felony drug convictions from receiving SNAP benefits even though research shows that individuals leaving incarceration experience food insecurity at higher rates. Ask your members of Congress to support the RESTORE Act which eliminates the ban on SNAP benefits for people with drug-related felony convictions. This ban does nothing to advance public safety and is counterproductive, preventing returning citizens from fully reintegrating into society. Instead of continuing to punish persons who have paid their debt to society and their families, we should offer the necessary tools – including food – to help them lead a more productive life. Click here to contact Congress TODAY!

Beware of New IRS Refund Scam!
A new scam involves a mailing from a delivery service coming in a cardboard envelope. The enclosed letter includes the #IRS masthead and wording that the notice is “in relation to your unclaimed refund.”

Like many scams, the letter includes contact information and a phone number that do not belong to the IRS. But it also seeks a variety of sensitive personal information from taxpayers — including detailed pictures of driver’s licenses — that can be used to by identity thieves to try obtaining a tax refund and other sensitive financial information. Don’t fall for it: [https://ow.ly/t7Uv50P2K8k](https://ow.ly/t7Uv50P2K8k)

**Systemic Change Grant Webinar Now Available for Online Viewing**
If you missed the System Change Task Force's webinar about Systemic Change Grants, you can view it online by [clicking here](https://ow.ly/t7Uv50P2K8k). The National Council will make one-year grants of up to $20,000 to support Systemic Change projects at Vincentian Councils or Conferences. The grant application form and the Systemic Change criteria can be found [here](https://ow.ly/t7Uv50P2K8k). Completed forms are due **Friday, July 21, 2023**.

**Getting Ahead Practitioner Call — Module 0: What, Why, and How**
Monday, July 17 at 12:00 PM CENTRAL [Register here](https://ow.ly/t7Uv50P2K8k)

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.

**Third Thursday Voice of the Poor Webinar: Can They Live on What They Make?**
Thursday, July 20 at 2:00 PM CENTRAL [Register here](https://ow.ly/t7Uv50P2K8k)

Join us as Clayton Sinyai of the Catholic Labor Network guides us through Catholic teaching on our obligation to pay living wages.

*Zoom Translation Feature will be available in Spanish once participants enter the meeting

**Getting Ahead Facilitator Training — Summer 2023**
Wednesday, July 19 and 26 from 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM CENTRAL [Register here](https://ow.ly/t7Uv50P2K8k)

Conferences and Councils across the country 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. Online Facilitator Training Webinars will equip you with the knowledge and resources to start a Getting Ahead program in your area or get involved with an existing program. **Registration will end 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 is a licensed provider of facilitator training for the Getting Ahead program.

**Questions Regarding Poverty Programs?**
Contact Steve Uram, National Director of Poverty Programs
314-576-3993 ext. 215
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!