

**Minutes**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting (at the VOTF office)**  
**Voice of the Faithful, Inc.**  
**August 25, 2009**

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

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

**Executive Director:** Donna Doucette.

**Opening Prayer** was led by Julie McConville.

**1. Administrative Matters:**

a. Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved the corrected minutes of July 28, 2009. (7-0-2)

In favor: Bill Casey, Dan Bartley, Ron DuBois, Mary Pat Fox, Pat Gomez, Elia Marnik, Ed Wilson.

Abstention: Svea Fraser, Jayne O'Donnell (were not present at the July meeting).

b. Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved the minutes of its executive session held during the meeting on July 28, 2009. (7-0-2)

In favor: Bill Casey, Dan Bartley, Ron DuBois, Mary Pat Fox, Pat Gomez, Elia Marnik, Ed Wilson.

Abstention: Svea Fraser, Jayne O'Donnell (were not present at the July meeting).

**2. Finances:**

a. Treasurer Kevin Connors reported that the July financial statements reflect the extraordinary amount of contributions received in response to the Board's emergency financial appeal during July.

b. Executive Director Donna Doucette reported that VOTF has about \$90,000 in cash (net of expenses) as a result of the appeal.

c. Donna also reported that, as of August 6, 2009, the appeal resulted in contributions of \$122,906 from 1121 donors (61 new) and that appeal donations continue to come in. Calls to major donors brought in the largest gifts.

d. Donna reported that VOTF sent its email request for sustained financial commitments to members on August 24, one week after the rollout of the Strategic Plan as planned. She also reported that in the next few weeks the Strategic Plan and financial commitment appeal will go out in hard copy to about 5,000 members who have contributed in the past but do not have email accounts. Donna will arrange for an option on the website to allow members to make pledges.

### **3. Strategic Plan:**

a. Dan Bartley praised all those who worked on the rollout of the Strategic Plan and in particular the office staff who took on this monumental task and produced a highly professional product. Upon a motion, duly made and seconded, the Board approved the following resolution.

*Resolved: that the Board Chair communicate to the Office staff, the Officers and Executive Director, and the Strategic Plan Core Team the compliments and appreciation of the Board for a splendid rollout of the Strategic Plan and financial commitment appeal. (9-0-0)*

b. Dan also reported that the Core Team is in high gear as they continue to work on platform initiatives and to solicit volunteers to join platform teams. Positive reports about successful initiative actions will be sent to the Affiliate listserv so that they can inform members.

### **4. Committee Reports:**

#### **a. Audit Committee**

Executive Director Donna Doucette reported that the auditors completed an Annual Review for FY 09 as authorized by the Board at its meeting on July 28, 2009. The auditors did not identify any concerns. They also confirmed that VOTF qualifies to file the E-Z (abbreviated) version of the Form 990 since the full form is required only for non-profits with income greater than \$1 million dollars. Donna will file the E-Z version of Form 990 for FY 09.

#### **b. Development Committee**

Committee Chair Jayne O'Donnell reported that the Development committee will next focus on continuing connections to major donors, on foundation and grant possibilities, a new member drive, planned giving opportunities, and outreach to college and universities as well as to congregations of women religious.

#### **c. Governance Committee**

- Committee Chair Elia Marnik reported that the Ad Hoc Committee that she and Mary Pat Fox lead is finishing work on how to enable grassroots participation following the inactivity of the National Representative Council. This committee will submit a final report and recommendations to the Board at its meeting on September 22, 2009.
- Elia also reported that Bob Ott has agreed to chair the Nominations Committee and that Sheila Peiffer has agreed to chair the Elections Committee for the 2010 election of national Officers in February 2010. They are in the process of soliciting members to work with them, and they will coordinate their efforts through Elia as chair of the Governance Committee.
- After a discussion of the different views as to whether members' eligibility to vote should be connected to some form of financial contribution, Elia Marnik and Ed Wilson agreed to develop a proposal to link voting and financial contributions for consideration by the Board at the next meeting on September 22, 2009.

## **5. Leadership Reports:**

### **a. Officers**

- President Dan Bartley reported that the Officers are working on a new business plan to be implemented in connection with the budget that will be based on the financial commitment pledges due by October 15, 2009. Dan also introduced a set of proposed guidelines to preserve VOTF's liquidity. The guidelines link optional or required actions by the Officers, in concert with the Board, in accordance with designated time frames depending on fluctuations in the revenue received during the year. Dan asked the Board to review the guidelines and offer feedback before the next meeting so that the Board can vote on the guidelines at that meeting.
- Treasurer Kevin Connors reported that the Conference Planning Committee is concentrating on obtaining ads for the program, encouraging advanced ticket sales, and sending out flyers, brochures and electronic conference advisories through October.

b. Executive Director. Donna Doucette reported that the Affiliate Leadership Group now has a West Coast representative. The next conference call of the Group is August 26, 2009.

## **6. Miscellaneous**

- a. There will be an in-person meeting of the Board at the conclusion of the October conference on Long Island. Bill Casey will develop a proposed agenda and schedule. The extent of the agenda will determine whether to commence the meeting on Saturday night or Sunday morning.
- b. Bill reported on the SNAP conference held in August in the DC environs. He indicated that VOTF's mission, goals and Strategic Plan support many but not all of the survivor community's agenda and expectations. He recommended that VOTF continue to leverage opportunities to support the survivor community's interests while remaining faithful to VOTF's own unique identity.
- c. The Officers are developing a statement of support for congregations of women religious in the face of a Vatican-directed "visitation", while at the same time trying to balance the emerging issue of sexual abuse of children by members of religious women's congregations.

**The next meeting is September 22, 2009.**