

Saint Vincent de Paul Society
Board Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2025

Present: *Gemma Brennan, Sharon Bianchi, Jill Bradley, Joe Damato, Kathy Minton, Barbara Neary, Meg Otchy, Mary Schwarz, Debbie Weingroff, Gen Yachnik*
Absent: *Paul Capelli*

Meeting commenced at 1:30 pm with SVDP opening prayer.

Home Visitors Presentations

Susan DeMillio for client #1, age 40's, three children (13, 15 and one in college) and two dogs, parent of one of the children pays for the child, separated/divorced from the spouses, lives in townhouse behind Aldi's/Wawa off Route 70. Worked for Health Center (making \$3200 at the time), had car accident, is on WC with income of \$2373.78 plus \$276 in food stamps, expenses = \$3907.48, net = (-\$1534.20). Credit card is in collection, in arrears for \$1353.24 gas (varies around \$120 per month) and car payments. Heat has been shut off – lack of payment. SVDP provided assistance in March 2024 = \$689 water bill and \$1356.80 gas bill = total of \$2045.80. **Client requests \$1353.24 gas and \$596.16 car payment.** Needs at least \$650 to turn the gas back on. **Board declined – client does not show sustainability.**

Joe Damato, home visitor coordinator (for home visitors Cathy Engelhardt and Chris Resotko) **client #2**, age 60, graphic designer, lives with mother and sister, renting house, lost job. Contacted Joe in April 2025, Joe advised client to seek employment. Client now has several part time low paying jobs. has no health insurance, and let food stamps lapse. Eats out frequently because of being on the road for these jobs. Income varies \$2432 - \$3,100, expenses = \$2895, net = -\$461 to a +\$205 depending on door dash jobs. Credit card debt of \$7,000, plus in arrears for gas, water, rent. Requests \$1,000 to have gas turned back on. Board originally declined, lack of sustainability. Reconsidered after further discussion with Joe Damato, client did get jobs as per Joe's request – **approved \$500 to get the heat turned back on.** No more eating out – pack own lunch/dinner. No further support to be given.

Gemma Brennan, president:

Received letter from **St. Guadalupe, requests twining of \$300** each from five conferences for **client #3. Board approved** however no payment will be made unless all conferences agree.

Jill Bradley, secretary:

-**Client #4**, (St. Joe's client) – ratified email vote of September 19 to approved \$416.25 twinning with St. Joe's.

Financial assistance approved at this meeting: \$916.25 with potential of an additional \$300.

Board Members Updates

Sharon Bianchi, treasurer:

- Discussed account balance and deposit from weekly masses.
- Annual report to be completed by October 31, 2025. Gemma and Sharon will complete.

Jill Bradley, secretary:

-Discussed president nominations: Frank Kelly has stepped forward and completed all necessary documents. E-mail with documents will be sent to all members (by Kathy Minton) for review of Frank's qualifications, vote will be by show of hands at the Friday, September 26 general meeting. If approved, position will be effective October 1, 2025.

-Thank you, Meg Otchy, for also stepping forward. Meg would if no one stepped up but would rather not. Meg withdrew her name when Frank stepped up.

Debbie Weingroff, spiritual director:

Re-commitment will be at the 10 am Mass this Sunday. Wear blue. Father Al is saying the Mass and Father Michael will perform the re-commitment.

Mary Schwarz, food pantry coordinator:

- Still having freezer problems – gasket replaced but is not correcting the situation.

Barbara Neary, fundraising coordinator:

-Rethinking bake sale – a lot of work, need many members to volunteer to bake. Will discuss at the general meeting. If not enough members willing to bake, will not have this fundraiser.

-Need to think large scale on fundraising given our decreasing funds and increasing requests. Suggestions: Intergenerational Concert (Gemma to speak with Pastor Sue – possibly hold at the Lutheran Church); Game Night; consider 50/50.

Meg Otchy, garden coordinator:

-Frustration continues – meeting next Monday with Gemma, Meg, KC, A&C Sprinkler – the water pressure is an issue, too strong for the vegetables. Need to consider the cost benefit of this if the water continues to be a problem.

-Meg considering revamping the set up of garden for 2026 – spread out over more than two days and various hours so more members can assist.

-Delay discussion of the \$2300 well bill that Gemma requested from Kathleen Muzzio, until after the Monday meeting. Plus our financial situation would be hampered even more if SVDP has to pay that bill.

Gen Yachnik, helping hands:

All is well. Fiscal year donations/service to clients valued in excess of \$150,000.

Gemma:

September 29, Pizza War, donations benefit local charities receiving donations/support from various chefs in the area – Sawmill, Seaside, noon – 6 pm. Attend if you can.

October 22, 1 pm county meeting at St. Luke's. Gemma and other conference presidents will be installed. Advise Gemma if you can attend.

Meeting adjourned 4 pm with SVDP prayer. Please include Gemma's neighbor, Mary's special intention, Barbara – for gentleman she met at church, and all others in need of prayers.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Bradley, Secretary