Next week, your National Council will perform two of its most important obligations when it meets in St. Louis. We want all of our members nationwide to understand the impact of these decisions, even the impact on your local Conference. Wow, sounds pretty ominous, doesn’t it?

One responsibility of our membership representative body, called the National Council, is to elect a National President and to ratify the new President’s appointed Board of Directors for its six-year term of office. The Presidential election was held months ago, so that our new President-elect John Berry would then have months to prepare for his time in office and to consider his board appointments and their responsibilities. According to our Rule, the President appoints the board (most of them, anyway – the Regional Vice Presidents are elected by members of their regions) and these appointments are ratified by the membership. This Rule provision is included to assure transparency among our members and the public about who is on the National Board, and hopefully to give them comfort that the right people have been selected according to their skills and experiences both inside and outside of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Considering that these Board members will be asked to serve for up to six years, this is not a frivolous undertaking!

The second decision to be made next week is an annual one, to establish a National Council budget for the next fiscal year. Writing this as your national CEO, I feel we are relatively blessed among national organizations at budget formation time.
Yours in Christ,

Dave Barringer
CEO

DISASTER SERVICES UPDATES

SVdP Disaster Services Responds After Hurricane Idalia

Historic Hurricane Idalia made landfall on Florida's west coast as a Category 3 storm Wednesday, with winds exceeding 130 mph. Search and rescue operations are underway, and Diocesan offices and Catholic schools have closed, with uncertainty around when they will reopen.

SVdP Disaster Services Corporation (DSC) is coordinating directly with the Orlando District Council. Even prior to landfall, DSC was coordinating with the Council, opening the DSC Disaster Grant Portal, allowing the Council to apply for and rapidly receive funds. DSC also participated in Diocesan Emergency Coordination Calls and worked directly with the Council’s Executive Director to ensure that Vincentians and the community were as prepared as possible.

Local Executive Director Trace Trylko shared his experience: “While we feel prepared, there is a dread that comes with each hurricane. A combination of mental and compassion fatigue sets in. There’s just not enough time between these storms — and this one came quick. When you live here, you have to take it seriously. We have seen what happens when you don’t.”

The Orlando District Council is no stranger to disasters. In 2022, DSC worked with the Council to access DSC Rapid Response Grants in advance of Hurricane Ian and Long-Term Recovery Grants in the hurricane’s aftermath. In 2017, Florida was hit by Hurricane Michael, a Category 5 hurricane. In these hurricanes, DSC provided Disaster Case Management, and will likely continue to serve in that role as DSC’s Regional Disaster Representative, FEMA and the State of Florida conduct damage assessments.

Trylko says, “DSC’s support has been a force multiplier for our Council. Communication has been strong, and we appreciate DSC checking in on us. We’re grateful to be recipients of grant funds to assist those people who have fallen between the cracks and enabling our Vincentians to help them.”

While we assess the devastation of this latest hurricane, one thing is clear — we cannot sit back when a disaster affects our neighbors in need. Every Vincentian can play a role. For those who are unable to volunteer, please consider supporting the National Disaster Appeal. For those who cannot provide financial assistance, we ask you to keep Vincentians and the people of Florida in your prayers.

Click Here to Support the Disaster Appeal
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

Saturday, September 2 at 10:00 AM CENTRAL
- Hispanic Latino Task Force Hosting Q&A Session / El Grupo de Trabajo Hispano-Latino (HLTF) los está invitando a una sesión de preguntas y respuestas

Wednesday, September 6 – 9
- 2023 National Assembly

Monday, September 18 at 12:00 PM CENTRAL
- Module 8 Getting Ahead Practitioner Call

Every Thursday in September at 3:00 PM CENTRAL
- Four-Part Webinar Series on Financial Empowerment and Consumer Protection Resources

Wednesday, October 11 & 18 from 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- Getting Ahead Facilitator Training

To view the complete calendar, click here.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Why does SVdP require meeting twice in a month?

A: The Society wants Conferences to meet weekly (52 meetings per year); however, the international Rule allows for every other week (26 meetings per year). In the United States, we allow for twice each month (24 meetings per year) while still promoting that weekly meetings are the ideal. It’s important to meet frequently because:

1. This provides for shorter meetings. The farther apart the meetings, the more you have to cover. In Part III of the Rule, Statute 7, there is a lot that needs to be discussed during a meeting.
2. All decisions must be made by the Conference as a whole. You should not let decisions be made by a few people, which is what happens when there is a long time between meetings. The Society does not support decisions being made only by the President or his/her slate of officers.
3. Our primary goal is the spiritual growth of members. At meetings, we learn about our faith as it applies to our ministry.
4. The meeting is also about fellowship and friendship between the members. If Conference only meets monthly and members each miss one or two meetings due to vacation, conflict in schedule, or illness, the possibilities for growing in friendship with your fellow Vincentians is reduced significantly.
5. From a services standpoint, sometimes the whole Conference needs to discuss a request for help and make a decision. If the next meeting is a month away, then the decision to help or not help is unduly delayed or left up to a few. See 2 above.

Q: Many Conferences in our Council now use ServWare for case management. If all case records are stored in ServWare and the recommendation is to destroy case history after three years, are we required to do that?
A: Yes, record retention is defined not only to save storage space but to eliminate data that no longer has relevance.

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

NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

Feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam
Saturday, September 9, join our Vincentian brothers and sisters as we celebrate the liturgical feast of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. Challenged by a detractor of the faith to demonstrate the social good the Church was doing in France, Frédéric and six companions founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on April 23, 1833. Join us in prayer for the canonization of Blessed Frederic.

Reasons YOU should attend the 2023 National Assembly
There’s still time to register for the 2023 St. Louis National Assembly! It’s an easy drive from many cities, and a great agenda packed with workshops, keynote speakers, and an exciting St. Louis themed Host City Event, “Meet Me in St. Louis!” Don’t miss out! Register today. For all the details, click here.

If you have and questions, contact Michele Schurk at mschurk@svdpusa.org.

Register Now

Members Portal Upgrade
The SVdP Members Portal will be getting an upgrade. To learn all the details regarding what is changing, access, and more, click here.

Hispanic Latino Task Force Hosting Q&A Session / El Grupo de Trabajo Hispano-Latino (HLTF) los está invitando a una sesión de preguntas y respuestas

Saturday, September 2 at 10:00 AM CENTRAL Register here

Sabado, 2 de septiembre a 10:00 AM CENTRAL Registrar aquí
**DePaul USA Hiring Director, New York City**

The Director, New York City position at DePaul USA offers a unique opportunity to lead in the mission of supporting homeless and marginalized individuals, including our innovative Dax program dedicated to addressing college homelessness. We seek an experienced professional with strong management skills, especially in leadership, program development, fundraising, and relationship management. Join us in making a real difference in addressing homelessness and providing hope for a brighter future, including for college students in need. To learn more about this position and to apply, click here.

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**THRIFT STORES UPDATE**

**Why Thrift Stores?**

In this month’s Stores Corner, read about why Thrift Stores are a worthwhile investment of time and money for your Conference or Council. Also, see details about the Stores Committee Day at this year’s National Assembly! 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

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**FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY UPDATES**

**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

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**ADVANCEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

**Important Information for FOP Walk Coordinators**

We’re less than one month away from this year’s National Friends of the Poor Walk (September 23)! Walk Coordinators, please note:
1. PayPal is required for your Council or Conference to accept online donations. However, donors do not need a PayPal account to donate—they can pay by the “Pay by Credit Card” option.

2. When creating your API account within PayPal, be sure the account is LIVE, or donations will not be processed. “Sandbox” is testing mode and will not process donations.

3. Marketing resources and event setup information can be found here.

To join a Walk in your area or donate to your local Walk, please visit www.fopwalk.org.

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

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**GOVERNANCE, GROWTH, & REVITALIZATION UPDATES**

**A Council’s Job One: Serve the Conferences**  
(Excerpted from Vincentian Life: Council)  
We conclude our excerpts from Vincentian Life: Council with more information from the first section of this important manual titled “Conferences” because the Council’s primary role is to support the Conferences. Click here to read this week’s article.

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

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**POVERTY PROGRAMS UPDATES**

**Getting Ahead Facilitator Training Summer 2023**  
Wednesday, October 11 and 18 from 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM CENTRAL Register here

Conferences and Councils across the county are utilizing 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 October 3 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.

**Microloan Programs Help Rescue Neighbors in Need from Predatory Loans**  
High-interest payday lending can cause serious financial harm to those who have no other options to access funds. Several Conferences and Councils are developing low-interest, alternative lending
opportunities for the people we serve. Whether you live in a rural area or a larger city and want to start a loan program, Vincentians already doing the work stand ready to help you. You’ll find great financial literacy resources or information on creating a microloan program here.

Additionally, please attend the Alternative Loan Program workshop at 10 am on Saturday, September 9 during the National Assembly.

**Voter Voice Wallet Cards Are Now Online!**
Whether you are going to your conference meeting, heading to a meeting with another nonprofit group, or going on a Home Visit, you can now take an advocacy wallet card with you. It is an easy way to help spread the word about advocacy. Each wallet card has our E-Advocacy website (URL) listed as well as QR code that will take you to the website.

Each page has 10 cards. All you have to do is cut them apart. You can find the VOP Voter Voice Cards here, under the Training and Outreach tab.

**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 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. 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!**