



Frédéric's e-Gazette

an e-newsletter from

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



February 29, 2024



John Berry
National President

Last week I announced the kickoff of [VisionSVdP](#) in an email to all Vincentians. Today, I'd like to spend a little more time discussing the reasons we're launching this very important initiative at this time.

Let's start by looking at why VisionSVdP is so important for us from the standpoint of all the great and positive things going on across the Society — things like these. (And there are a whole lot more!)

While we have seen declines in Conference membership as a whole (more on that later), we've also seen new Conferences being created, new membership growth in places, and even new Councils

being formed. We need to talk about how and why that's happening so we can capture the best practices; figure out how to support and scale those gains across the country; and help reverse the decline in membership we're seeing in many places.

[Read More](#)

Peace and God's Blessings,
John

UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS

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](#).

Wednesday, March 27 • 6:30 PM CENTRAL

- [**Webinar: Resolving Conflicts**](#) This workshop will present a strategy for addressing and resolving conflicts/disputes, and discuss the procedures to follow if individual(s) cause problems and need to be removed from a Conference or Council.

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

GIVING MATTERS

4 Easy Ways to Establish Better Relationships With Your Donors

When it comes to making donors into lasting champions for your organization, strong relationships are key.

From Matt Gerken, [*American Philanthropic*](#)

By establishing personal relationships with your donors, you establish a solid foundation for a greater partnership to bloom. Whether it leads them to your donor club or a planned gift, strong relationships will result in greater success and longevity for your organization. I've listed four tips below that will help you cultivate a personal relationship with your donors easily, no matter their gift size, and make them into ambassadors for your cause. [Keep Reading](#)

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES

CIAD Annual Report Now Available

CIAD, the Commission for International Aid and Development of SVdP International works to support the initiatives of the local Society of St Vincent de Paul all over the world. Under the leadership of Ralph Middlecamp, CIAD coordinates international disaster and emergency relief through the Society, as well as strengthening international development and expansion for the Society. [Click here to read their latest annual report](#).

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](#).

Do You Follow SVdP USA on Social Media?

Did you know that every time you Like, Comment, or Share, you help even more people see our posts? From daily prayers on [Facebook](#), to programming updates on [LinkedIn](#), to spiritual quotes on [Instagram](#), we're sharing SVdP's good news with new audiences every day! Please encourage your Conference members to follow us on the platform(s) of your choice, then Like, Comment, and Share. You'll help us spread the Society's message to potential members and donors!

Multicultural & Diversity Committee Celebrates Black History Month



MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

This week the Multicultural Diversity Committee features

A Black History Month Reflection

By: Althea-Caroline Onwuemelie

Black History Month is the time to remember and celebrate what has happened through the years.

Through the years African Americans have overcome, accomplished, and contributed. From people such as Malcolm X and Martin Luther King to Shirley Chisolm and Maya Angelou.

Black History Month is the time to celebrate and spotlight the accomplishments of African Americans not only from the past but even in the present when it comes to things like the civil rights movement, inventions that have helped shape history, and even being the first to accomplish things no one else has done.

It is a time to explore how much the African American experience has contributed to history as a whole. A time to educate on topics not always included in school curriculums, a time to step up when it comes to racial injustice and inequality.

There's a saying I heard that goes "History is not only the study of the past but an explanation of the present." This saying relates to what Black History Month is, a chance to educate and understand the past to bring about awareness of the present.

Ms. Althea-Caroline Onwuemelie is the daughter of Vincentian Bernard Ike Onwuemelie, LMSW, CAADC, MSWAS.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Resolution 114 says that a Conference can be "suspended" and mentions an appeal process. But I'm not finding anything that tells us what needs to be done to suspend a Conference. For example, if a Conference refused to give us annual financial reports, according to Resolution 114, they can be suspended. But who tells them? Is it a local decision (e.g., Archdiocesan Council)? Does it have to be in writing, etc.? Guidance? Where do I find this information?

A: Only the National President may suspend a member or a Conference. Here's the process. The Council must submit a letter to the National Vice President for the region showing the specifics of why the Conference should be suspended/dissolved. This letter must also include everything that was done to correct the situation. If convinced the information is sufficient, the National Vice President will submit the suspension request to the National President. If the National Vice President or the National President is not satisfied with the information given, he/she will advise the next steps. If the National Vice President does not feel that the information is sufficient and refuses to forward to the National President, the Council may appeal directly to the National President.

Q: Our store has been up and running successfully for a while. We now are getting a large number of "walk-in" friends in need. We have hired a current Vincentian who is experienced with the Home Visit process as an intake coordinator. We will continue to use the Home Visit process, but will have the coordinator do intake documentation, refer to other sources of help, coordinate volunteers for Home Visits, and handle immediate service for basic human needs emergencies. We would greatly appreciate any documentation on position descriptions, words of wisdom, or other guidelines to get started with this process.

A: Here are some considerations:

1. You are hiring a Vincentian to be the intake coordinator, which means this individual will not be eligible for a role as an officer of the Conference. Paid staff are not allowed to be officers. This person can still be a member, but not an officer.
2. The interview and decisions for assistance should be done by two Vincentians, with someone working with the intake coordinator during interviews to decide what basic assistance should be provided.
3. There is no national documentation such as a job description describing an intake coordinator.

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

Emerge Solutions 2024 National Conference Addressing Poverty

Emerge Solutions, in partnership with Aha Process!, is hosting their Annual Conference October 7 – 9 in Toledo, Ohio. Check out more about their [conference here](#). The group is taking submissions for presentations through May 31.

Questions Regarding Poverty Programs?

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

Owners And Stakeholders – Part One

Have you ever considered the audiences you have as a Vincentian and especially as a Vincentian leader? Whether you are a Conference or Council President, a member of a Board of Directors, serve on a Committee, or are an Active or Associate member of a Conference, there are a number of people to whom you are accountable, are your audience, or have a stake in what you do and how you do it. We call these people “stakeholders.” This week we’ll discuss five of these groups, and next week an additional five. [Click here to read Part One](#).

Questions Regarding Governance and Membership Services?

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

STORES CORNER

How Can Facebook and Instagram Help My Thrift Store?

By Bryan Engel, Director of Operations

Diocesan Council of Pittsburgh, Eastern Region

If your Marketing budget is on the lower end (or nonexistent), you may not feel like there are any opportunities to promote your stores. What can you do if you cannot afford billboards, radio, TV, or even newspapers? Have you tried free social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram? For thrift stores, these platforms offer opportunities to connect with customers, showcase products, and ultimately drive sales. Let's explore the benefits of social media marketing (particularly on Facebook and Instagram) for thrift stores. [Read More](#)

Join Us at Midyear!

If you or another SVdP Council/Conference/Store member will be attending the Midyear Meeting, please consider attending the Stores Committee Meeting on Wednesday. [Agenda here](#). 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 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.

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!

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