

Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office)
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
April 3, 2007

Present: Bill Casey (presiding, phone), Jim Post, David Castaldi, Ron Du Bois, Maura O'Brien, Svea Fraser, Mary Pat Fox (phone), John Hushon (phone), Elia Marnik (joined by phone at 9:15)

Officers: Mary Freeman, Gaile Pohlhaus (clerk)
Executive Director: Mark Mullaney

The meeting started at 7:07 with a prayer given by Bill Casey.

Administrative items addressed first were the approval of the minutes of 3/6/07 meeting, 2/27/07 meeting.

VOTF Office vacancies

Michael Rafferty has been hired on a part time basis as development officer for ten weeks or less.

The Executive Director position has moved forward with a phone interview on 4/2/07. The search committee hopes to bring two or three names to the Board.

Office manager position was interviewed for 4/02/07 with a good candidate.

Financial Report

Mary Freeman presented the financial statement for February. The March appeal has gone out. Not all the members of the Board have received this letter. John Hushon will send bullets on the Southwest Florida situation to Mary Pat Fox so that a special appeal can be sent out immediately. At the moment the deficit for the year is estimated to be \$120,000. Mark Mullaney reported on the initiative that the development committee is going to work on is to concentrate on the approximately 400 major donors who have given more than \$500 in a given year. There are about 40 foundations included who will be approached.

Preliminary 2007-08 budget projections were presented to the Board by Mary Pat. It is the revenue side that will make the difference. The final budget will be brought to the Board for approval at the May meeting. The goal is to make a \$350,000 surplus for each of the next three years.

Committee Reports and Issues

Governance report was given by Maura O'Brien.

The board's governance committee offered three motions:

Motion 1: "The BOT Governance committee will review the VOTF by-laws and report any recommendations to the BOT annually, at the January meeting of the board." **Passed.** 8-0-0

The Governance committee offered two additional motions regarding eligibility for board positions citing the following specific purposes for offering these motions:

- a) To strengthen the NRC, officers group and national staff as separate and distinct institutions in VOTF;
- b) To avoid putting either the NRC or the officers to the disruption and expense of special elections when serving NRC representatives or officers become candidates for board positions during their terms of office.
- c) To diversify, enlarge and strengthen VOTF leadership organization-wide.
- d) To limit effect of Motion 2 and Motion 3 to 2007-08 as a pilot project requiring board approval and codification as by-law changes in order to be continued.

Motion 2: “No person who is compensated by VOTF during 2007-08 as an employee or independent contractor may serve concurrently as a VOTF officer or trustee. **Passed. 8-0-0**

Motion 3: “No nominee during 2007-08 to the VOTF Board of Trustees may be then-serving as an officer or member of the NRC, except for one or both of the BOT positions reserved for two NRC members as provided in the by-laws.” **Passed. 8-0-0**

The board discussed the reasons for recommendations at length and agreed that (1) putting them into effect for the 2007-08 year was a reasonable general practice to insure the best possible leadership for all facets of VOTF leadership, and (2) neither motion was directed at any individual, and (3) these policies would be reviewed at the end of the 2007 board nomination process to insure they were not unduly restrictive.

The committee is proceeding forward on the BOT vacancies in order to get a name forward to the Board for the May meeting and possibly two. The job of the committee is persuasion because of the special set of skill sets needed.

The Strategy committee report was given by Bill Casey. He met with the NRC steering committee and moderator. It was decided to ask for the individual members of the NRC to endorse the Identity Statement. The statement is a way to provide context for VOTF to make decisions.

Leadership Reports

The Officers report was made by Mary Pat Fox. The annual report will be sent electronically and be on the website. The officers’ retreat was rescheduled for the weekend of May 12. The website is being worked on. Mark will send out an update on the website.

The NRC report was made by Ron DuBois.

The steering committee of the NRC thinks this is not the right time to discuss conflict of interest.

Closing prayer was made at 9:30

A true record. Attest:

Gaile M. Pohlhaus, Clerk