

Minutes (DRAFT)
Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office and by teleconference)
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
November 27, 2007, 7:05-9:35 PM (EST)

Board members: In Office: Jayne O'Donnell, Ron Du Bois, Dan Sullivan, Elia Marnik (8:30); on phone: Mary Pat Fox, Bill Casey (chair,) David O'Brien, Svea Fraser, Dan Bartley, John Hushon

Officers: In Office Mary Freeman, Gaile Pohlhaus (clerk).

Executive Director: Donna Doucette (in office).

Opening Prayer led by John Hushon.

1. Administrative Matters

- a. The minutes for Nov. 13, 2007 were approved as presented (9 – 0 – 0).
- b. The BOT members reiterated their agreement with the minutes posted between March-October 2007.

2. Development Committee

Donna Doucette summarized Jim Post's written report on development progress and activity. Development pledges are on target for budgeted revenue, and several leaders have accelerated payment of their full pledges by year-end to assist with cash-flow challenges. Ron DuBois and Dan Bartley agreed to contact NRC members who have not yet made a pledge to the Leadership Giving Program. The December solicitation letter will be in the mail by November 30, to be followed by email blitzes. The BOT discussed several other development ideas, including additional personal contacts with affiliate leaders during December so as to solicit contributions from members before December 31 (Dan Sullivan will lend assistance to Mary Pat Fox and Donna Doucette with this effort).

3. Finances

Mary Freeman projects that the convention will show a profit of about \$10,000 once all the expenses are paid. Donna Doucette has cut the expenses of the last two solicitation mailings significantly. Mary expects that the final solicitation of the year will draw the highest amount of contributions, as has been the case in prior years.

4. Expectations of VOTF

The BOT's message to VOTF leaders about civil, respectful and charitable exchanges seems to have improved somewhat the communications on listservs and among leaders. In response to some recent leadership communications about the relative priority of VOTF's three goals, the BOT agreed to issue a clarification to VOTF leaders that the founding vision and mission recognized all three goals of equal importance in pursuing VOTF's interests. Bill Casey will prepare a draft clarification in line with the key points of the discussion and submit it for the BOT's consideration.

Mary Pat Fox reported that she is continuing her efforts to work with Tom Doyle to arrange a conversation among key representatives of both the survivor community and VOTF about common interests and expectations.

5. NRC Proposals/ Resolutions

The BOT agreed that it needs to inform the Officers and NRC as quickly as possible if it has fiduciary concerns about proposals or resolutions, but it needs more time to discuss its level of feedback to the NRC on the merits of substantive matters. The BOT also agreed to post its feedback on the NRC listserv.

6. Committee Reports

Governance

a. Elia Marnik reported that the Nominations Committee has been meeting weekly and actively seeking nominations along with those received from the membership. They are also looking into opportunities for members to learn about the candidates prior to the election. Ron DuBois and other VOTF members questioned the reasonableness of VOTF's practice that currently expects the President to absorb travel-related expenses, which are estimated between \$4-5,000 per year in the job descriptions attached to the 2008 announcement for National Officers. When the BOT agreed that this practice could unduly restrict some or even most interested members from seeking nomination for the position, the BOT agreed to change the practice and authorized the Chair to prepare a resolution for BOT approval by email and, once approved, to instruct the Nominating Committee to announce it as quickly as possible before the close of the nominations period on December 15, 2007.

Resolved: That the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Treasurer to reimburse the President for travel and other incidental expenses incurred in connection with his/her execution of the duties of the office of President in an amount of up to \$5,000.00 per fiscal year from the funds of the organization. The President shall seek authorization for and reimbursement of such expenses in accordance with procedures to be adopted by the Board of Trustees. This resolution shall become effective with the starting date of the term of the next President for expenses incurred after such date.

The resolution was unanimously approved by e-mail ballot 11 – 0 – 0 on November 28, 2007.

b. Elia Marnik reported that the Ad Hoc Roles and Authority Committee is nearing completion of its work and plans to submit a report to the three leadership centers by the Jan. 7 deadline the committee set for itself.

Trustee Nominations

Jayne O'Donnell described a broad outline for a VOTF advisory council. In response to favorable BOT comments, Jayne indicated that her committee will submit a formal proposal at the next meeting. The committee is still searching for a candidate with significant visibility in the Catholic community for the final position on the Board. Dan Sullivan suggested that we strengthen our relationship with SNAP through some kind of leadership liaison role within our leadership ranks.

7. Leadership reports

- a. Mary Pat Fox presented the Officers' report. She indicated that the Officers would take the lead in responding to suggestions submitted by Working Group 2 to fund a variety of activities it proposed in conjunction with its proposal on the Crisis in the Priesthood.
- b. Ron DuBois presented the NRC report. He indicated that the NRC is currently considering two proposals concerning ways to monitor the National Review Board. He also reported that the BOT give some consideration to several questions that have been posed by leaders, including attendance at BOT meetings by members, public announcement of new BOT members, and VOTF's plans with regard to the Pope's visit to the U.S. next year. The Officers will take the lead on the matter of the Pope's visit since it is an operational matter.

Next Meeting: Jan. 26-27, 2008 in Boston, subject to final confirmation by BOT members.