

Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office)
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
October 30, 2007, 9:95 PM (EDT)

Board members: On phone: Jayne O'Donnell, Elia Marnik, Mary Pat Fox, Bill Casey (chair,) Dan Bartley, John Hushon, David O'Brien; In office: Dan Sullivan, Jim Post, Ron DuBois, Svea Fraser.

Officers: Gaile Pohlhaus (clerk, by phone,) Mary Freeman (in office).

Executive Director: Donna Doucette.

Opening Prayer by Mary Pat Fox.

1. Development

Jim Post gave the development report. The president's luncheon at the Convention was a positive experience for attendees and reinforced VOTF's needs for loyal major donors. The fall direct mailing has not been as effective as in past mailings, due in large part to the failure of the mailing house to deliver large numbers of solicitations. VOTF needs to have good answers and a clear way forward in soliciting major donors in the midst of controversies or negative media coverage.

2. Finances

Mary Freeman and Donna Doucette gave the finance report. Although this September's statement is stronger than last September's, VOTF is experiencing some challenges with its cash-flow. Some of that is due to the timing of Convention bills and revenue receipts. As agreed at the Board's July meeting, the BOT needs to pay careful attention to our month-to-month flow of cash although primary responsibility lies in the hands of the Officers and Executive Director. Donna described a number of options that she and Mary Pat Fox are considering, including an earlier mailing of the year-end solicitation. Trustees offered additional ideas and deferred to the best judgment of the President and Executive Director with the assistance of the BOT's Audit and Finances committee. The BOT also requested a cost flow analysis for the next 60 days from these same parties.

3. Convention

Mary Freeman gave the Convention report and received a round of applause for her incredible efforts and success. Mary expects that the Convention will show a profit of nearly \$10,000 after all the receipts are in. Nearly 525 people attended. Both Mary and Mary Pat Fox reported very positive feedback from participants despite a protest against VOTF outside the Convention and some negative media coverage tied to that event. Members who were encouraged to participate in it were told it was to support survivors, not to protest VOTF.

Mary Pat Fox reported that Bishop Accountability's decision not to inform VOTF of their press conference near the Convention is troubling. Also troubling was the media coverage on the protest rather than on the Convention. Jayne O'Donnell spoke of a sense of heaviness that hung over her contingent from Connecticut despite the success, and she

urged VOTF to maximize a sense of optimism and confidence at the conclusion of future gatherings. Other Trustees also indicated some lessons learned for the future.

4. Officer Elections

Elia Marnik reported that the upcoming elections are on track under the leadership of the Nominations and Elections committees. Bill Casey will send a general announcement about the election to the membership, and the Nominating Committee will follow with specific information and guidance. Svea Fraser suggested that everything possible be done to acquaint the membership with the nominees.

5. Resolution of Conflict between WG-1 and Officers

Bill Casey introduced this topic as an issue of mission and Christian integrity.

Mary Pat Fox asked the Board for help and endorsement regarding three actions:

- a communication that reaffirms that VOTF has three equal goals in support of its mission statement and that no one goal takes precedence over the others---as evidenced in the Identity Statement endorsed by VOTF leaders this year. Mary Pat will draft a statement for the BOT's consideration with the intention of clarifying expectations and balancing the interests of survivor support with the other two goals.
- At what point and how are leaders held accountable for actions judged to be detrimental to VOTF's interests? The Trustees discussed the plusses and minuses of a variety of benchmarks and options in seeking what might be both reasonable and effective. Although they arrived at no clear preference for the time being, they expressed a strong need to reaffirm core values and to specify particular expectations around them.
- a strong message that reaffirms that civility and respect in communications are core VOTF and Christian values that all leaders must endorse and hold each other accountable regarding them. To tolerate less is not only a countersign to our core identity but hurtful and demoralizing. Mary Pat Fox agreed to work with Bill Casey to draft such a statement.

Each trustee added their own particular perspective on these three issues. All seemed in favor of issuing a positive statement in support of the mission statement and the three goals as well as some articulation of core values and expectations from all leaders.

6. Continuation of October meeting

The Board agreed to meet again by conference call on November 13 to complete other October agenda items.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 9:55 p.m.

Approved Nov. 13, 2007

A true record. Attest: Gaile M. Pohlhaus Clerk