

Minutes (Draft)
Board of Trustees Meeting (Teleconference)
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
December 15, 2009
7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

Trustees Present: Bill Casey (presiding, phone), Dan Bartley (phone), Ron DuBois (phone), Mary Pat Fox (phone), Svea Fraser (phone), Pat Gomez (phone), John Hushon (phone), Elia Marnik (phone), Jayne O'Donnell (phone), Ed Wilson (phone).

Officers Present: Kevin Connors (phone), Janet Hauter (phone), Julie McConville (phone).

Executive Director: Donna Doucette (phone).

Opening Prayer was led by Svea Fraser.

1. Administrative Matters:

Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved the minutes of the meeting on October 31 – November 1, 2009. (9-0-1).

In favor: Bill Casey, Dan Bartley, Ron DuBois, Mary Pat Fox, Pat Gomez, John Hushon, Elia Marnik, Jayne O'Donnell, Ed Wilson.

Abstention: Svea Fraser (was not present at the October 31 – November 1 meeting).

2. Finances:

a. Treasurer Kevin Connors reported that as of November 30, 2009, VOTF had \$77,000 in cash and cash equivalents; this amount is equal to approximately 2.6 months of FY10 operating expenses. He indicated that VOTF's financial condition will rely greatly on contributions in November, December and January since they are the three highest revenue months of the fiscal year.

b. Executive Director Donna Doucette reported that the revenue/expense projections for the rest of FY 10 show that VOTF's current Liquidity Standard of ADEQUATE will remain at that level until April. President Dan Bartley expressed hope that increased funding will occur in 2010 due to the Voices in Action campaign but reiterated the Board's decision at the October 31-November 1 meeting to introduce more severe cost-cutting measures if and when the Liquidity Standard drops to a VULNERABLE level.

c. Dan Bartley also introduced a new monitoring tool that integrates all the key financial markers into one comprehensive spreadsheet. He expects it to reconcile the various measures that the Board reviews as well as to forecast VOTF's anticipated financial condition more accurately and in sufficient time to make adjustments as appropriate. This tool also incorporates development measures to integrate all fund-raising efforts.

d. Trustee John Hushon suggested that another source of revenue is an annual contribution from affiliates. Although previous efforts to secure such funding has not been successful, Dan Bartley indicated that the Officers will reconsider the option through the revived affiliate listserv, particularly in recognition that the Long

Island affiliate recently contributed 70 percent of the recent conference profit (approximately \$6,000) towards national operations.

3. Strategic Plan Update:

President Dan Bartley reported that the Officers and Core Team are building on momentum from the conference and are meeting by teleconference sequentially with each platform committee to ensure oversight and synergy from the Voices In Action Campaign. Dan said that the discussions, exchanges and progress shared about specific initiatives have been very encouraging and very helpful for everyone.

4. Committee Reports:

a. Audit Committee.

Committee Chair John Hushon submitted a written report that indicated that the audit process moves at a slow pace at this time of the year, but the elements are in place to complete annual requirements on schedule.

b. Development Committee.

Committee Chair Jayne O'Donnell submitted a written report on continuing contacts with major donors and a preliminary review of opportunities for Foundation Grants and Planned Giving commitments. She also indicated a new effort underway to schedule VOTF speakers at universities in order to try to engage young adults in the work of VOTF.

c. Governance Committee.

Committee Chair Elia Marnik submitted a written report on two significant issues.

- **By-Laws Revisions** - The committee is nearing completion of its months-long initiative to revise the By-Laws. In addition to editorial updates, it is now focusing on eliminating all references to the National Representative Council and on developing modifications due to its elimination as one of the three legs of the original VOTF governance model. The committee will also modify the article on membership in light of the Board's recent decision to adopt a dues structure. In addition, the committee expects to propose three options to the Board at its January meeting that addresses the method of electing Trustees to the Board.
- **2010 Elections** – VOTF has a slate of candidates for its National Officers. President, Dan Bartley and Gaile Pohlhaus; Vice President, Janet Hauter; Treasurer, Kevin Connors; Secretary, Nick Mazza and Anne Southwood. The Election Committee will publish guidelines for the conduct of the election to inform and create interest in the candidates, in early January.

5. Leadership Reports:

a. Officers.

The Officers and the Board expressed gratitude to the Long Island Affiliate and its Conference Committee for its generous contribution of 70% of the conference profits (approximately, \$6,000) and particularly to Kevin Connors for his major effort in coordinating the activity of VOTF National with the Conference Committee. The Officers agreed to arrange a public recognition of the Long Island affiliate's contribution and to consider ways to prompt other affiliates to follow suit.

b. Executive Director. Donna Doucette reported that a donor contributed \$75,000 for VOTF to administer as a restricted fund in connection with women who have been discriminated against by Church officials. Donna and the donor executed a Memorandum of Understanding to govern administration. A Press Conference to announce the fund has been postponed until 2010. Donna also reported that President Dan Bartley is sending a letter to Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, Prefect for the Congregation of Bishops. The letter calls for an investigation of the USCCB regarding its management and cover-up of the sexual abuse by priests in each diocese.

6. Closing Prayer by Svea Fraser.

...And "Bon Voyage" to Svea as she departs on her sailing experience over the next several months!

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting is January 26, 2010.