

Gratia Plena Board Meeting

10/22/2014 Minutes

Summary

(approved 2/11/2015)

Board Members Present

Dr. Ken Buckle

Paul Cashiola

Bill Ward

Jim McCollom, Jr.

Board Members Absent

Fr. Brendan Cahill

Dr. Rosemary Buckle Duffield

(1 vacant position)

Discussion:

- Bill moved to approve minutes of 8/8/14 and they were approved.
- Old business:
 - Form 990 prepared by Paul filed and accepted; shows transparency and documents good work
 - Able now to finish 2013 Annual Report
 - Proposed expansion to a new La Porte office was reconsidered after rent offered was too expensive; the location is attractive because there are two available counselors who live in that vicinity
 - Empty board positions – Ken has spoken to Sister Rosalie Karstedt at St. Mary's Seminary and has been invited to follow up at the seminary; Ken solicited recommendations
- New business:
 - Third Quarter overview reflected more donations and also more expenses; tight financial picture; Ken expects a rosier picture for the Fourth Quarter; Staff member Scott will be leaving and consequently there will be a decreased payroll expense
 - Instituting new daily accounting procedures
 - St. Mary's seminary called at the end of the summer and Ken was able to complete the requested full psychological on a seminarian

candidate. As a result, Ken learned that St. Mary's has a psychologist on staff. St. Mary's has extended an invitation to Ken. Thus, the relationship with St. Mary's is developing.

- Review of handout of staff activities/updates. Dr. Ken facilitates training occasionally for the Virtus program.
 - Ken is continuing to work on the first draft of a grant application with the local Stoller Foundation. Anne Marie Daniel has offered to review the application. She has in the past taught grant writing. This particular grant requires a showing of effective work and is outcome-based.
 - Priests from Western Deanery related feedback of parishioners who reported that they were appreciative of the availability of Catholic counseling.
 - Volunteer involvement - The Stoller grant also specifically asks about the extent of volunteer work at Gratia Plena. Ken is specifically encouraging volunteer work; for example, getting letters out in the mail.
- Next board meeting: undetermined date in January or February 2015