

MINUTES - Draft
Voice of the Faithful Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting, August 19, 2014 at 7 PM

Present in the office: Mark Mullaney, Anne Southwood, Michael Ryan. Attending by phone: Ed Greenan, Margaret Roylance, Patricia Gomez, Mary Freeman, Phil Megna, Larry Mulligan, Mary Pat Fox
Executive Director: Donna Doucette (in the office)

The opening prayer was offered by Mary Freeman.

Financial Report and Discussion

Treasurer Anne Southwood reported that July donations are down as was June. Mark will prepare an email to pave the way for the September appeal, which will be sent out right after Labor Day. The Board discussed the need for major donors and foundation grants for our projects on Restorative Justice and Financial Accountability. Mark proposed that the Board members each make a contribution that rises to the level of “uncomfortable” and promised to do the same. Donna discussed the possibility of a Capital Campaign (capitalizing reform) with a goal of \$250,000 by the end of December. Members of the Board agreed to reach out to VOTF members who have experience in professional fund raising about helping with a capital campaign. Phil suggested we call a fund raising group to undertake an exploratory mission to find out what would be involved. Mark suggested a re-invigorated Development Committee might assist but that we need a Capital Campaign Committee and that we need to reach out to early members who are no longer active.

Several Board members agreed to make uncomfortable contributions to VOTF in recognition of the seriousness of the situation. Similarly, several cost cutting measures involving sacrifice on the part of the staff have been taken or were offered in an effort to reduce the budget:

- Nick Ingala offered temporarily to give up our contract with Cision, a media database. This will increase Nick’s workload but save \$3,000 per year. The Board agreed to the cut.
- A portion of the insurance coverage provided under contract with a key employee will be dropped.
- Donna presented the option of dropping the Directors and Officers liability insurance, which costs \$2,222 annually. Much of the coverage does not apply to us. The Board agreed to look into the advisability of making such a move
- The Board voted unanimously to cancel the monitoring of our trademark saving \$536 per year.

Dialogue with Bishops

Mark Mullaney and Anne Marie Ferraro plan to meet Bishop Peter J. Uglietto, Vicar General, Boston on August 26th. The meeting was made possible through the efforts of Anne Marie Ferraro, a VOTF Winchester member.

COR Report

Pat Gomez reported that we supported the COR nunjustice.org site and that we had suggestions on how to support the nuns (LCWR) on our web page. There will soon be a COR conference call which will have Ron DuBois as our representative. Ron and Pat will be attending the COR semi-annual meeting in Memphis TN in November. Pat also plans to attend the CTA Conference in Memphis where Elizabeth Johnson, Kerry Kennedy, Jason Berry, and Marianne Duddy-Burke will be speakers. The Board discussed ways in which we can demonstrate our support of women religious that would provide higher visibility of that support to our members. Margaret suggested that VOTF Affiliates initiate prayer groups that will invite members to join in prayer for them.

Other Business

Michael Ryan has been in touch with Tom Roberts from the *National Catholic Reporter* and hopes to do an article with him on Mike's efforts to interest the bishops in a procedure for financial accountability.

Donna Doucette read a letter she had recently received from the Bishop of Toledo, which is another segment of their ongoing correspondence.

The VOTF Board will hold their face-to-face meeting on October 17-18.

The meeting ended with the Board reciting the Glory Be to the Father.

Respectfully submitted, Margaret Roylance, Secretary and Board Member

Next Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 23.