

Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting (by teleconference)
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
October 9, 2007, 7:05 – 8:45 PM (EDT)

Board Members: Bill Casey (presiding), Elia Marnik, Dan Bartley, Svea Fraser, John Hushon, Dan Sullivan, Mary Pat Fox, Jim Post, David O'Brien,

Officers: Gaile Pohlhaus (clerk).

Executive Director: Donna Doucette.

Opening prayer by Bill Casey.

At the request of the BOT Chair, the BOT convened in a special session to consider two questions:

- do feedback from the survivor community and statements/actions of the VOTF Working Group on Survivor Support represent a level of fiduciary risk that requires the BOT's intervention?
- If so, what action by the BOT is appropriate?

Bill Casey summarized and recapped the developments which led to these questions, including a letter from Barbara Blaine that expressed serious concerns about the speaker line-up at the Convention and a teleconference between WGSS members and Mary Pat Fox, Donna Doucette, and Bill Casey on October 4, 2007.

After general discussion, Board members were polled individually on both questions. The Trustees voted 7-yes and 2-no that a fiduciary risk was present and that some kind of intervention was appropriate. They opted in favor of informal actions over formal ones. They endorsed the following steps:

1. Bill Casey and Mary Pat Fox meet with Barbara Blaine and Mark Serrano on Oct. 10 in Washington, D. C. to discuss the concerns that the latter and others in the survivor community believe that VOTF is fading in its goal to support survivors as well as expectations the survivor community has of VOTF. Bill and Mary Pat will acknowledge the differences the Board sees in the respective interests of SNAP and VOTF, VOTF's shortcomings in meeting its own expectations for survivor support, and they will look for ways to repair any harm to the important and mutual relationship between both organizations.
2. In response to a suggestion that conversations with individuals are sometimes more fruitful around tense issues, Bill Casey requested a few volunteers to contact individual WGSS members to get their assessment of the conflict with the President and Executive Director. These conversations will take place before the Convention if possible.
3. The Board also endorsed Bill Casey's suggestion for a subgroup of BOT members offer to meet with WGSS members at the conclusion of the NRC meeting on the day after the Convention to try to find opportunities to resolve the conflict in the context of the Board's own expectations to resolve differences within the governance structure of VOTF.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 8:45 pm.

Approved Nov. 13, 2007

A true record. Attest: Gaile M. Pohlhaus Clerk