

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of British Columbia
Annual General Meeting
Kelowna, BC
Sunday, May 9, 2004

Attendance:

Executive
President: Claude Bedard
Vice-President: Rose Morin
Treasurer: Pat Carew
Extension: Nora Criss
Over BC: Sheila Coutu
Secretary: Ann Ormston on behalf of Reg Humphries

Regrets:

Secretary: Reg Humphries

Opening Prayer & Spiritual Reflection

Bishop Eugene Cooney led the Opening prayers and gave the Reflection in his talk to the membership at 9:00 am in the Arts 103 Room after breakfast. National President Michael Burke bid all farewell and said he was looking forward to seeing everyone again soon. He had a flight to catch in Calgary.

Meeting began at 9:45 am in Arts 106 room of Okanagan University College

President's Report:

President Claude thanked Dana and her committee for excellent job of organizing weekend and keeping things flowing smoothly. He then circulated form for email addresses requested by Reg for circulation of copies of minutes and for the website. He asked that clients be referred to as Christophers because "they are our friends and masters, and our charism is to be friends of the poor, remembering that we don't set standards for those we serve." The aggregation for Ft. St. James is progressing and they will be twinned with Scarborough, ON. Port Alberni aggregation is coming soon. Extension workshops were put on by Nora (more details under 6 (e) Report) - with a limited budget. The Provincial Council has purchased a copy of the Poverty Game (\$200) and this is available for use by any interested conference/council. Nora will ask Reg to provide a link on website for booking the Game through Extension with the cost of shipping to be covered from the conference's Secret Collection. Nora asked for that conferences/councils would provide website a list of their meeting times and location so that those travelling around province. Our archivist, Florence daCosta, will look after Book of Remembrance and she will collect history of each deceased member. Claude thanked John O'Flynn for work on the Strategic Planning Committee. Reports were sent to National Vice President, Penny Craig in April, to be presented to National AGM in June as one document. Mission & Values statements were in John's report and were included with the Agenda package. The new International Rule was approved and Claude will provide copy on the website. The new Canadian Rule, based on Part 3 of International Rule is expected to be completed by 2005. Barry is working on this and will keep us informed. Policies & Procedures, and Operating Manual will also be available on the website. A National Financial Funding Policy with a \$250 minimum assessment from 900 conference/councils in Canada is being explored. A National Focus on Youth committee is asking each conference/council to appoint a Youth representative. Youth representative for BC is John O'Flynn. The National representative is Martin Thompson who is only 27 years old. (Victoria Council average age is 72). Reports from each conference/council on charitable _____ will be ready for posting on the website soon.

An ad hoc National committee dealing with the question of using funds from gambling has been established and will deal with

- i) use of funds so generated;
- ii) acceptance of those funds,
- iii) gaming activities run by Vincentians
- iv) Claude is member of this committee; contact him for copy of report

The Provincial Conference and AGM in 2005 will be hosted by Prince George with dates to be announced next month.

Adoption of Agenda, Minutes, and President's Report was moved by John O'Flynn, seconded by Dana Webster.

COUNCILS & ISOLATED CONFERENCES REPORTS

All reports were submitted as part of Agenda package with the exception of OLPh which was given verbally by Rosalie. Claude asked: "If there was anything new to add?"

Okanagan Valley Particular Council report was missing from Agenda package.

Rosalie apologized for failing to get report to Claude on time. OLPH has now survived 5 1/2 yrs. taking care of 4 city parishes and was still struggling with lack of members and volunteers. The Thrift Store and Drop-in Centre continue to operate, and a Help Office and REACH (Responding to Emergencies and Community Homelessness) program have recently been started.

An 18 month project, REACH received \$38,000 from SCPI which provided for the hiring of a co-ordinator, Michaela Stangl. She will promote recruitment of volunteers and develop training for home visitation to include skills training, food nutrition & preparation for the poor. REACH office will be open 4 hours for three days per week to alleviate pressure on front office staff at the Thrift Store. They have started serving nutritious breakfast at the Drop-In Centre 4 days per week, instead of lunch, with Saturday reserved for women and children.

Sheila Coutu, wearing her "Over BC" hat, requested help from OLPH during last summer's forest fires in Barriere area. Members worked side by side with other agencies at the Barriere Community Hall to provide support and assistance, feeling honored to play our small part.

Recently the conference lost two active members; their Spiritual director, Fr. Jim MacDonnell left due to ill health, and Bro. Joe Rowland. CFC died on March 28 after short struggle with cancer. His name has been sent in to the Book of Remembrance.

They are financially blessed by the generous hearts of benefactors in four parishes who contribute to their Poor Boxes, enabling them to help God's poor, and to support our Provincial Council.

In addition to a submitted report, Bernie added that their conference AGM will be held on May 26, 2005. An Appreciation Night for volunteers is scheduled for May 29, with Bishop Wiesner saying Mass. Add to the submitted report that more teams are needed for the new "Coffee Truck" run, which is very popular.

Two members have died in past month.- Kenneth Dunlop, and Lou Soet.

Victoria Council - nothing to add.

6. REPORTS

- a) A letter received from Msgr. Greg Smith, confirmed his resignation as Provincial Spiritual Advisor, effective end of August. Claude will respond, thanking him for his contribution & continued support. Anyone with suggested replacement, please contact Claude.
- b) Book of Remembrance - covered in President's report.
- c) Finance - After review of statement, a question was raised as to why travel costs were more than amount budgeted. Pat responded that more claims had been submitted, and that fares to National AGM had increased. Although Revenue was less than Expenses, a surplus from last year was used to cover the deficit. **MOTION** by John O'Flynn, seconded by Bill Yule " That the Financial Statement be approved as circulated." CARRIED
- d) Budget - It was pointed out that the proposed budget does not reflect assessment from National Council.
MOTION moved John O'Flynn, seconded by Leroy "That the proposed budget be approved." Question (Garry): Shouldn't proposed budget be increased to reflect increases in travel costs ?
Amended Motion: Moved by Garry and seconded by LeRoy, " That Travel-National" be increased from \$3,000 to \$10,800, with corresponding increase in revenue from Councils and Isolated Conferences to \$21,900, and Proposed Budget be approved as amended. CARRIED (for-10 against-5)
- e) Sheila presented Provincial Council with a cheque for IBERO expenses (approx. \$5,000) on behalf of Vancouver Archdiocesan Central Council.

f) Extension - a video is now available for use as revitalization of conferences/councils, and as training for potential members. Video can be used as 2 hour workshop. The first part is the history and organization of Society, and the second part is how to make home visits. Nora suggests 5-10 people per workshop is an ideal; she is willing to do workshop for any conference/council, and if she is travelling in the area, there would likely be no travel costs for the conference/council, but would need only to provide her accommodation/billet.

Nora will be working with Reg to set up website for ordering for pins, provincial display board, PovertyGame, etc. She asks each conference/council to designate one contact person. She asked if there is "seed" money for new conferences to get started, and does it come from Provincial. Claude will get answer at the next Board meeting. For update on potential conferences in Sparwood & Cranbrook, see Nora's report.

g) Twinning - see Kathy Weswick's letter, dated Oct. 11/03, to Paul Levy.

h) Website (provincial) - All are encouraged by Reg's enthusiasm; Claude asked that we provide input to Reg as to what we would like on the website. For more details, see Reg's letter of March 16.

i) Over BC - Sheila met recently with PEP (Provincial Emergency Program) and reports five houses have been constructed in Barriere by the Mennonite Disaster Committee. Although Vincentians are "small players" in the big scheme of things, Sheila states emphatically "what we do, we do very well "

j) Strategic Planning - see John's report, and he adds thanks for input. He asks that we keep the 'vision' before us, and bring a sense of stewardship in to all levels of our actions, and encourage youth. There will always be a need to renew our faith.

k) Provincial Retreat - tentative date set for weekend of Sept. 17th and location will be Queenswood in Victoria; more details forthcoming.

7. Secret Bag - reported \$174. collected.

8. For Good of Society -

a) Dana and Les gave an update on Ozanam House, a project of the Central OK Particular Council OUC Business students prepared the Business Plan. They have received (Sustaining Community Partnership Initiatives (SCPI) funds of \$17,500 for marketing and there will be a public announcement by Senator Ross Fitzpatrick this week. Their Board has only seven active people, and it needs more individuals involved. They have been working with the City of Kelowna and they are getting a measure of support.

b) A question: Under the "new" Rule, who can be a Vincentian? Consensus was "anyone who supports the work of the Society, but you must be Catholic to hold the elected office of President" The New Rule states "that this is intrinsic".

c) Betty O'Flynn Memorial Bursary application and criteria were enclosed in each registration package. We are asked to make certain that any candidate follows the procedure carefully and provides all necessary documents. Some candidates in the past have been very well qualified, but have had to be eliminated because they failed to follow procedure and provide documentation. Please note that any client (who is a 'beneficiary' of the Society) is eligible to apply. Applications and information will be available on the website.

d) Sheila asked for prayers for Barry Grannary and family.

e) Nora is resigning as Spiritual Director on the Extension committee, having served for six yeays. This committee meets once a year and is asked to write an article for the VincenPaul magazine. Please submit your name to Nora if you wish to be appointed as replacement.

f) Prince George is losing their Spiritual Advisor, Sr. Margaret, who is retiring. She sends her best, and asks that you keep her in your prayers.

g) Michael Burke's memo (with the Agenda package) on Members by Right (MBR) - Nora felt quite certain there was a resolution passed in 1998 on this subject.

9. AGM of 2005 will be held in Prince *George*, and hosted by St. Francis of Assisi Isolated Conference.

10. Michael addressed members at the beginning of the meeting because he was driving back to Calgary.

11. Closing Prayer - led by Claude, with Hail Mary for Barry Grannary and family, and for Provincial Council's twin, the National Council of Jamaica.

12. Adjournment moved by Rose Morin, and seconded by Floyd Morin at 11:49 AM