

Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office)
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
February 24, 2009, 7:00pm – 10:00pm Eastern

Approved April 4, 2009

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

Officers Present: Kevin Connors (phone).

Executive Director: Donna Doucette.

Opening Prayer was led by Jayne O'Donnell.

1. Administrative Matters:

- a. Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved, as amended, the minutes of January 27, 2009 (10-0-0).
- b. Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved the minutes of its executive session on January 27, 2009 (10-0-0).

2. Financial Contingency Planning:

- a. Bill Casey, chair of the Special Committee formed by the Board at its meeting on January 27, 2009, briefed the Board on its initial frame of reference for contingency financial plans in view of national economic problems.
- b. The committee will present the Board with a fuller analysis and recommendations at the next BOT meeting in April, but in the meantime, it is asking the President, Executive Director, and Treasurer to look at every opportunity to reduce expenses and increase revenue. The committee will also give due consideration to conditions that warrant reorganization or downsizing in order to be prepared should VOTF face the kind of financial downturns that are now affecting many corporations and non-profits in the country.

3. Development:

- a. Committee Chair Jayne O'Donnell reported that two small fundraisers have netted some profit but less than hoped for. She encouraged Board members to suggest other incentives to raise revenue beyond regular appeals.
- b. Jane reported that President Dan Bartley sent a letter to over 3,000 VOTF members based on their prior giving-levels to invite them to become Foundation Members. Revenue from this source is expected to ensure a steadier stream of revenue for ongoing operational costs.
- c. Executive Director Donna Doucette described a plan to tap into new donors through purchase of email lists from a like organization. Board members discussed the pros and cons of this approach.

4. Finances:

Treasurer Kevin Connors reported that monthly financial statements continue to reflect the difficulty of improving VOTF's cash-flow and reserves, particularly in light of worsening economic conditions in the national economy.

5. Committee Reports:

Governance Committee.

NRC committee representative Ron DuBois reported that 21 of the current 23 Representatives joined a new listserv through which they are able to communicate and conduct business. So far, postings have been few. The Board accepted a recommendation of the Governance Committee and tasked Bill Casey with developing a message to the NRC Steering Committee that urges the NRC to reactivate its official roles and responsibilities in the near future. The terms of a large number of Representatives and of four members of the Board expire in June 2009. Committee Chair Elia Marnik asked the Board's endorsement of the committee's recommendations for By-Law changes to Articles IV and V, in accordance with By Law provisions relating to amendments, once the Board completes a review of specific recommendations on technical and some substantive changes. The Board agreed to the recommended changes and will take up others at its meeting in April.

Nominations Committee. Committee Chair Mary Pat Fox announced that the official call (*Vineyard* and email to members) for nominations to Board seats where terms expire in June 2009 resulted in 7 nominations that include the concurrence of the nominees. A Nominations Committee is vetting the candidates. It consists of Board members Mary Pat Fox, Svea Fraser, Jim Post, and Ed Wilson and non-Board members Jim Beyers, Jane Merchant and Susan Vogt.

6. Leadership Reports:

a. Officers. President Dan Bartley reported the Strategic Plan's five Platform Leadership Teams continue to meet regularly and make solid progress in refining action plans that will be proposed to the Officers and Platform Committee members at a meeting in Hartford, CT on May 1-2. Draft action plans are due to the Officers by March 31. Dan also reported that Sr. Joan Chittiser and Fr. Tom Reese are the headline speakers anticipated at a combined Long Island/National VOTF conference on Long Island on October 30-31, 2009. Dan noted that he, Bill Casey and Pat Gomez have committed to an informal meeting with Judge Merz and other NRB representatives on March 7 in NYC to discuss respective plans, expectations and working relationships.

b. Executive Director. Donna Doucette reported that it is time to renew the VOTF trademarks. Ed Wilson will consult with Donna on technical requirements

7. Miscellaneous:

a. Elia Marnik confirmed the arrangements for the Board's face-to-face meeting at the Wellesley College Club in Wellesley, MA on Friday and Saturday, April 3-4, 2009. As before, Trustees will bear expenses for the meeting.

b. The Board discussed a letter sent to it by the Steering Council of the Twin Cities

affiliate in Minnesota. The Board tasked Bill Casey with drafting a response that addresses the concerns expressed by the affiliate regarding the removal of its Representative last December and VOTF's level of support for Goal 1.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board adjourned the official meeting at 8:40 pm.