

**Minutes (Draft--Revised)**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting (at VOTF office)**  
**Voice of the Faithful, Inc.**  
**June 3, 2008, 7:00pm – 10:00pm Eastern**

*Approved August 26, 2008*

**Board Members Present:** Elia Marnik (presiding), Ron DuBois, Jim Post, Jayne O'Donnell, Svea Fraser, John Hushon (phone), Dan Sullivan (phone), Dan Bartley (phone), Mary Pat Fox (phone).

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

**Executive Director:** Donna Doucette.

**Opening Prayer** was led by Ron Dubois.

**1. Administrative Matters:** Upon a motion duly moved and seconded, the Board approved minutes of the meeting on April 22, 2008 as presented (9-0-0).

**2. Development:**

Committee Chair Jayne O'Donnell reported on several initiatives:

- a. Office staff raised \$38,450 from an e-mail fundraiser conducted from May 5-31 to close the funding gap for the end of FY 08.
- b. Jayne arranged a dinner for major donors and other VOTF contributors prior to Bishop Geoffrey Robinson's talk at St. Susanna's in Dedham on May 29 (550 attended).
- b. Committee members will each contact 25 of VOTF's major donors at least 4 times during the year base to increase awareness of VOTF's efforts and to solicit contributions. They will also contact donors with outstanding pledges for FY 08.
- c. Jayne will send an email to affiliate leaders to ask local members to sponsor a fund-raiser for VOTF once a year. The letter will also ask for the name of an affiliate liaison to the Development Committee as well as names for new affiliate donors.

**3. Finances:**

- a. Treasurer Kevin Connors reported preliminary estimates of revenue (\$698,005) and of expenses (\$737,431) for FY 08. These figures represent an estimated loss of \$39,426—a significant improvement over FY 07 losses of \$106,720.
- b. Kevin is working with the Executive Director to look into additional revenue streams from structured memberships and paid advertising on VOTF's website as well as to continue efforts to consolidate fixed expenses and clearly define measurable results.
- c. Jim Post asked that the Audit and Finances Committee to review VOTF's responsibility to retain inactive accrual items on the balance sheet.

**4. Executive Director's Report:**

- a. Donna Doucette reported that the papal ad brought new donors, new energy and new names for our donor data base. To get additional names, Donna is purchasing acquisition mailing lists to tap into additional pools of potential contributors.
- b. Donna announced Peggie Thorp's retirement as editor of *In the Vineyard*, and she has two potential candidates for editor under consideration.

## 5. Post-Election Report:

a. Elia Marnik presented the Election Committee's report on lessons learned during the recent election of National Officers. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the following resolution:

*Resolved: The Board accepts the report as presented by the Election Committee appointed by the Board to conduct the election of National Officers in 2008 (9-0-0).*

The Board agreed to put in place a committee to review and act upon the report as well as the full election experience in order to establish a plan for the next election based on lessons learned while the election is still fresh in memory.

b. Dan Bartley reported that he is working directly with the NRC member (and his representative) that is linked to an unauthorized use of the VOTF database in order to try to repair the harm from this action.

c. Dan also reported that he is working with the leaders of the Survivor Support Working Group (SSWG) to gain their alignment with the rest of VOTF's leadership on public statements and actions. Discussion led to a number of options available to VOTF and the SSWG, including informal indications that some members of the SSWG might want to break from VOTF and form its own organization. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board defeated the following resolution:

*Resolved: It is the sense of the board that Dan Bartley be authorized to negotiate an arrangement, perhaps a joint venture between SSWG and SNAP, to carry on a significant part of Goal One of VOTF. The motion was defeated 8-1-0.*

In favor: John Hushon.

Opposed: Dan Bartley, Ron DuBois, Mary Pat Fox, Svea Fraser, Elia Marnik, Jim Post, Jayne O'Donnell, Dan Sullivan.

Further discussion favored an approach whereby the President would attempt to reconcile the respective strategies of VOTF and the SSWG to support survivors and protect children. Dan Bartley agreed to report at the Board's meeting on June 24 regarding his progress with this approach.

## 6. Committee Reports

a. Governance. Committee Chair Elia Marnik reported that the committee is working on recommendations for Article IV of the VOTF By-Laws, including the mechanism by which members vote in national elections. The committee is also considering a procedure by which VOTF would accept or reject an application for membership should the application raise serious questions about an applicant's public support for VOTF's mission and goals.

b. Trustee Nominations. Committee Chair Jayne O'Donnell asked the Board members to recommend names of potential candidates for Trustee positions and for candidates to the Advisory Council. Jayne indicated that Bill Casey was the only name she received to serve as Board Chair during FY 09. When Jayne asked for any additional nominations at the meeting, she received none. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the following resolution:

*Resolved: The Board elects Bill Casey as Chair of the Board for FY 09. The motion passed 9-0-0.*

Members expressed their gratitude for Bill's leadership and thanked him (in absentia) for his dedication and service as Chair these past two years.

c. Working Group Two. Committee member Svea Fraser reported on three initiatives. First, the WG produced a DVD on mandatory celibacy which was part of The Crisis in the Priesthood panel discussion at the Providence Conference in October; it is now under final revision. The Voice of Renewal/Education Working Group is helping with study guides and handouts that support this work. Second, the WG prepared a letter to be sent to all bishops in mid-September about the importance of discussing mandatory celibacy. The President endorsed this letter. Third, the WG recommended Bishop Geoffrey Robinson for a Priest of Integrity Award, and it was presented to him in New York while on his book tour. Svea will combine the two reports, prepared by John Ryan and Svea, on the 2008 National Ministry Summit in April, and will circulate them to the Board.

## **7. Leadership Reports**

a. Officers. President Dan Bartley reported that the papal ad and Bishop Robinson's book tour have given VOTF much publicity and greater national recognition. Also, the lay synod initiative is showing progress; the committee is preparing a letter to go out in late June to laity and clergy to find co-sponsors. The synod is planned for spring 2011. The Officers are sending a Strategic Plan survey to different VOTF groups for completion. Kevin Connors is working hard on implementing better financial reporting and a tighter budget.

b. NRC. Ron Dubois reported that the NRC passed a resolution at their last meeting dealing with relations between the NRC and local representatives. The NRC members are now voting on the minutes of their last meeting in Philadelphia. Chuck Miller, Kris Ward and Lisa Kendzior are three representatives whose terms expire on June 30 and plans are underway to fill them. Ron also reported that the three co-sponsors of the women's resolution (passed by the NRC and concurred in by the Officers with five conditions) are trying to recruit more members to work on the implementation of the resolution.

## **8. Board Appointments**

a. The NRC elected Ron DuBois and Ed Wilson to serve two-year terms as its representatives to the Board. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the following resolution:

*Resolved: The Board appoints Ron Dubois and Ed Wilson to two-year terms as the NRC elected representatives on the Board. The vote passed 9-0-0.*

## **9. Miscellaneous**

a. Leadership Recognition. Jim Post recommended that VOTF send congratulations to Dan and Sheila Daley who are retiring from *Call To Action* and who provided much help and support to VOTF at its beginning. The Board agreed that Jim will write the letter and Bill Casey will sign it.

b. In the Vineyard Newsletter. The Board agreed that VOTF should recognize Peggie Thorpe's fine work as editor of the Vineyard these last six years. They asked Donna Doucette to present Peggie with an original VOTF logo as a thank you for all that she has done. A collection of newsletters will also be shared on the website so that members can appreciate what has been accomplished.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm (9-0-0).

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, June 24, 2008, 7:00 p.m. Eastern