

**Final Minutes Board of Trustees Meeting
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
April 24, 2012, 7:00 – 8:25 pm EDT**

Board Members Present: Mark Mullaney, Ron DuBois and Pat Gomez (office), Anne Southwood, Bill Casey, Mary Freeman, Elia Marnik, Jayne O'Donnell, and Ed Wilson (phone).

Board Members Absent: Dan Bartley, John Hushon

Executive Director: Donna Doucette (office)

PR Director: Nick Ingala (phone)

Opening Prayer: Mary Freeman

1. **Administrative Matters:** Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the March 30-31, 2012 fact-to-face meeting were unanimously approved (9-0-2).
2. **VOTF Blog:** Nick Ingala provided an update of Blog posts and explained the key to a successful Blog post is providing content that will initiate interaction and comments. An announcement to VOTF members of the purpose of the Blog was discussed. All are encouraged to make comments on postings and promote the Blog.
3. **Finances:** Treasurer Anne Southwood reported on disappointing March revenues. As various strong streams for donations are competing this year, monthly and year-end donations will be promoted, participating in monthly donations encouraged, and major donations sought. Encouragingly, April donations already are favorable.
4. **2012 Conference Update:** Planning Committee Chair Jayne O'Donnell reports that registrations and room reservations continue to increase. A program Booklet that doubles as a return-registration mailer is being developed for June distribution, and Program ads are being sought. Inquiries about placing ads in the Program can be sent to Phil Megna and Pat Paone of Long Island VOTF. Advertisements for Conference registration will be placed in various media. President Mullaney voiced a goal that registrations "sell out by July 15th". Excitement about the Conference potential to rejuvenate and accelerate VOTF mission and goals was expressed by all Board members.
5. **Officers' Reports:**
 - **COR Report:** Ron Dubois and Pat Gomez presented an application for membership in the cooperative organization of 19 Catholic Reform Groups known as COR. Representatives from the American Catholic Council invited registrants to their Non-violent Resistance online course. COR discussed various ways to support nuns and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). A website that organizes action items to support nuns is in development. These actions will be promoted on the VOTF webpage and in our Blog, and include: prayers, individual letters to nuns and religious orders, public vigils, and letters to church officials.
 - **Strategic Plan:** Mark Mullaney reported that outreach to affiliates seeking input has begun. Board members commented on the feasibility of embracing the large-scale breadth of the six objectives and the need to include a statement that captures the VOTF central narratives. It was noted that specific and measurable goals need to accompany each objective and that the staffing and financial impact of proposed initiatives needs to be discussed with the Executive Director in order to best utilize our available resources. Some members suggested inclusion of action items

relating to specific and current issues, such as the LCWR issue, supporting priests and promoting financial accountability of dioceses.

6. **Trustee Nominating Committee Report:** Committee Chair Elia Marnik advised that the deadline for nominations is next Monday. Three nominations with corresponding endorsements have been received to date. Information about duly nominated candidates will be posted on the website shortly after the nomination deadline.
7. **Executive Director Report:** Donna reported a positive response to requests for contributions to the VOTF book for the Conference and an increase in donations stemming from the March appeal. The May Year-End campaign mailing will be sent out shortly, followed by the conference campaign mailing in early summer. She shared excerpts from supportive notes accompanying recent donations. Significantly, she acknowledged the consistent top-level performance of the office staff. Board members voiced gratitude for our staff and volunteers who keep us going.

Closing Prayer: All joined in the closing prayer at 8:25 PM.

The next Board meeting: Tuesday, May 29th 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia T. Gomez, Secretary