

Minutes (Draft)
Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office and teleconference)
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
May 24, 2011, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Eastern

Board Members Present: Elia Marnik (presiding, on phone), Bill Casey (phone), Pat Gomez (phone), Ron DuBois (VOTF office), Ed Wilson (phone), Mary Freeman (phone), John Hushon (phone), Dan Bartley (phone), and Mark Mullaney (phone).

Officers Present: Kevin Connors (phone).

Executive Director: Donna Doucette (VOTF office).

Opening Prayer: Mark Mullaney.

Consent Agenda Items: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the consent agenda items and the minutes, as amended, for the Board meeting on April 26, 2011 (9-0-0).

Finances: Treasurer Kevin Connors indicated that mailings to potential members/donors in the Philadelphia area following VOTF's press conference caused a spike in April expenses. Although the revenue from that mailing has not provided the anticipated revenue, the Officers believe it was a sound investment, particularly as the storyline in the Philadelphia Archdiocese continues to unfold. Kevin believes that VOTF will come very close to projected revenue and expense targets for FY 11 when May's closing figures are reported.

President Dan Bartley proposed VOTF's budget for FY 12 and provided an explanation of variances in revenue and expense targets from FY 11. Along with Kevin Connors, Dan reported that the budget development process has matured over the last few years, and the Officers and the Board are in a much stronger position to predict revenue and expenses as well as react quickly to any unexpected developments. A goal for FY 12 is to increase VOTF's cash reserves position and provide a SAFE liquidity level. Dan thanked Donna and Kevin for their hard work in developing a sound and timely budget proposal. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the FY 12 budget as proposed by the Officers (9-0-0).

Development: Executive Director Donna Doucette reported that Sara Collard started work as the new development officer on May 1. As she familiarizes herself with the VOTF donors' details, she is proposing some enhancements to cultivate targeted donor groups.

Donna also reported that the Development Committee is refining the questions it has been developing to use with focus groups of young adults. They will test out the questions in pilot groups over the summer before focus groups begin in the fall.

Update on ACC: John Hushon summarized the final plans of the ACC which will take place in early June. Currently, the paid registrations top 1300 and another 200-300 are expected to be walk-ins. John expects the final number to be around 1800 participants.

John also summarized the expectations of the ACC's planners during and following the conference. They have three significant goals:

- Educate, engage, and reinvigorate Catholics in the reforms of Catholic life that resulted from the Second Vatican Council, particularly around their rights and responsibilities as taught in Council documents.
- Validate experiences of Catholics who worship beyond the conventional Sunday mass venues because those venues have strayed from Vatican II practices.
- Establish and promote action steps within and among Catholic reform groups that will retain and support the teachings and practices of Vatican II in order to keep alive the reform movement.

Report on Advisory Council Meeting: Chair Elia Marnik reported on her second meeting with the VOTF Advisory Council on May 16. The council members offered supplemental assistance to VOTF's efforts to hold focus group sessions with youth. They also suggested additional contacts for VOTF to consider in taking a leadership role in tracking financial improprieties among the clergy and bishops, particularly as the publication of Jason Berry's book is expected in June. They also recommended that VOTF rely on its own distinct identity as it collaborates with other reform groups in pursuing the outcomes of the ACC.

Leadership Reports

Officers: President Dan Bartley reported that plans for the VOTF meeting on the day before the opening of the ACC in Detroit are coming together. The meeting is expected to be valuable for those who can attend. One of the reporters at that meeting will be the affiliate leader in Philadelphia regarding developments in the Archdiocese and the continuing fallout from the Grand Jury report. Dan and other Board members expressed significant disappointment with the recently-released report on the Causes and Context for the Sexual Abuse of Minors in the Catholic Church, issued by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Executive Director: Donna Doucette described progress in placing ads in newspapers in Boston, Chicago, and New York regarding the ACC.

New Business: Chair Elia Marnik invited nominations to fill the position of Board Chair in FY 12. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board appointed Elia as Chair for another term (9-0-0).

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm (9-0-0).