



# 2024 SVdP NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING

## SPEAKER BIOS

### **JEFF BEAMGUARD, NATIONAL STORE SUPPORT DIRECTOR**

Jeff has been with the National Society for 3 ½ years as their National Store Support Director. He covers SVdP Stores throughout the U.S. as well as the National Store located in Avondale, Arizona, and our new store in Fairview Heights, Illinois.

Jeff has been in the thrift store industry for over 30 years, he started with the Idaho Youth Ranch (IYR) in 1986 as a store manager and worked my way up to the Vice President for Retail over 20 stores. After 21 years with IYR, he decided to start my own thrift consulting business. He relocated to Colorado after Goodwill of Denver recruited him to join their company as a roving manager. That lasted for a brief time before he took a position with the Salvation Army (SA) as a Store Director in Colorado supervising 5 stores. He was offered a promotion with SA and transferred to Arizona as a Regional Director covering more stores in Phoenix and Tucson. Jeff loves the thrift business and feels privileged to work with a great staff at the National Office, Stores, and others across the country. In his free time, he enjoys the outdoors, camping and boating.

### **ARCHBISHOP ANDREW BELLISARIO, C.M., NATIONAL EPISCOPAL ADVISOR**

The son of the late Rocky and Mildred Bellisario, Archbishop Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M. was born and raised in the Los Angeles area. He graduated from Saint Vincent's Seminary High School in Montebello, CA in 1975, and entered the Congregation of the Mission. He attended and graduated from Saint Mary's of the Barrens Seminary College in Perryville, MO with a B.A. degree in Philosophy, and four years later he received his Master of Divinity degree from De Andreis Institute of Theology in Lemont, IL. He was ordained a priest for the Vincentians, Province of the West, on June 16, 1984.

Archbishop Bellisario served as the Superior of the International Mission of the Vincentians in Alaska and was named Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Co-Cathedral in the Archdiocese of Anchorage in May 2016. Archbishop Bellisario was appointed the sixth Bishop of Juneau July 11, 2017, by his Holiness Pope Francis and Ordained and Installed as Bishop October 10, 2017, at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Juneau. Archbishop Bellisario was appointed the first Archbishop of Anchorage-Juneau May 19, 2020, by his Holiness Pope Francis and was installed as Archbishop September 17, 2020, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Cathedral in Anchorage.

### **JULIE BENNETT, CEO & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MADISON**

Julie joined the staff at the District Council of Madison, Wisconsin in September 2020 and became the CEO and Executive Director in October 2022. Her 20+ years of nonprofit leadership are rooted in her Catholic faith and in the intentional practices she learned during her master's degree studies in Servant Leadership at Viterbo University. Julie is privileged to work with a team of talented and committed leaders. SVdP - Madison runs programs of support for neighbors in need, including a food pantry serving about 3000 households/month, a charitable pharmacy, a microlending program, and a program of support to help stabilize newly housed families with case management support and financial assistance. Additionally, 7 thrift stores and a central processing center help fund this and other mission work. Nineteen conferences provide direct person-to-person care for neighbors in need. Outside of work, Julie enjoys spending time with her husband, family, and friends. She likes to travel, hike, cook, read, and do a variety of other activities.

## **ASHLEY BERKEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARINETTE**

Ashley has served as ED for four years. Prior to taking on the role of ED, Ashley worked 10 years in nonprofit and marketing roles. As a smaller SVdP district ED, Ashley develops and executes all marketing, communications, development, and fundraising strategies --including social media for thrift store events. Since beginning her role, the Marinette Thrift Store sales have increased nearly 40% year-over-year due to marketing efforts as well as production and color rotation changes. Ashley also served on the National SVdP Marketing and Communications Committee. Outside of the office, Ashley is a mother of four children ages 11 and under who have gifted her a surplus of belly laughs and gray hair.

## **JOHN BERRY, NATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

A servant leader with decades of corporate and nonprofit experience, John Berry serves as President of the National Council of the United States, Society of St. Vincent de Paul. John is an experienced senior executive and tireless advocate for people in need. He champions national, state, and local efforts to fight poverty, dependence, and need. After 14 years as the Chief Executive Officer of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia, John retired in September 2020 and founded Berry Consulting Solutions, LLC; consulting experts in Nonprofit Board Governance, Organizational Dynamics, Strategic Planning, and Development & Fundraising.

John became SVdP Georgia's CEO in 2006 following a 25-year business and federal government career beginning as an engineer in the commercial nuclear power industry and leading to senior executive management positions with Fortune 100 companies in the nuclear power, environmental engineering, and high technology sectors, which included extensive international experience in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. During his 14 years at SVdP Georgia, John led an organization that impacted poverty by hundreds of millions of dollars. John is a vocal advocate at the National and State levels, working with Congress and the Georgia State Legislature on issues related to children, families, the poor, and those at the margins. After retirement, John was elected as the National Vice President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for the Southeast Region. In 2023 John was elected as the National President of the National Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. His term will run from October 2023 to September of 2029.

In 2021, John was appointed by the Archbishop of Atlanta to a five-year term as Chair of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta Finance and Advisory Council. John is a nationally recognized speaker, facilitator, and trainer.

## **BRAD BLAUVELT**

Brad, a Benedictine Oblate, has been the Spiritual Advisor for our North Central Region since 2021. He lives in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Although he's a retired computer network administrator, he keeps busy in his parish as Sacristan, LEM, Cantor, and has led numerous retreats and training, as the Formator for his District Council. He also serves in the community, such as in Jail Ministry, Feeding South Dakota, making frequent home visits, Taizé services and other lay ministries.

## **WAYNE BUGG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ST. PAUL/MINNEAPOLIS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Wayne grew up in the inner city of Harvey, IL. He was a troubled teen, and at the age of 15, he got expelled from school and left the state. He moved to Minnesota and has been a resident ever since. With encouragement from members of the St. Vincent de Paul Twin Cities and others, Wayne re-enrolled in school. At the age of 19, he got his General Education Degree (G.E.D.). Since then, Wayne graduated from college and received his B.A. in Business Management. Wayne has worked for the SVdP Twin Cities for 20+ years. He currently is serving as their executive director. Wayne serves on several boards for different organizations in Minneapolis. He is married with 5 children and has been an active church member for many years.

## **JOE BUTKOVICH**

Joe Butkovich is a past President of the Joliet Diocese Council and the Chair for Disaster Recovery for the North Central Region for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. He has been active in long term recovery for many disasters including Chicago, Mundelein, Bad River, Watseka, Freeport, Round Lake Beach, Rochelle, Gifford, to name a few. He is a retired secondary teacher of English, Art, and social studies, Past President of the Illinois Fraternal Congress, and a member of Windy City Professional Speakers. He resides in Oakbrook Terrace with his wife Pat. He also has a son, Paul, who is a teacher at Regina Dominican in Wilmette, IL. Please welcome Joe Butkovich!

## **BISHOP DONALD DEGROOD, NINTH BISHOP, DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS**

Bishop Donald E. DeGrood was born in rural Faribault, Minnesota, on February 14, 1965, and raised on the family farm not far from there. He attended Catholic grade school in Faribault and graduated in 1983 from Bethlehem Academy Catholic High School, a school sponsored by the Sinsinawa Dominicans. He attended the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where his discernment of a priestly vocation led him to Saint John Vianney College Seminary. After graduating from the University of St. Thomas with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy in 1987, he worked for several years in the business world, first as a shoe sales representative and manager, then for Land O' Lakes as a feed specialist. During this time, he continued to be drawn to the idea of a priestly vocation. He entered the Saint Paul Seminary in 1993, earned a Master of Divinity, and was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, May 31, 1997.

Bishop DeGrood served first as parochial vicar at All Saints Church in Lakeville, Minnesota, before being assigned to serve as a formator and spiritual director at Saint John Vianney Seminary. After four years at the seminary, he was assigned as pastor of St. Peter in Forest Lake, a large, dynamic suburban parish with a thriving elementary school. He not only proved himself to be a capable and generous pastor but also an excellent mentor for the newly ordained who were appointed his parochial vicars.

In the summer of 2013, Bishop DeGrood was named Vicar for Clergy for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and at the same time, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Saint Paul. In addition to his parish work, Bishop DeGrood served on the Archdiocesan Incardination Committee, the Ministerial Review Board and on an ad hoc committee related to addressing the needs of clergy (mentoring, continuing education, etc.). He also completed the spiritual direction program offered by the Institute for Priestly Formation, enabling him to serve as a spiritual director for countless seminarians and priests. He also served two terms on the Board of Trustees of The Saint Paul Seminary and Saint John Vianney College Seminary. His most recent pastoral assignment was St. John the Baptist in Savage, Minnesota. He was pastor there from 2017 until last month. Pope Francis appointed him as the ninth Bishop of Sioux Falls on December 12, 2019, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Bishop DeGrood was ordained as bishop and installed on February 13, 2020.

## **BILL GOSSE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GREEN BAY**

He is the second Executive Director in the organization's modern history. Starting out as a mentee in National St. Vincent de Paul's inaugural mentorship program, he now serves as a mentor for other new ED's. He also spearheaded the opening of the Green Bay west side thrift store in 2013, the opening of a new Dig & Save "Pay by the Pound" outlet store on Green Bay's east side in 2016, and in 2020, a new thrift store in the Village of Howard in the Green Bay area's northwest reaches. Bill helped drive a front-office and resource center remodeling project the same time as preparing to host the 2015 North Central Region Assembly and participated in the 25th edition of Invitation for Renewal, a National St. Vincent de Paul class for organizational leaders. Bill has been a speaker/presenter at other regional assemblies, has been a member of the National St. Vincent de Paul Solidarity Peer Review Committee, has contributed to the creation and implementation of Bridges out of Poverty, Getting Ahead, Back2Work, and Immersion programs in the Green Bay District Council, and is now a member of the National Re-Entry Task Force (NRTF).

Bill is a graduate of Marquette University and a native of Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, where he graduated from Sheboygan Falls High School. Since 1988, he has lived with his wife and five boys in the Green Bay area. Bill loves motivational speaking, is a former sportsmanship columnist for USA Today-Gannett Wisconsin, a published author, and especially passionate about helping those in need, which parlayes into his excitement about the future of St. Vincent de Paul Green Bay and SVdP USA.

## **DAVID HARPER**

David is the Spiritual Advisor of St Joseph SVdP Conference in Marinette WI; Past St Joseph Conference President 2006-present, Past Marinette SVdP District Council 2006 to 2012.

## **JEANNE HARPER**

Past National Board of Directors, Vice President of North Central Region, Secretary of St. Joseph Conference 2006-2014, Adult Advisor of the St. Thomas Aquinas Academy and Holy Family Parish Young, Youth and Mini-Vinnie Vincentians of the St. Joseph Conference 2007-2014, Invitation for Renewal Leadership, Feb 2008; Vincentian Spiritual Director training July 2008-09; Master's in Pastoral Studies: Family Ministry from Loyola University-New Orleans.

## **KATHERINE HIGGINS**

Katherine is the Communications Manager for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Madison. Katherine is responsible for planning and implementing external communications. She tells the story of "St. Vinny's" to shoppers, donors, volunteers, clients, and the community through printed, visual and digital communications.

## **MYRON HUBBARD**

Myron is the African American Focus Group Lead for the North Central Region. Myron was baptized by the Honorable Cardinal Joseph Code in the St. Louis Cathedral and was educated in the Chicago Archdiocese Catholic schools. Myron is a second-generation Vincentian and was his mother, Vincentian Marie Copeland, inspiring efforts as he grew up. While most of this time Myron was an associate member. He now is honored to be an active SVDP member. Myron is motivated by the Society's mission to help those in need and find the face of Christ in those served. Myron serves as a member of SVDP's Illinois African American Task Force which is charged with establishing more conferences within the African American Community in Illinois. He takes this mission very seriously, for he feels that these areas can also benefit from the addition of the SVDP presence. His motivation can be found in the words of an old spiritual, "If I can help somebody along the way, then my living has not been in vain.

## **FR. DEWAYNE KAYSER**

Fr. Kayser is the Priest Chaplain at Avera McKennan Hospital - Sioux Falls. Father Kayser entered seminary in the fall of 1988. He attended Saint Mary University in Winona, Minnesota and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. He then attended Mount Angel Seminary in Mount Angel, Oregon. He graduated in 1998 with two masters: Master of Divinity and Master of Liturgical Art and Architecture. First, he served two years in Aberdeen, South Dakota, at the Parish of St. Mary, then one year in Yankton, South Dakota, at Sacred Heart, and finally, one year and seven months in Sioux Falls at Cathedral of St. Joseph. While at the Cathedral, he was also a Master of Ceremonies for the bishop and Director of the Office of Worship. He was made pastor in Britton, South Dakota at St. John de Britto and Hecla, South Dakota at St. Anthony of Padua for a total of six years and four months. He served three years at the parishes of the Holy Trinity in Hosmer, South Dakota, St. Augustine in Bowdle, South Dakota, and St. Thomas the Apostle in Roscoe, South Dakota. He then served for eight years in Madison, South Dakota at St. Thomas Aquinas. Then, one year in Salem, South Dakota at St. Mary help of Christians. In 2021, he was assigned to Sanford Hospital to be the priest chaplain.

## **JIM KINYON**

Jim is the Executive Director of Catholic Social Services. For the past 31 years Jim has been the Executive Director of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Rapid City. It has been here that he has been privileged to encounter the face of Christ on a daily basis. He and his wife, Lisa, have raised five children while living in the shadow of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Jim has a master's degree in counseling, his bachelor's in philosophy and spent three years in college seminary. He is a huge fan of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and was instrumental in encouraging and helping establish their presence in the Diocese of Rapid City.

## **ED KOERNER**

Ed Koerner joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as a volunteer in 1994 at his home parish of The Church of the Assumption in Richfield, MN. Graduating from the College of St. Thomas with a degree in business administration, he spent the next 25 years in the paint and industrial coatings business. After serving two terms as president of the conference, then Council President Daryl Bach talked him into applying for the Executive Director position which had become available. He accepted the role of Executive Director for the Archdiocesan Council of St. Paul and Minneapolis in October of 2001. Now in 2024 he is the Executive Director Emeritus of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul-Twin Cities and has handed the reins to his successor Wayne Bugg. His areas of expertise included creating partnerships with other non-profits, helping those who need it, and developing conferences. He has started over 20 new conferences in Minnesota and Wisconsin, many in areas where the Society had no presence whatsoever. He and his wife Mary reside in Bloomington, MN and their three boys... Ean, Griffin and Will who live in St. Paul, Chicago, and Denver. Upon his retirement in June of 2025, he plans to spend more time with his grandchildren Easton and Lucy. He also looks forward to seeing more of this great country and the world.

## **JULIE MCINTYRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WAUKESHA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Beginning as a store volunteer, followed by employment, her journey with the Society spans 36 years. Throughout her tenure she has seen dramatic growth in membership, revenue, donations, and service to neighbors throughout the County. Council Programs include a successful Jail Ministry, a Meal Program, Summer Lunch Program, Back to School Program, and its newest systemic change initiative, a Getting Ahead Program. In addition, the Council has three thrift stores in Waukesha County. Julie served on the National Stores Committee, Archdiocesan Store Committee, is an Invitation for Renewal alumni, certified Ozanam Orientation Formator and has been a presenter at other regional assemblies. Julie has two sons, five grandchildren and resides in Waukesha, WI.

## **JULIA MARTINEZ**

Julia is the Human Resources Generalist for St. Vincent de Paul of Waukesha County. Julia has been with St. Vincent de Paul since June of 2022. Prior to coming to St. Vincent de Paul, Julia's passion for helping the senior community led her to her roles as Executive Director and Human Resources Director in the long-term care industry where she worked for over 20 years. Julia's role at St. Vincent de Paul supports employees, managers, and the overall culture of the organization. Julia and Ryan have one son and two stepchildren, and they reside in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

## **CHRISTINE MCCARTHY, PRESIDENT, DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GREEN BAY**

Christine McCarthy has been a Vincentian since 2003 when she was part of the startup of St. Francis Xavier Conference in Merrill, WI. During her time there she was Conference Secretary, District Council VP and in 2018 District Council President. She became a Formator and began teaching Ozanam Orientation classes in 2012. In 2019 She and her husband Denis moved out of the Superior Diocese to Sturgeon Bay, WI. in the Green Bay Diocese, where they started another Conference, St. Joseph in

2021. She then served on the Green Bay District Council Board of Directors until becoming President in Oct. 2022. She is also the representative for Growth and Revitalization in the NCR. She enjoys boating, hiking, biking, and spending time with her large family.

## **SUE MCMAHON**

Her passion for those in need was heightened in childhood as the eldest of 4 children with 2 terminally ill siblings, food instability and her parents struggling to make ends meet. This compassion for others led Sue to a career as a Physician Anesthesiologist, a wife, and a mother of 3 children. In serving as a Girl Scout leader, she heard the call to “Feed my Sheep” while attending a Bible study. This led Sue to contact the local St. Vincent de Paul to do a food drive and an astute Executive Director saw an opportunity to cajole Sue into starting a SVDP Conference at this parish. Later, after relocating, Sue collaborated with others to revitalize an aging Conference. During her 20-year vocation as a Vincentian Sue is passionate about the Home Visit, Conference life, has served as a Home Visitor trainer and worked in the SVDP Charitable Pharmacy. She enjoys traveling, reading, hiking, doting on her grandchildren, and participating in her small faith group and Bible study.

## **PAM MATAMBANADZO, VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL TERRITORY, AMERICAS 1**

Pamela Matambanadzo of Chicago IL has been appointed to serve as International Territory Vice President for America 1 for the International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Her new role will take effect November 8, 2023. The America 1 territory encompasses English-speaking North American countries where the Society is present, including Antigua & Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, Granada, Carriacou – Petite Martinique, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Santa Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States. Before this appointment, Pam stepped down from her role as National Vice President of Vincentian Friendship and Community upon taking the international appointment. Long an active member of the organization at both the local and national levels, Matambanadzo has previously served on the National Board of Directors and chaired the Multicultural Diversity Committee. She has also been a member of the National Finance Committee, as well as on the Society’s National Voice of the Poor (VOP) Committee. Pam is the current Conference President of Saint Ita–Mary, Mother of God parish, and serves on the Pope Francis Center advisory board.

## **IDALIA NIEVES – REYES**

Director of Social Justice and Outreach, St. John the Evangelist and Co-founder and Mentor for Unidos en Christo Hispanic Latino Conference Idalia was born and raised in the countryside of Puerto Rico, on the land of my grandparents. Throughout the 44 years that I was on the island, I studied, worked, and started my family. I moved to Milwaukee in August of 2013 with the personal motive of finding educational resources for one of my children. When I came here, one of the first things I did was find a church that offered mass in Spanish. There I met Father Javier Guativa, who welcomed me warmly and I was referred to the Food Pantry that went on to sustain us for a few months after our arrival. As time went on, I joined the team of volunteers in the food pantry as a Lead Volunteer, helping the director to communicate with the Hispanic members of the church, among other responsibilities. This was my first experience in being the bridge between the Hispanic community and other ethnic groups in the Parish. I then had the opportunity to join the Human Concerns Committee. Being the only Hispanic person in this group, I became the spokesperson and advocate for our community. When I was offered the opportunity to take on the role as Pastoral Associate for St. John Paul II, I hesitated to accept, as I did not have any related formal education or experience. However, I knew I counted with the support of my community every step of the way. I later found out that the families who frequented the food pantry wrote recommendation letters for me, and in that moment, I realized the enormous impact that my work had as a connection between my community and my church. Motivated by this new position, I decided to continue my studies to best serve my community.

## **AMY OVERBY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MADISON**

Associate Executive Director, District Council of Madison Amy joined the District Council of Madison, Society of St. Vincent de Paul as its Associate Executive Director in August 2022. She oversees fundraising and communications and has her hands in anything else as needed. Prior to SVdP, she spent time in nonprofit fundraising, grantmaking, management, communications, and marketing for two professional associations and a community foundation.

## **TOM PELGER, NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, REGIONAL/COUNCIL SUPPORT**

Tom currently serves as the National Vice President of Regional and Council Support, guiding the National Council's nine region Vice Presidents and the councils and conferences they serve. He has previously served as the Vice President for North Central Region, as a Conference President and District Council President. He's been a member of a number of national committees and task forces, including Systemic Change, Getting Ahead, Strategic Planning, and the national Finance Committee. In Peoria IL, he co-chairs the Jobs & Economic Development working group of the city & county's Racial Justice & Equity Commission. Tom has three adult children, six grandchildren, and is married to Susan Prebil.

## **ROB SHELLEDY, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WAUKESHA**

Associate Executive Director Waukesha District Council, Waukesha, WI. Rob is the Associate Executive Director Waukesha District Council. He has been with the Council since October 2023. Prior to this, Rob was the Director of Social Justice Ministry at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee from 2004 to 2023. Rob's responsibilities there included promoting formation on Catholic Social Teaching, representing the Archdiocese in various local, state, and national organizations, encouraging the Archdiocesan Respect Life efforts, and advocating for social justice in the community. In addition, Rob was the Diocesan Director for Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Rob has a B. A. in political science from Marquette University, a law degree from Northwestern University School of Law, and a PhD in Political Science from Wisconsin. Rob and his wife live in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. They have three adult children and two grandchildren. They are members of St. Sebastian Parish in Milwaukee.

## **MICHAEL SYLVESTER**

North Central Region Representative for Voice for the Poor. Michael has been a member of SVdP conferences at two separate parishes and is currently active in the SVdP Conference at St. Anthony Church in Frankfort, Illinois. Before moving back to Illinois from California two years ago, he was the co-leader of the San Pedro Region Chapter of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Los Angeles where he coordinated CRS' first ever Town Hall meeting with a U.S. Representative. He is a lector at his parish, and in previous parishes has been involved in religious education, RCIA, and bible studies. In his secular life, he was an International Tax Services partner for the public accounting firm, PwC, and was the first Tax Director at SpaceX Corporation.

## **MIKE SYSLO**

Vice President of ADCC Chicago, and current member of the National Governance Committee. Mike has been a member of St. Vincent de Paul since 1983. Starting as a Conference member at Good Shepherd in Garland, TX, he served as Conference Treasurer and Conference President. He also served as Vice-President of the Dallas District Council. In 1984, he presented the first Ozanam School in Dallas (first in over 20 years). Mike has been putting on Ozanam Schools and other training sessions for SVdP since. Mike has been a member of several Conferences in six Councils: Dallas, TX; San Jose, CA; Santa Rosa, CA; Eureka, CA; Phoenix, AZ and St. Louis, MO. Employed by the Society since 1990, he served as Special Projects Coordinator, Vincentian Life Director, Volunteer Coordinator, Dining Room Manager,

Executive Director, Director of Vincentian Support Services, Director of Operations, and Associate National Executive Director. Mike has written extensively on topics concerning the Society. He has presented workshops at many National and Regional Meetings. Mike has also served on multiple National Committees. He was a member of the task force which developed Serving in Hope, the Ozanam Orientation Trainers Guide, the Invitation for Renewal Leadership Retreat, the Vincentian Pathway, and is currently a member of the National Governance Committee. Mike is Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Archdiocesan Council of Chicago. In addition, Mike serves on multiple committees in Chicago. Until his retirement on April 30, 2015, Mike served as Senior Director of Governance for the National Council Office.

## **BROOKE TRICK**

Senior Director of Retail Operations, District Council of Madison, Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Brooke began working for St. Vincent de Paul in 2002. During her tenure she has managed store locations and opened new stores. She originally started at our Stoughton location working her way up to become the store manager. In 2014 she accepted the position to open and manage our largest location in Sun Prairie. In 2019 Brooke took the position of Senior Director of Retail Operations, overseeing 250 employees in our seven Dane County SVdP thrift stores and the processing center that supports them. She currently serves on our IT and POS committees and represents the North Central Region on the National Store Committee.

## **GAYLE WESTFAHL**

Membership Director for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul - District Council of Madison. Gayle has been on staff with SVdP Madison since 2011 and has had the privilege of being a member of the National Youth Committee, the National Young Adult Committee, a subcommittee for Governance, participant in National culture change workshops and was a representative for the Society during the 2013 World Youth Day and International Vincentian Gathering. In Madison, Gayle focuses on supporting members and conferences; coordinating and leading events in spirituality, service, and friendship; advising the Youth Service Council; engaging young adults in the Society; connecting members to the larger Society and participating in other District activities. Prior to joining the Society, Gayle worked with youth and families facing financial, personal and neighborhood challenges through community center programs at The Salvation Army of Dane County. She is currently serving as the North Central Regional Coordinator for Mission & Identity. Gayle moonlights as a liturgical musician and enjoys the outdoors and golden retrievers.

## **SR. LYNN MARIE WELBIG, PBVM, PH.D., JCL**

For 18 years, Sister Lynn Marie served in the education ministry as a teacher and principal in South Dakota and Minnesota. Sister served on the Presentation Sisters Leadership Council before becoming president of Presentation College, Aberdeen, SD. She became director of the Sioux Falls, SD diocesan tribunal in 1990 and again served the congregation on the Leadership Council from 1998-2002. She went on to serve as director of the Sioux Falls diocesan tribunal and taught in the Marriage Preparation Program for the Sioux Falls region.

Currently Sister serves on the core team and teaches in the Avera Leaders in Ministry program, is a board member of two Avera health care centers, serves on the Avera Investment Committee, is a board member for the Prairie Hearts Guest House of the Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, and board member for SD Voices for Peace. She facilitates a Presentation Cojourner group in Sioux Falls and for three years has represented the Presentation Sisters as a lobbyist in the SD legislature.

Over the years Sister Lynn Marie has served on numerous boards and committees including a United Way Board, the Diocesan Board of Education, the South Dakota Vocational Education Committee, the Catholic Health Association of the United States, Aberdeen Chamber of

Commerce, Aberdeen Hospice, Avera McKennan, Avera Queen of Peace, Avera Sacred Heart Hospitals and chaired the board of Avera Health.

### **SUSAN WILAND, NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, NORTH CENTRAL REGION**

Susan retired from Motorola, Inc. after 36 years of service, the last role as Director of Asia Pacific Operations. After many twists and turns in her spiritual life, her vocation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul began in January 2012. In her time with the Society, Susan has held many leadership positions, including St. Charles Borromeo Conference President, Rockford Diocesan Council President, Growth & Revitalization representative for the North Central Region, and a member of the Disaster Service Operations Committee.

Within her parish, Susan has served as a Catechist, for which she received the Bishop O'Neal award. She also serves the parish as a member of the Liturgy Council, Stewardship Committee, lector, sacristan, and parish Eucharistic Revival lead. A native Texan and lifelong Texas Longhorn fan, now calls Hampshire, Illinois home. She has been married to Jerry Wiland for 15 years. Together, they are proud parents to a blended "Brady Bunch" family of three boys and three girls and 12 grandchildren.

### **TIM WILLIAMS, NATIONAL FORMATION DIRECTOR**

Timothy P. Williams is the National Formation Director for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the United States. He is a former senior executive in the software industry, where he also was a highly regarded speaker and writer, and he commanded Armor and Infantry units as an Officer in the United States Army. Before joining the Society's staff full-time in 2020, he served as a Conference, District Council, and Diocesan Council officer, led Formation for the Society in North Texas, and served as a member of the National Formation Committee. In addition to his work with the Society, Tim served for three years as Chairman of the Board of Directors for a national veterans organization (USABOT), and as an appointed member of the Charter School Review Committee for the Texas State Board of Education.

Tim has presented on Vincentian Spirituality, Formation, and Heritage at numerous Diocesan, Regional, and National Assemblies, and his writing has been published in the Vincentian Heritage Journal. He has a degree in history from Marquette University, Certificates in Catholic Theology and in Sacred Scripture from the Augustine Institute, and is currently completing a Masters of Theology in Vincentian Studies at the University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain. Most importantly, he and his wife, as long-time members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, have made many hundreds of home visits, serving Christ in the person of the poor.