



# Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Ontario Regional Council

38-1502 Warbler Woods Walk, London, ON N6K 0A7  
Website: www.ssvp.on.ca



## General Members Meeting Minutes Saturday, September 17, 2016 Holy Family Parish, 777 Valetta Street, London, ON

**In attendance:** Please see attached list of attendees (page 4)

1. **Opening prayer** was said by all
2. **Spiritual reflection** was led by Denise Bondy
3. **Introduction of the new Executive:** Linda Dollard introduced the members of the new executive.  
**Vice Presidents:** Anita Reansbury, Corry Wink; Pegg Leroux;  
Phil Bondy; Sue Mazziotti-Armitage  
**Treasurer:** Terry Mizzen  
**Recording Secretary:** Sarah Davidson  
**Spiritual Advisor:** Denise Bondy  
**Youth Representatives:** Sophia Mutuc and Lil Mulder  
**Past President:** Jim Paddon
4. **Host Council Welcome:** Colleen Jones, president of Holy Family (London), welcomed everyone on behalf of the London Particular Council.
5. **Additions to the Agenda:** none
6. **Approval of the Agenda:** **MOTION** to approve the agenda as presented. M: Shelley Gilbert; S: Greg Blick; **CARRIED.**
7. **Introduction to workshops:** Attendees went to their pre-registered workshops. Workshop topics included: Spirituality facilitated by Denise Bondy and Deacon John Girolami; Advocacy facilitated by Corry Wink; Conference/Council Rejuvenation facilitated by Phil Bondy; Creating a Vision Roundtable facilitated by Anita Reansbury; Store Managers Roundtable facilitated by Sue Mazziotti-Armitage.  
**(Lunch Break)**
8. **Guest Speaker – Bill Payne, Director of St. Joseph Soup Kitchen:** Phil Bondy introduced Bill Payne. Bill began with a quote from John Chrysostom: “No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others”. Bill spoke of the various pillars of support an individual needs (i.e., education, family, dental care, etc.). He explained how many of those we serve do not have these pillars; they do not have the education; they come from broken homes, etc. The SSVp is there to help build supports and new pillars to lift that person up. Bill encouraged us to think about all those who we help and all those who help us. Linda Dollard thanked Bill for speaking with us and for allowing us to help serve at the soup kitchen on Friday.
9. **Letters of Aggregation:** Linda Dollard presented the letter of aggregation for St. Peter-St. Bernard-Holy Cross Conference to Solange Fortin. Linda D. will be presenting a letter of aggregation to Visitation Conference, Comber when she visits on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

10. **Black bag:** was circulated, collected \$391.56 which was given to the Knights of Columbus (Holy Family) for their help with the meals today.
11. **Past President Appreciation:** Linda D. presented Jim Paddon with a token gift of appreciation, including a card signed by all attendees, for his dedication to the Society over the past five years.
12. **National President Address – Jean Noel Cormier:** A newly designed **national website** was launched on Monday, which includes an interactive map of Canada with all 800 conferences; stores will be next to be indicated on the map. People do need to re-subscribe to the RSS and Spiritual Reflection as the subscription lists did not transfer over with the new website. There are national **Facebook** pages for Twinning, SSVP Activities, and SSVP Social Justice. Please consider liking/joining the pages if you are on Facebook. **The Mission (book)** was originally set to launch on November 12, 2016, however it has been delayed and will be released at the next national AGM in Quebec City (June 21, 2017). Pre-orders at the discounted rate of \$39 will be available until December 12<sup>th</sup>, at which point sales will be at full cost, \$45.00. National is also circulating a **strategic planning survey** to all regional presidents. The survey is a Google online survey. Jean Noel briefly talked about the work in **Fort McMurray**, however Phil Bondy will talk in greater detail later in this meeting about it. Jean Noel also explained that the **North of 60** project started about 5-6 years ago, trying to bring food to the starving Canadians there. He encouraged people to get involved. When the work began there SSVP was only able to help two locations in Nunavut; now we are helping 11! Additionally, Jean Noel encouraged all councils/conferences to be Twinned. \$400/year can do so much to help friends in need in poorer countries. International has a new president, Renato Lima de Oliveira from Brazil. Carmela Addante (from Ontario) is the new Vice President Deputy. Jason Hunt received the first Founders Award for his valuable contributions to the International Youth Commission. The debate about whether or not SSVP should fall under Canon Law has been deferred for 2 years. Linda D. presented Jean Noel our quarterly pass up of \$30,000.
13. **World Youth Day Report:** Lil Mulder & Tayo Sogbesan described parts of their World Youth Day experience, including the FamVin days preceding the event. They visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, which were very emotional to stand in the same places as those persecuted by the Nazis. They read reports from three survivors who saw the concentration camps as places of hope – because there they had the hope of seeing one more day. During the actual World Youth Day events, they experienced joy along with the other pilgrims as they honored and loved God together.
14. **North of 60 Update:** Pegg Leroux informed the group that we have shipped two sea containers to Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet, and managed to include two skids dedicated to Repulse Bay. She explained the process of going from food distributors in Toronto to packing the sea containers in Montreal. Vincentians and non-Vincentians came together to help fill the two sea containers, from Marillac Place and Halton Particular Council to the Ontario English Catholic School Teachers Association and local stores. Pegg also explained that there are more communities in Nunavut needing help. With support across the province, Pegg would like to set up 7 sea containers in various areas and have the local council gather the necessary donations and supplies. Pegg will, of course, be a lead support for each area. She is also wanting to seek corporate donations and support for this project. Pegg reminded everyone that \$1.00 here is the equivalent of only 20 cents in the north. Several council presidents present at the meeting expressed their interest in having a sea container to fill.

15. **Fort McMurray Volunteer Training:** Phil Bondy was approached by national to help train locals in Fort McMurray to do home visits as there is no SSVF in their community; the nearest SSVF is in Edmonton. He had three 12-hour days to engage the community and understand their needs. In one 11-hour day, they conducted 7 home visits (averaging 1.5 hrs per visit). Many of the families had lost everything and their homes were but ash on the ground. Phil explained one family's situation where the woman worked for Burger King prior to the fire, but it was so damaged that the Burger King is not going to reopen. This woman was trying to sell baked goods online to help make ends meet, however she was behind in her bills and the internet was to be cut off – cutting off her income. This woman said her faith keeps her going. While it will take 2-3 years to rebuild the town, Phil helped train 26 people, who, if they decide to officially form a conference, will no doubt be a model conference for all.
16. **ONRC President Report:** Linda Dollard thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She explained that the new executive had a retreat in July, where they set the Goals and Objectives for the next five years. The goals have been prioritized based on comments from the membership. Linda has been contacting all council presidents to better know what is happening in each area, what work is being done, what challenges there are, and what ONRC can do to support. Linda reminded everyone that it is our responsibility to keep accurate financial records and financial statements should be reviewed every month (and submitted to Revenue Canada each year). She also stressed the importance of having two signatures on cheques. Linda encouraged everyone to pre-order the book, The Mission, which will provide a history of SSVF in Canada. She also encouraged all conferences and councils to celebrate the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SSVF in Canada on November 12<sup>th</sup>, by holding a special Mass and maybe some type of Vincentian Family Time (ie a meal).
17. **Next meeting will be held on March 31-April 1, 2017 in Saint Catharines. More details tba.**
18. **Adjournment: MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. M: Greg Blick; S: Ib Fynbo; **CARRIED.**
19. **Closing prayers:** Denise B. led the closing prayers.

Ontario Regional Council Annual General Members Meeting Attendance

September 17, 2016

Ontario Regional Council:

President: **Linda Dollard**  
 Vice President: **Anita Reansbury, Corry Wink, Pegg Leroux, Phil Bondy, Sue Mazziotti-Armitage,**  
 Recording Secretary: Sarah Davidson  
 Treasurer: Terry Mizzen  
 Past President: **Jim Paddon**  
 Spiritual Advisor: Denise Bondy  
 Youth Representatives: **Sophia Mutuc, Lilian Mulder**

National:

Jean Noel Cormier

Huron Central Council:

Simcoe County Particular Council:  
**Gail French;**  
 St. Mary: Ed Gascoigne  
 Eileen Gascoigne  
 York Simcoe Particular Council:  
 St. Paul Joseph Plut

Ottawa Central Council:

James Strate  
 Blessed Virgin Mary Richard Wink  
 St. Columbkille, Pembroke Rose Throop  
 Conseil Particulier St-Paul: **Solange Fortin**

Toronto Central Council:

Jere Hartnett;  
 Etobicoke Particular Council: **Mike McGinnis**  
 Peel North Particular Council: **Omar Ellis**  
 St. Leonard: Janet Lawrence-Ellis  
 St. John of the Cross: Tom Reilly

St. Catharines Central Council:

**Shelley Gilbert**

Niagara Falls Particular Council:  
**Marion Frendo;**  
 St. Thomas More: Nicole Chartrand  
 Guy Chartrand  
 St. Catharines Particular Council:  
**Louise Librock**

Windsor Central Council:

**Ib Fynbo**

Essex-West PC: **Migs Perrault;**

St. John the Baptist, Amhurstberg:

Anita Gibb  
 Sharron  
 Bombardier

Windsor-East PC:

Good Shepherd: Deacon Roy  
 Brothers  
 Daniel  
 Marentette

Windsor-West PC: **Marianne Angus;**

Corpus Christi: Pauline Macri

Brant Particular Council:

**Pat Lenz,** Kristine Paul, Peter Albano, Peter Giodano, Carolyn Boerboom, Frank Boerboom;

St. Mary: Pat Matthews  
 St. Pius X: Paul Reansbury

Cambridge:

St. Patrick: Richard Wildeman  
 Store Manager: Jacqueline Krusky

Guelph:

Bev Ross  
 Basilica of Our Lady: Mary Grad  
 Michael Finoro  
Halton:  
**Linda Alexander\***  
 St. Raphael : Paul La Fontaine,  
 Margaret La Fontaine

Hamilton:

**Dan Lohin,** Teresa Curtis, Guido Kelly; Mike Ford  
 St. Francis of Xavier: Deacon John  
 Girolami,  
 Dan Smith

Hamilton West:

Store Manager: Mary Mater

Kent:

**Valerie Butterfield**

Kitchener:

Jason Hunt; Carmela Addante;  
 St. Louis: Barry  
 Hinchberger,  
 Sr. Immolatia  
 Marillac Place: Sharon Penlington

Lakeshore:

**Greg Blick;** Paula Blick; Jim Scherer;  
 Grafton: Pat Westrope

London:

John Ketelaars; Isabel Lynch; Bob Thibert;  
 Teresa Anglin; Karen Clements;  
 All Saints: Reg Harford,  
 Freda Fragassi,  
 Henry Tomaszewski  
 Holy Family: Diane Gubbels,  
 Virginia Walker,  
 Dora Johnston,  
 Colleen Jones  
 St. Andrew: Patrick Bestall,  
 Sean Bestall,  
 Bill Rueger,  
 Tiena Fraser  
 St. Francis/St. Martin: Chris Heessels;  
 St. John the Devine: Murray Hamilton  
 St. Justin: Cathy Holland  
 St. Louise de Marillac Youth: Mary Wilson  
 Tayo Sogbesan,  
 Olivia Gioiosa,  
 Peter Gribbon

Peterborough:

Lindsay: Helena Lessard  
 St. Alphonsus: Cathy Dickson  
 Carolyn Craig  
 St. Anne: Lindsay Hatton  
 Dorothy Dow  
 Store Manager: Angela Oran

Rainbow Spirit North:

**Michelle Jenkinson;**  
 St. Kevin: Erv Mantler  
 Michelle Kolppenan

Sarnia:

**George Weisz;** Ryan Robertson

Goderich:

**Anne Elliott\***

St. Joseph, Strathford:

**Jim Gaylor**

St. Mary, Tilsonburg:

**Anne Staneck,** Nancy John

Other Guests:

President of the London Diocese Catholic Women's League of Canada: Angela Pellerin

**Bold = voting member; Bold\* = voting member by proxy**