

Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
July 28, 2009

Board Members Present: Bill Casey (presiding, phone), Elia Marnik (phone), Pat Gomez (phone), Dan Bartley (phone), Mary Pat Fox (phone), John Hushon (phone), Ed Wilson (phone).

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

Executive Director: Donna Doucette (phone).

Opening Prayer was led by Kevin Connors.

1. Administrative Matters:

a. Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved the minutes of June 30, 2009. (6-0-0).

b. Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved the minutes of the Emergency Board of Trustees Meeting of July 9, 2009. (5-0-1).

In favor: Bill Casey, Elia Marnik, Pat Gomez, John Hushon, Mary Pat Fox.

Abstention: Ed Wilson (was not present at the July 9 meeting).

Note: Dan Bartley was not present for either vote.

2. Committee Reports:

a. Governance Committee

Committee chair Elia Marnik reported that the special committee on grassroots participation will resume its work to develop a replacement model for the NRC following the success of the emergency appeal. It will report its recommendation at the September meeting of the Board.

b. Audit Report

Committee Chair John Hushon reported that the FY 09 Audit is in its preliminary stages, but he recommended that the Board authorize an annual Review instead of an annual Audit. The auditing firm that conducts VOTF's annual Audit agrees with this change because a Review satisfies the requirements to examine and report VOTF's financial condition. It is also less costly than an Audit. Following discussion and upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved the following resolution.

Resolved: that the Board of Trustees authorize the outside auditors to conduct a review of VOTF's financial condition instead of an audit for FY 09 in accordance with standard auditing procedures. (7-0-0)

John also asked Executive Director Donna Doucette to confirm with the auditing firm its apparent advice that VOTF can file a streamlined version of the Form 990.

3. Strategic Plan:

President Dan Bartley reported that the Officers are delaying rollout of the Strategic Plan until the second week in August to ensure that the documents are fully vetted and accurate. It will be sent to the members who have email addresses. The Officers are also planning to send a print version of the plan to 5,000 of VOTF's regular contributors that do not have email accounts.

4. Leadership Reports:

a. Long Island Conference.

Committee member Kevin Connors reported that the conference brochure and forms to purchase ads for the Program Book have been posted to the website to encourage support for the conference and that ticket sales have begun.

b. American Catholic Council.

Committee member, John Hushon, updated the Board on the progress of the ACC. Bill Casey proposed that the Board agree to post on VOTF's website a statement that explains VOTF's endorsement of the ACC in light of questions and concerns about VOTF's relationship to other sponsors whose mission and goals are different from VOTF's. John Hushon expressed significant concern that such a statement would send a message that VOTF is backing away from its endorsement of the ACC and expressed a belief that it would be a grave error to post it. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the following resolution.

Resolved: that the Board approve the draft statement about VOTF's endorsement of the ACC, subject to minor editorial corrections, and post it on the website. (5-1-0)

In favor: Bill Casey, Mary Pat Fox, Pat Gomez, Elia Marnik, Ed Wilson.

Opposed: John Hushon.

Note: Dan Bartley was not present for this discussion and vote.

5. Finances:

a. Bill Casey reported that VOTF received over \$112,000 to date from about 800 contributors in response to the emergency appeal for \$60,000 to cover operating expenses in July and August. The Board expressed great relief and gratitude for VOTF's generous members, and it read this response as a sign that lay Catholics want to see the vision of VOTF continue.

b. The Board also recognized that \$112,000 will cover operating expenses only through September. Based on that amount, however, the Board confirmed its intention to maintain its operating expense budget through August and then revisit that level depending upon members' commitments to sustained financial support following VOTF's rollout of the Strategic Plan. The Board also agreed to incur the cost of approximately \$1,200 in postage to mail the fund-raising appeal to addresses acquired from Call To Action and Future Church.

c. Jayne O'Donnell and Bill Casey proposed a message to solicit annual dues from members as part of the rollout of the Strategic Plan in order to secure a predictable

source of annual income (supplemented by periodic appeals), per a decision made at the Board's April meeting. The proposal also defined membership and voting rights in terms of dues payments. Board discussion led to significant disagreement about a number of concerns, including the amount of dues, about connecting dues to the rollout of the Strategic Plan, and about linking membership definition and voting to payment of dues. President Dan Bartley agreed to re-draft the message with reference to pledges instead of dues, with reference to the amounts of pledges needed at various contribution levels in order to sustain current operating expenses, and without links between pledges and membership definition and voting. The message will specify a date by which members make their pledges so that VOTF can determine its baseline revenue for 2010 as well as operating income for the 4th quarter of 2009. Dan also agreed to re-circulate the message for the Board's endorsement.

6. Miscellaneous

Bill Casey solicited nominations from the Trustees to serve as Board Chair in FY 10, but Bill was the only one nominated. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board elected Bill Casey as for FY 10. (7-0-0).

The next meeting is August 25, 2009.