



Frederic's e-Gazette

an e-newsletter from

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE U.S.
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



February 15, 2024



The 2024 Midyear Meeting is about a month away in St. Louis. Every year as we approach Midyear, Regional Meetings, and the Annual Assembly the same question comes up. "Is it appropriate for Conferences and Councils to use their funds to pay for members to attend these meetings"? Or a variation on the same question. "Does the Rule allow the Conference or Council to use the funds they have raised to pay for members to attend these meetings?"

The answer is a clear, resounding, unequivocal YES! Not only is it appropriate and allowed, but it is a very important — and smart! — way to improve service to your neighbors

in need, make your Conference or Council better and more effective, grow your membership, develop deeper spirituality within Conference and Council, and deepen friendship and community within the Society across the country.

The RULE (3.12 Formation of Members) states: It is essential that the Society continually promote the formation and training of its members and Officers, in order to deepen their knowledge of the Society and their spirituality, improve the sensitivity, quality and efficiency of their service to the poor and help them be aware of the benefits, resources and opportunities that are available for the poor. The Society also offers members higher training in order to better help to raise the cultural and social level of those who request this support.

[Read More](#)

Peace and God's Blessings,
John

CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT GENERAL

International President Juan Manuel B. Gomez of Spain was elected SVdP's 17th President General International last year. He recently released his first circular letter to all Vincentians. [Click here to read.](#)

UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS

February 20, 21, and 22 • 6:30 PM CENTRAL

- [Spiritual Advisor Formation & Training](#)

For Spiritual Advisors, Associate Spiritual Advisors, or those thinking of becoming Spiritual Advisors, join us for this three-part training and formation program. [Click here](#) for details and registration.

Saturday, February 24 • 11:00 AM CENTRAL

- [Webinar: Broadening Friendships, Embracing Diversity, Weaving Bonds Toward One Society](#)

Wednesday, February 28 • 6:30 PM CENTRAL

- [Webinar: Finding Servant Leaders: Recruitment & Succession](#)

Join the Leadership Task Force as they discuss succession planning, recruitment of new Conference and Council Leaders, and guiding potential new leaders in discerning their personal call to servant leadership.

Saturday, March 2 • 10 AM CENTRAL

- [Reunión Vicentina por Zoom](#) / [HLTF Zoom Reunion](#)

El grupo de trabajo Hispano/Latino le invita a una reunión por zoom el día 2 de marzo, 2024 a las 10 am (tiempo central), para crecer en amistad con hermanas y hermanos Vicentinos y a la misma vez, platicar de éxitos en nuestras Conferencias y/o de dificultades que hemos enfrentado. ¡Nos vemos en Zoom!

The HLTF invites you to a Zoom reunion on March 2, 2024, at 10 AM Central to grow in friendship with our sister and brother Vincentians and at the same time, talk about the successes in our Conferences and/or the difficulties we encounter. See you on Zoom!

Wednesday, March 13 – Saturday, March 16

- [2024 Midyear Business Meeting](#) Registration for Midyear 2024 is now open! [Click here](#) to register for the meeting and your guest room at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch. For more information, [click here](#).

Save the Dates! 2024 SVdP Event Calendar Out Now

Our 2024 calendar of events is now available. [Click here](#) to see all upcoming events and make your travel reservations.

To view the complete calendar, [click here](#).

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES



In Memory of Bill Migley

With great sadness, we share the news of Bill Migley's passing. Bill served throughout the Society for over 30 years and formerly held the role of National Vice President for the Southeast Region. His zeal and commitment to the Society were always effusive and contagious. Please keep his family in your prayers. You can find Bill's [obituary here](#).

2024 Midyear Business Meeting – Guest Room Deadline Approaching

If you plan to attend the Midyear Business Meeting, and have NOT yet booked your overnight guest room at the Hyatt Regency, please do so today! Overnight accommodations are available at the Hyatt Regency at the rate of \$145 per night, plus tax. [Click here to book your guest room](#).

Cutoff is February 19, 2024 — after that date rooms will be available at the prevailing rate.

New Session Added: “Starting a Voice For the Poor”, Wednesday, March 13, 2024 2:00 – 3:00 PM. If you've already registered and would like to add this session, please contact [Michele Schurk](#).

National Council Seeks Director of Program and Strategic Development

The Director of Program and Strategic Development analyzes member and external information to provide guidance to the National Council's CEO and Board of Directors on new national and local programs, national strategies, and subsidiaries. The ideal candidate will be innovative, diplomatic, data-driven, and a strategic thinker and executor. More info [on our website](#).

National Council Seeks Digital Communications Manager

We're hiring a Digital Communications Manager! Key objectives of the role are to raise SVdP's online and digital presence via our social media and website, as well as to provide information and support to both members of the Society and those not involved in the Society through various forms of communication. More info [on our website](#).

Catch Up With Vincentian Young Adults!

Serving locally and thinking globally, our young adults are extra busy right now! Find out about their latest adventures, including travels to the Vincentian Family Gathering, the SEE24 Conference, and more in their latest [Young Adult Newsletter](#).

Multicultural & Diversity Committee Celebrates Black History Month

MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE



This week the Multicultural Diversity Committee features

Coretta Scott King

Mrs. Coretta Scott King was the renowned spouse of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A civil rights leader in her own right, Mrs. King's legacy is a reflection of persistence and excellence. We too must persist in our efforts to become "One Society".

Learn more about Mrs. Coretta Scott King from this article by Tenisha Armstrong, Director of the King Papers Project published by Stanford University, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute.

[CLICK HERE](#)



MCD Webinar, Part 2

Thanks to all who joined the MCD webinar on January 27. It was powerful and thought provoking. Everyone is invited to register and join Part 2 on February 24. We look forward to seeing you.



JOIN US!
JAN. 27TH
&
FEB. 24TH
2024
REGISTER TODAY!

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL

ALL ARE INVITED!
TWO-PART WEBINAR
11:00 a.m. CST

Hosted by: The National Committee on Multicultural/Diversity Issues and Initiatives

BROADENING FRIENDSHIPS, EMBRACING DIVERSITY, WEAVING BONDS TOWARD ONE SOCIETY

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS KEY!

Together Let's Embrace the Opportunity to:

- Reflect on where we have been, where we are today and the vision for the future
- Engage in dialogue to provide greater perspective
- Be knowledgeable of the strategy
- Demonstrate by word and deed your commitment to move forward as **ONE SOCIETY!**

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Who makes up the executive board of a Conference?

A: The vast majority of all Conferences use Bylaws document 1. Therefore, there is normally no executive board for Conferences. The Manual and Rule speak of a Conference board. This is not a formal Board of Directors. It is also not an executive board which has specific authority granted to it. The Conference board is simply the slate of officers (President, Vice President(s), Secretary, and Treasurer). They have no specific authority other than representation of the Conference and requirement to fulfill specific tasks. All decisions are made by the Active Members of the Conference as a whole.

However, if the Conference is incorporated separately (using Bylaws document 2 or 10), there may be legal requirements for a formal board of directors, and the word "Executive" is used for an Executive Committee, a governance subset of the Board. This board membership should be in the same manner as the non-incorporated Conference board unless specifically required otherwise by state nonprofit etc., laws.

Q: Can you give me some examples of how The Rule was changed several years ago in regard to more emphasis on spirituality?

A: In the old Rule and Manual, there were essentially less than a handful of mentions of spirituality. The second chapter in Part I addressed spirituality. The Rule also briefly indicates the need for a Spiritual Advisor. The Conference meeting agenda also included a spiritual reading and discussion. The Manual also had occasional mentions of spirituality. In the new Rule, Part I has several Articles (2.1 through 2.6) specifically related to spirituality. Part I continues with additional articles spread throughout referencing our relationship to the Church and the Church's social teachings. Part III addresses spirituality in the first four statutes and then liberally throughout the rest of Part III. The Manual devotes essentially the entire second half of the book to spirituality.

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

POVERTY PROGRAMS UPDATES



Focus on Reentry Training

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is holding a web-based training on Focus on Reentry on **Wednesday, February 21, 2024 3:00 – 4:00 PM**, addressing financial issues unique to justice-involved individuals and their families. These tools and information are designed to help you work with neighbors in need to:

- Prepare their finances for incarceration, such as getting a credit freeze, securing a power of attorney, or managing debt while incarcerated;
- Obtain identification documents such as social security cards to help with transition;
- Identify and prioritize payments for both criminal justice-related debt and consumer debt;
- Calculate their take-home salary after deductions;
- Access and monitor credit reports, including inside correctional facilities; and
- Understand the background screening process and individual rights when applying for jobs.

[Order free materials](#) related to this training and [register now](#)!

Voice for the Poor Updates

We are called to be the voice of the voiceless. An easy way to achieve this goal is through our advocacy efforts. Everyone can play a role.

Currently, we are asking the U.S. Senate to pass the Child Tax Credit bill that would lift about 400,000 children out of poverty. Secondly, we are urging U.S. House members to reauthorize a bill to support victims of human trafficking. Last, but not least, Vincentians in

Georgia, Kentucky, and Illinois have state campaigns that we are lifting up. [Contact your state and federal legislators today.](#)

Questions Regarding Poverty Programs?

Contact Steve Uram, National Director of Poverty Programs
(314) 576-3993 ext. 207
suram@svdpusa.org

GOVERNANCE UPDATES

2024 Conference Hard Copy Report Forms Now Available

2024 Conference annual and quarterly hard copy report forms in both English and Spanish are now available on the national website. [Click here.](#)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Bylaws: What They Are and Why They Matter

Bylaws are a nonprofit's operating manual. Their purpose is to guide the nonprofit Board's actions and decisions. They are helpful in preventing or resolving conflicts and disagreements. They can protect the organization from potential problems by clearly outlining rules on authority levels, rights and expectations. [Click here](#) to read this important article containing valuable information about our Bylaws and why they matter.

Questions Regarding Governance and Membership Services?

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

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 Vincentian Formation Director
(314) 576-3993 ext. 207
twilliams@svdpusa.org

STORES CORNER

Thrift Store Staffing Model & Engagement By John Thelen, Mideast Region – Diocese of Lansing

Throughout the country, there are three SVdP Thrift Store Staffing Models. Stores are either staffed by paid employees, staffed by volunteers, or some combination of the two. Whichever staffing model is used, a key factor in a store's success is staff engagement. If staff/volunteers are not invested in the work of our great mission, the store will not reach its full potential.

It is important for staff/volunteers to be aware of our mission. Why do we do what we do? Let us be honest, sorting socks and underwear is not a very glamorous job. However, when you know why you are doing what you are doing, it makes the most tedious jobs tolerable.

What might help keep your staff/volunteers engaged? [Read More](#)

Join Us at Midyear!

Hopefully you or another SVdP Council/Conference/Store member will be attending the Mid-Year Meeting in St. Louis, MO in March. Please consider attending the Stores Meeting on Wednesday. [An agenda](#) is included in this article. New this year will be a Stores Committee table in the Vendor area on Wednesday and Thursday. Please stop by to meet and talk with some of the Store Committee members.

If you have a topic that you would like addressed in a future Stores Corner article, please e-mail [Jeff Beamguard](#), Director of Stores Support.

NATIONAL PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Designed specifically for thrift stores, Secure Retail POS gives thrift stores' management and inventory control. Secure Retail POS provides accurate reports in a timely fashion, manages promotions, eliminates errors, provides pricing strategy, and offers hang tags and sticky labels. Vincentians using the system are enthusiastic about Secure Retail POS. For more information, please contact [Gary Perry](#) or visit www.secureretail.ca

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!

To subscribe to the e-Gazette, email jpioter@svdpusa.org.

If you removed your email address from our system or designated "Do Not Mail," your email address cannot be re-added by National Council office. [Click here](#) to resume receiving the e-Gazette.

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



National Council of the US Society of St. Vincent de Paul | 66 Progress Parkway, Maryland Heights, MO 63043

[Unsubscribe mdeclue@svdpusa.org](mailto:mdeclue@svdpusa.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by jpioter@nationalcounciloftheunitedstates-societyofsaintvincentdepaul.ccsend.com powered by

