

Frédéric's E-Gazette

Q&A 8-3-2017

Q: What should a Council do when they have excess funds? When does the consideration of hoarding come into play?

A: Society funds are derived from various sources. Councils should be aware of what is expected of SVdP as custodians of funds given for the poor. The question of accumulation of funds is a sensitive issue. Some feel they should spend all they receive. Some feel they need to have funds set aside for special programs or situations. Operating an active Council with a reasonable bank account is not hoarding but may be prudent. A balance in the area of six month's expenditures may be prudent. Councils with more funds than this should look at ways to spend those funds appropriately: twinning with Councils/ Conferences in poorer areas, planning special works, etc. Hoarding comes into play when a decision is made to keep money in the bank rather than use it to help someone in need. We should always work with the goal spending down our funds to zero in order to help those in need - after all, that's what the funds were given to us for.

Q: What is the process for resolving problems at a Conference or Council?

A: This falls under the principle of subsidiarity. All issues or problems should be solved at the lowest level. A Conference member notifies the Conference president of the matter for response or resolution. If necessary, the Conference president notifies the next higher Council president of the matter for a response or resolution. The Council president, if necessary, notifies the regional vice-president for a response or resolution. Finally, if need be, the regional VP notifies the National Council president for a response or resolution.