

Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office)
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
May 19, 2009, 7:00pm - 10:00pm

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

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

Executive Director: Donna Doucette.

Opening Prayer was led by Bill Casey.

1. Administrative Matters:

a. Individual Trustees expressed their personal appreciation to Jim Post at the conclusion of his second term as a Trustee. Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved the following resolution:

Resolved: That the VOTF Board of Trustees expresses its deepest appreciation to Jim Post who completes two terms as Trustee in June 2009 after magnanimous service to VOTF, as a founding member, President, and Trustee, along with countless special roles and responsibilities that advanced the mission and goals of VOTF. The Board remains in awe of Jim's exceptional wisdom, diplomacy, and grace-filled accomplishments. The story of Jim's contributions from VOTF's origins in 2002 to the present is the story of VOTF in its remarkable Spirit-driven effort to heal and reform our wounded Church. (10-0-0)

Executive Director Donna Doucette presented two gifts to Jim. The first was an inscribed paperweight that said: *May 19, 2009, VOTF Founding Board Member 2002 - 2009. In gratitude and recognition for his witness, leadership and unfailing commitment to the healing voice of lay Catholics in our Church.* The second gift was a Book of Signatures that was signed at the first national conference of VOTF on July 20, 2002 and called "A Response of the Faithful, A Declaration from VOTF".

b. Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved, as amended, the minutes of April 3-4, 2009. (10-0-0).

c. Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved the minutes of the Executive session held on April 4, 2009. (10-0-0).

2. Finances:

Treasurer Kevin Connors reported on the cash flow and reserves as reflected in financial statements for March and April 2009. He noted some improvement in expense control and revenue development, but he indicated that VOTF faces continuing financial challenges based on the overall pattern for FY 09.

3. FY 2010 Budget:

a. Executive Director Donna Doucette summarized the proposed budget for FY 10 and answered questions from Trustees about specific categories. She noted that the overall budget of \$418,187 reflected the financial decisions made by the Board in April 2004. Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board adopted the budget as proposed. As earlier agreed, in December, the Board will review the compensation reductions it made and determine if the financial condition allows for restoration of prior compensation levels.

b. The Board reviewed the intention it reached at its meeting in April to call on members to express their commitment to the work of VOTF in FY 10 through a financial pledge of \$50 per member (or \$85 per family) in connection with the rollout of the Strategic Plan. President Dan Bartley expressed concern about mixed messages if VOTF connected these two important initiatives. The Board agreed to hold off on implementing such a plan until Dan, Jayne O'Donnell and Donna Doucette presented a fuller implementation plan at the Board's meeting in June.

4. Development:

a. Committee Chair Jayne O'Donnell reported on a successful Foundation Appeal with donations from 277 donors. She indicated that the next general revenue solicitation will be in July. The committee intends to shift its focus from multiple annual solicitations to personal contact and phone calls with major donors.

b. Jayne also reported that The Red Sox Raffle brought in \$1,600, this year, and that Michael Rafferty is exploring the possibility of sponsoring another member event designed primarily to promote better relationships with donors.

c. Jayne hopes to arrange for Dan Bartley to speak to the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry through Tom Groome.

5. Strategic Plan:

a. Dan Bartley reported that at the first platform team meeting, May 1-2, in Hartford, CT, each of the five platforms gave a presentation of their proposed initiatives, outlined their goals and objectives, recommended timelines, and determined how they might reach out to members and affiliates to be active participants in their initiative actions.

b. Two representatives from each platform committee and three representatives from the affiliate listserv, along with the Officers and Executive Director, will form a Core Team to coordinate rollout and implementation of the Strategic Plan and help to engage members and affiliates in the various action initiatives. The first Core Team/Officer conference call is scheduled for June 10, at 7:00 pm.

c. Dan reported that a Branding Committee has also been formed to discuss what needs to be said and done to project a more positive VOTF image as we initiate the Strategic Plan.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Governance Committee.

Committee Chair Elia Marnik reported that she and Mary Pat Fox are co-chairing a committee to look at how VOTF can incorporate grassroots participation in VOTF following the Board's recent declaration that the NRC has become inactive. This committee consists of Bill Casey,

Ron DuBois, Mary Pat Fox, Svea Fraser, Elia Marnik, David Biersmith, Jim Beyers, Anne Wilson and Dan Bartley. The Committee will notify members of its plans in *The Vineyard* and invite them to forward ideas for consideration. Bill Casey reported that only 21 members responded to the Board's declaration about the NRC. Over half of them reacted favorably and the rest raised other questions or expressed disfavor.

b. Trustee Nominating Committee.

Committee Chair Mary Pat Fox reported that new Trustee Pat Gomez will join the Board at its June 30th meeting. Mary Pat said that further work to form an Advisory Committee to the Board, and to fill the eleventh Board seat, has been put on hold until after completion of work to replace the NRC.

7. Leadership Reports:

a. Officers. President Dan Bartley reported that the Officers are all involved in implementation of the Strategic Plan. Kevin Connors provided an update on the National Conference hosted by Long Island on October 30 – 31. An initial announcement has gone out to members, and members will be able to gain full information and register shortly from the VOTF. The Planning Team is working to put together a Program Book with paid ads. John Hushon sent to the BOT members a detailed report on the progress of the ACC. Dan Bartley affirmed the work of John and Janet, and he indicated that VOTF's co-sponsorship of the ACC raises some challenging issues that he, John and Janet are monitoring.

b. Executive Director. Donna Doucette reported that the office will move to 475 Hillside Avenue, Needham MA 02494 on May 21. The current postal address will remain PO Box 423, Newton MA 02464. Donna will send each trustee the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees regarding Form 990.

8. Miscellaneous:

a. Bill Casey proposed a schedule for BOT meetings in FY10. The Board agreed to these dates with the first face-to-face meeting on October 31-Nov. 1, following the National Conference and the second meeting, April 16-17, in the Boston area.

b. Bill reported that Sheila Pfeiffer agreed to chair the election committee for 2010. Elia Marnik and Bill Casey will oversee the work of that committee as part of the responsibilities of the Governance Committee.

The next meeting is June 30, 2009.