

MINUTES - Final
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting July 17, 2012

Board Members Present: Mark Mullaney (office), Dan Bartley (phone), Ron DuBois (phone), Ed Greenan (office), Phil Megna (office), Jayne O'Donnell (phone), Margaret Roylance (office), Anne Southwood (phone), Ed Wilson (phone), and Patricia Gomez (office).

Absent: Mary Freeman

Executive Director: Donna Doucette (office)

President Mark Mullaney welcomed newly elected Board members Phil Megna and Margaret Roylance to their first Board meeting.

Opening Prayer: Mark led the opening prayer for the success of the 10th Conference.

1. Administrative Matters: The minutes of the June 26, 2012 were unanimously accepted (10-0-1).

2. Finances: Treasurer Anne Southwood reported that although revenue was below projections the Financial Liquidity classification remains at an Adequate Status. Executive Director Donna Doucette informed Trustees that the 10th Conference and Operating Budget streams are kept separate, and she discussed how restricted funds are recorded.

Mark Mullaney and Anne Southwood reported plans to increase donations over the next few months, including a Partnership Program and efforts to boost the number of monthly automatic donations. The September appeal will go out as scheduled.

Mark and the other officers are working on ways to raise the Financial Liquidity classification from ADEQUATE to a SAFE level.

3. 2012 10th Conference: Chair Jayne O'Donnell provided an overview of the many aspects involved in Conference preparation, including the Lamentation Wall and possible revision to the agenda / schedule.

Mark Mullaney commented that the 50th anniversary of Vatican Council II coincides with the VOTF 10th Conference. He proposed the dedication of Blessed Pope John XXIII as the Conference patron and that this dedication be a continuous thread throughout the event.

4. Officers' Report: President Mullaney discussed how the Strategic Plan for the next two years will coordinate with the Conference theme to Celebrate, Rejuvenate, and Accelerate. Action items to flow from the Conference include: outreach to canon lawyers to investigate how canons are not being met; support of a potential report to US bishops on canon deficits; organized discussions on the role of women in the Church and married clergy.

Vice-President Ron DuBois has established contact with the newly formed Association of US Priests. One resolution from their first meeting is to establish working relationships with lay organizations. VOTF will propose sharing links on the respective websites as an initial step in establishing that relationship. Mark commented that a potential action item from this initiative is to promote a better understanding of clericalism and the contributing roles of laity and clergy in this system.

With the purpose of establishing membership on the Board of Trustee Standing Committees, each Board member is asked to contact Mark with their membership preference prior to the August meeting. Current Standing Committees are: Audit & Finance; Development; Governance; and Trustee Nominations.

5. Executive Director Report: Donna presented Conference planning currently underway, including financial responsibilities, suggestions to increase registrations, and the proposal to screen an HBO documentary during lunch on Conference Saturday. Donna has viewed the documentary, "Mea Maxima Culpa: Silence in the House of God," and she reports it resonates with VOTF issues. Invitations will be emailed shortly; people must RSVP to the E-vite in order to be admitted to the screening.

The Conference planning committee currently is concentrating on selling Conference Booklet ads and booth space. Help in this initiative is requested from all Board members.

6. Closing Prayer: All joined in Glory Be.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be **Tuesday, August 21, 2012 at 7 pm EDT.**

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia T. Gomez,
Secretary