

MINUTES - Final
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
Board of Trustees Face-to-Face Meeting May 17 - 18, 2013
Wellesley Country Club, Wellesley, MA

Friday May 17, 2013

Board Members Present: Mark Mullaney, Ron Dubois, Mary Freeman, Ed Greenan, Phil Megna, Margaret Roylance, Anne Southwood, Ed Wilson, and Patricia Gomez.

Executive Director: Donna Doucette

Board-Members-Elect: MaryPat Fox and Larry Mulligan.

Invited Guest: Director of PR, Nick Ingala

President Mark Mullaney called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Opening Prayer: Meditative “Our Father” led by Mary Freeman.

1. Administrative Matters: On behalf of the officers and all the Board, President Mullaney welcomed newly-elected members MaryPat Fox and Larry Mulligan to the Board.

After prayer and reflection, Past-President Dan Bartley communicated his resignation due to changing personal and business endeavors that afford insufficient time to dedicate to Board matters.

The minutes from the April 19, 2013, meeting were unanimously approved (9-0-0).

2. Public Relations & Marketing Report: Nick Ingala reported four recent activities: Web-Internet-based advertising; responding to numerous media queries around resignation of Pope Benedict XVI and election of Pope Francis I; preparation and distribution of national statements; and Social Media efforts such as Twitter, Facebook, and our 225 Blog posts, as avenues to start conversations and to reach out to youth.

3. Finances: Treasure Anne Southwood reported that finances hover around an adequate level of liquidity. Operating expenses are below projections. Fiscal year-end fund-raising appeal was sent out in mid-May.

4. Priests: Clerical Culture, Celibacy, Married Priests: Vice-President Ron DuBois reported that an educational paper on clericalism will be sent out shortly to members. This paper describes elements of the clerical culture and explores how the ordained live within that culture that shapes their lives. An additional paper on the history of celibacy will be ready in June.

Ron advised that a petition to Bishops to ordain married men will be sent to every Ordinary in the United States at the end of May.

5. Nominating Committee: Committee Chair Mary Freeman described the processes of nominations and election to the Board of Trustees of VOTF. Four trustees are elected every three years.

Ed Wilson moved that the Board accept the unanimous decision of the Nominating Committee to re-elect Mark Mullaney and Mary Freeman to another 3-year term on the Board commencing June 1, 2013. The proposal was seconded and unanimously approved (9-0-0).

6. Governance Committee: Ed Wilson presented a historical perspective of the Governance Committee and described recent revisions to the Governance By-Laws.

7. Audit Committee: Mark Mullaney reported on the annual audit review and plans to seek competitive rates for similar services. Phil Megna will join this Committee.

After a brief closing prayer, the Friday portion of the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Saturday, May 18, 2013

Board Members Present: Mark Mullaney, Ron DeBois, Mary Freeman; Phil Megna; Margaret Roylance; Anne Southwood; Ed Wilson; and Patricia Gomez.

Absent: Ed Greenan

Executive Director: Donna Doucette

Board Members-Elect: MaryPat Fox; and Larry Mulligan.

President Mullaney called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Opening Prayer: Ron DuBois led the group in a prayer to Mary of Magdala

1. Financial Transparency Initiative: Margaret Roylance elaborated the two-pronged effort of this initiative: first, a study of diocesan finance councils to elucidate what Canon Law requires of diocesan finance councils. The second effort will study the transparency of financial reporting across the US via online research of diocesan websites and their links to financial reporting.

2. Role of Women in the Church: Secretary Pat Gomez led a discussion on efforts to prepare an educational program on the historical roles of women in the Church. Mary Freeman explained efforts to create small book groups and larger parish-based initiatives to discuss the book *Women Deacons, Past, Present and Future* about the reinstitution of the female diaconate.

3. Child Protection: Secretary Pat Gomez reported on the April focus to promote parish-based child protection measures. Larry Mulligan highlighted the need for abuse prevention education at the parish level to be both operational and functioning rather than place-holders to meet diocesan audit requirements.

4. Support for Survivors: Guests Bill Casey and Jayne O'Donnell updated current VOTF efforts to support survivors, including: the Lamentation Wall on VOTF website; ongoing contact with SNAP; presence at SNAP conference in late July; monitoring and disseminating information on current happenings in clergy sexual abuse cases; commentaries in VOTF publications; the need to monitor priests abusers who were never prosecuted and never laicized, but present a danger to society; and exploration of the StoryCorp Project where survivors' stories

could be heard. Bill urged the Board to clearly define VOTF's relationship with survivors by continuing these and additional initiatives.

Margaret Roylance affirmed the need to communicate with survivors and explore with them how VOTF can stand and support survivors.

5. Development Report: Development Coordinator Jayne O'Donnell presented a six-month timeline of events, and she reported recent and projected activities, including: status of grant applications; affiliate visits (Florida, DC/Delaware/Virginia/Maryland in the spring; New York in the fall); individual communication and visits with major donors; donor receptions in conjunction with upcoming speaker presentations (Fr. Helmut Schüller and Dr. Phyllis Zagano); and updates on the Planned Giving program.

Mark Mullaney added that efforts are under way to increase the number of monthly automated donors.

6. Bishop Selection: Anne Southwood presented a brief history of this initiative and highlighted a report from John Culhane on the Chicago-area project.

7. Executive Director Report: Donna Doucette reported on sales of 2012 Conference DVDs and the VOTF book *Voices: Telling Our Stories*; appeal campaigns; cash outlook, and administrative activities.

8. Budget for FY2014: Donna Doucette led the discussion on budget line items. After detailed review, Board members unanimously accepted the 2014 Budget (8-0-0).

9. Initiatives in search of leadership: The Youth, Support for US Nuns, and Prayer/Spiritual Life initiatives are not active at this time and new leadership is being sought.

10. Acknowledgement: President Mullaney acknowledged Ed Wilson's outstanding commitment, dedication, and steadfast service to VOTF as Ed's term of office on the Board of Trustees ends on May 31st. Mark announced that Ed will remain on the Media Committee and continue to serve as a counselor and developer of future VOTF leadership. The entire board expressed their sincere appreciation and gratitude to Ed.

Closing Prayer: all joined in the Glory Be.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM

Next meeting: Tuesday, **June 19, 2013 at 7 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia T. Gomez
Secretary