

Minutes (Draft--Revised)
Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office)
Voice of the Faithful, Inc.
June 24, 2008, 7:00pm – 10:00pm Eastern

Approved August 26, 2008

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

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

Executive Director: Donna Doucette.

Opening Prayer was led by Bill Casey.

1. Administrative Matters:

a. After thanking Elia Marnik for presiding as Chair at the meeting on June 3, 2008, Bill Casey welcomed Ed Wilson as the newest member of the Board.

b. Bill will send Donna Doucette an entry for the next edition of *In the Vineyard* to inform members of the full slate of Board members. Ed will make sure the NRC is aware of the slate.

c. The Board discussed a number of ways to standardize and improve the reporting of Board minutes, particularly in connection with newly issued guidance for non-profit organizations. Bill and Julie will revise the minutes for the June 3rd meeting and prepare those for the June 24th meeting according to the discussion points; they will submit them for the Board's review by the next meeting on July 22.

2. Development:

Committee Chair Jayne O'Donnell reported on several initiatives:

a. Development coordinator Michael Rafferty assigned all members of the committee 25 key donors each to stay in contact with over the course of FY 09 in order to keep them informed of VOTF business and to build stronger relationships. Michael will arrange to send personal letters to these 425 key donors asking for their contribution after the July holiday.

b. The committee is examining incentives to raise added income. The Red Sox ticket incentive brought in \$9,660 from 116 donors in a few weeks.

c. Jayne will send a letter to each affiliate facilitator to encourage more direct financial support and ask them to plan one fund-raiser each year.

d. The office sent reminder cards to any members who have not completed their FY 08 pledge. FY 09 pledges will offer options for "in memory, in honor of" individuals and for "Planned Giving" from estates. Donna Doucette reported that VOTF will pursue acquisition mailing programs to acquire new names and match the donation "pitch" to the appropriate list.

3. Finances:

a. Treasurer Kevin Connors reported a revised FY 08 shortfall estimate of approximately \$9,000 and total revenue \$73,000, both remarkable improvements over FY 07.

b. Kevin indicated that year-end finances require no adjustments to the FY 09 budget earlier approved by the Board.

c. June 2008 expenses were held to \$25,000, another significant improvement. Discussion centered on a number of ways to estimate and track revenue development on a monthly basis to enable VOTF to manage cash-flow and adjust development tactics on a more time-sensitive basis.

4. Resolution of Post-Election Matter:

- a. A written report submitted by President Dan Bartley indicated that he communicated to the NRC representative linked to unauthorized access to the VOTF database during the 2008 election that unless the representative issued a restorative statement about his actions, Dan would refer the matter back to the NRC Steering Committee for appropriate action under the NRC's operating procedures.
- b. Dan's report also indicated that the SSWG is unlikely to form a new organization based on informal discussions with some of its leaders. Although Dan suggested in the report that a resolution of the conflict about the SSWG's issuance of public statements without reference to VOTF might be an acceptable solution, a poll of each of the Board members indicated that such a solution would be acceptable only on a short-term basis while Dan negotiates a permanent resolution. The Board members reaffirmed their support for Dan's leadership in resolving these two post-election problems, but they also affirmed the Board's interest in a resolution that is consistent with the Board's fiduciary responsibilities and its expressed expectations.

5. Policy Proposal

- a. Treasurer Kevin Connors proposed classified ads (banner and text) on the VOTF website as an additional source of revenue. Discussion focused on the advantages and disadvantages of this idea as well as the likely amount of revenue the ads might generate. Upon a motion duly made, the Board approved the following resolution:

Resolved: The Officers and the Executive Director will refine the proposal for website advertising based on the Board discussion of feasibility and operational concerns and bring it back to the Board with a recommendation. The resolution passed 8-0-0.

6. Committee Reports and Issues

- a. Working Group 2—Crisis in Priesthood Initiative: Committee member Svea Fraser briefly summarized the Working Group's participation in the Ministry Summit in Florida and the initiative to get signatories to a letter to be sent to the Bishops in advance of the fall meeting about the need to re-examine the requirement for mandatory celibacy. She reported that several public figures support the letter in principle but feel that their public roles preclude them from signing it.

7. Leadership Report

Vice-President Janet Hauter reported on two important initiatives:

- a. a survey sent to all leadership groups as a prelude to development of a strategic plan. After Janet and Julie McConville consolidate the information received by group, the Officers will solicit feedback by mid-July on issues the members consider most important to work on in the near future.
- b. the Officers have issued 75 Invitations to organizations and individuals to sign on as sponsors for the Lay Synod. Those who sign on will be part of a conference call hosted by VOTF in early July. On September 19, working committees will have a face-to-face meeting in Washington, DC to discuss themes and logistics.

8. Miscellaneous

a. Board members agreed to the proposed schedule for FY 09 Board meetings. Most meetings take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month, but the members will meet face-to-face in October 2008 and April 2009.

b. Board members agreed to the designation and memberships of four Board standing committees in FY 09. The committees and chairs are:

- Audit and Finances, John Hushon
- Development, Jayne O'Donnell
- Governance, Elia Marnik
- Trustee Nominations and Advisory Council, Mary Pat Fox.

Bill Casey will work with the committee chairs to define the committee's specific responsibilities.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:40 pm (8-0-0).

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 22, 2008, 7:00pm Eastern