



2026 MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING SPEAKER BIOS

MICHAEL ACALDO

*CEO, NATIONAL COUNCIL SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL*



Michael Acaldo began his role October 1, 2024, as National Chief Executive Officer of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA. He supports more than 90,000 Vincentian members in 4,000+ parish-based Conferences across the country, helping them to grow spiritually, serve the poor, and help people out of poverty.

A native of Baton Rouge, Michael received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and his Master of Business Administration from Louisiana State University.

He has been a member of the Vincentian Family since 1990 when he began serving as the CEO of the SVdP Diocesan Council of Baton Rouge. In his tenure in Baton Rouge, Michael led the St. Vincent de Paul Council to incredible growth. In 1991, he oversaw the founding of the Bishop Ott Shelter Program, which has since grown to five emergency shelters serving men, women, children, and families, and which provided more than 31,000 guest nights of shelter in 2023. In 1995, he helped establish the St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy, the first SVdP Charitable Pharmacy in the nation. The Baton Rouge St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room served over 300,000 meals to neighbors in need in 2023. And if that weren't enough, he's also the creator, host, and executive producer of the SVdP Beacons of Light television show, which has been on the air since 2006.

Michael and Paula, his wife of 32 years, are the proud parents of adult twin daughters, and grandparents to their first granddaughter.

CHUCK KORTE

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, MIDWEST REGION



An active member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul since 2000, Chuck Korte serves as National Vice President – Midwest Region.

Prior to joining the National Council's Board of Directors, Chuck served as Council President for the Des Moines District Council, and as Conference President of the Sacred Heart Parish. He is currently a member of the Des Moines District Council Executive Board.

Chuck served as a physician for 34 years, including stints as Medical Consultant for the State of Iowa Department of Disability Service, and Residency Program Director for Mercy Family Medicine. In 2014, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians.

Chuck has been married for 45 years and is the proud father of two children and grandfather to two grandchildren.



KIM DUNOVAN

GUEST SPEAKER

Kim appreciates how mindfulness helps us keep our balance through the ups and downs of life and have more compassion for ourselves and others. She signed up for a meditation class in 2019 and began to see how her mind was a source of difficult feelings, and that early insight keeps her devoted to a practice of daily meditation and study, reinforced by teach-led retreats. Kim is also a certified 'Alternatives to Violence' facilitator and a student of Marshall Rosenberg's practice of Nonviolent Communication.



LARRY ELLERBECK

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

Larry Ellerbeck is the District Council President and National Council Member for the Diocese of Lincoln. He is also the President of Ellerbeck Properties.



KEVIN GRODE

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OMAHA

Kevin Grode is the current Omaha SVdP Council and Board president (October 2022), a formator for Ozanam Orientation and Home Visit Training, and a member of the National Technology Committee. He became a Vincentian in 2015 after becoming aware of SVdP's mission – to grow spiritually by directly assisting our neighbors in need in ways that can truly make a difference. He was elected

president of the Holy Name SVdP conference in 2017 and served two 3-year terms. Kevin was a member of the Omaha SVdP Board of Directors from 2018-2020.

As Council President, my goals are fairly simple and straightforward ... how can I assist the Omaha District Vincentians in meeting their mission of spiritual growth and friendship by directly assisting their neighbors in need in ways that truly make a difference? That includes using all the funding mechanisms currently available as well as fostering working relationships with community service organizations in the Omaha area as part of an overall referral process. Additionally, I see the role as Council President as a conduit between the conferences and the District Office and Board to ensure that we're properly aligned in meeting the SVdP mission – to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope, and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.



STEVE HAVEMANN

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
DES MOINES DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Steve Havemann is the Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul of Des Moines, and President of Ask, Listen, Hear training and development.

Through this work, Steve aims to help others think, and act, more positively and productively. This work resulted in the publication of his first book, *"The Excellent Persuader,"* and has been instrumental in the growth of St. Vincent de Paul in Des Moines. Steve has served as an officer for the Beavertdale Neighborhood Association, the Young Non-Profit Network, the Harvest Academy, and is a graduate of Leadership Iowa.

With a background that includes working with individuals with barriers to success, Steve has worked to grow St. Vincent de Paul by over 600% in his first five years, raising over \$3,500,000 for the charity, while expanding their reach to a second human services campus. Additionally, SVdP Des Moines now serves more than 33,000 individuals and has locally developed the Immersion Prisoner-Reentry Program, and the Back2Work Workforce Development program, the first two nationally replicated programs for St. Vincent de Paul. Steve serves as co-chair of each of these programs on a national level and is integral in their growth and expansion.

A native of Des Moines, he graduated from Central College with a degree in Communications and Political Science and earned his MEd at Drake University. He loves spending time with his daughter, taking his daughter on adventures, golfing, tennis, writing, and landscaping. Steve believes that "Progress is not the advancement of technology, but rather the development and evolution of people."



KRISTINA JANOUSEK

CONFERENCE SUPPORT COORDINATOR, DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OMAHA

Kristina came to SSVP in 2020 with a unique background in nonprofits, education, and community engagement. Kristina graduated from Wayne State College with a Bachelor of Science degree, before returning to school at UNMC, where she received her Masters of Public Health. Since then, Kristina has dedicated her career to serving the underprivileged population of our communities. Kristina's favorite from St. Vincent de Paul is "And What are we doing if we are not doing God's will?" Outside of SSVP, Kristina volunteers her time as a Catechist at St. Mary's, and enjoys spending quality time with her family.



DAVID LINS

National Director of Philanthropy

Previously served on the National Evangelization Teams before embarking on a career as Director of Youth Ministry or Director of Faith Formation for Catholic parishes for 25 years. In these roles, he worked with the Gallo family to get a youth center built, guided a parish campaign to build a new church, and increased another parish's weekly collection during the Covid lockdown. He moved into full-time philanthropy work with Great Hearts Academies, the largest non-profit classical education network west of the Mississippi. A Wisconsin native, he now lives in Arizona with his family.



JILL LYNCH-SOSA

National Board Member

Executive Director, District Council of Omaha

Jill Lynch-Sosa brings to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul a lifelong commitment to serving those most vulnerable, shaped by years of hands-on volunteer work and leadership roles at several Omaha-area nonprofits.

A native of Omaha, Jill spent many of her formative years in Fort Worth, Texas, before returning to Nebraska to earn a degree in International Relations with a minor in Spanish from UNO and later an MBA from Bellevue University. Early in her career, she followed her calling to serve abroad with the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, spending four years in Mexico and Guatemala working alongside religious communities, supporting children and families, and coordinating critical community outreach.

Since joining SSVP Omaha in 2023, Jill has helped strengthen the organization's capacity to serve neighbors in need. Her leadership has supported improvements in internal operations, deeper collaboration with community partners, enhanced data and reporting efforts, and renewed focus on mission-centered programs such as homelessness prevention, food security, and support for immigrants and refugees. She is especially proud of helping elevate the work of Vincentian volunteers and ensuring that the organization remains a responsive, community-rooted resource for those facing crisis.

Jill joined the National Society of St. Vincent de Paul Board of Directors in October 2025. She remains grateful for the opportunity to serve SSVP: "Every day I'm humbled by the volunteers, the staff, and the trust our neighbors place in us. I'm excited for what we can continue to build together."



RICK MERFELD

Executive Director

District Council of Dubuque

Rick began his executive director position with SVdP in December of 2019 after a 25-year career in higher education administration.

Rick holds a BA in Psychology/Philosophy and a Master's Degree in Counseling Education. Rick has held leadership positions in his home parish and is president of Caught Up in Christ Ministry.

Rick's first book was published by River Birch Press in 2020, [Caught Up in Christ: Spiritual First Aid for Believers and Seekers](#). Rick is a husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoys bike riding, martial arts with his grandson, and time hunting and fishing. In 2026, Rick and his wife Dagmar will begin guitar and mandolin lessons. Rick loves dark chocolate and sweet wine.



SEAN MYERS

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

MEMBERSHIP & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Sean Myers serves as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's National Vice President of Membership and Leadership Development.

After graduating from Penn State, Sean sold CRM software and services to B2B companies in North America before striking out to form his own firm, Springhill Software. Since then, he has founded additional software firms and become a sought-after growth and exit investment banker who can identify key market opportunities and form teams that

are ready for acceleration.

Sean first joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 1998. Since then, he has served in every role a Conference has, including advocate, fundraiser, treasurer, and president. One of the founding members of the first SVdP Thrift Store in Dallas, Texas, he joined the Dallas Council Board in 2012 and served as a District President for four years.

Sean was elected President of the Dallas Diocesan Council in 2016, then re-elected in 2019. He currently serves as Vice President of the Thrift Store Board in Dallas and as President of the Dallas Council Charitable Pharmacy Board, which is the first and only Charitable Pharmacy in the state of Texas. Sean has been married to his wife Amy for 20 years. They have two daughters, Rowan and Reese.



Linda Roghair

National Vice President

Youth, Young Adults & Emerging Leaders

A Vincentian since 2012, Linda Roghair has been appointed as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA's National Vice President of Youth, Young Adults, and Emerging Leaders. Linda grew up in South Dakota and earned a B.S. in Physical Education Teacher Education, with minors in Public Recreation, Health, and Coaching from South Dakota

State University in Brookings, SD. She lives a life of servant leadership, having taught in a variety of roles for several years before homeschooling her children. Linda was a PE teacher, preschool teacher, volleyball coach, an Academic Services EA at a Catholic Elementary School in her community, and has volunteer coached for Girls on the Run. Her organizational and communication skills also come in handy as she continues to help with leading and planning numerous community events.

Linda has held an assortment of roles in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, including Conference President, District Council Secretary, and District Council Vice President. She is currently the National Council Member and District Council President for Sioux Falls, SD, and is active in producing materials and training for SVdP's North Central Region. Linda also seeks out other local SVdP Conferences during family travels and attends meetings with local Vincentians whenever possible. Leading spiritual formation, membership and leadership development, governance efforts, and promoting the District Council and SVdP Special Works with newsletters and media content, Linda has experience in many avenues within the Society. She is deeply committed to serving those in need, finding great fulfillment in conducting personal encounters and continually seeking ways to better support and assist those in need. Finding great interest and value in Poverty Education, she led the workshop "If Not Me, Then Who" by Donna Beegle for new Vincentians in her community.

Linda is also involved at her local Parish, where she administers Communion to the homebound and was a Religious Education teacher for several years. She also currently serves on the Service

Committee and was also a part of the Social Concerns Committee and Parish Council. Married with two children (a daughter and son) and a beloved dog, Linda resides in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She enjoys Intelligentsia coffee, shades of green, the number 17, and volleyball. She may also be slightly competitive being the youngest of eight children.



Zoie Roghair

Youth, Young Adults & Emerging Leaders

Zoie Roghair grew up with St. Vincent de Paul – Sioux Falls. Since the tender age of five she has embodied the values and true essence of the Society in helping to lift our neighbors out of poverty. Zoie is an active member in the St. Michael Conference, Sioux Falls District Council.

Known for her warm smile and peaceful spirit, this 18-year-old's Vincentian's zeal for service is extraordinary. She participates in conference meetings, helps organize events, coordinates informational presentations, and goes on personal encounters. Zoie understands the magnitude of personal encounters and understands how important these encounters are in aiding our brothers and sisters in need, seeing and being the Face of Christ.

Zoie's communication skills shine as a content creator; she promotes various materials, helping with Membership and Leadership development, Formation, and engagement for the Sioux Falls Council and special works. As a member of the Society's Youth, Young, and Adult Emerging Leaders team, her commitment and Christ-filled approach to helping others made her a standout nominee and winner of the 2024 Young Vincentian Excellence Award.

She will be attending Bellevue University this Fall while playing volleyball and majoring in Secondary Education, specializing in English, and minoring in Organizational Communications. With this transition to college, Zoie hopes to bring St. Vincent de Paul to her college campus and will continue to be involved with the Youth and Young Adult Emerging Leaders team.



TIM WILLIAMS

SENIOR DIRECTOR, FORMATION & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Timothy P. Williams is the Senior Director, Formation & Leadership Development 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.

