

BC PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

MARCH 27, 2004

LOCATION: 230 East 17<sup>th</sup>, Vancouver, BC – The home of Tom O'Flynn

Present: Msgr. Gregory Smith, Spiritual Advisor, BC Provincial Council (present as schedule permitted)  
J. Claude Bedard, President, BC Provincial Council  
Pat Carew, Treasurer, BC Provincial Council  
Bernie Goold, Pres., St Francis of Assisi Isolated Conference, Prince George  
Rosalie Wells, President, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Isolated Conference, Kamloops  
John O'Flynn, Alternate, Vancouver Central Council  
Sheila Coutu, President, Vancouver Central Council  
Rose Morin, Vice-President, BC Provincial Council  
Bill Clendinning, President, Victoria Particular Council  
Kathy Weswick, Third Vice-President, National Council  
Barry Grannary, President, Okanagan Valley Particular Council  
Reg Humphries, Secretary, BC Provincial Council  
Nora Criss, Extension

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The Meeting was preceded by Mass in St. Patrick's Church, Main and 16<sup>th</sup>.

1. **Opening Prayer** - the prayer was led by Nora Criss.
2. **Reading** – The Reflection was presented by Nora. It was a reflection on the topic of "Accept Surprises" and was on recent events in the lives of her husband and herself. Reverses in health and employment were seen as opportunities to follow the paths in which the Father led them. We need to accept that God is in control and we are a part of His plan. While at times it may seem that events are overwhelming we must accept that things are not hopeless. Let the Father weave the pattern of our lives.
3. **Word of Welcome** – Claude welcomed all the members to the meeting and thanked John for the hospitality of Tom's home. He welcomed Reg Humphries and thanked him for accepting the position of Secretary to the BC Provincial Council.
4. **Agenda** – The Agenda was adopted as circulated with the alteration of Item 1 in Correspondence from Volunteer Award to Subsidy Directory.
5. **Minutes** – The Minutes of March 15, 2003 were adopted as circulated.
6. **Correspondence**
  - a. Directory of Subsidies. Claude brought attention to this document that is an exhaustive list of funding, grants, etc available throughout the country. Purchase price is \$69.98
  - b. National AGA. Registration information was included in the email packages circulated.
  - c. Provincial Twinning Representative. Barry Grannary mentioned that response was not overwhelming but that members should continue to plant the seed and nurture projects. At a Provincial level twinning has been undertaken with Jamaica. Through the efforts of Paul Levy and others shipments of shoes were sent to Jamaica. Proceeds from sale of these shoes allowed the provision of "Children's Treats" on Boxing Day - a Jamaican tradition.

- d. National Youth Committee. A presentation package was included with the circulated agenda items. Members commented on its good detail.
  - e. Kamloops AGA Report. A surplus of over \$1800.00 from registrations was sent to Provincial Council. Congratulations to Our Lady of Perpetual help Isolated Conference for a job well done.
7. **Financial Report** – proposed and actual budgets as of March 18, 2004 were included in notes submitted to members. Current bank balance was \$12,105.61.
- a. Miscellaneous – \$96.00 had been spent on Stained Glass cards. These cost \$4.00 and were available through Pat Carew of Christ the King Conference in Courtenay. Claude would investigate whether there was a copyright on the cards and if they could be adapted to specific conference needs.
  - b. \$131.83 was spent on SSVP Prayer Books
  - c. \$100.00 had been disbursed to OverBC
  - d. Purchase of Ozanam Books (\$50.00) and Rule Books (\$510.98). These were available through Nora Criss.
    - i. Moved Bill Clendinning seconded Bernie Goold  
 "That the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented." Carried
  - e. **Budget** – National support was \$5000.00 of \$7,800.00 that had been budgeted. Money spent by Vancouver on the planning of the Ibero Conference as seed money represented the difference between the budgeted amount and the amount submitted. Of the \$6000.00 spent on planning only \$1,000.00 was recoverable. The conference had to be cancelled as a moratorium on international travel had been set because of shortfall of funds
    - i. **Sending up Funds.** Moved Rose Morin and seconded Rosalie Wells:
    - ii. "That we send 50% of the BC Provincial Council bank account to National Council at year end." Carried
    - iii. This should be seen as setting a positive example for the conferences. We need to emphasize the need for sacrificial giving. The process of sending up funds is stated very clearly in the Rule and should be practised at all levels. National sent 50% of their surplus to International.
    - iv. Claude would clarify the process of sending \$240.00 per conference to National and would produce a draft on the process for circulation to all conferences. He also reminded members that we collect money for the poor in the name of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
    - v. \$1,000.00 a year was budgeted for Jamaica Twinning.
    - vi. No further funding for the Web page was needed at present.
    - vii. Moved Bill Clendinning seconded Bernie Goold "That the Budget be approved as presented." Carried

8. **Council Reports:**

**Okanagan Valley Particular Council** - Barry Grannary presented a written report. Highlights include a welcome to the 2004 AGA; appreciation for concerns expressed during the Okanagan Firestorm of August 2003; a report on the progress of the Ozanam House project with an update and presentation of the Business Plan by Reg Humphries; details of special programs such as the Sue Lemmerick Memorial Summer Camp and Kids Kapers programs; the annual Shut-in Mass; the Good News Bears campaign that raised \$7800.00 for conferences; the announcement that the

Okanagan will be hosting the National AGA in 2007; and an obituary of noted Vincentian, Chuck Heffernan who passed away on February 28, 2004

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Isolated Conference, Kamloops** -Rosalie presented an oral report since she has been experiencing computer problems. They have been approved for a grant of \$38,000.00 through the National Homelessness Initiatives SCPI funding; the program they are having funded is REACH; they have a donated motorhome that they are raffling on a donation basis; youth are involved in Vincentian activities by volunteering at their store; they had a presentation to their membership by Angela Elliott of Victoria; their 16 members average 63 years in age and 5 are suffering from serious illness including Bro. Ron MacKenzie; some discussion of having a Covenant House in Kamloops is taking place.

**St. Francis of Assisi Isolated Conference, Prince George** -Bernie presented an oral report as documentation was misplaced in transit. Their store has been exceedingly busy and they are in need of more space. They have instituted an outreach program for Fort St. John and Chetwynd and through the kindness of Williams Moving send materials to these communities. They have been approached by the Seventh day Adventists and are working with them on a project to send a container of supplies to Haiti. They have had siding and windows donated to their store. They are providing 8000 meals per month and have almost 170 people for lunch daily.

They have been awarded a SCPI grant through National Homelessness Initiatives for \$244,000 to provide cook and assistants wages. They have hired a Baptist minister to work with younger people and have established a Social Concerns office. Their current mortgage is \$168,000.00 with a monthly payment of \$1500.00.

Prince George was showcased on CBC Radio recently. Bishop Jerry Weisner has offered two Appreciation Masses for all those who help in the ministry to the poor. The Vincentians held a retreat recently. They are working with the community in Fort St. James as they strive to develop a Conference.

**Vancouver Archdiocesan Council** -Sheila presented a written report to the meeting. There are 23 conferences in the Council but they are striving to form new conferences as well as revitalizing others. They spoke of a new bakery chain, Cob's Bakery, an Australian chain of bakeshops. They urged Vincentians to develop a working relationship with them if they come to a community. They don't sell day-old bread and so make bread available to charities. The Council has been able to distribute bread widely to conferences.

Sheila and Rose expressed concern about the increase in violence in line-ups due to the widespread availability of crystal meth drugs. They raised the issue of Members by Right.

**Vancouver Island Council** -Bill presented a presented an extensive written report to the meeting. Highlights of the report include a very extensive Christmas hamper program ministering to 260 families at a cost of \$34,460; approval for expansion and renovation of the Langford store at a cost of \$370,000.00; and details of applications of various levels of grants from government and corporate sectors. February saw members of the Advocacy Committee participating in a Day of Prayer for compassion with poverty groups and churches.

## 9. Committee Reports:

**OverBC** - Sheila reported on the activities of **OVERBC**, an umbrella organization of numerous non-profit service agencies, which is in place to help communities recover from disasters with rebuilding of homes, clean-up, counselling, advocacy, and other services. She spoke of the work of and links with the Buddhist Compassionate Society that did a lot of the work in the Squamish flooding situation. A membership booklet is available and was provided to the Secretary. OVERBC is looking at development of a virtual warehouse of disaster relief goods and supplies.

**Newsletter** - Claude mentioned that we are still looking for a volunteer to co-ordinate the production of a regular newsletter. A template of a newsletter format exists. It's a matter of a member receiving, collating, editing and printing material. Probably can be done in conjunction with the website if provided in PDF format.

**Archivist** - Joy Cotter in Prince George is the archivist and she can be contacted at joy\_cotter@telus.net or 250-564-4148. Her mailing address is 125 15th Ave, Prince George, BC V2L 3W3. Florence da Costa is an alternate contact in this area.

**Extension**- Nora spoke of the efforts to establish a group in Sparwood and provided an email detailing her contact with Father Walner. Following discussion it was moved Barry seconded Kathy:

"That the BC Provincial Council make available from the Extension budget the sum of \$250.00 to cover the cost of a delegate from the un-aggregated conference in Sparwood to attend the AGA to be held in Kelowna on May 9 - 11, 2004". Carried

It was further moved Nora and seconded Kathy:

"That we send to Sparwood un-aggregated conference the sum of \$250.00 from the Extension Budget as seed funding." Carried.

**Information only** - Funding for twinning in Jamaica was in the hands of Paul Levy.

**Website** - Reg gave an update on where the website was at and where he hoped to take it in the next few months. He circulated Conference lists and asked Presidents to try and secure at least one electronic contact in each conference so that information could be readily circulated to all Vincentians.

**Book of Remembrance** - Florence da Costa is the contact for this activity. The Book was begun several years ago and needs updating. It could be placed on the Members pages of the website. Privacy issues need to be addressed in this area.

#### 10. **Old Business:**

**Youth** - Claude had circulated material from Atlanta, Georgia on a youth program. There is need for a Provincial youth representative.

**Visioning** - John O'Flynn reviewed the process as it had been completed to date. All of the Vision outlines are supposed to be able to be seen on the National website at <http://www.ssvp.ca> Feedback on the Vision outline should be directed to Penny Craig.

**2004 AGA** - Being held in Kelowna on May 9 – 11, 2004 at North Campus of OUC. Please return registration packages as soon as possible, please.

**2005 AGA** - to be held in Prince George.

**2004 Retreat** - In Victoria on September 17 – 19, 2004 at Queenswood. Live-in accommodation for 20. At this stage there is still need for a Retreat Master.

**2005 Retreat** - A site is still to be determined.

**2007 National AGA** - Will be hosted in the Okanagan in Kelowna.

#### 11. **New Business:**

**Privacy and Freedom of Information** - Barry Grannary read to the committee from a document that had been prepared for him by a lawyer. He stressed the need for members to read the Act and be familiar with its general content. The Act applies to personal information relating to both clients and members of the Society.

We need to have the informed consent in writing of the client before we can share any personal information with any other agency. Each conference should have a representative responsible for custody and safekeeping of personal information. In work situations employees and volunteers have the right to access their personal files. This is applicable where personnel files are kept on workers and volunteers.

Claude suggested that there is need for a legal opinion that can be shared at the Conference level. Monsignor Greg Smith spoke of the process undertaken in the Archdiocese where they were seeking the simplest possible format of the Act and how it applied to the whole diocese. He suggested that a customized legal opinion could cost upwards of \$1500.00

**12. Secret Bag:**

\$147.05 and Reg's Guardian Angel (medal) that he retrieved and replaced with cash!!

**13. Provincial Spiritual Director:**

Monsignor Greg Smith advised the meeting that he will be going to Rome later this year to study for his Doctorate. He may be absent for up to three years. There will be a need to seek a new Spiritual Director.

**14. Next Meeting:**

Will be held on Saturday, November 20. Sheila from Vancouver Diocesan Council will determine the meeting site.

**15. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm. Thanks to John O'Flynn for hospitality and the folks at Portland Hotel for the catered lunch

Respectfully submitted

Reg Humphries, Secretary

Committee Reports: