

Minutes (Final)
Board of Trustees Meeting
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
April 26, 2011 7: 00 PM to 8:45 PM

Board Members Present: Bill Casey (phone), Mary Pat Fox (phone), Pat Gomez (phone), Elia Marnik (presiding, phone), Dan Bartley (phone), Ed Wilson (not on call), Ron DuBois,(phone) Jayne O'Donnell (phone), and John Hushon (not on call) Mark Mullaney (phone), Mary Freeman (phone).

Officers Present: Janet Hauter (phone), Kevin Connors (phone), and Nick Mazza (phone).

Executive Director: Donna Doucette (phone).

Opening Prayer Service was led by Chair Elia Marnik "Risen Lord"

1. Administrative Matters: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the minutes of the meeting on March 25 and 26, 2011, as presented (9-0-2).

2. Finances: Kevin Connors reported that April's net revenue/expense balance is slightly lower than previous months because of heavy mailing costs. It is hoped that the extra mailing solicitations will yield greater revenue before the end of the fiscal year. Additionally, grant solicitations and bequests are a necessary part of future revenue generation..

3. Development: Jayne O'Donnell reported "good news." The Executive Director has identified a candidate for the Development Coordinator support previously provided by Julie Dutcher. Sara Callard holds an MBA from Boston University and seems well-qualified and competent. Those who interviewed her have good feeling about her working out fine. She will begin working with VOTF on May 2, 2011.

4. Young Adult Focus Group: Jayne O'Donnell outlined the process the Development Committee used in moving this project forward. Each member of the committee was asked to submit questions that could be used during the focus group meetings. The five best questions were chosen. Additionally an edited draft that reflects the committee's plan will be provided to the Board and Officers. Unfortunately, some of the listening sessions with youth on the college level may be postponed until the Fall semester because most college aged students are involved in final exams and summer vacations. There are possible opportunities for some form of focus group at the Paulist Center and/or other young adult centers

5. Emily and Rosemary Fund: Mary Freeman reported on the current application process. There were two applications. One application was rejected because it did not meet the grant criteria. The following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION: RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approve the monetary award of \$10,000 for Ruth Kolpack who was approved by the Emily & Rosemary Fund committee.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the resolution (9-0-2).

Furthermore, the Fund will only be requesting applications twice a year instead of four times. There was some discussion on possibly replenishing the Fund in the future.

Update on ACC: Presented by Janet Hauter

At this point there are approximately 1,200 registrants with a projection of 1,500 by the opening of the conference.

“We Are Church” representatives from Europe will be attending the conference as a “training” opportunity with the hope of setting up a similar conference in the future.

Unfortunately the guest homilist for the ACC Mass had a conflict in schedule and will not be available. A search is taking place for a substitute, preferably a female and a minority in keeping with the inclusiveness of the conference.

The various conference programs and handouts are being finalized. Finally, a post-conference meeting will take place to determine the direction of the ACC after this event. Dan Dailey is heading up this effort.

Officer’s Election: Chair Marnik announced that Board member Mary Freeman would be heading up the election committee of the Nominating and Advisory Committee of the Board for the upcoming Officers Election set for early next year. Plans to have the committee in place over the next few weeks are in process.

Officer’s Report: President Dan Bartley indicated that the VIA teams are performing a lot of good work and that there is a great deal of team effort taking place. At present the VOTF morning conference preceding the ACC is a main focus of the VIA leadership. Both Tom Doyle and Jason Berry will be conducting the afternoon session.

Philadelphia and the archdiocesan scandal there has been another priority. There has been high-quality communication with the local affiliate VOTFGP. We have also developed connections with non-VOTF Catholics in the area.

There have been challenges in turning Philadelphia into a national issue. Recently, the Catholic League director Bill Donohue publicly criticized Voice of the Faithful for its actions there but the national media in general have ignored this scandal. Dan is working on a response to Donohue. The conflict with Donohue stems from a letter sent by GPVOTF to 911 clergy in the archdiocese asking them to support the Statue of Limitation legislation in the Pennsylvania State assemblies.

Executive Directors report: Donna summarized recent events surrounding the aftermath of the clergy sex abuse scandal in Ireland, including an upcoming new report on the crisis. There was considerable enthusiasm about increasing our involvement in Ireland with the VOTF group there. It was suggested that the officers consider programmatic efforts in this direction similar to our efforts in Philadelphia.

Donna reported that the Philadelphia mailing recently arrived in the area and we would be anticipating promising results similar to the success of the acquisition mailing. Additionally, membership is increasing as well as donations in the mail but not on-line donations. There is also a

smaller response to the dues mailing than previously, possibly because the upcoming election are not immediately underway.

New Business: Ron DuBois mentioned that a survivor advocate from Boston (Paul Kellen) would like groups that support survivors to publish an initiative that he is advocating to make 2011 the “Year of the Survivor”. Bill Casey mentioned that the CPSS committee would be discussing this possibility soon and report back to the Officers...

Tricia Bruce book event : A number of VOTF members attended the event and felt that it went well and that author, a sociologist respectfully presented VOTF as a ‘faithful revolution’.

Closing prayer and motion to end the meeting: *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm (9-0-2 absent). The next scheduled Board meeting is set for Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 7:00 PM EST*