

MINUTES
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
Board of Trustees Meeting March 30-31, 2012
Wellesley Country Club - Friday, March 30, 2012, 5:00 PM to 9:20 PM;
Saturday, March 31, 2012, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM EDT

Board Members Present: Dan Bartley, Bill Casey, Ron DuBois, Mary Freeman, Elia Marnik, Mark Mullaney, Jayne O'Donnell, Anne Southwood, Ed Wilson, and Patricia Gomez.

Absent: John Hushon

Executive Director: Donna Doucette

FRIDAY EVENING: MARCH 30TH

Pre Meeting Presentation: Nick Ingala provided an informative presentation on the VOTF blog, which will be promoted to the membership over the next few weeks. Board members unanimously applauded this new avenue to publicize our message via social media on the public stage.

Opening Prayer was a reflection on the example of an injured youth facing adversity on his journey to healing presented by President and Board Chair, Mark Mullaney.

- 1. Administrative Matters:** The Board accepted two revisions presented by Donna Doucette to the Minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2012, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the revised Minutes were approved (10-0-0).
- 2. Finances:** Outgoing Treasurer Kevin Connors submitted the February Financial Results that indicate we remain at the liquidity status: Adequate. With attention to the cash-flow model, Donna Doucette presented current trends in cash-flow and cash-flow projections. She then discussed the launch of email and postal mail appeal campaigns. The Financial and Cash-Flow reports were accepted by a unanimous vote (10-0-0).
- 3. By-Law Committee Report:** Bill Casey presented two resolutions from the Governance Committee regarding the revisions to the By-Laws of VOTF, Inc. These resolutions will be communicated with VOTF membership and filed with the State of Massachusetts.
 - Resolved: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board of Trustees on March 30, 2012, approves and adopts the Governance Committee's revisions to the Corporation's By-Laws in accordance with the Trustees' deliberations on proposed changes at their meeting on January 24, 2012. This motion was unanimously approved (10-0-0).
 - Resolved: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board of Trustees directs the President of VOTF to ensure that the incumbent of the position of Executive Director is bonded. This motion was also unanimously approved (10-0-0).
- 4. 2012 Conference Update:** Board members reviewed packets prepared by Jayne O'Donnell and the organizing committee. These packets contained PR information and sample ads to be distributed to membership for promotion of the Conference. Board members were enthusiastic about the material and applauded the efforts of the organizing team.
 - Donna Doucette reported on conference funding efforts via ads in the Conference Program and the Sponsorship Program spearheaded by Phil Megna and Pat Paone. She noted that unsolicited donations have accompanied some registrations.
 - Board members will solicit early registrations and promote participation in the free-night raffles.

- Bill Casey suggested preparing a location at the Conference for a posting board and/or a basket for individually written lamentations to express solidarity with all those who have been harmed by the sexual abuse scandal.
 - Board members unreservedly concurred.
- 5. Officers' Report:** Incoming officers are visiting affiliate meetings across the country whenever possible in an effort to gather local level input from members.
- COR membership update: two officers will attend the April 2012 COR meeting in Washington, DC and present the required letter of application.
- 6. Trustee Nominating Committee Report:** A call for nominations will be posted on the webpage and emailed to members. These communications will list the required qualifications for applicants and the procedures for submission of nominations, which are due by May 1, 2012. Four Trustees will be elected this year.
- 7. Executive Director Report:** In addition to reports on the 2012 Conference, Cash Outlook, Fundraising / Appeal campaigns, Donna Doucette provided an update on new membership, new office volunteers, and some aging office equipment.
- 8. New Business:** Emily & Rosemary Fund: Mary Freeman reported a large number of group applications were received, and three applications were chosen by the Committee for distribution of the remaining funds. The entire Fund has now been disbursed. The Board agreed to encourage other funds of this nature.
- 9. Closing Prayer & Adjourn:** After a closing prayer, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

SATURDAY, March 31st

1. **Welcome & Prayer:** Mark Mullaney opened the meeting with a prayer from Thomas Merton that called for listening with open minds and speaking concisely from personal experience.
2. **2012-Strategic Plan Discussion:** Four presenters individually communicated with the Board on the current status of VOTF and shared their vision for the direction of the organization.
 - Alice Campanella represented the office staff.
 - Tricia Bruce, the author of *Faithful Revolution: How Voice of the Faithful Is Changing the Church*, spoke via conference call about the unique niche of VOTF: working to change the church from within.
 - Svea Frasier, VOTF founder and former Trustee, presented a perspective of VOTF Goal: Support of Priests of Integrity.
 - Margaret Roylance, former Structural Change Working Group chair, spoke on approaches to structural change.
 - An email from Advisory Committee member Paul Lakeland of Fairfield University advised to persist in our stated goals.
3. **Discussion of Morning Speakers:** Each Board member mentioned themes and topics from the morning presentations. All concurred that there is a significant opportunity for VOTF to make bold steps now.

LUNCH Break

- 4. VOTF Voice & Vision:** All board members contributed to the afternoon brainstorming session that focused separately on each of the three Goals. An additional focal point of Communication was also discussed. The Officers will evaluate these ideas while preparing the 2012 Strategic Plan for presentation at the next Board meeting.
- 5. New Business:** Donna Doucette presented a draft proposal to create a Truth and Reconciliation initiative, a term also known as Restorative Justice.
- 6. Closing Prayer & Adjourn:** The weekend meeting was closed with a prayer and adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 24, 7 – 9 PM

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia T. Gomez
Secretary**