

MINUTES - Final  
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.  
Board of Trustees Meeting August 21, 2012

Board Members Present: Mark Mullaney (office), Ron DuBois (phone), Mary Freeman (call) Ed Greenan (office), Jayne O'Donnell (phone), Margaret Roylance (office), Anne Southwood (office), Ed Wilson (phone), and Patricia Gomez (phone).

Absent: Dan Bartley, Phil Megna

Executive Director: Donna Doucette (office)

President Mark Mullaney called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Opening Prayer: Ed Wilson led the group in a brief prayer.

1. Administrative Matters: The minutes of the July 17, 2012 Board Meeting were unanimously accepted (9-0-2).

2. Finances: Treasurer Anne Southwood reported on the gap between Expenses and Revenue during the previous month.

President Mullaney advised that to increase revenues, major initiatives including role of women in the church and married clergy will be identified and prominently promoted. Our major focus over the next few weeks will be on the Conference.

Executive Director Donna Doucette reported on additional appeals to major donors and the September appeal to membership, which will highlight major initiatives. She reports that the focus of the office staff (volunteer) has been on processing Conference transactions and Conference preparation. There have been increased bank charges that include these types of transactions: cost of processing donations and Conference registrations, credit card processing, and internet banking transactions, resulting in higher bank fees.

VOTF has been a membership-sustained organization for 10 years without incurring major debts. President Mullaney pointed out that solvency and lack of debt characterizes VOTF as financially "successful" compared to similar not-for-profit groups. Although grant applications have not been successful to date, VOTF now has professional grant writers. The promotion of new initiatives after the Conference and newly prepared grant applications may enhance the prospect of receiving foundation grants.

3. Executive Director's Report: Donna reviewed the cash flow report, noting the reserve conference funding and the payment due on the hotel contract at the end of August. It may be necessary to use operating funds for that payment to fill the gap between funds on hand and last minute registrations. Cash projection will largely depend on a positive response to the September mailed appeal.

Donna reported on a substantial donation for updating the website to accommodate a streamlined uploading of video, pictures, conference coverage, etc. On other matters, she reported a reduction in health insurance costs, the need for a new printer (check), and the recent purchase of a computer for office staff.

4. Strategic Plan and Conference Outcomes: Mark reported that VOTF major initiatives over the next 18 months will flow from Conference outcomes, to include: Clericalism defined; Women's rights in the Church; Married Priests / Priests Association liaison; Survivor support, including SOL initiatives, Truth & Reconciliation initiative; Child protection; Bishop Selection initiative; Voice in the Public Square plan; and Finance Council initiative.

Each board member was asked to take the lead in one of these initiatives; various resources were shared, ideas and plans for implementation were discussed. Board members will advise Mark of their preferences for standing committee membership.

5. Conference Updates:

Conference Co-chair Jayne O'Donnell reported conference registrations, room number pick-ups, and the E-vite to registered conference attendees to the HBO video screening at lunch on Saturday. The screening can accommodate up to 300 people.

Donna reported on the contributions from the Angels' Fund. Last-minute registrations are expected, but efforts will be doubled to increase registrations and PR efforts will focus on the speakers and their topics.

6. New Business: Having been refused access to parishioners through Church bulletins the Chicago affiliate is commencing its public campaign with ads in the secular press, seeking the views of Chicago parishioners regarding their next archbishop. Responses will be forwarded to the papal nuncio.

The next Board Meeting will take place on the Sunday after the Conference, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mark led the Glory Be as our Closing Prayer

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia T. Gomez  
National and BOT Secretary.