

Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office)
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
November 25, 2008, 7:00pm – 10:00pm Eastern

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

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

Executive Director: Donna Doucette.

Opening Prayer was led by John Hushon.

1. Administrative Matters:

- a. Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved, as presented, the minutes of the October 17 - 18, 2008 meeting at the Passionist Spiritual Center in New York (7-0-1), (abstention from Ed Wilson who was not present at the October meeting).
- b. Bill Casey reminded the Trustees that they earlier agreed not to meet in December since the scheduled meeting falls two days before Christmas.

2. Development:

- a. Committee Chair Jayne O'Donnell indicated that her written report to the Board described development progress since last month, including a successful raffle of a Turkey dinner. She also indicated the continuing challenge to increase revenues in difficult economic times.
- b. Executive Director Donna Doucette reviewed specific fund-raising actions underway or planned during the final quarter of the calendar year.

3. Finances:

Treasurer Kevin Connors and President Dan Bartley reviewed the challenging financial condition of VOTF. Kevin noted the shortfall trend line in FY 09 and Dan indicated the expectation of increased revenue in the last quarter of the calendar year, as has been the pattern in past years. Both agreed that the Board needs to revisit the trend lines as we move into 2009 and consider all options for improvement, including some structure of membership dues.

4. Removal Recommendations:

- a. The Board considered a draft decision document which supported its decision on November 19, to accept the recommendation of the National Representative Council and to remove NRC representative Bob Schwiderski for cause from his position on the Council. Following extensive discussion, the Board agreed to delegate the final wording to Bill Casey and the four lawyers on the Board (J. Hushon, J. O'Donnell, J. Post and E. Wilson).
- b. The Board also agreed that Bill Casey would issue its decision to the NRC following final agreement on the text and shortly after notifying Bob Schwiderski by telephone. The Board agreed that after notification to the NRC, Ron DuBois and Ed Wilson (NRC representatives on the Board), would notify the members of the region (8) that Bob represented.

Note By December 1, all members of the Board concurred on the final text of their removal decision. On December 2, Bill Casey notified Bob Schwiderski by telephone and the NRC members by e-mail. Subsequently that day, Ron DuBois and Ed Wilson notified the members of Region 8.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Governance Committee. Committee Chair Elia Marnik reported that at its December 9, 2008 meeting the Governance Committee will review the remaining administrative/technical revisions it has been considering to the By-Laws, and it will send a full set of recommended changes to the Board at the end of December. The Board agreed with the Committee's recommendation to defer further discussion of substantive suggestions to the VOTF governance structure until after February 1, 2009.
- b. Trustee Nominations Committee. Committee Chair Mary Pat Fox reported that four Trustees' terms expire in June, 2009 (B. Casey, J. Hushon, Elia Marnik, and J. Post). She is developing names of other Trustees and non-Trustees to recommend to the Board for service on the seven-member nominating committee specified in the By-Laws. Mary Pat will determine the interest of the Trustees whose terms are expiring to be considered for another term before the committee seeks to nominate candidates for these positions and the one vacated by Dan Sullivan in the fall. The nominating committee will develop a mechanism to solicit Trustee candidates from the membership.
- c. Audit Committee. Committee Chair John Hushon reported that the auditors experienced scheduling conflicts in completing the FY2008 audit, but the final report will be completed by the end of December and put on our website a week later.

6. Leadership Reports:

- a. Officers. President Dan Bartley reported that 24 leaders or members volunteered for core leadership platform teams under the new Strategic Plan. He is looking for 10 -15 more. The Strategic Plan has been described in the last three issues of *In the Vineyard*. The plan, along with an accompanying narrative description, will go out to all members in two weeks. On December 3, Dan will give a presentation on it to the Boston VOTF Council and area affiliate members.
- b. American Catholic Council. VOTF co-representative John Hushon reported on the progress of the American Catholic Council planning group. Interested Catholic lay reform groups, including VOTF, have been meeting monthly by phone. By the end of the year, they expect to propose a date and place for the Council to meet, most likely in 2011. John and co-representative Janet Hauter have been representing VOTF and its interests as this proposal takes shape.
- c. NRC. Ron Dubois and Ed Wilson reported that there has been no official activity of the NRC since cancellation of its November meeting and suspensions of its listserv. Neither one expects the NRC to develop a proposal for realigning its operation by February 1, as requested by the Board in October.
- d. Executive Director. Donna Doucette reported that three NRC members requested reimbursement for travel expenses incurred as a result of non-refundable tickets in connection with the cancellation of the November NRC meeting. The Board authorized Donna to make reimbursement for transportation expenses for those who request them, provided they are not reimbursable or cannot be applied to another flight. Donna also reported that the office is developing a listserv for those affiliate leaders who are interested in communicating with each other and the office. Alice Campanella will moderate the listserv.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:30pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 27, 2009