

MINUTES
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting, May 19, 2015

Present in the office: Mark Mullaney, Mike Ryan, Margaret Roylance, and Donna Doucette, Executive Director

Present via conference call: Pat Gomez, Mary Freeman, Anne Southwood, Larry Mulligan, Mary Pat Fox, and Phil Megna

President Mark Mullaney called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm with a rendition of the Lord's Prayer sung by Andrea Bocelli and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Draft minutes of the Face-to-Face BOT meeting on April 16 and 17, 2015, were reviewed. Additions for clarification were requested and the minutes were approved with those changes.

Finance Report and Budget Discussion –

Treasurer Ann Southwood reviewed the budget and recommended that the \$410,000 budget projection for the next year fiscal year be dropped to \$402,000. Executive Director Donna Doucette explained that the \$410,000 is a goal, not a budget projection. She added that VOTF is working to support our organizational priorities with minimal staff. Mark Mullaney agreed that we have not reached our revenue target in recent years, which may have been set unrealistically high.

The Board agreed that the best approach was to include only essential activities in our budget planning and raise funds for additional projects and initiatives as they are identified. They identified our primary initiatives for next year to be (1.) Supporting the Diocesan online financial portal to advance financial transparency and accountability in the church, and (2.) Carrying out Restorative Justice Healing Circles. All other activities and initiatives will be maintained as possible by staff.

In the budget discussion, Donna said the draft included funds for Mark's trip to Rome next fall, to ensure a VOTF presence at the Synod on the Family, and for donor events geared to encourage other major donors for VOTF. We also have set aside funds for Donna to attend the Association of U.S. Priests Convention and for a display booth at the Intentional Eucharistic Communities Conference in St. Paul MN on June 26/27.

But money has **not** been budgeted for a national conference next year. If we wish to hold an Assembly in 2016, we must add that to the budget now, and possibly shift funding from other planned outlays to that event.

After discussion, the Board agreed that having a conference every other year is adequate to meet the need for members of VOTF from across the country to meet together in person. This year, instead of holding a conference, VOTF President Mark Mullaney and others should represent the national leadership at a series of regional meetings.

Larry Mulligan asked if VOTF is rated by any NPO rating sites such as Charity Navigator. Donna explained that Charity Navigator does not rate NPOs with less than million-dollar budgets and that we are listed in GuideStar, although we have not participated in GuideStar's "rating" system for non-profits. We always provide financial information to those interested on request.

The Upcoming Papal Visit to the US -

VOTF activities associated with Pope Francis' upcoming visit to the US were addressed in light of the budget discussion. Larry Mulligan agreed to go to Philadelphia to represent VOTF when the Pope visits there. Costs will be minimal because a member of VOTF has agreed to host him. Taking part in a press conference was discussed as a possibility, but it is not a priority for us. Bill Casey also plans to be in Philadelphia when the Pope is there. In addition, VOTF plans to hold a Healing Circle in New York City at the time of the Pope's visit and also to sponsor a viewing of Michael Mack's play "Conversations with my Molester." The NYC VOTF affiliate will be asked to participate in whatever activities we undertake there.

The possibility of VOTF placing an ad in the *National Catholic Reporter* to coincide with the Pope's visit was discussed. The cost of a full-page ad is about \$3,000. The Board supported the idea of placing such an ad but since it was not included in the budget, funds must be raised separately for it. Phil Megna, Margaret Roylance, and Mark Mullaney agreed to do fundraising to provide money for an NCR ad.

Nominating Committee -

Mary Freeman reported on the search for a new trustee. She reported that Anne Southwood, Phil Megna, and Margaret Roylance have each agreed to serve another term as trustees. She also presented the name of the prospective new trustee: David O'Brien. After a brief discussion, the Board unanimously approved his selection.

Other Business -

Larry Mulligan and Phil Megna agreed to serve as VOTF representatives to Catholic Organizations for Renewal (COR).

This was the last BOT meeting for Pat Gomez, because her term has expired. Her fellow board members told Pat what she meant to them: "always there"; "never forgets"; "cares deeply about children"; "calm"; "reasoned"; "quiet"; "competent"; "unassuming"; "intelligent." It was clear that the Board will deeply miss her presence and wisdom but her continued service as a VOTF member will be a blessing to us all. We wish her the best and know that our good and gracious God will be with her in all her future endeavors.

The meeting concluded with a prayer at 8:20 pm.