

Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office)
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
April 30, 2007
7:02-9:42 PM (EST)

Members present: Bill Casey (presiding, phone), Jim Post, David Castaldi, Ron DuBois, Dan Bartley (phone), David O'Brien (phone), Maura O'Brien (phone, left early), Svea Fraser (phone), Mary Pat Fox, John Hushon (phone), Elia Marnik

Officers: Mary Freeman, Gaile Pohlhaus (clerk)

Interim Director: Mark Mullaney

Opening Prayer by M. O'Brien (St. Catharine of Siena prayer)

Administrative

Approved minutes of 4/3/07 meeting as presented. Gaile will ensure that the official minutes are posted on the website for members' review.

Staffing

Millie Seaborn is new office manager. A new bookkeeper is doing an orientation with Jim Bertorelli this week. The search committee is still looking for a new executive director. Mark Mullaney will send out the print ad to the board. Michael Rafferty is working as part time development director. Mary Pat Fox plans to keep M. Rafferty on past original contract. Frank McConville is working with volunteers. Brandeis has offered us some interns who can do background work. Milly Felloni is now coordinating volunteers.

Committee Reports and Issues

Nominating Committee

Jayne O'Donnell as trustee candidate was presented by Elia Marnik. She was unconditionally recommended by her affiliate leader.

After discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was:

RESOLVED: that Jayne O'Donnell be appointed to the Board of Trustees for a three year term to be effective at the annual meeting June 4, 2007. Unanimously approved: 11 in favor, none opposed.

The other two positions have specific skill sets and the searches are still in progress. Bill Casey, David Castaldi, and Elia Marnik will examine the by-laws to determine if one or more of the Trustees can be appointed on an interim basis after they retire from the Board as of June 4, 2007.

Finances

Financial Statement for March was made by Mary Freeman. The Statement of Activities shows a deficit for the nine months ending March 31.

Spring appeal progress has brought in a little over \$50,000 so far. Mark Mullaney reported that there were mail delivery delays. Jim Muller has offered to send a letter to potential donors. Mary Pat and Mark will draft a letter, and Jim Post with the Development Committee will

identify donors to whom the letter can be sent. Mary Pat Fox will be sending an email to follow up on the Spring Appeal.

Maura O'Brien left the meeting.

The budget for 2007-08 was presented by Mary Pat Fox, Mary Freeman, and Mark Mullaney. Mary Pat Fox summarized her remarks to the NRC members and reported that she challenged them to come up with a revenue-producing plan to address the organization's financial challenges. It was agreed that budget/ revenue milestones need to be closely monitored.

Michael Rafferty has agreed to meet with the NRC membership committee so that they can draw on his expertise as a fund-raiser. Ideas can be sent to Jim Post as the chair of the development committee.

A budget for the convention in October will be presented at the June meeting of the Board. It was the sense of the Board that the convention must have at least a breakeven budget.

After discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was:

RESOLVED: that the budget for FY 2008 as proposed should be adopted.
Unanimously adopted: 10 approve, none opposed.

Development Committee

Jim Post reported that there will be a meeting on May 2 where each of the committee members will report on the contacts they have made. Bill Casey updated the BOT on the results of his contacts with nearly 36 potential major donors. Seven out of the first two-dozen contacts resulted in contributions less than major donations, but two others whom he contacted for major donor names committed to give \$1,000 each (one of whom has already done so). Bill will report final results after contacting the remaining dozen names.

Strategy Committee

Bill Casey reported that feedback on the Identity Statement from the National Representative Council showed that 18 responded with 15 favorable responses. Three were opposed but two of these are going off the Council. Projected endorsements are 18 – 20. In all of the substantive comments the only one (and suggested by three people) is the objection to the words “and laity” in the following text: “shocking revelations in the life of the Catholic Church: widespread clerical abuse of children; silence of both clergy and laity in the face of known or suspected abuse.” The Board agreed to remove “and laity” and accept the minor editing changes suggested by Donna Doucette.

Maura O'Brien rejoined the meeting during this discussion.

The identity statement replaces the “Who We Are” statement on the website. Mark will arrange for the website change and it will be announced *In the Vineyard*.

Leadership Reports

Mary Pat Fox made the Officers' report. She spoke of the conference call some officers had with

John Ryan and two other members of the Goal Two working group. Out of this conversation arose a way of framing the NRC resolution on priestly celibacy within the context of clericalism, thus satisfying the concerns of the Officers. The officers are still reviewing the NRC's financial accountability resolutions. With regard to the financial challenges, a committee is being formed to bring a resolution of the problems. With regard to a rapid response mechanism at the National Office, MarCom will develop a plan. Ed Wilson has agreed to represent the NRC on MarCom.

Ron DuBois made the NRC report. The general overall view was that the recent meeting in Boston was good and productive. Face-to-face meetings help us to communicate better. Ron DuBois will run an election for region 13. Hugh O'Regan is running an election for region 11. Bill Casey praised Donna Doucette, Sheila Pfeiffer, Bill Culleton, and Ron DuBois for having structured and run an excellent meeting. The Boston affiliates provided a very hospitable setting. The next NRC meeting will be the Friday before the October convention and the Sunday morning afterward. The dates for future meetings will be the last weekend in April and the second weekend in October; i.e., April 9-11 and October 16-18, 2008.

The Closing Prayer was given by Bill Casey. It was from Richard Rohr by Martin Buber.

The meeting concluded at 9:42.

The minutes as amended were adopted on June 4, 2007

A true record. Attest: Gaile M. Pohlhaus Clerk