

2001

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC.
FOR THE YEAR 2001
Tampa, Florida
February 25, 2001

1. Introduction.

The annual meeting of the Directors of ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Florida Corporation was held on Sunday, February 25, 2001 in the conference room of Raytheon Aircraft, 2450 N. Westshore Blvd., Tampa, Florida.

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 trustees for the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Florida Corporation sponsored by Atheists of Florida, Inc., and other items specified on the agenda which had been delivered to all Board Members one week prior to the meeting.

2. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Golly at 10:39 a.m.

3. Roll Call.

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

Ed Golly, <i>Chairman, Treasurer</i>	Brent Yaciw
Nan Owens, <i>President</i>	Jim Peterson
Charles Schlisler, <i>Vice President</i>	Steven Miles
Jim Young, <i>Secretary</i>	

Proxy vote of Anthony Schleifstein was represented by Christos Tzanetakos.

Proxy vote of Patrick Bens was represented by Nan Owens

Jacques Musy—visitor

Abigail Ann Martin—visitor

4. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the 1999 Board Meeting had been delivered to all board members by U.S. Mail. Upon MOTION duly made by Tzanetakos and SECONDED by Peterson, the minutes were APPROVED by unanimous VOTE.

5. Treasurer's report.

5.1 Atheists of Florida, Inc. Treasurer Golly reported that all financial information had been sent to Charles Ross for compilation of the corporation's Form 990 and preparation for the corporation annual report. He had not yet received any information back from Ross, therefore the information was not available for dispensation and the annual report had not yet been prepared pending receipt of that information. Golly reported the balance in the checking account stood at approximately \$1,750.00. Golly announced that the information would be forthcoming to all board members included within the annual report when it is completed. The Treasurer's report was directed to be attached to these minutes when available.

ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC. / 2000 Board of Directors Meeting

5.2 Mark Twain Scholarship Fund. Tzanetakos reported that the corporation had filed suit against the FSECC seeking inclusion in their listing of Florida nonprofit corporations. Just two days previous, the case had been dismissed due to its failure to provide audited financial statements for the year as required by the FSECC. Tzanetakos announced he had a source to obtain the necessary audit for next year's application. He had already received an application for 2001.

The Twain Scholarship Fund annual report had been completed and was distributed to the board for review. The Statement of Revenues and Expenditures and changes in fund balances for the year ended December 31, 2000 was as follows:

UNRESTRICTED ASSETS:		
REVENUES:		
Contributions	\$ 6,204	
Total Revenues		\$ 6,204
EXPENDITURES:		
PROGRAM SERVICES:		
Scholarships	1,600	
Books to Applicants	357	
Fund Raising Expenses	181	
Postage Box Rental	44	
Legal Fees	1,450	
Licenses	80	
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICE COSTS		3,712
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS:		
Office expenses	749	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS		749
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:		4,461
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES		1,743
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED ASSETS?		
NET ASSETS—BEGINNING OF YEAR		5,200
NET ASSETS—END OF YEAR		<u>\$ 6,943</u>

Upon MOTION duly made by Yaciw, SECONDED by Golly, the financial statement for the Scholarship Fund was APPROVED as read.

6. President's report.

Owens reported that she had been working with Chapter Director Jennifer Gallo in Orlando. Attendance at the meetings had been light. Owens concluded this was due to competition from other freethought organizations that had already been established in that geographical area along with a lack of specific programs for the meetings.

The Board discussed the possibility of involving Atheists of Florida in alliances with other freethought organizations in Florida. The Board concluded this would help reduce competitiveness. Peterson reported that a coalition is being formed via Humanists of Florida.

Tzanetakos submitted a MOTION that Atheists of Florida propose the formation of a council of all atheistic organizations in Florida, SECONDED by Golly. Following discussion, a VOTE was taken on the motion. The motion FAILED to pass.

Golly submitted a MOTION that Atheists of Florida send one or more representatives to attend the upcoming conference of Humanists of Florida to be held April 20—22 in Tampa and be given the authority to involve Atheists of Florida in the coalition. Tzanetakos SECONDED the motion. Upon VOTE by the Board, the motion was APPROVED.

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The Board appointed Owens, Golly, and Peterson to represent Atheists of Florida at the above-described conference.

7. Mark Twain Scholarship Fund.

Tzanetakos reported that the Fund is attempting to increase its listing with the CFC in all 19 regions covered by the State of Florida.

For the year 2000, the checks devised to the four essay winners were distributed directly to their respective universities. The Fund also issued certificates to all four winners.

8. Committee Reports.

8.1 Publications committee—Owens

8.1.1 Goals - Discussion indicated emphasis should be on education, recruitment Owens discussed the issues which prompted the suspension of committee activities. After discussion, the board expressed its desire to re-activate the committee. MOTION by Golly, SECONDED by Miles to appoint Jim Young Project Manager. MOTION APPROVED. Young will appoint a fourth member to the committee.

8.1.2 Publish under Atheists of Florida Logo - MOTION by Young, SECONDED by Peterson to "Recall all publications for review." MOTION APPROVED.

8.2 Membership Expansion—Strayer (absent)

No report was available.

8.3 Fund Raising—Tzanetakos

Christos reported on fundraising ideas and efforts.

8.4 Membership/greeting Cards—Porto (absent)

No report. Golly reported we do issue membership cards for new members and renewals.

8.5 Library Project—Golly

Golly announced that we could segregate our library inventory to list only publications available for sale to have during outreach. List will be available at meetings and on website. We will consider purchase of Prometheus Books in bulk through Tampa Bay Skeptics at 30% discount. Discussed tax exempt certificate from Florida to allow us to purchase/sell books exempt from sales tax.

MOTION by Young that Atheists of Florida should solicit, via the newsletter, donations of personal libraries held by members as final bequests. SECONDED by Peterson. Motion APPROVED by VOTE of the Board.

8.6 Organizational Manual Project—Nan Owens

Owens distributed a draft of the Atheists of Florida, Inc., "Chapter Standards of Operations and Guidelines."

8.6.1 Tzanetakos submitted a MOTION to incorporate under the section "Member Communications" the following: "As a guideline, letters of grievance should be directed to the President only." Motion was SECONDED by Young. VOTE on the motion was for APPROVAL.

8.6.2 Young submitted a MOTION for the Board to approve adoption of the Chapter Standards of Operations, SECONDED by Peterson.

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Following discussion, Young submitted AMENDMENT 1 to drop all wording of the 1997 guideline except the first sentence which reads, "We agree that the minutia of biblical criticism should not be encouraged." The amendment was SECONDED.

Yaciw submitted AMENDMENT 2 to the motion to add, "Our goal should be to showcase the positive aspects of Atheism." Owens SECONDED the amendment.

A VOTE on Amendment 2 was taken and it was DEFEATED.

Peterson submitted AMENDMENT 3 to add the sentence: "Rather, our goal is to show the benefit of Atheism for a well rounded human life." The amendment was SECONDED by Young. Amendment 3 was APPROVED by VOTE of the Board.

The Chair directed the Board to Amendment 1. The amendment was APPROVED by VOTE of the Board.

The Chair directed the Board to the main motion. The motion was APPROVED by VOTE of the Board.

8.7 Chapel Lawsuit Project—Golly

No action was in progress nor anticipated.

8.8 Meeting Facilities Project—Bens (absent)

Due to Bens' absence, there was no report.

8.9 Outreach—Young

Young reported on outreach activities for the year 2000. Owens raised questions posed by Bens for discussion.

What has our mission been? Education, exposure, membership recruitment.

How have we met it? Book fairs, mailings, literature, videos, etc.

What will it be in the future? Expand to St. Petersburg *Times* Reading Festival

The Board discussed adoption of a five-year plan for the organization. The Board determined not to adopt a plan at this time.

8.10 Advertising—Golly

The Tampa Bay chapter continues to place advertising in *The Weekly Planet* which continues to generate calls to the telephone line. Bens continues to advertise in newspaper publications in the Miami area.

8.11 Hispanic Chapter—Bens (absent)

Due to Bens' absence, there was no report.

8.12 Cable TV—Golly

Due to the fact that Yaciw is not a resident of Hillsborough County, he is not qualified to participate in training at Time-Warner Cable TV in Tampa, nor can he be involved in production through that facility. Golly is working with Young to get the project started. Golly had planned to write a letter to all prospective participants on our mailing list in Hillsborough County to ask for volunteer participants. The Board questioned the possibility that we could use Joe Redner's crew and/or facilities for production of a weekly Cable TV program. Golly offered to inquire and report back to the Board. If Redner's facilities are unavailable, we will proceed with attempting to develop a crew, obtain training from Time-Warner, and produce a program through that facility.

9. Old Business.

9.1 Atheists of Florida Website—Peterson

Tzanetakos reviewed some of the problems and issues he had encountered with the website. Peterson explained some of the technical aspects of the website to clarify some of the apparent problems to the satisfaction of the Board. He explained the reasons the image may not always fit all computer screens and printing obstacles that may be encountered by interrogators of the website. These problems could be solved, but the expense would be considerable and clearly out of our reach. Bens wanted the ability to directly access the site to make to changes at his discretion. Peterson advised the Board that he should continue to be the only person able to access the website. His concern was that too many persons accessing the site could potentially create a lot of problems on the site and it would remain clean if only he manipulated it. The Board agreed. Peterson insisted he would make all changes submitted to him in a timely manner. Owens passed packet of suggestions and corrections for the webpage to Peterson for later review and accommodation.

10. New Business.

10.1 Dues Increase.

Upon MOTION duly made by Golly, SECONDED by Young, and APPROVED by unanimous VOTE, the annual dues for membership in Atheists of Florida, Inc. were hereby increased by \$10.00 for the categories of Individual, Couple, and Sustaining. All other categories will remain unchanged. Owens agreed to write an explanation of the reasons considered by the Board for the increase to be published in the newsletter.

10.2 Final Bequests.

Owens reviewed some of the materials compiled from the Hemlock Society regarding bequests to their organization.

Young submitted a MOTION that Atheists of Florida establish a final bequests project and name a manager. SECONDED by Golly.

Yaciw submitted AMENDMENT 1 to the motion that the project manager will seek legal council before publishing particulars, SECONDED by Golly. Following discussion and VOTE, Amendment 1 was APPROVED.

Owens submitted AMENDMENT 2 to the motion to limit the cost for legal council to review Atheists of Florida publications soliciting final bequests to not exceed \$500.00. SECONDED by Golly. VOTE on Amendment 2 was APPROVED.

The Board returned to the main motion, which was APPROVED by VOTE of the Board. Owens was appointed project manager.

10.3 Bylaws changes—Golly, Young

Golly explained bylaws deficiencies with respect to the roles of Chairman and President.

MOTION by Young, SECONDED by Golly to AMEND the bylaws in three places as follows:

ARTICLE VII OFFICERS

Section 2. The President.

(Insert the following wording immediately following the first sentence.) "The President is empowered act on behalf of the board in making decisions, resolving issues, and setting policy.

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The power of the President to fully manage the business affairs of the organization shall only be limited to the framework of the bylaws and policies of the organization."

ARTICLE VII OFFICERS

Section 2. The President

(Delete the following wording.) "After the Board has selected the site and time of the next annual meeting, or of a special meeting, the President shall be responsible for making all arrangements, including compiling the meeting's agenda. The President shall chair the meeting."

ARTICLE VII OFFICERS

(Add) "Section 7. The Chairman

The President shall select the site and time of the next board meeting, or of a special meeting. The Chairman shall be responsible for making all meeting arrangements, including compiling the meetings agenda. The Chairman shall preside over the Board of Directors meeting."

AMENDMENT 1 submitted by Golly, **SECONDED** by Tzanetakos, to relocate proposed Article VII, Section 7 to Article VI, Section 3. Amendment 1 was **APPROVED** by **VOTE** of the Board.

AMENDMENT 2 was submitted by Yaciw to include the sentence, "The President is limited in expenditures over \$100 to board notification allowing for five day response." **SECONDED** by Peterson. Amendment 2 was **APPROVED** by **VOTE** of the Board.

AMENDMENT 3 was submitted by Tzanetakos, **SECONDED** by Golly, to increase the amount the president is allowed to spend without Board approval to \$500.00. Amendment 3 was **APPROVED** by **VOTE** of the Board.

The Chair called for **VOTE** on the **MAIN MOTION** as **AMENDED**. The **MAIN MOTION** as **AMENDED** was **APPROVED**.

11. Organizational issues.

11.1 Mark Twain Scholarship Fund Trustees

Tzanetakos advised the Board that Porto and Williamson were to be replaced as trustees of the Twain Scholarship Fund.

11.1.1 **MOTION** by Golly, **SECONDED** by Owens to nominate Miles for the position of Trustee of the Twain Scholarship Fund.

11.1.2 **MOTION** by Tzanetakos, **SECONDED** by Young to nominate Owens for the position of Trustee of the Twain Scholarship Fund.

There being no further nominations for position of Trustee of the Twain Scholarship Fund, both candidates were **ACCEPTED** by **ACCLAMATION** to the position of Trustee.

11.2 Election of Officers of Atheists of Florida, Inc.

11.2.1 **MOTION** by Peterson, **SECONDED** by Miles, to nominate the existing slate of officers of Atheists of Florida to serve for a second term. The motion was **DEFEATED** by **VOTE** of the Board.

11.2.2 Owens **NOMINATED** Golly for the position of Chairman, **SECONDED** by Tzanetakos. There being no further nominations for Chairman, Golly was **ACCEPTED** by acclamation to the position of Chairman.

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11.2.3 Tzanetakos NOMINATED Miles for the position of Vice President, SECONDED by Peterson.

Golly NOMINATED Schisler for the position of Vice President, SECONDED by Miles. Schisler DECLINED.

There being no further nominations for Vice President, Miles was ACCEPTED by acclamation to the position of Vice President.

11.2.4 Tzanetakos NOMINATED Young for the position of Secretary, SECONDED by Owens. There being no further nominations for Secretary, Young was ACCEPTED by acclamation to the position of Secretary.

11.2.5 Tzanetakos NOMINATED Golly for the position of Treasurer, SECONDED by Peterson. There being no further nominations for Treasurer, Golly was ACCEPTED by acclamation to the position of Treasurer.

12. Miscellaneous Motions and Proposals

12.1 In compliance with the Bylaws, Porto was removed from Board automatically for failure to participate in two consecutive board meetings. Golly advised that he would send a letter to Porto thanking her for her service on the board.

12.2 Young announced that he would mail a copy of the revised Bylaws along with a copy of the minutes of this board meeting to all active Board members as soon as both were prepared.

12.3 Due to the excessive charges for Yellow Pages advertising for the phone line established by Schisler, the Board agreed to discontinue service for that line.

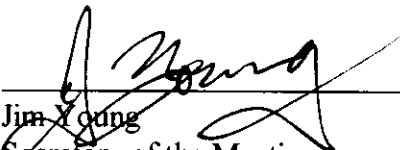
12.4 Owens will attend the next Atheist Alliance convention representing Atheists of Florida, along with Golly representing proxy for Miles. Young will accompany Golly and volunteer to record the minutes. Young will serve as proxy for Owens until she arrives.

13. Wrap Up and Adjournment.

MOTION by Young, SECONDED by Owens to adjourn. MOTION to adjourn APPROVED.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 PM.

DATED this 25th day of February, 2001



Jim Young
Secretary of the Meeting

Atheists of Florida, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February, 2001

Directors' terms are three years. This roster will serve until March, 2002.

Board Members elected in August, 1999

BENS, Patrick	470 NE 164 th Terr. / N. Miami Beach, FL 33162 atheist1@bellsouth.net	305/940-3555 Fax 305/949-3826
BRANNON, Dr. Michael	1626 SW 108 th Terr. / Davie, FL 33324 Jbelt34735@aol.com	954/424-3256
GALLO, Jennifer	P.O. Box 887 / Goldenrod, FL 32733 ath_of_fl@hotmail.com	407/737-1051
GOLLY, Ed <i>Chairman/Treasurer</i>	3510 S. MacDill Ave. / Tampa, FL 33629 AthAIFLE@aol.com	813/839-7567 Fax 813/839-7567
MILES, Steven <i>Vice President</i>	6308 N.W. 136 th Street / Gainesville, FL 32606 smiles@chem.ufl.edu	352/332-1727
OWENS, Nan <i>President</i>	4704 Lakewood Dr. / Seffner, FL 33584 nanowens@ix.netcom.com	813/662-6612 Off 813/797-8006 X 140
PETERSON, Jim	1996 Georgia Circle S. / Clearwater, FL 33760 JAMESTP@ij.net	727/524-3665 Fax 727/781-9731
SCHISLER, Charles	374 Golfview Road #306/ N Palm Beach, FL 33408 schisler@gate.net	561/627-6340
SCHLEIFSTEIN, Tony	1327 Portofino Cir. #713 / Weston, FL 33326 joelok@mindspring.com	305/434-2930
STRAYER, Jim	6 Margaret Rd. / Ormond By The Sea, FL 32176 BIOJIMS@aol.com	904/441-7410
TZANETAKOS, Christos	3120 N. A-1-A #503S / Ft. Pierce, FL 34949 AthAIFLC@aol.com	561/489-5505 Fax 561/465-6402
YACIW, Brent	6407 Gentle Ben Circle, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544 AthALFLB@aol.com	813/994-0726 Fax 813/994-0567 Cell 813/404-6737
YOUNG, James <i>Secretary</i>	2826 Keysville Road E. / Lithia, FL 33547 JAYOUNG@mindspring.com	813/737-1688

Atheists of Florida

Committees

February, 2001

Publications Committee 4/97—7.03

Purpose: To screen, edit and approve manuscripts for publication by Atheists of Florida. Three of four members must vote to approve any publication.

Members: *Chair:* Jim Young

Projects

Membership Expansion 11/94—8

Purpose: Expansion of Atheists of Florida membership

Project Manager: Jim Strayer

Fund Raising 11/94—10

Purpose: 1. To create a monthly leaflet for the newsletter
2. To solicit funds from other foundations.

Project Manager: Christos Tzanetakos

Membership/Greeting Cards 11/94—3

Purpose: To produce and distribute Atheists of Florida, Inc. membership cards and produce and sell season greeting cards and new year calendars.

Project Manager: Rebeca Porto

Library 11/94—11

Purpose: Maintain and catalogue books, periodicals, newsletters, archival materials and videos.

Project Manager: Ed Golly

Organizational Manual Project 12/97 SPL—4

Purpose: To draft a manual to guide the organization of new Atheists of Florida chapters.

Project Manager: Nan Owens

Chapel Lawsuit Project 10/99—7.5

Purpose: Determine feasibility of bringing suit against the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority to change name of TIA Chapel or devise alternative actions in lieu of legal action.

Project Manager: Ed Golly

Meeting Facilities Project 10/99—8.5

Purpose: To locate meeting facilities for chapters or board meetings for Atheists of Florida, Inc.

Project Manager: Patrick Bens

Outreach Committee 10/99—8.7

Purpose: To organize and engage in board approved outreach activities that promote and nurture atheism.

Project Manager: Jim Young

Advertising 5/00—8.7

Purpose: To assume responsibility for advertising and find a source of funds other than regular funds.

Project Manager: Ed Golly

Hispanic Chapter 5/00—8.8

Purpose: To establish a Spanish language outreach coordinator.

Project Manager: Patrick Bens

Cable TV 5/00—8.14

Purpose: To establish a public access Cable TV weekly program.

Project Manager: Brent Yaciw

August 29, 2000

Dear Members of the Board:

I must respectfully resign from my position as a board member of Atheists of Florida. After receiving the plea for contributions from Christos Tzanetakos, dated August 10, 2000, it has become increasingly clear that some of my personal philosophy about Atheism and operating an Atheist organization is in conflict with the philosophy of Atheists of Florida.

I have memberships in several organizations, as many Atheists do, and I do not take kindly to attacks of American Atheists or the Murray-O'Hair family. Even after her death, Mr. Tzanetakos is still carrying on about past grievances, referring to some Atheists as "unscrupulous persons of the Madalyn Murray O'Hair type." I find this to be very divisive, insulting, and unproductive.

Many younger Atheists do not even know who Dr. O'Hair was or what conflicts Mr. Tzanetakos might have had with her or her organization. To continue attacks of the O'Hair name only serves to keep Atheists separate and weak, unable to work on issues that are imperative to freedom and the preservation of the planet.

As a member of American Atheists since 1976, and a former Chapter Director, spokesperson and radio host over Pacifica radio in New York, I can tell you that Dr. O'Hair never used her newsletter, magazine or fund raising materials to attack other Atheists or free thought organizations. Officers of her organization were directed never to use the organization for that purpose.

For an organization that wants no connection with the "Madalyn Murray O'Hair type," Atheists of Florida certainly has had no problem using her image and/or materials provided from her organization in order to raise funds.

Just as Mr. Tzanetakos does not want Atheists representing the organization that he founded by debating the bible, American Atheists has the right to dictate how its organization should be represented. This has little to do with democracy, but rather protects the integrity and aims and purposes of a cause organization. I found it sad that, at the board meeting I attended, most of Mr. Tzanetakos' proposals were voted down. I was one of the people that agreed with the majority, but I find it silly for someone to found a cause organization and then set it up to where his ideals, as well as his person, could be voted out of the organization.

At the time that Mr. Tzanetakos and others split from Dr. O'Hair's American Atheists and formed Atheists of Florida, I was very close friends with the then Chapter Coordinator, Don Sanders, and privy to inside information. I attended a Tampa/St. Pete chapter dinner and was shocked to find non-members and non-atheists condemning Dr. O'Hair and how she ran American Atheists. I reported this information back to Don. Similar activities were going on around the country. I attended a chapter meeting in New York where religious spouses were making suggestions as to how the Atheists should run their organization. I never found the closing of the chapters to be an attack on democracy, but rather an attempt to reorganize and to get a handle on the organization before it was turned into something that its founder never intended.

Also, as a professional Atheist with many years of debating experience, it is my opinion that a failure to address any biblical debate sends the following messages: we are unable to debate those issues, we too respect the "sanctity" of the bible, and that we agree that it is the foundation of our country and civilization. Since the bible is the basis of the lunacy that affects us as atheists, addressing biblical ideas serves to plant the seeds of doubt which can only strengthen our cause.

If it is acceptable, I wish to continue my general membership because I believe in organizing to keep a strong presence in order to protect and promote the principles of Atheism. Whatever conflicts I have with individuals or organizations, I am first and foremost an Atheist. To that end, I support the endeavors of all who seek to promote the principles of Atheism and the separation between state and church.

Very truly yours,

Dominic Florio

8965 60th Way N.
Pinellas Park, FL 33782
(727) 547-0303



ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA
CHAPTER STANDARDS OF OPERATIONS

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DRAFT COPY

I. LOCATION AND CHAPTER NAME

The principal area in which the activities of this chapter shall be carried on is:

A Chapter shall be identified by its geographical location and shall be registered with applicable local governmental offices as required by law. The name of this chapter shall be:

II. AFFILIATION, AUTHORITY AND POWERS

SECTION 1: AFFILIATION

This chapter is an affiliated chapter of Atheists of Florida, a state-wide §501(c)(3) [IRS Code] non-profit educational organization dedicated to the freedom of thought and expression and to the mandate of the First Amendment for complete and absolute separation of state and church.

A statement that this chapter is a chapter of Atheists of Florida shall be included on all materials created and/or distributed by this chapter. All such materials must be approved by the Publications Committee and/or the Board of Directors of Atheists of Florida [hereafter, "state board"]. See, Atheists of Florida Publications Policy and Procedures. *Also see, ¶ IX, Spokespersons And Publications, below.*

SECTION 2: AUTHORITY AND POWERS

Local committees, designated as "Chapters", may be formed by a single active member of Atheists of Florida. Upon reaching a quantity of ten (10) members, the chapter shall appoint one (1) member to serve on the Board of Atheists of Florida unless at least one chapter member already serves on the Board. Directors of chapters with fewer than ten (10) members may attend Board meetings as a guest.

The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of Atheists of Florida, along with these Chapter Standards of Operations [hereafter, "CSO"], shall govern this chapter. The chapter shall take no action in conflict with any stated policy or purpose of Atheists of Florida, and shall be responsive to and cooperate with the directives of Atheists of Florida and its Board of Directors. Should any question of interpretation arise as to any chapter officer or any chapter action or program, a final decision as to the validity of the proposal or act shall be determined by the state board.

Atheists of Florida reserves the right to remove affiliate status from any chapter that takes any action in conflict with its policies or purposes, or that fails to cooperate or follow the directives of Atheists of Florida.

In addition, this chapter shall not engage in any kind of partisan political activity, including but not limited to the endorsement of candidates or political parties, or the distribution of campaign literature endorsing a candidate or political party. The chapter may, in accordance with Atheists of Florida policies, advocate for church-state issues and other Atheists of Florida interests.

No person shall be employed by the chapter without express approval of the state board.



ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA
CHAPTER STANDARDS OF OPERATIONS

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III. MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS

SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the chapter is based upon membership dues paid to the Atheists of Florida. Membership in Atheists of Florida grants access to participation with the member's local chapter and visitation privileges to other chapters, subject to that chapter's consent..

Membership in Atheists of Florida shall be open to all persons and organizations who agree to the purposes of Article 2 of Bylaws of Atheists of Florida. Types of membership, in accordance with the By-Laws, shall be: Individual, Couple, Student, Limited Income, Life, Organization and Honorary. Dues shall be set by the Board of Directors, and are to be paid annually. Life members shall pay dues only once in an amount set by the Board. Honorary members pay no dues. Life and Honorary members are for life unless terminated for cause, as specified hereafter. See, Atheists of Florida By-Laws for description of specific membership classes.

Atheists of Florida maintains the right to revoke the membership of any member, thereby removing such person from consideration as a present or future officer of a local chapter. See, By-Laws of Atheists of Florida, Article 5 §9, regarding the procedure for removal of membership.

SECTION 2: VOTING RIGHTS

Members of Atheists of Florida shall have the right both to nominate and vote for candidates for the Board of Directors of Atheists of Florida, and can volunteer to be nominated as a candidate. Directors are elected to a three (3) year term, and may be reelected. See, Atheists of Florida By-Laws for procedures on time and manner of election of Board Directors.

Members of Atheists of Florida who reside in the geographical area and are recognized as members of the local chapter shall have the right to vote for the chapter's executive board. In addition, Atheists of Florida members of the local chapter have the right to vote on chapter matters at properly convened chapter meetings. (See, ¶ 11, §2, above regarding permitted scope of chapter activities.)

IV. CHAPTER OFFICERS

SECTION 1: TITLES

By-Laws of Atheists of Florida provide that each chapter shall have an Executive Board composed of the officers of the chapter, namely, a Chapter Director, Vice-Director, and Secretary. The Chapter Board shall be subject to the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws of Atheists of Florida.

The Chapter Director shall consult with the state board President about chapter activities. The Chapter Director shall describe them in a written report to the President one month before the Annual Meeting, with a copy to the Chairman of the Board.

SECTION 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers of this chapter shall be elected at an Annual Meeting of the "at large" membership in the month of _____ each year. If the election shall not be held at such meeting, the election shall be held as soon thereafter as is convenient.



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SECTION 3: REMOVAL AND VACANCIES

Any officer of the chapter board may be removed by the chapter board whenever, in its judgment, the best interests of the chapter would be best served by such action. Approval of the board is required for all such actions.

In addition, any member whose membership is revoked by the state board is no longer eligible to be a present or future officer of the chapter. See, ¶ 3, §1 above.

A vacancy on the chapter board due to death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, may be filled at a meeting of the chapter board and/or a meeting of the "at large" membership.

V. CHAPTER MEETINGS

SECTION 1: ANNUAL MEETING

An annual meeting shall be held in the month of _____ each year. At this meeting the chapter director shall make an annual report of the activities, progress and current status of the chapter. All officers shall be elected at this meeting.

SECTION 2: OTHER MEETINGS

Meetings may be scheduled by the chapter at regular intervals, by the chapter director, or by any three members, at such times and places as they may designate, so long as required notice is given. The three chapter officers, or two chapter officers and at least three chapter members, constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting.

VI. FINANCES

SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership in the chapter is based upon membership dues paid to Atheists of Florida.

SECTION 2: CHAPTER EXPENDITURES AND ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA REIMBURSEMENTS

No funds shall be expended except as authorized by the chapter and approved by the state board.

Every expenditure shall be proven by a receipt. Copies of these receipts shall be made available to Atheists of Florida in regular financial reports.

Chapter boards are entitled to reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses related to the work of Atheists of Florida as authorized by the state board. Atheists of Florida will, in most cases, reimburse chapters that have an inadequate source of local funds. Such reimbursements must be approved before the expenditures are made.

CHAPTER 3: FUNDRAISING

Local chapters should cooperate with and complement the fundraising activities of Atheists of Florida. Local activities shall not compete with, duplicate, nor complicate the fundraising efforts of Atheists of Florida. Although local chapters are encouraged to provide the state board with names of potential donors, the chapters themselves should not engage in local fundraising without the approval and cooperation of the state board.



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Chapters may hold local fundraising events only with the approval and cooperation of the state board. Division of costs and benefits from such events will be determined by the state board in consultation with the local chapter.

Special gifts, contributions and designated funds must be reported to the state board and shall be in compliance with the policies for such as established by Atheists of Florida.

Questions about fundraising shall be directed to the Board of Directors of Atheists of Florida or its executive committee thereof.

SECTION 4: GRANTS

Local chapters may be eligible for three types of grants from Atheists of Florida: (1) a start-up grant for new chapters; (2) a membership incentive grant for chapters collecting memberships; and (3) a special projects grant for projects approved by the state board.

Chapters may apply for special project grants by providing all relevant project information—a working budget and a statement explaining the goals of the project and its value to Atheists of Florida.

VII. MEMBERSHIP LISTS

Membership lists belong to Atheists of Florida and may be shared with the local chapter. These lists are only to be used for activities that further the goals and purposes of Atheists of Florida.

- A. The lists cannot be sold or traded.
- B. The lists are not to be lent to coalitions or other organizations without the approval of the state board.
- C. The lists are never to be used for political campaigns or for personal gain.
- D. Any chapter leader who misuses membership lists should be removed from office by the local chapter or by the state board.
- E. Failure to remove such an offender, or the misuse of local mailing lists, may result in the loss of chapter affiliation under Atheists of Florida.

VIII. USE OF ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA LOGO

Chapters and their spokesperson may not use the logo or organizational name of Atheists of Florida without written authorization from the President of Atheists of Florida, as unauthorized use could cause great embarrassment and potential liability to the entire organization.

All publications and communications of any sort that include the name of Atheists of Florida and/or the logo of Atheists of Florida must be submitted to review by the Publications Committee and/or the Board of Directors of Atheists of Florida.

The actual format of the Atheists of Florida logo and/or the organization's name shall be accurately rendered according to the then-current board-approved prototype.



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IX. SPOKESPERSONS AND PUBLICATIONS

SECTION 1: ORGANIZATIONAL AIMS AND PURPOSES

The aims and purposes of Atheists of Florida as stated in their By-Laws are as follows:

- A. To promote freedom of thought and expression.
- B. To advocate, promote and defend in all lawful ways the complete and absolute separation of state and church as the First Amendment to the United States Constitution mandates.
- C. To protect the constitutional and civil rights of atheists as members of a free and democratic society.
- D. To promote the following concepts:
 1. Because human beings, along with all other species of animal and plants, evolved from primordial cell, Homo Sapiens is only a link in the chain of living matter.
 2. Because Homo Sapiens is the species with the most advanced brain and the most manipulative hands, and because we have developed excessively destructive weapons (nuclear and others), we are solely responsible for the well-being of our own species and to a great extent the rest of the life on planet Earth.
 3. Global population control is vital, and the extinction of other animal and plant species must be avoided.
 4. Cooperation and equality—not conflict—among all peoples must be encourage and promoted.
 5. Because all humans have a common origin, and because the classification of peoples by races and ethnic groups is divisive and detrimental to our species and to life itself, all humans on planet Earth should be called "Homo Sapiens", with only minimal, respectful reference to geographical and cultural origins.
- E. To perceive the believers of any faith as the product of unfounded dogmas toward whom sympathy and understanding must be extended.
- F. To educate the general public on Atheist goals and objectives.
- G. To promote Atheism as the philosophy which accepts only that which can be verified by the scientific method and rejects supernatural entities acceptable only as articles of faith.

SECTION 2: GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION

- A. The president of Atheists of Florida is the official spokesperson. In addition, the president and/or a state board resolution may designate other spokesperson(s) for the organization.
- B. In 1997, the Board of Directors provided the following guideline:

We agree that the minutia of bible criticism should not be encouraged ... 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. Our goal should ... show, as best we can, the many important, positive aspects of atheism...



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- C. In addition, the following guidelines should be followed in public discourses.
1. Spokespersons shall set aside personal philosophies and keep the dialogue in harmony with the official Atheists of Florida goals and purposes. (See, ¶ IX, §1, above.)
 2. Spokespersons shall not publicly define "atheism" or "atheist" in terms inconsistent with the dictionary definition.
 3. Spokespersons should avoid attaching offensive labels or characterizations (e.g., use terms that state or imply stupidity lack of intelligence) to those with whom we disagree.
 4. Any member of Atheists of Florida is free to present political and social issues in his/her own name—but such topics shall not be attributed as representative of the body of members of Atheists of Florida. Although many members agree on some political/social/philosophic issues, others do not. Spokespersons should address only those issues that directly concern the role of atheism in our community and country, *i.e.*, the aims and purposes detailed in the By-Laws of Atheists of Florida (¶ IX, §1, above).

X. CHAPTER STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
SECTION 1: HOW TO ADVERTISE

SECTION 2: GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING

SECTION 3: CHAPTER DIVERSITY AND TOLERANCE

Local chapters shall be open to everyone who share or is interested in the goals of Atheists of Florida. A healthy chapter should include persons with many philosophic and political backgrounds, people of all ages, from various racial and ethnic backgrounds, persons of differing physical abilities and/or sexual orientation.

Chapter leadership should reflect this diversity as much as possible.

There shall be no "test of faith" (or a specific rhetoric of non-faith, as it were).

No chapter or chapter leader should be involved in any activity that promotes intolerance or prejudice against any other person, or class of people, on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age or physical ability. Any chapter doing so will lose its status as a chapter of Atheists of Florida unless such activity and harm is remedied immediately upon direction of the Atheists of Florida Board of Directors.

SECTION 4: APPEARANCE AT FAIRS, PRESENTATIONS, ETC.



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XI. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution or lapsing of this chapter, no property of the chapter or any of the proceeds shall be distributed to or benefit any officers, directors or members of the chapter. Upon the dissolution of the chapter, the title to all records, mailing lists, funds, equipment and other assets shall immediately be distributed to Atheists of Florida and forwarded to the state board.

This chapter may be dissolved by the Atheists of Florida or by a majority of the chapter board.

XII. CHANGES TO CHAPTER STANDARDS OF OPERATIONS

These Standards of Operations conform to the By-Laws of Atheists of Florida and may be changed only by Atheists of Florida.

Atheists of Florida may change or amend the Standards at any time. Any such changes will be distributed to each chapter in the state no later than 30 day following such modification.

XIII. ACCEPTANCE BY CHAPTER

These Chapter Standards of Operations were accepted by the resolution of the

_____ chapter of Atheists of Florida on
_____, 2_____.

President _____ Secretary _____

Atheists of Florida 2001 Board Meeting Recap

6. President's report.

The Board appointed Owens, Golly, and Peterson to represent Atheists of Florida at the Humanists of Florida conference, in Tampa, April 20 - 22, with authority to involve Atheists of Florida in their coalition.

8.1 Publications committee

Board appointed Jim Young Project Manager

Young will appoint a fourth member to the committee.

Board mandated all publications will be recalled for review.

8.5 Library project

Atheists of Florida should solicit via newsletter, donations of personal libraries held by members as final bequests.

8.6 Organizational Manual Project

Board approved "Chapter Standards of Operations and Guidelines" with amendments.

Member Communications guideline: "Letters of grievance should be directed to the President only."

The 1997 guideline for spokespersons was reworded: "We agree the minutia of biblical criticism should not be encouraged. Rather, our goal should be to showcase the positive aspects of Atheism."

8.9 Outreach

Young will pursue expanding outreach to include the St. Petersburg Times Reading Festival.

8.12 Cable TV

Golly will contact Joe Redner about the possible use of his facilities, crew, etc.

10.1 Dues Increase

Dues were increased \$10.00 for Individual, Couple and Sustaining.

10.2 Final Bequests

Final Bequests Project authorized. Nan Owens appointed project manager. Legal council authorized, but cost not to exceed \$500.00.

10.3 Bylaws Changes

The bylaws were amended to empower the President to act on behalf of the Board, (Article VII, Section 2), and the duties of the Chairman were clarified with the addition of Article VI, Section 3.

11.1 Mark Twain Scholarship Fund Trustees

Steven Miles and Nan Owens elected Trustees.

11.2 Election of Officers of Atheists of Florida, Inc.

Ed Golly, Chairman

James A. Young, Secretary

Nan Owens, President

Ed Golly, Treasurer

Steven Miles, Vice President

12. Miscellaneous Motions and Proposals

Porto removed from Board. Golly to write letter thanking her for her service.

Young to mail copy of revised bylaws and board minutes to all Board members.

Schisler to discontinue telephone service for his line.

Owens to attend Atheist Alliance convention representing Atheists of Florida. Ed Golly to attend as proxy for Miles. Young to attend as proxy for Owens until she arrives.