



“Use your voice for kindness, your ears for compassion, your hands for charity, your mind for truth, and your heart for love.” Anonymous

General Membership Meeting May 31, 2024 Agenda

Spiritual Advisor: Debbie Weingroff will open the meeting with our Vincentian Prayer and a spiritual reflection

Gemma Brennan:

- greeting to all members
- thank you to our two new Board members, Meg Otchy and Greg DeForest, for sharing their time and their talent (and thank you to all our Board members for their constant and consistent dedication to our SVdP conference.)
- introduction of today’s guest speaker: Karen Davis from the St. Francis Counseling Center
Topic: Domestic Violence

Upcoming dates to remember:

- **Food donation** collection by the Fairways Men’s Club, July 9th (thank you Vic Melillo for coordinating the donation)
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish **carnival** (olglakewood.org) July 3rd-6th
Wednesday: 5 PM-10PM; Thursday: 2 PM -11:00 PM; Friday: 5PM-11:00PM; Saturday: 2:00 PM - 11:00 PM
- St. Andrew United Methodist Church: 1528 Church Road
A “Sound of Music” sing-a-long/free admission (love offering)
Friday, June 14th @ 6:30 PM
- June 28th is our next general meeting; there will **Not** be a general meeting in July (many members will be on vacation)
- **August** general membership meeting will be on **23rd**

Prayers of thanksgiving: (good news for members of our conference.)

- Sue DeMillio’s family has a wonderful restaurant in Point Pleasant “Jersey Shore Barbecue.” Last year they supported our toy drive and have offered to do the same this year. The restaurant has just been featured in “Dine-ins, Diners and Dives” on the food channel; this should be aired in September. This is huge compliment to the great food served at the restaurant. If possible, please enjoy a night of delightful dining choices and supporting Sue’s family as they prepared excellent food to their guests. This is a way we may thank them for their support to our conference. Congratulations to the De Millio family!
- Christine Cotgreave’s granddaughter is having a most exceptional experience beginning today!! Christine’s granddaughter, Theresa Stigliano, is a sophomore at North Attleboro High School in Massachusetts. Theresa asked if her high school could start a French club. The high school supported the idea and the students have worked **diligently** on their efforts and have become the successful recipients of the 2024 French American Friendship Contest opened to high schools in New England. They have won a one-week trip to Paris and Normandy completely financed by the Richard Lounsbery Foundation. The students will meet French President Emmanuel Macron on June 6th on Omaha Beach for the official celebration of the 80th Anniversary of D -Day. Congratulations and God Speed to all the children.

Election Time:

It's time...Society of St. Vincent de Paul **election process for a conference president**

- Each president may serve two terms of office. The term begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. After the first three years of a president's term there needs to be an election.
- This July 1st due to this being the end of the 3rd year that I have been president, this term ends. Our conference is required to have a nominating committee. I have asked Linda Panaccione, Jill Bradley, and Frank Vaccarino to be the election Chairpersons, and they, in turn, will choose a committee and initiate and conclude the election process. The Committee Chairpersons will report the status of the election at all subsequent conference meetings. During the month of July, the Committee members will actively solicit nominations for the office of President. Those who are nominated must accept the nomination or have their names withdrawn; therefore, the Nominating Committee must ensure that the nominees understand the role and responsibilities of the office they are being asked to serve.
- At the August general conference meeting the candidates will be allowed to present their qualification and plans to the members of the conference. The election will take place in September and the new president will take office on October 1st. The new president will appoint all other officers for vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and Spiritual advisor. If the newly elected president cannot complete the three years of service, the vice-president of the Conference shall act as President until the election of a new president.
- Each nominee will submit an autobiographical statement and a platform statement. Thank you, and I appreciate everyone's time as we move forward with this process. *Gemma*

Membership/registrar: Linda Panaccione

- Introduce new members
- Membership status
- Additional information with regard to keeping individual membership up to date.

Treasurer: Sharon Bianchi

- At this time in our treasury, we have \$30,434.00.
- We will be having two fundraisers in the fall of this year to increase our treasury and we continue to count on private donations, and at times, local grants.

Community Comfort and Fellowship: Marie Alfano

- Dinner held last night: May 30th
- Many of our regular guests attended as well as some new neighbors joined us for dinner.
- The next dinner will be on June 27th. Currently, the plan is to have a barbecue for our guests. Two clubs in Renaissance have donated the hot dogs and rolls; the ministry will buy hamburgers, etc. and we will rent barbecue grills for the event.

Food Pantry: Mary Schwarz

- We want to extend a special thank you to all volunteers who remain flexible, along with their constant efforts to having our guests feel welcomed and the pantry to run smoothly. Thank you to Frank Kelly who has been putting a great deal of time into coordinating substitutes for the pantry. The pantry is running in a very efficient manner; however, we still need more volunteers to cover vacations, etc. Our drivers for pick up and deliveries of orders are doing great and keep "life" going at the pantry. To all, job well done!!
- The numbers of guests for May will be reported in June since today is the last day of the month.

Fundraising: Barbara Neary

- Update on the Magic Show: Friday, October 11th. The tickets will be available later this summer and at our September meeting. Bring the whole family!!
- Boscovs: letter and donation coupons will be given out in August
- Pavers: Charlie Rott /Memorial Day sale

Furniture Ministry: Paul and Pat Capelli

- 23 families have been helped since May 2023 (total of 48 people and they were provided with 195 individual pieces of furniture)
- During the academic school year, the boys' soccer team from Georgian Court University helps with deliveries and during the summer months the football team from St. John Vianney High School in Holmdel help with deliveries.
- Thank you, Charlie Yannelli, for also volunteering with Vincent's Legacy.

Helping Hands: Christine Cotgreave and Gen Yachnik

- Introduction of new volunteers to this ministry
- A need for plastic beach pails, shovels, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, summer wear for both adults and children, and children's sunglasses
- A special announcement 😊 regarding our Helping Hands Ministry

Intake: Michelle Jones

- Update: intake volunteers remain very dependable and extremely helpful to our guests! Their resourcefulness is very much appreciated.

Home visitors: Joe Damato

- The home visitors have had many cases, and many of the cases have been quite challenging. We will have further updates in June. If you are interested in volunteering to be a home visitor, please contact Joe.

Sunshine Club: Karen Rott

- there will be a "love offering" for our Sunshine Club at the June meeting. Karen continues to send cards to our members, and their families, to share both our love, support and encouragement as needed. Thank you, Karen.

Technology: Kathy Minton

- all forms for home visits have been updated and are on the website
- new member packet is revised
- time sheet revised; it includes a full complement of all our ministries
- consolidation of all county resources; now one document
- online store is still available; any questions please contact Kathy (kcminton15@gmail.com)
- website: svdpstluke.org

Toys/Christmas: Sue DeMillio

- update: donations have already begun to be delivered to Sue's "Toy Storage Garage" for this coming Christmas.
- Sue has been giving informational talks to groups within Lake Ridge regarding this important new venture within our conference

Tuckerton Seaport Adventure: September (date to be announced): a day to just “be”

- \$20.00 per person (60 people in total may attend)
- Two guided tours (one tour on a pontoon boat and one tour of the seaport working displays). We will car pool to the Seaport; lunch available or you may bring your own lunch.

Twining:

- we have continued twinning with Yamba Uganda in Africa (Father Vincent visiting with our members on June 3rd)
- we have shared financial resources with other conferences in Ocean County
- recent case of a twinning: all the OC conferences helped a family of 9 children working towards buying the family home after mother passed away and father was incarcerated. Oldest siblings raising the younger children.

Vegetable garden: Meg Otchy

- The garden is in full swing! ☺ our gardeners are in the process of planting 34 tomato plants this week. The cantaloups are looking good, lots of scallions and beets are sprouting up, and the volunteers have harvested over 100 heads of lettuce along with some radishes! Remarkable accomplishment!
- several of the plant beds will be repaired in the fall and then again next spring as needed.

Volunteer hours: Mary Serughetti

- Please remember to hand in hours of volunteering each month even if you are a little behind in getting the hours to Mary. Mary stays both steadfast and accurate, and we will have a total number of hours from January -June at our June meeting.
- Where the time is indicated on the time sheet it refers to the # of hours (not ex. 9:00 – 11:00 AM but 2 hours)

“Be kind and love. For love is the first gift to the poor.” Blessed Rosalie Rendue

Blessings to you always, and remember you are a very special blessing to so many.

Gemma