Minutes of the VOTF Board of Trustees Meeting

April 19, 2024

Meeting was held virtually.

Trustees Present: Svea Fraser, John Salvati, Brad Pritts, Margaret Roylance, Mary Pat Fox

Staff: Leslie Scales

Opening Prayer

1. Current Financial Report – John Salvati, Leslie Scales
    a. Financial position is unchanged, with income lower than expenses
    b. Leslie expressed concern that Liz, our accountant/bookkeeper, is hard to reach and gave an update on problems with payroll
    c. Leslie said she and John will meet with Liz soon and that she has submitted paperwork to move VOTF payroll to Bank of America

2. Executive Director's Report – Leslie Scales
    a. Jim Scullin is asking for more information for the audit. He has questions about various donors and about the $100K received from the "Anonymous Family Foundation."
    b. Latest Vineyard was supposed to go out today, but some problems slowed it down. Leslie hopes it will go out later today.
    c. Leslie reported that the Newsletter would go out next week.
    d. Siobhan has written a news release for the POC report.
    e. Therasia starts on Monday, April 21, 2024, and Leslie will begin her orientation.
    f. FWG: We are in the middle of the Governance review. We have finished the archdiocesan websites and have noted poor performance of search engines on diocesan websites. We are considering e-mailing CFOs about the situation, but time is very short before the Financial Transparency review begins on June 1st.
    g. POC: The POC report has been sent by e-mail to the diocesan safety coordinators but will be sent by regular mail to each diocese. The shipper estimates that it should arrive in about 7 days.
    h. Emerging Voices: Svea reported on the planned April 29th Synod Zoom in cooperation with AUSCP and Discerning Deacons. Brad expressed concern

about the time that might be available for everyone to contribute, so the role of time-keeper/facilitator will be key. Svea also talked about facilitating a meeting of WUKWO, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organization https://wucwo.org/index.php/en/. She summarized her meeting with Tricia Bruce, which was arranged in part as a response to an attack by Bill Donohue of the Catholic League. Tricia will be part of the April 29th meeting. Svea also expressed some concern about the delays on the newsletter and Vineyard articles because they have more impact when they are timely.

3. Other Business
   a. Brad noted that we have finally found a date for a meeting of a group invited to discuss VOTF development. That meeting will be held on April 27th.
   b. He also summarized a request from the VOTF New Jersey affiliate for the national organization to coordinate with their effort to change the Statute of Limitations for reporting of sexual abuse. Brad has gathered historical background on VOTF's position on the issue and is preparing a response. Our position is and has been that the national VOTF office does not take positions on state SOL legislation, but we encourage our members to advocate for appropriate changes. He emphasized the complexity of the issue and said he plans to engage Pat Gomez concerning our next steps in this area. We might consider codifying our position and putting it on our website.
   c. He asked that members of the Board come up with some ideas about possible VOTF Synod-related activities and share them by e-mail.

NEXT SCHEDULED FULL BOARD MEETING:

Friday, May 17, 2024

The meeting was closed with a "Glory be."