

1993



ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA INC.

MIAMI:
P.O. BOX 530102
MIAMI, FL 33153-0102
Phone: (305) 936-0210

Member of ATHEIST ALLIANCE, the Democratic Alliance of Autonomous Atheist Societies

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board Directors

FROM: Christos Tzanetakos, President

DATE: September 20th, 1993

SUBJECT: Annual Board Meeting

Page 1 of 2

Dear Director,

In the year since our first Board meeting back in August of 1992, our organization has achieved a substantial progress.

Our mailing list has increased, and soon we will be able to meet the U.S. Postal requirements for bulk mailing (200 letters minimum), which will cut our postal expenses substantially.

Thanks to the tireless efforts, talent and dedication of our vice president Ed Golly, to our board director and Co-editor Brent Yaciw and the input of many of our members, our newsletter has been improved and has become a forum of information and ideas to be proud of.

Another major achievement this past year, was the production of our first twelve TV forums.

This was possible thanks to the outstanding knowledge of the Atheist philosophy by Dr. Albert E. Lyngzeitson, our Board chairperson, who brilliantly hosted the TV forums. Again, our vice president Ed Golly, Directors Brent Yaciw and Florence Morgenroth, were also instrumental in the TV forum by providing not only ideas and material for the forum, but taking the time to fly back and forth from Tampa to Miami and be at the WLRN studios for the tapings.

Last Year, referring to the erosion of the wall of separation in my wellcome letter to all of you on the board, I stated: " Although, it will be Don-Quixotic to assume that our fledgling group can prevent or alter this course, it is my conviction that in cooperation with all atheistic and secular organizations around the country, a great deal of progress can be achieved and perhaps the beginning of a new age of enlightenment."

Today, I am very happy to inform you that this dream is very close to becoming a reality.

As you can see from the enclosed, ATHEIST ALLIANCE, INC. the organization to whom ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA INC. became a charter member last year, was invited to join forces with a new umbrella organization, the Coalition of Secular Humanism and Free Thought, (SCHAFT), bringing all the Atheist, Secular and Free thought organizations together.

The decision to join will be taken at the next board meeting of Atheist Alliance which is not scheduled yet, but most probably will take place next July in Toronto Canada, where we might have the first unified convention.

Please study the enclosed constitution exhibit B, and prepare your remarks and recommendations for our board meeting

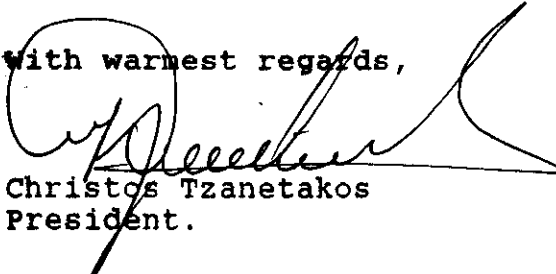
For example:

- a. The list of the current members of SCHAFT includes two publishing companies, " PROMETHEUS BOOKS" and " THE TRUE SEEKER" should these two have voting rights ?
- b. If we join and have unified national conventions, what should we ask regarding speakers, presentations ,and most important how should the revenues of the conventions be managed?

Please bring your ideas on this topic at our November meeting.

Hoping to see all of you in November,

With warmest regards,



Christos Tzanetakos
President.

" God's only excuse is that he does not exist."

Enclosure:

ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC.
Second Annual Board of Directors Meeting
Miami, Florida
November 20, 1993

The second annual Board Meeting of Atheists of Florida, Inc. was held at the conference room of the office of Atheists of Florida member Anthony Schlefstein in Miami on November 20, 1993.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Albert Lyngzeitson at 11:00 A.M.

The Chairman noted that this was the annual board meeting called by the directors of the above named corporation pursuant to the Bylaws of said corporation for the purpose of electing directors for the coming year and other items specified on the agenda which had been delivered to all board members in September, 1993.

A welcoming to all participants was offered by President Christos Tzanetakos who stressed how this organization has become more active due primarily to the newsletter and the *Atheists of Florida Forum* cable television production.

The Chairman then called roll and found the following Board Members to be present:

Christos Tzanetakos	Charles A. Ross
Ed Golly	Steve Miles
Kyoko Brogdon	Albert Lyngzeitson

The following members of Atheists of Florida, Inc. were present as prospective Board Members unable to exercise any voting privileges:

Anthony Schlefstein Nan Owens

Not present at the meeting were:

Celia Glantz Daniel Streit
Brent Yaciw Florence Morgenroth
Louis Miller

Also notably absent was Atheists of Florida, Inc. founding member, Board Member, and Agent of Record, John Diamond, having died in October, 1993.

It was also noted that Board Member Florence Morgenroth had announced her resignation from the Board due to difficulties with her health. The President had not yet received her resignation.

The minutes of the previous Board Meeting were then read by Ed Golly.

The floor was then opened to accept nominations for officers of the corporation. The length of the terms of the officers is determined by the Bylaws of the Corporation. President Tzanetakos solicited participation of the officers

positions by more of the board members. The following persons were nominated and those nominations seconded for the respective positions:

President: Christos Tzanetakos

Vice-President: Ed Golly

Secretary: Kyoko Brogdon

Treasurer: Charles A. Ross

A new position was opened by the President which is that of Atheist Hotline Coordinator. The name of Celia Glantz was introduced into nomination and seconded in abstention.

Chairman: Albert Lyngzeitson with Brent Yaciw nominated and seconded as alternate Chairman.

The vote of those present at the meeting for all of the above positions was unanimous.

All officers of Atheists of Florida, Inc. were elected to serve for one year in accordance with the Bylaws of the corporation.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was

RESOLVED that Atheists of Florida, Inc. would increase the number of board members from 12 to 18. An announcement will be made in the December newsletter requesting nominations by the membership of new board members and a form will be included in the newsletter for applications to the Board.

of accomplice to murder. During the time she had been in prison, she had earned associates degrees in business administration and para-legal studies. She had earned a bachelors degree in political science and was a published poet and had received numerous literary awards. She was planning to pursue her masters degree from Cal State University via external study. To complete her studies she would require \$2,400 plus approximately \$600 for textbooks and so-on. Mr. Tzanetakos had written the counselor of the prisoner to ascertain the validity of the letter and having not received a response by the date of the Board Meeting, spoke with the counselor by telephone to so verify. The Scholarship Fund stands at \$1,300. The President made a motion to award a portion of the Fund to the woman in view of his confidence, after speaking with the counselor, that she deserves the money. Further discussion ensued without any seconding. The Chairman proposed a three-part motion as follows: 1) Send a request for transcripts of her scholastic achievement to determine the quality of her work; 2) Have her send us a Statement of her Atheism to determine her sincerity; and 3) If a contribution is made, it must be sent directly to the institution which is educating her rather than directly to the convict. The amount of the Scholarship award will be determined after a review of any

documents we receive. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

It was duly motioned, seconded and carried that Atheists of Florida, Inc. will provide membership cards to paid members and renewals beginning in 1994. Following a review of several proposals for such a card prepared last year by Brent Yaciw, the Board voted on a selection for such a card. Based on the decision of the Board, the President directed the art department to produce a membership card which will include the date of the origination of the membership, the date of expiration of the card, and the signature of the Chairman of Atheists of Florida, Inc. The reverse side of the card will include a suitable quotation or highlights of the Statement of Purpose of the organization to be left to the discretion of the producer of the card.

At 12:00 the Chairman adjourned the meeting for lunch having pointed out that the status of the treasury was such that the Corporation would be unable to pick up the tab this year. All Members agreed to spring for their own lunch.

Following lunch, the Chairman brought the meeting back to order.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was RESOLVED that the Board would form the Atheists of Florida PATRON'S CLUB to encourage its members to be personally involved in advancing the aims of Atheists of Florida, Inc. by pledging to give \$100.00 each year for the next three years, and to recruit three additional members in the club.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried, it was resolved that a certificate would be provided for members of the Atheists of Florida Patron's Club which would be signed by the Chairman. The Atheists of Florida, Inc. Patron's Club will be announced in the newsletter.

Discussion was introduced regarding the confiscation by American Atheists of the funds of the former Miami, Florida chapter of American Atheists. A copy of the letter drafted by Christos Tzanetakos and sent by registered U. S. Mail to Jon Murray, appointed president of American Atheists, is hereby spread at length in the minute book. Charles Ross agreed to investigate through an attorney the projected cost of attempting to recover said monies through litigation on a contingency fee basis.

Motion was introduced by the President to install Charles A. Ross as Registered Agent for Atheists of Florida, Inc. as a result of the vacancy created by the death of John Diamond, the previous agent. The motion was seconded and

carried by majority vote.

The President introduced a desk-top calendar which included a display for the Atheists of Florida name, logo, mailing address and Atheist Hotline telephone number. Also, a set of greeting cards which might be appealing to atheists was offered as an opportunity to generate funds for the organization through sale of the cards. Ed Golly agreed to investigate the cost and practicality of producing such a promotion piece and greeting cards for 1994.

After reviewing the fees and projected costs which Ed Golly had received from the Post Office, a motion was duly introduced, seconded and carried to open a Bulk Mail account and begin mailing the newsletters by such means.

In anticipation of continued production of the *Atheists of Florida Forum*, the Chairman proposed a motion to invite some theists to debate on one or more of the *Forum* programs. The motion was seconded and passed by the following vote:

In favor: 4 Opposed: 2

Charles Ross introduced the idea of having more than one Board Meeting per year. This led to discussion of a possible convention in St. Petersburg in November, 1994 at which time a Board Meeting would be held. It was agreed that we should include a questionnaire in the newsletter to attempt to determine how many people might consider attending such a

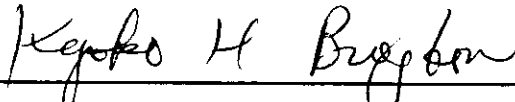
convention and approximate how much money they would be willing to spend to attend.

The President displayed some literature he had received from Barbara Smoker of England and briefed the Board on her status in the atheist community in England.

The President suggested asking Atheists of Florida member Mike Perdomo to monitor the *Miami Herald* for state/church separation news items which would be useable in the newsletter. Should he decline, a solicitation for a suitable Miami resident to provide same would be made in the newsletter.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

DATED this 20th day of November, 1993.



Secretary of the Meeting

Diane Metzger, #005634
State Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 180
Muncy, PA. 17756

September 26, 1993

Atheists of Florida
P.O. Box 530102
Miami, Florida 33153

Dear Fellow Atheists:

I am writing to you all with a plea to which I hope you will respond, and I'm requesting that you print this in your newsletter.

I am a 44-year-old atheist woman in my 18th year of serving a life sentence in prison for being an accomplice(*) to a murder. (* I was outside in a car and didn't even know anyone had been killed until after it had already happened!) During the time I've spent in prison, I've earned Associates degrees in Business Administration and Paralegal Studies, and I've earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. I am also a published poet and I have won numerous literary awards. I am presently pursuing my Masters degree in the Humanities with a History concentration from Cal State University via External Study. I am in great jeopardy of not being able to attain this goal, because I don't have the funding to go beyond the current trimester, which ends on December 3rd. The next trimester begins on December 27th. I will need a total of \$2,400, plus approximately \$600 in textbook fees, in order to complete my degree.

In Pennsylvania, there is no parole eligibility for lifers; *LIFE MEANS LIFE*. A lifer's only hope of freedom lies with clemency and commutation of sentence. Not only is it rarely even considered until the lifer has done at least 20 years, it is also imperative that a lifer be "golden" in terms of behavior and achievements. I not only need this Masters degree as a means of keeping my mind active and growing, but I also need it as an achievement to "stand out above the rest" in order to hope to achieve my eventual freedom.

I am asking for financial help from all who read this. I will answer *ALL* questions and provide *ANY DOCUMENTATION* that you may require. All donations MUST be in the form of a Postal Money Order or a Certified Bank Check. (No personal checks or cash are permitted here.) *THANK YOU!!!!!!*


Diane Metzger



ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC.

P.O. BOX 530102
MIAMI, FL 33153-0102

Phone: (305) 936-0210

Jon Murray
Appointed president
American Atheists
7215 Cameron Road
Austin, TX 78752-2973

September 3rd, 1992

Jon Murray,

Back in 1991, at the Annual Convention, and while I was on the board of directors, I attempted to bring the organization in compliance with the law and its own articles of incorporation.

In the process, my actions and constructive criticism was misinterpreted perhaps inadvertently by your blind devotion to your mother. (so much for the "Question Authority" sign, displayed at the center.)

The result was the splintering of our ranks into yet more groups, after the shut down of the chapters.

For your information, after a unanimous vote for independence, by the members of the South Florida Chapter, ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC, was incorporated on January 28th, 1992 with articles and bylaws not only adherent to Atheist ideals, but also consistent with the laws for nonprofit organizations. (just compare them with your bylaws.)

And yes Mr. Murray, we do live in a country where there are laws, rules and regulations.

Therefore, as ELECTED president, and after a unanimous vote of the board of directors meeting on August 9th, 1992, I am requesting the following.

1. The immediate return of the funds (\$ 6,200.00) (part of which was designated for our scholarship fund) and taken by you after giving fraudulent statements to our bank.
2. Since the members of Atheists of Florida, Inc, (among them eleven life time members), have invested their hard earned money with the American Atheist organization, we request the annual returns (financial statements) of all the nonprofit corporations, under the umbrella of American Atheists, for the last three years along with the copy of the IRS tax exemption letter and the supporting documents, as mandated by the IRS regulations notice 88-120, 1988-2 C.B. 454. (see page 3 of the enclosed tax exempt letter of our organization.)



ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC.

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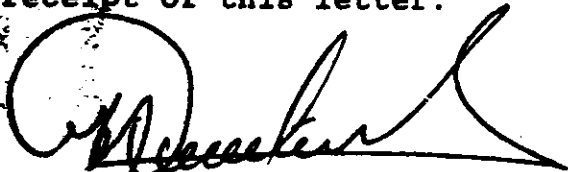
Phone: (305) 936-0210

As you very well know, this was requested by the letter dated June, 16th, 1991 to which as of yet you failed to comply.

In conclusion, Mr. Murray, I hope that this time logic and reason will prevail, since we do not wish to see any more Atheist energy being wasted in infighting.

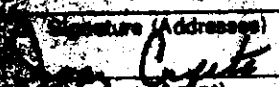
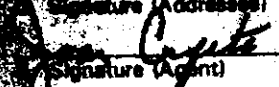
The time has come to question authority Mr. Murray, even if this is a Madaly O'Hair, whom we all at one time admired, but unfortunately at the end she failed us.

Again, we expect to hear from you within 30 days from the receipt of this letter.



Christos Tzanetacos
President

Enclosure: Atheists of Florida, Inc Exemption letter
Bylaws
Letter of June 16th, 1991

<p>Article Addressed to: JON MURRAY APPOINTED PRESIDENT AMERICAN ATHEISTS 7215 Cameron Road Austin, TX 78752-2973</p>		<p>4a. Article Number B315A/543</p>	
<p>Signature (Addressee) </p>		<p>4b. Service Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Insured <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified <input type="checkbox"/> COD <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise</p>	
<p>Signature (Agent) </p>		<p>7. Date of Delivery 6/15/91</p>	
<p>8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)</p>		<p>8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)</p>	

Form 3811, November 1990 U.S. GPO: 1991-257-086 DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT

A nonprofit, educational organization, dedicated to Freedom of thought and expression, and to the mandate of the First Amendment for complete and absolute separation of state and church.