

MINUTES – FINAL
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting, April 22, 2014

Board Members Present: Mark Mullaney, Ron DuBois, Margaret Roylance, Anne Southwood (office); Mary Pat Fox, Ed Greenan, Phil Megna (on call).

Absent: Larry Mulligan, Mary Freeman, Pat Gomez

Executive Director: Donna Doucette

President Mark Mullaney called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Opening Prayer: Ron DuBois reminded us that our senses lead us to be open to the Spirit and to speak up for the good of our Church.

1. Consent Item: Minutes from March 18, 2014, meeting were approved unanimously (7-0).

2. Finances: Treasurer Anne Southwood reported that liquidity level remains at 2.2. March donations were down 5% from last year. YTD expenses were also down significantly. Donna noted that the net income from the April Assembly was \$27,889, including the fund-raiser.

3. Cardinal Sean O'Malley Meeting: Ron reported that the committee has met and will meet again within the next two weeks. David Castaldi will contact Cardinal Sean's secretary to try to schedule a meeting. Mark reported that the two important issues to be discussed are financial transparency/accountability and restorative justice. Mark read an email from Bill Casey who reported on a meeting of a new restorative justice committee. That committee plans to move forward with a few good cases in which the abuser, survivor and family all agree to such a meeting. Bill expressed to the committee the willingness of VOTF to support such a venture and our offer to seek a grant. The Board agreed that VOTF should support this initiative.

Ron added that two issues already in front the bishops are the petition for a new Pastoral Provision for the ordination of married Catholic men, and the petition for demonstration projects for a role for the laity in the selection of bishops. Phil noted that we also need to pursue the issue of the role of women in the Church.

4. Hartford 2014 Assembly: Donna reported some comments from Assembly attendees. Most people were very pleased and satisfied. The major dissatisfaction expressed was the inability for people to attend more than two workshops because of time constraints. However, the one-day format was also appreciated. Donna noted that we had very strict cost controls, including the use of the Convention Center, hotel, AV materials, lunch, etc. Mary Pat suggested that we need to do this every two years and recommended planning further in advance. Margaret asked if we could be provided with email lists of participants in workshops for follow up. Donna will make them available.

5. Nominations to the Board: Mark reported that we have one candidate, Mike Ryan, with the condition that he not be asked to be an officer. Mark also noted that the by-laws provide for up to eleven members, the eleventh having been the past president. He asked that we think about the

Board composition for the next meeting. Mark will send the questions for discussion at the next BOT meeting. Mary Pat noted that we have always maintained that we are a grass roots organization.

Phil noted the difficulty in finding candidates this time and asked what should be done in the future. Anne mentioned the need to develop potential candidates. Donna noted that wealthy members of VOTF have generally preferred to fund the organization rather than invest their personal time. Therefore wealthy donors should be involved and informed, and they may not need to serve on the board. All are encouraged to identify and work with people throughout the year who may be willing to serve. Ed recommended that we each send our comments to Donna so that we would have a number of suggestions for the next meeting.

6. Executive Director's Report: Donna proposed placing an ad for the NCR 50th anniversary publication. Although Anne noted she is cost conscious, she recommends a half page color ad at \$1,815. Everyone agreed. Margaret noted that this NCR ad should be on the page for the year 2002.

7. COR and AUSCP. Ron reported that he only recently received the minutes of the COR meeting held the weekend of the VOTF Assembly; and he will provide a report at the next meeting. Ron commented on the need to have a VOTF representation at the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests Convention in St. Louis, June 23-26. A display table for VOTF materials costs \$100. As Ron and Anne will be unavailable to attend, other members of the Board were urged to consider attending.

8. Closing Prayer: The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm with the Glory Be.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, 7 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Dubois
VOTF Vice-President