

1998

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC.
FOR THE YEAR 1998
Pembroke Park, Florida
May 17, 1998

The Annual Meeting of the Directors of ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC., a 501(c)(3) non-profit Florida Corporation, was held on Sunday, May 17, 1998 in the conference room of Corporate Treasurer Charles Ross at 3845 S. W. 41st Street, Pembroke Park, Florida.

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Xanthopoulos, Ph.D. at 12:30 P.M. The President 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 officers for the coming year and other items specified on the agenda which had been delivered to all board members along with the minutes of the previous meeting over one month prior to the meeting.

2. Roll call.

The President introduced the guest who was in attendance at the meeting:

C. W. Mitchell, Director, Northeast Chapter of Atheists of Florida, Inc.

The Secretary then called roll and found the following board members to be present:

Dr. John Xanthopoulos, <i>Chairman of the Board</i>	
Christos Tzanetakos, <i>President</i>	Charles Schisler, <i>Vice President</i>
Ed Golly, <i>Secretary</i>	Charles Ross, <i>Treasurer</i>
Nan Owens	Florence Morgenroth
Jan Eisler	James Strayer
Celia Glantz	Rebeca Porto
Tony Schleifstein	

The Chairman noted that a quorum was present and proceeded with the meeting.

3. Minutes of previous meeting.

The Secretary read the minutes of the previous board meeting.

Upon MOTION duly made by Xanthopoulos and SECONDED by Eisler and carried by unanimous VOTE, the minutes of the previous meetings were approved.

4. Minutes of December, 1997 Special Board Meeting.

The secretary read the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held December 7, 1997. The Board accepted the minutes by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

5. Treasurer's report.

The statement of revenues and expenditures and changes in fund balances for the year ended December 31, 1997 was as follows:

GENERAL FUND	
REVENUES:	
Memberships	\$4,595.00
Contributions	3,071.00
Convention Proceeds	1,711.00
Total Revenues	\$9,377.00
EXPENDITURES:	
PROGRAM SERVICES:	
Advertising	52.00
Convention Costs	856.00
Camp Sponsorship	225.00
Awards	187.00
Newsletter & Postage	2,417.00
Hotline Services	1,027.00
Book Fair Fees	400.00
Television Forum	1,147.00
Total Program Service Costs	6,311.00
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS:	
Licenses & Tax	217.00
Office Expenses	308.00
Total Administrative Costs	525.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	6,836.00
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	2,541.00
FUND BALANCES:	
OPENING BALANCE	2,739.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$5,280.00

6. President's report.

The President gave his annual report to the Board. He reiterated that from the original date of incorporation, the purpose of Atheists of Florida, Inc., was to promote atheism and the positive aspects of the atheist lifestyle. The president expressed disappointment concerning the recent Atheist Alliance Board of Director's meeting wherein an effort had been made to bring American Atheists into the Atheist Alliance as a Member Society. In addition he objected to the conduct of the Atheist Alliance when it engages in business and cooperation with the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) because FFRF conducts its affairs as a business rather than as a democratically-run non-profit organization even though FFRF is doing a good job disseminating information about atheism. Tzanetakos expressed similar misgivings about the Council for Secular Humanism (CSH). Consequently, Tzanetakos asked the Board to consider dissolution of involvement with these four organizations.

Schleifstein introduced a MOTION that Atheists of Florida, Inc. dissolve association with AAI, AA, FFRF, and CSFH. Tzanetakos SECONDED. Discussion followed. Tzanetakos made a MOTION for an AMENDMENT to the motion that Atheists of Florida, Inc. officially disassociate any involvement with the Council for Secular Humanism and order the Atheists of Florida name removed from all of their literature. Owens SECONDED the motion. Discussion followed. The amendment was APPROVED.

VOTE on the motion was:

FOR: 6

AGAINST: 6

According to the Bylaws, a tie vote is broken by assigning two votes to the Chairman. Since the Chairman had voted against the motion, the motion was DEFEATED.

7. Old Business.

7.1 Committee reports.

7.1.1 Web page report. Golly reported that the Web Page is being developed and was expected to be in service within two weeks.

7.1.2 Greeting card committee report. Porto displayed several proposals for Solstice cards that she had developed. The Board agreed that one design will be produced and offered for sale to determine demand.

7.1.3 Atheists of Florida Forum. Tzanetakos reported difficulty in obtaining approval for production another series of the Atheists of Florida Forum. Miami Cable-TAP is under new management and advises it has a full schedule for the present. Porto advised submitting another application for Forum production next year.

7.1.4 Atheists of Florida Library. Having catalogued all publications in the A of F inventory, the Board agreed that the Library would begin to offer several publications for sale in each newsletter.

7.2. The Mark Twain Scholarship Fund. The current balance of the fund is \$300.00 plus another \$300.00 which had been borrowed from the Atheists of Florida general fund in order to keep the minimum \$500.00 balance required to avoid service charges. Tzanetakos described several applications the Fund has made to several charitable funds and Federal Campaign Funds throughout Florida. Golly announced that his father had made a significant contribution to the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, a charitable trust fund, as a designated donor which will allow him to designate a percentage of the distributions generated by his donation to be directed to the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund. As a result, the Fund can expect to receive approximately \$4,500.00 per year.

7.3. Atheists of Florida, Inc. Bookstore. Tzanetakos described book titles we have in stock and directed the publications to be offered for sale in upcoming newsletters.

7.4. Miami Book Fair International. Tzanetakos gave a report on last year's participation by Atheists of Florida, Inc. in the Miami Book Fair International and urged participation in future book fairs. This year it will be held on November 15 through the 22nd. Glantz made a MOTION that Atheists of Florida, Inc. register for participation in the 1998 Miami Book Fair International. SECOND by Eisler. VOTE in FAVOR of the motion was unanimous.

8. New Business.

8.1 Camp Quest camper sponsorship. Eisler gave a report on the status of Camp Quest and its projected activities for this year. A nine-day schedule is planned at Camp Kern in central Ohio. The registration fee will be \$325.00 per child. The Board discussed the prospect of sponsorship of a child at the camp.

Schleifstein introduced a MOTION for Atheists of Florida, Inc. to sponsor one child at Camp Quest. The membership of A of F will be solicited for donation of funds for that purpose. Any contributions collected beyond the requirements needed will be contributed to the Atheists of Florida, Inc. general fund. SECONDED by Ross. Following discussion, VOTE on the motion was taken and tallied as follows:

FOR: 9

AGAINST: 2

The motion was APPROVED.

8.2 Volusia County school board prayer meeting case. Strayer gave a complete report on the situation. He will monitor developments in the situation and advise if Atheists of Florida, Inc. should respond pending further developments in the case.

8.3 Dissolution of obsolete committees. Each standing committee of Atheists of Florida, Inc. was reviewed.

8.3.1 Guidelines Committee. Chairman Schisler submitted the guidelines developed by the committee governing spokespersons for Atheists of Florida, Inc. as follows:

“We think the Chairperson and President should be the official spokespersons for Atheists of Florida, Inc., responsible to the Board. They have full authority for making decisions on how and what is promoted. Therefore it is important to elect and keep persons with sound judgement to these positions.

“We agree that the minutia of bible criticism should not be encouraged because it is childish and unprofessional. It is far better to engage philosophically and analytically in principles. Those who do engage in biblical debate should make it clear they speak for themselves and do not represent the official position of Atheists of Florida, Inc.

“Our mission would not be directed to negate any specific cult, but rather to show as best we can the many important, positive aspects of atheism. We think such an approach is intellectually and psychologically most persuasive.”

Upon MOTION duly made by Golly and SECONDED by Owens and APPROVED by unanimous VOTE, the guidelines were accepted as submitted.

The Guidelines Committee was then dissolved.

8.3.2 Membership Expansion Committee. See 8.3.3 for action on this committee.

8.3.3 Public Relations Committee. Upon MOTION duly made by Golly and SECONDED by Xanthopoulos and APPROVED by unanimous VOTE, the Membership Expansion Committee and the Public Relations Committee were merged into a single committee called the Public Relations Committee. All members of both committees were merged into the single committee.

8.3.4 Fund Raising Committee. Tzanetakos gave a report on the activities of the committee and the Board decided to maintain the committee as it presently stands.

8.3.5 Membership/Greeting Card Committee. Porto had already given a presentation of Solstice card ideas and Golly noted that the Committee had undertaken the task of regularly producing and distributing membership cards each year. The Board decided to maintain the committee as it presently stands.

8.3.6 Library Committee. The Library Committee had previously reported at the meeting. The Board decided to maintain the committee as it presently stands.

8.3.7 T-shirt Committee. Following discussion, it was agreed that since the Committee had performed its intended task, the Board would dissolve the T-shirt Committee.

8.3.8 Organizational Manual Committee. Chairman Owens had as yet been unable to begin work on the committee task but advised the Committee would soon begin work. The Board agreed to maintain the committee as it presently stands.

All other committees were maintained as they presently stand.

8.4 Proposed Perdomo publication *The Book of Revelation*. Following discussion by the Board, MOTION was made by Xanthopoulos to submit the manuscript of *The Book of Revelation* to the Publications Committee for review and their determination of whether or not A of F should undertake to publish the book. SECONDED by Golly. VOTE in favor of the motion was UNANIMOUS.

8.5 Investment Club report. Golly reported that the Investment Club had seven potentially active members and a new member in A of F had agreed to assume the presidency of the Club. Although inactive to date, the Club would remain active.

8.6 Investment of Life Membership funds. The Board discussed the status of the current investments of the Life Membership funds currently held in Certificates of Deposit. Schleifstein suggested combining the funds with existing A of F funds to establish a larger account with a particular bank in hopes of securing a larger interest rate. Upon MOTION duly made by Tzanetakos and SECONDED by Morgenroth and APPROVED by unanimous VOTE, the funds will be rolled over for one (1) year as currently invested.

8.7 Chapter Start-up expenses. Strayer addressed the issue of expenses incurred by new chapters and how they were to be reimbursed. Also addressed was how membership fees were made available to the chapters.

The Chairman ordered the Organization Manual Committee to draft guidelines on these issues to submit to the next Board meeting for approval.

8.8 Information pamphlets. Strayer had submitted twelve information pamphlets to Atheists of Florida, Inc. for review and consideration of publication for giveaway distribution. Having not yet acted on the pamphlets, Eisler advised submitting the twelve pamphlets to the A of F Publications Committee for review. The Chairman directed the Committee to review the documents and make a determination of whether or not A of F should publish and distribute the publications.

8.9 Bylaws amendment. Eisler introduced a MOTION to amend the Bylaws of Atheists of Florida to provide that upon absence from two (2) consecutive board of directors meetings without a valid reason any Board Member will be dismissed from the Board of Directors. The Board will evaluate each individual consideration and determine whether or not to retain the member. SECONDED by Ross. VOTE on the motion was UNANIMOUS.

8.10 Bylaws amendment. Tzanetakos introduced a MOTION for an amendment to the Bylaws for a quorum to be constituted by 50% of the standing number of Board Members.

SECONDED by Golly. VOTE on the motion was UNANIMOUS.

8.11 Bylaws amendment. Golly introduced a MOTION to amend the Bylaws to limit the president of Atheists of Florida, Inc. to two (2) terms in office. SECONDED by Morgenroth. VOTE on the motion was:

FOR: 7

AGAINST: 4

The motion was APPROVED.

8.12 Board Member liability. Discussion ensued of the possibly pending case against the Tampa International Airport chapel. Upon MOTION by Xanthopoulos and SECONDED by Schleifstein and APPROVED by unanimous VOTE, Ross was appointed to investigate the potential liability of individual board members in event A of F brings suit against the airport and loses the case.

8.13 Chapel suit. Schleifstein introduced a MOTION for Atheists of Florida, Inc. bring suit against the construction of a chapel at Tampa International Airport if Ross can determine that individual board members can not be held liable in event of loss of the case. SECONDED by Golly. VOTE in FAVOR of the motion was UNANIMOUS.

9. Election of Officers for 1998-99 term.

Tzanetakos NOMINATED **Ed Golly – President.** SECONDED by Eisler. With no other nominations, Golly was appointed by acclamation.

Eisler NOMINATED **Charles Schisler – Vice-President.** SECONDED by Tzanetakos. With no other nominations, Schisler was appointed by acclamation.

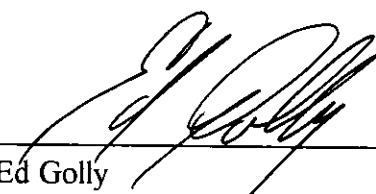
Tzanetakos NOMINATED **Jim Strayer – Secretary.** SECONDED by Eisler. With no other nominations, Strayer was appointed by acclamation.

Xanthopoulos NOMINATED **Charles Ross – Treasurer.** SECONDED by Golly. With no other nominations, Ross was appointed by acclamation.

Eisler NOMINATED **Dr. John Xanthopoulos – Chairman.** SECONDED by Schisler. With no other nominations, Xanthopoulos was appointed by acclamation.

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

DATED this 17th day of May, 1998



Ed Golly
Secretary of the Meeting

Atheists of Florida, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May, 1998

Directors terms are three years. Board members elected in 1994 have had their terms extended two years to coincide with members elected in 1996.

Board Members elected in 1994

McDOUGALL, Ed	5553 Darlene St. / Spring Hill, FL 34607-1518 E-mail: stopirs@gate.net	352/597-3499
OWENS, Nan	820 Virginia Ave. / Apt. 213 / Dunedin, FL 34698 E-mail: nanowens@ix.netcom.com	727/724-9342
ROSS, Charles <i>Treasurer</i>	11166 Griffing Blvd. / N Miami, FL 33161 E-mail: AthAI FL A@aol.com CAR97@ibm.net	954/983-6330
SCHLEIFSTEIN, Tony	9173 Greenbrier Ct. / Davie, FL 33328-6733	305/434 2930
STRAYER, Jim <i>Secretary</i>	6 Margaret Rd. / Ormond By The Sea, FL 32176 E-mail: JimFOV@aol.com	904/441-7410
XANTHOPOULOS, John <i>Chairman of the Board</i>	700 S W 9 St. / Boca Raton, FL 33486 E-mail: RRVG02A@prodigy.com	407/393-0767

Board Members elected in 1996

ALTMAN, Allan	19920 N E 21 st Court / N Miami Beach, FL 33179	305/935-6240
EISLER, Jan	13336 Gulf Blvd. #304 / Madeira Beach, FL 33708 E-mail: HASP@gte.net	727/391-7571
GLANTZ, Celia	2750 N E 183 St.# T2403 / N Miami Beach, FL 33160	305/931-8626
GOLLY, Ed <i>President</i>	3510 S MacDill Av. / Tampa, FL 33629 E-mail: AthAI FL E@aol.com	813/839-7567
KATZ, Lori	1514 4 th Street / Key West, FL 33040	305/296-8269
MILES, Steven	6308 N.W. 136 Street / Gainesville, FL 32606	904/332-1727
MORGENROTH, Florence	11675 9 th Street N. # 3 / St. Petersburg, FL 33716	727/578-1677
PORTO, Rebeca	6041 S.W 88 Street / Miami, FL 33156	305/665-8171
SCHISLER, Charles <i>Vice President</i>	374 Golfview Rd #306 / N Palm Beach, FL 33408 E-mail: schisler@earthlink.net	561/627-6340
TZANETAKOS, Christos	3120 N. A-1-A # 503 / Ft. Pierce, FL 34949 E-mail: AthAI FL C@aol.com	407/489-5505