



Frederic's e-Gazette

an e-newsletter from

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



April 11, 2024



We take ZIP codes for granted as a mechanism to get our mail from one place to another more efficiently. What started as five numbers to remember later became nine for presumably better service. Recently, I learned that a ZIP code can say quite a bit about you, and even predict how long you will live!

Social scientists now use ZIP codes to recognize how where you live predicts and/or influences your education options, income, housing costs, food insecurity, personal and property crime rates and much more. Living in one ZIP code versus the neighboring one in another city means that you are likely to live 10 fewer years! Seems to me that this would be good to know before buying a new home.

Some Vincentians tell me that “there isn’t much poverty where I live.” This may be somewhat true, although if you squint...

[Read More](#)

Yours in Christ,
Dave Barringer

UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS

Tuesday, April 16 • 10 AM CENTRAL

- [Financial Literacy / Microloans Affinity Group](#)

Tuesday, April 16 • 2 PM CENTRAL

- [Housing \(Brick & Mortar\) Affinity Group](#)

Friday, April 19 • 10 AM CENTRAL

- [Reentry/Prison Ministry Affinity Group](#)

Friday, April 19 • 2 PM CENTRAL

- [Workforce Development / Back2Work Affinity Group](#)

Tuesday, April 23 • 1 PM CENTRAL

- [Webinar: Systemic Change Grant Q&A](#)

Wednesday, April 24 • 6:30 PM CENTRAL

- [Webinar: Servant Leadership & Our Vocation](#) This workshop focuses on the core spirituality of Servant Leadership in the model given to us by Christ and exemplified by Frédéric and Vincent. You'll learn how deeply embedded servant leadership is in our traditions, and the many opportunities for all of us to seek out, and to serve as leaders.

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

GIVING MATTERS

The WHY Behind What We Do

By Ryan Carney, Chief Advancement Officer

When I was starting in fundraising, I would often share with a donor the long list of services SVdP provided. I focused on *what* we do, not *why* we do it. [This video by Simon Sinek changed how I fundraise](#). It helped me elevate the conversation by focusing on our core purpose. This approach helped me close the enthusiasm gap by connecting deeply with donors' values and motivations, and creating a compelling reason to support the cause. By building stronger, more meaningful conversations, more money was raised.

VISION SVdP UPDATES

VisionSVdP is a synodal listening process that will take place over two years. We ask that you use this prayer at all Vincentian meetings to help guide our conversations.

The VisionSVdP Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, open our eyes, our hearts, and our imaginations to Your inspiration as we embark on our VisionSVdP journey and seek to discern the Father's holy will for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and how it will adapt to a changing world.

Come, Holy Spirit, transform our doubts, ignite our zeal. Help us discern new and innovative ways to bring more people into the joy of

Oración de la VisiónSVdP

Ven, Espíritu Santo, abre nuestros ojos, nuestros corazones y nuestra imaginación a Tu inspiración Divina mientras nos embarcamos en nuestro viaje hacia la VisiónSVdP y lograr discernir en la santa voluntad del Padre, en cómo se adaptará la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl a un mundo cambiante.

Ven, Espíritu Santo, transforma nuestras dudas, ilumina nuestro fervor. Ayúdanos a discernir con formas nuevas e innovadoras de llevar a más personas a la alegría del

service in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Come, Holy Spirit, grant us the simplicity to share honestly with each other, the humility to serve a mission greater than ourselves, and the gentleness to listen to each other without judgment.

Amen

servicio en la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl.

Ven, Espíritu Santo, concédenos la sencillez de compartir honestamente los unos con los otros; la humildad para servir a una misión más grande que nosotros mismos; y la gracia de escucharnos unos a otros sin juzgarnos.

Amén

You will be hearing much about VisionSVdP over the next two plus years; this is one of the most important and impactful things we have undertaken as a Society in the last 25 years. And it will take the commitment, dedication, and full participation of every Vincentian at every level of the Society to make sure that the work we do will enable us to adapt to a changing world and ensure that our work and our relevance in supporting His people in need and growing in our own holiness and spirituality will continue for generations to come. [Click to read more.](#)

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES



ADAPT
to a changing world

2024 National Assembly

Call for Presentations! Have a workshop or best practice that you'd like to share with the Society at the upcoming Phoenix National Assembly? We'd like to hear from you. Review the [Guide to Submitting a Workshop](#) or [complete the online form here.](#)

National Council Seeks New Chief Executive Officer

The National Council is searching for a new CEO. [Click here](#) for full job description and application information.

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:

- Executive Administrative Associate
- Director of Program and Strategic Development

Complete job descriptions and application information are available [on our website.](#)

DISASTER SERVICES UPDATES

In Tragedy, Homes Represent Hope

In March of 2023, devastating tornadoes hit the town of Rolling Fork, MS. In the wake of a natural disaster, families living in poverty are often the most impacted, with fewer resources to rely upon.

According to Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, CEO of SVdP USA Disaster Services Corporation (DSC), disasters often hit hardest those who are already marginalized, rural, or low-income... [Read more](#)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: I am bothered by something that happens at our Conference meetings fairly regularly. We have a lot of parishioners who have shown interest in the Society, and it is pretty common to find one or two new faces at most of our meetings. During the meeting, they are allowed to vote on issues just like everyone else. Our President says he wants them to feel welcome and part of the group. Is this a good practice?

A: The answer is “no.” We welcome new people to be part of the Society, but there is a process to follow. In the current version of the Rule/Manual of the Society, there is a promoted procedure for bringing new members into the Society. This procedure includes introduction, training, active participation in works, discernment by the candidate, and ultimate approval by the Conference. This process works and should not be short cut in order to bring more people into the Society. The decisions of Conferences are to be made by Active (Full) Members only, usually by consensus.

Q: Our Conference has just approved a set of bylaws. Now that they are approved, what is the next step?

A: The bylaws you approved must correspond to the newly revised bylaws for Conferences approved by the National Council. Be sure that you have a record of the approval and copy of the bylaws in your Conference minutes. Next, send a copy of the bylaws through the organization chart to District and Diocesan Councils for their approval, recording, and filing. The District and Diocesan Councils should also record their approvals in their minutes.

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

Systemic Change 2024 Grant Program

Systemic Change is a core value of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Systemic Change works to remove the conditions that hold poverty in place. The ideal Systemic Change program uses Vincentian knowledge, and validation from people in need, to design programs that have wide scale and sustained impact on a community. The National Council will make one-year grants of up to \$20,000 to support Systemic Change projects at Councils or Conferences.

We will be holding an informational webinar to answer your Systemic Change Grant questions on *Tuesday, April 23 at 1:00pm Central Time*. [Register for the webinar here](#).

Grant Timeline:

April 23 - [Systemic Change Grant Webinar](#) | 1pm CST

June 14 - Grant Applications Due

July 26 - Grant Scoring and Reviews Completed

August 2 - Winners Announced
February 14, 2025 - Mid-Year Report Due
July 11, 2025 - Final Report Due

Find the grant application form, criteria, and [more details on our website here](#).

Poverty Programs Affinity Group Kick-Off Meetings

National committees have been realigned to foster greater communications and remove barriers that discourage program effectiveness. Some committees, like Voice of the Poor, have a new name – Voice for the Poor.

Many task forces have now become Affinity Groups. These new groups will carry on many of the functions of their prior task forces, like encouraging program growth and developing best practices and programmatic excellence.

Affinity groups increase participation to a wider audience of Councils and Conferences, not limiting it to those serving on the task force. If your Council or Conference has one of the following programs, is thinking about starting a program, or you just want to learn more about a subject area, please join us for the following kick-off meetings:

- [Financial Literacy / Microloans](#) – April 16 | 11am EST
- [Housing \(Brick & Mortar\)](#) – April 16 | 3pm EST
- [Reentry/Prison Ministry](#) – April 19 | 11am EST
- [Workforce Development / Back2Work](#) – April 19 | 3pm EST
- Getting Ahead – Join the next Practitioner Call May 20th – Link coming soon

If you are not able to attend, please register and we will send out the recording within a week. This helps us to determine future interest.

Getting Ahead Webinar Training Spring/Summer 2024

Conferences and Councils across the county 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. 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.

Training will consist of two sessions, running three hours each, on Wednesday, May 1 and 8 from 10:30AM – 1:30PM Central. Registration will close Tuesday, April 23 at 12:00 PM Central. Reading and session expectations will be emailed once your registration is approved. [Register Here](#)

Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World is a licensed work of aha! Process, Inc. The National Council of the U.S., Society of St. Vincent de Paul 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. 207
suram@svdpusa.org

NATIONAL PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

The logo for ServWare, featuring the word "ServWare" in a white, sans-serif font on a dark teal background. A thin orange horizontal line is positioned below the text.

Servware is Vincentian-developed client tracking software, customized for SVdP Councils, District Councils, and Conferences. The software is low cost, easy to learn and use, provides 21st Century technology, and is customizable to meet any

Vincentian needs. The system reduces client fraud, as it tracks all visits, disbursements, and other activities a client experiences within your Council or Conference. For more information, please [email Mark Stine](mailto:mark.stine@servware.org) or visit www.servware.org.

GOVERNANCE UPDATES

How to Avoid Confusion With Clear Communication

Good communication is a part of good governance. This week we offer an article by Michael S. Hyatt titled "How to Avoid Confusion with Clear Communication." Mr. Hyatt is an author, podcaster, blogger, speaker and founder of Michael Hyatt & Company, a leadership development firm. We think it will be worth a few minutes of your time to acquaint yourself with his tips on communicating clearly. [Click here to read his article.](#)

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.](#)

Questions Regarding Governance and Membership Services?

Contact Pam Hudson Johnson, National Director of Governance & Membership Services (314) 576-3993 ext. 214 or email 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

3 Ways to Build a Dream Team and Keep Rockstar Employees

By Brooke Trick-Senior, Director of Retail Operations
North Central Region – District Council of Madison

Hiring and retention are hurdles for many organizations as we navigate this modern work environment. Businesses are becoming more creative in how they hire and retain employees. Employees' views and expectations of the work environment are shifting. Burnout and dissatisfaction at work are high. As employers, we need to change course to a more people-centric work culture.

Here are three ways to keep your employees engaged, increase morale and improve loyalty while adding to your bottom line.... [Read More](#)

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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