

MINUTES - Final
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting November 19, 2013

Board Members Present: Mark Mullaney (office), Ron DuBois (office); Mary Pat Fox (phone); Mary Freeman (phone); Ed Greenan (phone); Phil Megna (phone); Larry Mulligan (phone); Anne Southwood (phone); and Patricia Gomez (phone)

Executive Director: Donna Doucette (office)

Absent: Margaret Roylance

President Mark Mullaney called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Opening Prayer: Ron DuBois led us in prayer of Thanksgiving, centering ourselves in God who is always present to us.

1. Consent: The minutes from the October 15, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved (9-0-0).

2. Finances: Treasurer Anne Southwood noted that expenses continue to be held down, but the revenue situation is stagnant. Phil Megna noted that VOTF has taken in more this year than the previous year.

President Mark Mullaney and Development Coordinator Jayne O'Donnell will be reaching out shortly to two potentially-major donor opportunities in the Boston area. Mark also mentioned that our planned giving efforts will be ramped up. Major donor contributions will potentially produce quicker results than other development efforts.

Executive Director Donna Doucette reports that we have used up our cash reserves. She notes that a Capital Campaign is a third opportunity to raise revenues and build cash reserves or capital endowment funds in addition to foundation grants and cultivating major donors.

Larry Mulligan notes the importance of small dollar-amount donors who are the critical mass that drives efforts for change. Phil suggests networking and preparing a kit or package that can be given to potential donors and those interested in our organization. Mark reports that a planned giving package is available as are other packets listed on the www.votf.org website. One packet will be sent to each board member.

3. Discussion for Trustee and Officers election: Ron Dubois will be coming off the Board in June 2014.

Mary Freeman heads the Nominating Committee consisting of herself, Alice Campanella, Phil Megna, Anne Southwood, Ed Wilson and Pat Gomez. The Committee will review the VOTF By-laws for Trustee and Officer Elections and is receiving suggestions for potential candidates to serve on the Board.

4. Update VOTF Oct 25 2013 Fundraiser and Development Report: Mark reported on the first effort for a Matching Funds Event. He notes that \$7K was raised and matched dollar-for-dollar by major donors, in addition to \$1K donated by the South West Florida affiliate. The event at St. Eulalia parish in Winchester, MA was well-attended. Approximately 70 people heard

Prof. Paul Lakeland of Fairfield University speak on Pope Francis, and a lively discussion ensued. This effort will become a model for other Fundraiser events in 2014.

5. Face-to-Face Meeting: The spring Board meeting is tentatively set for Feb 28 and March 1, 2014, and Mark requested that members to send him agenda items.

6. Executive Director Report: Summary of financials was sent as well as an analysis of donor data. Donna also reported on efforts to promote the COR survey (over 7,000 responses to date); the Advent Calendar spiritual reflection; and administrative activities.

7. Assembly Review April 2014:

Workshops at the assembly will focus on how to move from talk into action. A major theme will be the influence of Pope Francis on the church. Workshops will address how VOTF can support his change efforts and ways to push for change beyond the changes that have already been suggested by the Pope.

Donna reported that the planned speaker for the Advocacy workshop is not available due to a prior commitment, and that he expressed interest in contributing at other times. A leader of that workshop is needed.

A discussion on various topics related to the Clericalism workshop ensued, including: the need for lay input in church decisions; how to get the laity to take their role in the church; and education on more authoritative lay leadership to challenge the church hierarchy. As Pope Francis has expressed opposition to clericalism and his influence to change the “tone” at the Vatican is becoming evident, VOTF will build on these changes and focus on enhanced involvement of the laity in decision-making processes.

Other suggestions for themes include: promote awareness of the Family Life Synod and focus on family life; marriage; divorced / separated Catholics; how we teach children about sexuality. Pat and Anne mentioned that the Females Voices workshop is set up for conversations related to Synod topics and the empowerment of women.

Mary suggested keeping the topic of one workshop slot open until closer to the Assembly date in order to capture a current and topical issue. Donna suggested that an analysis of the COR Survey could fill that slot if needed.

8: Closing Prayer: Mark led us in the Glory Be to the Father.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Patricia T. Gomez
Board Member and Secretary