

**Minutes Final**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office)**  
**Voice of the Faithful, Inc.**  
**April 22, 2008, 7:00 – 10:00pm (Eastern)**

**Board Members Present:** Bill Casey, (presiding), phone, Elia Marnik, Ron DuBois, Jim Post, Jayne O'Donnell, Michael Rafferty, Development, John Hushon, phone, Dan Sullivan, phone.

**Officers Present:** Dan Bartley, phone, Janet Hauter, phone, Kevin Connors, phone, Julie McConville, Secretary.

**Executive Director:** Donna Doucette

**Opening Prayer** was led by Dan Bartley.

**March 25 Minutes** Dan Sullivan asked that it be in the record that at our March 25 Meeting, he submitted a proposed amendment to amend the by-laws regarding the election of a replacement trustee and it was not seconded or acted upon. Elia Marnik moved that we adopt the amended minutes of March 25. The Board adopted this motion unanimously (7-0).

**Resolution for David O'Brien** The Board of Trustees expressed it's deepest appreciation to David O'Brien who served as a Trustee from August, 2006 until March, 2008. Donna Doucette read a tribute to David. RESOLVED: *That the VOTF Board of Trustees expresses its deepest appreciation to David O'Brien who served as a Trustee from August 2006 until March 2008. We are grateful for the exceptional insights he brought to the deliberations of the Board from both Church history and his lived experience of the life and work of the Church. He enabled the Board to refine its strategic vision and direction, and he served as a strong advocate for VOTF'S mission and goals in the public forum in which he is so deeply respected. We wish him much success in his many other important endeavors to restore the vitality of our Church.* Dan Bartley moved that the resolution pass.. The Board approved this motion unanimously (7-0). Donna will mail him an inscribed paperweight.

**Development** Donna reported that the impact of the ad campaign in the NYT was beyond expectations. \$70, 471 came from 1,079 donors in 10 days. 56 were new members. 221 were first time donors. Some major donors contributed and some, in addition, gave to the general fund. She reported the deluge of attention from the media, newspapers and magazines due to the ad and the petition. 6400 Petitions signed to date. A truck with VOTF signage on the sides rode up and down streets in DC and NY but no visuals were broadcast on the news.. Donna will send a PDF of the truck signs to each trustee.

**March Appeal** Donna reported that this interim appeal, which was mailed to 13,000 in-house names who have not donated in 3 months, have brought in \$11,000 to date.

**E-mail Campaign** Michael Rafferty reported a positive reaction to using e-mail to raise funds and will be doing this more often. He thanked Jayne O'Donnell for accepting a leadership role in Development. Jayne and Michael have scheduled a Development Meeting for next Tuesday, April 29 to discuss fundraising, find new ways to approach Major Donors, and to find more Foundation Donors (\$500 or above). Membership Dues will be discussed.

**May Appeal** This letter to the entire Data Base of 30,000 comes out following the successful Papal visit and the e-mail appeal and from the ad itself. Michael said they are working on a Donor Acquisition mailing in mid-May as well as a phonathon. Bishop Geoffrey

Robinson's Book Tour to 15 cities will be used to recognize some of our Major Donors at a dinner before his talk at The Paulist Center on May 28 and at St. Susanna's on May 29.

**Finances** Kevin Connors recommends that we look closely at revenue and expenses and asked that we look at what expenses can be eliminated now to May 31. VOTF could be looking at a \$38K short fall of revenues to expenses at FY08 end. VOTF needs about 6 months of average operating expenses on hand and we are short of that goal. Donna was asked where the pinch would be felt going forward, without the necessary funds. John Hushon, (8:00pm), reported our annual expense budget will be approximately, \$700,000, which leaves us in a precarious financial position with 45 days of net to cover expenses. We need to bring in \$100,000 before the end of the fiscal year. Ron said there has been a concerted effort to enlist NRC Board members in making a donation at this time. He also thought it would be a good idea to start sending out a Newsletter again even if we had to ask people to pay for it. It is a way to inform and communicate with our membership.

**BUDGET FY09** The proposed budget was presented. A motion was made by Dan Bartley to approve this budget by the board. The motion passed without further discussion. Kevin suggested that the cost of living for three part-time office staff members of \$900 should be reinstated. Ron made the motion to reinstate that money into the budget. All were in favor to approve the FY09 Budget with the amended cost of living increase. The Board adopted this unanimously 7-0.

**Post-Election Committee Report** Bill Casey reported on the Trustees Committee's review which said that one could make a reasonable conclusion that Donor Perfect list was used without authorization, invalid votes were cast, communication of interim ballot results was passed on and weaknesses in VOTF'S Network Security and Procedures must be studied. Bill indicated that the BOT agreed with the 11 recommendations made by the Post-Election Committee which were to be sent to the NRC and a general report to members.

**Governance** Elia proposed that the committee asked to rescind the motion to set up a sub-committee to look at the structure of VOTF and that structure issues should be looked at in context of governance as a whole. The committee solicited ideas to determine what their top priorities should be to contribute to the organization. Membership issues and Working Group's relationship with the rest of the organization were two issues raised. Everyone agreed that these two issues are important to tackle at this time. Dan Bartley and Ron think we should look at the structure of the NRC and the way members interact with each other.

**Trustee Nominations** Jayne needs qualified people who would be interested in a trustee position or be on the Advisory Committee. Members of the board should contact Jayne with the names of qualified persons. We surveyed the board regarding interest in serving as chairperson. Bill Casey has indicated that he will stay on for another two year term. We need to fill the positions of the four trustee whose term will expire, June 2009. The Advisory Board also needs more members with a particular expertise upon which VOTF can draw.

**Conference of priests and lay ministers** Svea Fraser and John Ryan are attending a National Ministry Summit 2008 in Orlando; attended by 1200 priests, deacons and laity to inform them about our VOTF organization and activities. A report from them is forthcoming.

**Financial Statements for March 2008** Kevin said that there is a major fund-raising development initiative in the planning stages to bring us into compliance. Michael said that this initiative will be discussed at a Development Meeting, April 29.

**Leadership Report** Dan reported that the officers have been very busy and have segregated their primary areas of focus. Dan has been focused on the papal visit, long-term planning on changing our image and our approach to media. He has also been trying to build some bridges with the survivor support community. Janet is working on developing a process for designing a strategic plan and thinking about a synod initiative. Kevin is working on the VOTF financial condition from an actual and budgetary perspective and has done some preliminary information gathering for the strategic plan. Julie has been sharing her input on these items and keeping the minutes of our weekly meetings. The Officers worked together to write their response to the Women's Resolution and will be getting together at the NRC meeting to establish our priorities and our approach to a strategic plan.

**NRC Elections** Ron DuBois indicated that the NRC will elect two members to replace Dan Bartley and Ron DuBois as Trustees.

**Women's Resolution** The officers did indicate their concurrence with the language of the proposal. They did stress that the leadership taking on the implementation of this resolution needs to be determined as to who will be putting a definite plan in place and that plan needs a defined outcome. The officers need to be involved as "overseers" as the project progresses and there needs to be a significant expansion of those heading this group.

Caution. The Board's foremost responsibility is to notify the NRC and Officers if and when it views any proposal or resolution to be in conflict with VOTF's core integrity, i.e. legal, financial or mission. The Board did not object to the proposal on these grounds when it reviewed it at its November meeting.

### **Face to Face Meetings in FY09**

It was decided to have one of our two board meetings the weekend of Oct. 18 and 19, in New York. Our spring meeting is scheduled for April 4 and 5, 2009 (Palm Sunday) in the Boston area.

### **Open Board Meetings**

The Board did not find any compelling reason to have open board meetings unless it invites someone to speak on a particular issue and that person would be a part of the agenda.

**Next Meeting** will be June 3. Elia Marnek will preside for Bill Casey who will be out of the country.

Meeting ended at 10:00pm