

# **VOICE OF THE POOR MEETING MINUTES**

## **Christmas Party & VOP Meeting**

**December 14, 2010 7:00 PM**

**Ron Meyer's Home**

### **Attending:**

Ron Myer, Julie Douglas, Kathy Jorgensen, Frank Barrios, Tom and Margaret Finnerty, Inge Casey, Mr & Mrs DiCarlo, Ray Maldoon, Joe and Charlotte Riley, Mimi and John Winters, Lucy and Steve Howell, Mr & Mrs Terry and Eddie Wilson, Fr. Bill Fitzgerald & Steve Jenkins

### **Opening:**

Ron chaired the meeting, and Julie led us in an opening prayer. Ron asked everyone to review the minutes and asked for a motion to accept. Julie made the motion and Lucy seconded the motion and all in attendance agreed.

### **New Business:**

#### **Meeting with Ron Johnson:**

Julie, Lucy, Kathy, Debbie DiCarlo and Ron Meyer met with Ron Johnson, the lobbyist for the Diocese of Phoenix, to discuss cooperation and coordination for the upcoming 2011 Legislative session. The meeting was cordial and since the Legislature had not met, no specific issues were discussed.

#### **Legislative Update:**

At the time of our meeting, there were no pre-filed bills proposed for the 2011 Legislature. The Republican Party will control both the state House and Senate, and the Democrats will be in the minority.

#### **Update on Washington DC Trip:**

Ron stated that this year's Catholic Social Ministry Meeting in DC will occur from February 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011. We asked for a count of heads for how many people are interested in attending this year's Conference in Washington DC.

#### **Changes in AHCCCS:**

Lucy stated that recent changes in AHCCCS now require a co-pay in order to use AHCCCS medical funding. Lucy said the amount was relatively small but for people who have no funds it could result in people not receiving medical treatment. Ozanam Manor has several clients that St. Vincent De Paul will be paying the co-pay for...and the amount in total could be substantial. Lucy said that she would look into the co-pay issue and would bring it back to VOP for possible action.

### **Western Regional Meeting/VOP:**

The Western Regional Meeting will be held in Phoenix from May 11 to the 14<sup>th</sup> 2011. Ron Meyer and Jean Smith will make a presentation on developing systemic changes for St. Vincent De Paul. There will also be a VOP workshop that may include issues relating to the Kino Border Initiative.

### **Volunteer Advisor/Governor:**

We briefly discussed the possibility of developing a relationship with someone from the Governor's Office. No names were brought up and we agreed to continue to work on this project.

### **KBI Fundraiser/March 12, 2011:**

We discussed our upcoming KBI Fundraiser scheduled for March 12, 2012 to be held at Ron Meyer's home. We said that invitations would go out by February 11, 2011 and that we would target about 35 to 40 people who could substantially donate to KBI. We also discussed the establishment of an Honorary Committee of well-known individuals whose names might attract large donations. Members of the Honorary Committee would not necessarily need to attend the Fundraiser.

### **Update on the Dream Act:**

The Dream Act failed in Congress and now it will be much more difficult to pass because it is thought that many of the new legislators have been on record as considering the Dream Act to be a form of Amnesty. Many of our VOP members called their Representatives in Washington in support of this legislation.

### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting would be on January 19, 2011 at 3:30 PM to be held at St. Francis Xavier Parish Center at 4715 North Central Ave.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Fr. Fitzgerald led us in the closing prayer.