



Frederic's e-Gazette

an e-newsletter from

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



**Please Note: There will be no e-Gazette published March 14,
as our team will be attending the Midyear Meeting. Look for us again
March 21!**

March 7, 2024



John Berry
National President

This is the last in a series of three Servant Leader columns before next week's Midyear Meeting that address VisionSVdP. Today I'd like to explain a little more about how the process will work over the next year, and talk a bit about how you can get involved.

We will formally 'kick off' VisionSVdP at the Midyear Meeting in St. Louis with five Listening Sessions. All Midyear attendees will be randomly assigned to one of five groups and will meet for approximately 1 ½ hours. This will occur following a session by me on the process, and after a Keynote Address by the [National Council President](#) of Australia, who will speak about the process there, and a Spiritual

Retreat by [Archbishop Andrew Bellisario](#), CM, our National Episcopal Advisor.

At the Listening Sessions, Midyear attendees will have a free-flowing discussion about the Society. They will all begin with the same question: What does the Rule, Part 1, 1.6: "Adaptation to a Changing World" mean to you?

Read More

Peace and God's Blessings,
John

UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS

Wednesday, March 13 – Saturday, March 16

- [2024 Midyear Business Meeting](#): Registration is 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 13 • 9:00 AM CENTRAL

- [Board of Directors Meeting](#): Vincentians and staff are invited to observe the Board meeting via a Zoom webinar link. Registration is limited to 500 attendees, and attendees may observe, but not participate. [Click here to register](#)

Monday March 18 • 12:00 PM CENTRAL

- [Getting Ahead Practitioner Call](#): Mentor/Mentee Relationship Mentors provide tools to enlarge the cognitive, emotional, social, and spiritual capacity needed to succeed in a complex world. Join us for a short presentation and small group discussion.

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

Could You Use More Money to Help More People in Need?

Ryan Carney, Chief Advancement Officer

Across the U.S., Conferences and Councils have seen a rising demand for our services. With housing and food costs at historic highs, this isn't a surprise — not only are more people calling us for help, but the cost to provide aid is more costly than before. This column will be devoted to helping Conferences and Councils raise more money to help more people in need.

We feel the best place to begin is by encouraging the one fundraising activity that has the highest return on our time, money, and effort: Meeting with donors one on one. For many Conferences and Councils, this is an often talked about but neglected activity. We tend to favor grants, special events, and mailings in place of picking up the phone and calling our best donors. [Keep Reading](#)

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES

Midyear Board of Directors Meeting

Happening Wednesday, March 13 at 9:00 AM Central, Vincentians and staff are invited to observe the Board meeting via a Zoom webinar link. Registration is limited to 500 attendees, and attendees may observe, but not participate. [Click here to register](#)

National Council Seeks New Chief Executive Officer

With Dave Barringer's retirement at the end of this fiscal year, the National Council seeks a CEO with the management experience, cultural sensitivity, and spiritual grounding to be the leader our extraordinary mission deserves. [Click here](#) for full job description and application information.

Friends of the Poor Grant Application Submission Schedule

Due to the structure change of adding an additional region per award cycle, which has increased the number of applications to be processed and reviewed, grant award dates are being moved out 30 days. Submission period dates have not changed. The new schedule is below:

- **South Central, West, and Northeast Regions: September 1 – September 15** (Awards announced December 30)
- **Southeast, North Central, and Mid-Atlantic Regions: January 1 – January 15** (Awards announced April 30)
- **Mideast, Midwest, and Mountain Regions: May 1 – May 15** (Awards announced August 30)

National Council Job Openings

It's a busy time at the National Council office, with several open positions now posted. We're seeking qualified candidates for the following roles:

- Accounting Associate
- Executive Administrative Associate
- Director of Program and Strategic Development

Complete job descriptions and application information are available [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!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: I was told that our National Council has about 128 voting members. Do you know approximately how many votes can be cast at our General Council in Paris?

A: In the U.S., there are 128 National Council Members eligible to vote at Midyear and National Assembly business meetings. According to The Rule, Part II, the Presidents of all instituted Superior (National) Councils or Assimilated Councils are voting members of the International Confederation. Assimilated Councils are lower-level Councils or Conferences that have been officially designated as representing the country where they are located. The Society is located in more than 150 countries and territories, so potentially there are more than 150 voting members.

Q: Is it proper for a Conference to take some funds from a bequest and place them into Certificates of Deposit (CDs) with different maturity dates?

A: It is okay to put money in CDs as long as there is a specific plan for reducing those funds to zero, such as building a new program or facility. Our purpose is not to build bank accounts or earn interest. The issue of hoarding comes into play when decisions are made to keep money in the bank instead of helping someone in need. Will the Conference readily cash in the CDs in order to help those in need, rather than allow the CDs to go to maturity? Conference funds are not to be used for "endowments" unless the funds were specifically collected for that purpose with the donor's direction.

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@svdusa.org

POVERTY PROGRAMS UPDATES

Leveraging National Council Resources for State Advocacy

Read our [new article](#) to learn how to leverage National Council resources to boost your state advocacy efforts. [Click Here](#)

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 Two

Last week we discussed five groups of people who should be considered stakeholders in what we do as Vincentians. This week we will discuss an additional five. [Click here](#) to read Part Two, and if you missed Part One, [click here](#).

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@svdpusa.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.

NATIONAL PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Solstice Sleep Products is committed to being the leading provider of quality mattresses at exceptional value. Solstice Sleep Products works with the leading suppliers in the industry to develop an extensive portfolio of brands that delivers exceptional mattress values for hundreds of dollars less than leading national advertised brands. For

more information, visit <http://www.solsticesleep.com/> or contact [Keith Ellwanger](#).

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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