

VOTF Board of Trustees Meeting at Wellesley Country Club MA – Oct 28/29 2016

10/28/2016

Present at meeting: Mary Pat Fox, Mark Mullaney, Margaret Roylance, Anne Southwood, Larry Mulligan, Sandra Guynn (on visual conference call), David O'Brien (phone). Also present: Executive Director Donna B. Doucette, and Alice Campanella serving as recording secretary. Absent: Mike Ryan and Phil Megna.

Development Update: Priscilla Deck has resigned after 14 months as development director. Her husband has retired and she needs her time to be more flexible. Joan McLaughlin, a long-time member and volunteer, will take care of personal notes to major donors. A suggestion was made to profile people who have been long-time donors/monthly donors. Donna Doucette will take over upkeep of the Guide Star rating system. It was suggested that their emblem could go on our stationery. Priscilla also suggested communication with donors about estate planning. Ask "Are you concerned about VOTF's future?" Offer some ideas:

- Residual heir
- Bequest
- Heir to an annuity

Priscilla listed the friend-raising and fund-raising events that we have held this year:

- Bill Casey at Boston College talking about Healing Circles
- Sasha and David Chanoff at St. Ignatius talking about their book *From Crisis to Calling* and Sasha's foundation RefugePoint
- Two presentations of the film "Spotlight" at Coolidge Corner and Rockport with Walter Robinson and Mike Rezendes.
- Ronald Heifetz from Harvard's Kennedy School speaking about Alternative Leadership tomorrow (Oct. 29) at Wellesley Country Club

She also cited VOTF programs which might be eligible for grants:

- Healing Circles
- Diocesan Financial Accountability and priest's pensions
- A cooperative effort with AUSCP at the Louisville Institute

We must develop a message of hope and vision, she concluded, and be prepared to discuss what we have accomplished.

The Board adjourned for dinner.

8 p.m.: Anne Southwood began the session with a prayer.

Alternative Program Proposal: Dave O'Brien presented his proposal for funding VOTF; all the trustees had received a copy of the presentation. David said that the work of implementing the proposal could be "on him," and he requested a one-year trial.

Margaret told Dave about the meeting of priest reform groups she went to in Chicago. She has agreed to work with the international group on a Laity Bill of Rights. This is an ongoing effort. She sees this as a "strategic alliance" similar to one of Dave's proposals but that is the only one she would be in favor of.

Mary Pat and Anne disagreed with much of the alternative proposal, emphasizing that VOTF cannot depend on negativity as a base for success. All Board members other than Dave agreed and the proposal was not adopted.

Program Updates: The Healing Circle in California was very successful. There is a possibility of having another one within the film industry. Ireland plans to have a Healing Circle under the auspices of the Irish Government and the Church; they will give credit to VOTF for its input to the process. There are possibilities of Healing Circles in Gallup NM, Philadelphia, and Boston in the future.

Bob Bonnot, the chair of the Leadership Team for the Association of US Catholic Priests, recently visited the national VOTF offices and hopes to collaborate with us on certain issues, including priest pensions.

Margaret said her team hopes to implement their vision of the Finance Model database that she and her committee have been working on. Sandra Guynn, with input from Mike Ryan, has put together a template of questions to ask when committee members examine the Diocesan websites. They will grade the financial information available on each web site. They hope to assess the results by January 2017.

The meeting adjourned and reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on October 29.

10/29/2016. Present at meeting: Mary Pat Fox, Mark Mullaney, Margaret Roylance, Anne Southwood, Larry Mulligan, Sandy Guynn (on visual conference call), David O'Brien (phone). Also present: Executive Director Donna B. Doucette, and Alice Campanella serving as recording secretary. Absent: Mike Ryan and Phil Megna.

Larry began with a phrase from Paul Coelho and St. Thomas Aquinas's "Prayer for Understanding."

Mary Pat repeated her request from the September meeting that trustees listen to staff and committee reports without interruption and avoid interrupting any speaker. If interruptions occur, the person doing so will be asked to leave.

The minutes of the June and September board meetings were approved.

Project Report: Margaret reported on her attendance at the Reform Group Conference in Chicago, where they endorsed two statements on:

- The dignity of human persons
- Women and their full equality in the Church

Margaret is working with Helmut Schuller's committee on Fundamental Rights in the Church. She recommends that we continue to be involved with these groups.

Finances: Mary Pat presented the revised budget plan triggered when our operating cash reserves fell below the mark set in the board's guidelines. The plan includes a reduction of the Executive Director's time, allowing two positions to remain vacant, and reducing vendor costs where feasible. The Board reviewed detailed summaries of each budget component, the donor programs, and potential foundation support. The Board approved all proposals.

The Board also reaffirmed support for VOTF's key active initiatives: Healing Circles, Structural Change/Financial Accountability, Priests of Integrity, and Child Protection.

Mary Pat concluded with a call to attract new members and identify new leaders. The Spirit is moving us in a new direction, broadening our vision.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 29, at 7 pm.

Meeting concluded at noon so we could have lunch and attend the VOTF event, arranged by Priscilla Deck, featuring Ronald Heifetz of the Kennedy School at Harvard who spoke about Adaptive Change Leadership and how it applies to VOTF.