

North Central Region Council of St. Vincent de Paul [version 9/5/2010]

VOP Activities report from councils/conferences:

Encouragement of councils and conferences to sign up for Capwiz. Most councils and conferences are encouraging members to sign up.

Many conferences are adding VOP to meeting agenda to encourage discussion of current issues and some have VOP leaders who bring materials and lead discussion. There are a few VOP committees, but direction is making VOP an integral part of operations rather than a separate committee. Committees are effective if there is a focused project.

Many councils/conferences are routing email and action alerts to members. Some are doing VOP training.

Many councils and conferences are participating in the Friends of Poor walk: raising funds and increasing public awareness of the enormous needs of the poor.

Some conferences are putting VOP information in their parish bulletins.

Wilmette, IL, is linking resources with Chicago churches with financial support, tutoring, food pantries, etc.

The SE District council in Rockford diocese is planning a new special works project called "Rebuilding Hope". They plan to engage the community to help refurbish and sell a distressed home to raise money for the needy.

The Marquette council has a letter writing campaign to try to fend off rate increase for power in MI.

The Milwaukee council is hosting two advocacy seminars by Chris West with plan for 10-20 Vincentians to visit state capital to voice concerns over pending bills. They are also planning an Immigration seminar with a panel, with an invitation to Rep Sensenbrenner to be part of panel.

The District council of Madison is focusing action on Payday loans. Also they are collecting stories from people who have had difficulty acquiring needed human services and investigating communication tools like Google email and voicemail to provide accessible ways for people to contact them.

NC Region Meeting – VOP Session sponsored by Milwaukee VOP

Presentation based on Ron Meyers DVD, "Who speaks for the poor". Also demonstration on how to sign up on Capwiz and stressing importance of signing up.

Addressed legal conditions for advocacy to avoid jeopardy to 503{C} status. We can advocate for issues as long as it represents a small part of our total activities [case law sets this at about 20%, and our VOP activities are far under this level]. There is ZERO tolerance for advocating for a candidate or a party

For further information, contact Alan Fulton, 630-879-2806.