

2004

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors Of Atheists of Florida, Inc. for the year 2004

**1. Introduction.** The 2004 annual meeting of the Directors of ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Florida Corporation was held on Sunday, February 08, 2004 at the home of James A. Young, 2826 Keysville Rd. E., Lithia, Florida. 33547. Directions were provided to each Board member.

**2. Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Chairman James A. Young at 10:15 a.m.

**3. Roll Call.** The following directors were in attendance:

Ed Golly, *President*

Nan Owens

Steven Miles

Jim Young, *Secretary & Chairman*

Christos Tzanetakos, *Chairman/Mark Twain*

Alex Giannakoulis, *Vice President*

Patrick Bens, *Director/Miami Chapter*

Brent Yaciw, *Treasurer*

Joe Reinhardt

Tzanetakos presented a letter from Raymond Erickson explaining he was sick and giving Tzanetakos his proxy for this meeting.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting.** The minutes of the 2003 Board Meeting had been previously delivered to all board members.

**5. Treasurer's report for the year 2003.**

**5.1 Atheists of Florida, Inc.—Yaciw & Golly** (See Exhibit 5.1) The 2003 Atheist Alliance International Convention hosted by Atheists of Florida had generated \$26,314 in income with expenses of \$24,297.13. The net income of \$2,016.87 was split with the Atheist Alliance leaving an income to Atheists of Florida of \$1,008.44.

**5.2 Mark Twain Scholarship Fund.** - Tzanetakos (See Exhibit 5.2)

**6. A of F President's report.** - Golly

The year 2003 clearly defined Atheists of Florida as one of the primary Member Societies of the Atheist Alliance International when we hosted the Annual Convention in Tampa. While we barely broke even on the affair, it set the bar for the standard of conventions the Alliance expects to hold in succeeding years, including 2004.

Now in its second year of production, the *Atheist Forum* had proven a worthwhile expenditure of time and energy generating fresh interest in Atheists of Florida from viewers. The Tampa Bay Chapter welcomed from two to six new people at each of our monthly meetings as a result of the *Forum*. Our producer was currently fulfilling his final season with our program, which will end March 16. The call for assistance from the Tampa Bay members to continue production in the second season of 2004 and beyond had been more than adequate and we had every confidence that the *Forum* would remain in production as long as Public Access facilities are available. Board member Joe Reinhardt had attained the status of producer and several other members expected to also become producers within the month of February and begin training to become full producers, which requires completion of a 13-week course. Several other members had begun training for various crew positions which will allow the *Forum* to become fully staffed and produced exclusively by members of Atheists of Florida by next season. In addition, Mr. Reinhardt is nearing completion of the mandatory training requirements to begin production of a 30-minute *Atheist Forum* in Pinellas County at their Public Access facility. We have concluded that Public Access television is by far the best advertising we can generate for Atheists of Florida (with the possible exception of a major lawsuit) and certainly the least expensive.

Our Sarasota chapter was discontinued when Director Melissa Masters encountered a change in her employment status, which left her with inadequate time to direct the chapter. We had received interest in forming new chapters in the Ft. Myers/Naples region and in the Orlando area. We expect to pursue these chapter formations this year.

We added the *St. Petersburg Times* Festival of Reading to our outreach events in 2003. Combined with Circus McGurkis and the Miami Book Fair International we collected 100 new names for our mailing list.

The Atheists of Florida newsletter continued to be produced in a timely manner with the **NEWSNOTES** insert provided by Patrick Bens. We currently mail about 325 newsletters each run.

All of our tax forms and state licenses and fees were filed and paid in a timely manner.

Our membership figures are as follows:

Total members, counting Family/Couple as two:	156
Life Members	19
Honorary Life Members	5
<b>Income:</b>	
Membership renewals	\$ 3,040
New members	930
Donations	840
Outreach sales	789
Book Sales	411
Convention DVD/Video Tape sales	300
2003 Opening balance	2,820
2003 Closing balance	4,432
Two Certificates of Deposit	1,000

#### 7. Mark Twain Scholarship Fund Report— Tzanetakos (See Exhibit 7.0)

#### 8. Committee Reports

**8.1 Publications committee**—Young (See Exhibit 8.1) Four publications approved.

**8.2 Membership Expansion**—Young (See Exhibit 8.2) Recommended dropping this committee.

**8.3 Fund Raising**—Reinhardt (See Exhibit 8.3)

**8.4 Greeting Cards**—Tzanetakos (See Exhibit 8.4) No sales.

**8.5 Library Project**—Golly

Golly reported that the library remains in storage in a South Tampa office owned by his father. He suggested selling the duplicate books.

**8.6 Organizational Manual Project**—Owens. (See Exhibit 8.6)

**8.7 Outreach**—Young (See Exhibit 8.7) Mentioned debate Feb 18<sup>th</sup>.

**8.8 Advertising**—Golly (See Exhibit 8.8) What about free notices in newspapers?

**8.9 Public Access TV Hillsborough County**—Young (See Exhibit 8.9)

**8.10 Web site**—Peterson

No report. Golly reported on credit card effort. Giannakoulis suggested our own domain name. Tzanetakos wanted reimbursement from AAI for credit card effort during convention.

**8.11 Final Bequests**—Owens (See Exhibit 8.11)

**8.12 AAI Convention**—Owens (See Exhibit 8.12) About 200 people attended.

**8.13 Audit of Financial Records**—Yaciw (See Exhibit 8.13)

#### 9. Old Business

**9.1 Hispanic Chapter Formation**—DeLosRios. Bens reported for DeLosRios that there is progress. Feb 22 is first meeting.

**9.2 Hispanic Newsletter Formation** – Bens. No progress to date. Confusion as to who will produce it.

**9.3 Revised Organizational Manuals – Owens. Covered in reports.**

**10. New Business**

**10.1 Bylaws Changes**

10.1.1 MOTION by Young, SECONDED, to delete the following sentence from Article VII, Section 1, General, “No one shall hold more than one office at a time except that the same person may be Secretary of the Organization and Secretary of the Board,” thereby allowing that members of the Board of Directors may simultaneously hold more than one office. MOTION CARRIED.

10.1.2 MOTION by Young, SECONDED, to define standing committees/projects in Bylaws. Remove reference to “committees” in the language of the existing ARTICLE VIII and let it be titled “Chapters.” Insert a new “ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES/PROJECTS” and renumber subsequent articles as necessary. MOTION CARRIED. Proposed language of new Article VIII shall be revised as follows:

**ARTICLE VIII—COMMITTEES/PROJECTS**

**SECTION 1. General.**

Standing Committees/Projects shall include: Chapter Formation, Audit, Budget and Finance, Publications, Fund Raising, Organizational Manual Project, Outreach, Advertising, Public Access TV/Radio, Website, Final Bequests, Annual Conference. Other committees may be appointed by the President, subject to approval by the Board, as the need arises. Project Managers will ensure that electronic reports are submitted to the Board Secretary prior to the annual Board of Directors meeting.

**SECTION 2. Chapter Formation.**

A Chapter Formation Project Manager shall be appointed by the President, subject to approval by the Board. The Project Manager shall encourage the formation of new Chapters and/or recruit other Florida groups to join the Atheists of Florida.

**SECTION 3. Financial Audit.**

A Financial Audit Committee shall be appointed by the President, subject to approval by the Board, whose duty shall be to audit the Treasurer’s accounts and records at the close of the fiscal year, and report to the Board at the next meeting.

**SECTION 4. Budget and Finance.**

A Budget and Finance Committee shall be appointed by the President, subject to approval by the Board, to prepare a budget for the fiscal year. The Treasurer is automatically a member of this committee.

**SECTION 5. Publications.**

A Publications Committee shall screen and control all printed publications and or venues bearing the name and/or seal of Atheists of Florida. This will include Web site content. The Web site Project Manager will automatically be a member of this committee. Newsletters will not be subject to screening. A Publications Project Manager, appointed by the Board, will report directly to the Board and will have full control, authority and responsibility in managing the affairs of the project on behalf of Atheists of Florida.

**SECTION 6. Fund Raising.**

A Fund Raising Committee shall solicit funding for the organization and/or its projects. This effort is not intended to include membership dues or final bequests. A Fund Raising Project Manager, appointed by the Board, will report directly to the Board on the success of these efforts on behalf of Atheists of Florida. All Project Managers of projects requiring financial assistance are automatically members of this committee and may coordinate with the Project Manager to engage in fundraising efforts to meet their financial needs.

**SECTION 7. Organizational Manual.**

An Organizational Manual Project Manager, appointed by the President, shall be responsible for updating the "Organization Manual" to reflect new policies and changes. A revised Organizational Manual will be published and available within one month of the close of the annual Board of Directors meeting.

#### **SECTION 8. Outreach.**

An Outreach Project Manager, appointed by the President, subject to approval by the Board, shall coordinate with members as needed to plan and execute educational outreach activities on behalf of Atheists of Florida.

#### **SECTION 9. Advertising.**

An Advertising Project Manager, appointed by the President, subject to approval by the Board, shall plan, coordinate and execute advertising for the organization and its projects in accordance with the advertising budget.

#### **SECTION 10. Public Access Television/Radio**

Public Access Television and/or Radio programs shall be encouraged in several areas throughout Florida. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Project Manager(s) for each Public Access Television and/or Radio project. The Project Manager will report directly to the Board and have full control, authority and responsibility in managing the affairs of the project on behalf of Atheists of Florida.

#### **SECTION 11. Website.**

Atheists of Florida shall maintain a Web site. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Project Manager to plan, coordinate, execute and maintain the Web site project. The Web site Project Manager will report directly to the Board and have full control, authority and responsibility in managing the affairs of the project on behalf of Atheists of Florida. The Web site Project Manager will automatically be a member of the Publications Committee.

#### **SECTION 12. Final Bequests.**

Atheists of Florida shall actively solicit final bequests for its Endowment Fund. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Project Manager to plan, coordinate, execute and maintain this project. The Bequests Project Manager will report directly to the Board and have full control, authority and responsibility in managing the affairs of the project on behalf of Atheists of Florida.

#### **SECTION 13. Annual Conference/Meeting.**

Atheists of Florida shall strive to hold an annual conference/meeting. The Board of Directors shall annually appoint a Project Manager to plan, coordinate and execute all aspects of this project for the following year. The Annual Conference Project Manager will report directly to the Board and have full control, authority and responsibility in managing the affairs of the project on behalf of Atheists of Florida. The date and location of the conference will normally be selected by the President in accord with Article X, Section 1 & Section 3 of these Bylaws. The Annual Conference meeting must be scheduled to occur during the first two months of the calendar year in order to accommodate the Board of Directors meeting.

#### **10.2. Annual Conference.**

**MOTION** by Young, **SECONDED**, to approach Humanists of Florida Association and the Institute for Humanist Studies with a proposal to jointly co-sponsor an Annual Conference in 2005 with HoFA and the IHS. The terms of the proposal are:

1. The Conference must occur in either January or February 2005.
2. The exact date and location may be decided by HoFA and IHS.
3. The theme, keynote speaker and programs may be decided by HoFA and IHS.
4. A of F desires 12 feet of table space to promote A of F.
5. A of F desires full discretion in planning two breakout sessions.
6. A of F requires all day Board Room space on Sunday, last day of Conference.
7. All advertising must identify all co-sponsors.
8. A of F will advertise the Conference in its newsletter, TV show and other outreach activities.
9. A of F's financial liability will be limited to an agreed upon amount defined in advance.

10. HoFA will define in writing all planning prerogatives, responsibilities and or duties to be performed by A of F. The A of F Project Manager will keep HoFA informed with regular reports on its progress in meeting its responsibilities.
11. If this proposal is not accepted by HoFA, the A of F Project Manager will move forward to plan a separate conference for A of F.

AMENDMENT submitted by Giannakoulis, SECONDED, to revise # 5 to "A of F will have discretion to choose one main session speaker." Amendment CARRIED.

AMENDMENT submitted by Yaciw, SECONDED, to revise #9 to disclaim any financial liability or profit from conference expenses or revenues. Ancillary activities such as videotape sales or table sales by A of F are exempt.

Amendment CARRIED.

MOTION CARRIED.

### **10.3 Mark Twain Scholarship Fund.—Golly**

MOTION by Golly, SECONDED, that upon acceptance of the Board of Directors of the Atheist Alliance International, Atheists of Florida will transfer the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund and all financial assets of the Fund to the Atheist Alliance International. MOTION CARRIED.

### **10.4 Other Issues:**

- 10.4.1 MOTION by Young, SECONDED to dissolve library project.

AMENDMENT submitted by Yaciw, SECONDED, that the Project Manager will inventory the library and move to archive any works that are irreplaceable. Amendment CARRIED.

MOTION CARRIED.

- 10.4.2 MOTION by Giannakoulis, SECONDED, to retain at least two copies of a book moved to archive. MOTION FAILED.

- 10.4.3 MOTION by Young, SECONDED, to dissolve greeting card project. MOTION CARRIED.

- 10.4.4 MOTION by Young, SECONDED, to dissolve membership committee. MOTION CARRIED.

- 10.4.5 MOTION by Bens, SECONDED, to create a commission to invite a speaker like Professor Dawkins to the Miami Book Fair International. Contract him to give exclusive rights to sell his latest book at the 3-day street fair where he can autograph his book. House him at a hotel where we can have a second speech where we invite all regional scientists whose address we'll collect for future recruitment. MOTION FAILED.

- 10.4.6 MOTION by Bens, SECONDED, to create a commission to collect translated texts suitable to produce our first *Nacion Secular*. (*Secular Nation* has accepted our proposal to be ready with a Spanish version by November.) MOTION FAILED.

- 10.4.7 MOTION by Bens to initiate a commission to study the feasibility of creating a Web site like [www.atheistsforhumanrights.org](http://www.atheistsforhumanrights.org) with online video. The motion DIED for lack of a SECOND.

### **11.0 Election of Officers**

Young nominated Yaciw for President  
Owens nominated Giannakoulis for Vice President  
Young nominated Golly for Treasurer  
Miles nominated Young for Secretary  
Tzanetakos nominated Golly for Chairman  
Young nominated Young for Chairman  
Yaciw nominate Owens for Chairman  
Golly elected to the office as Chairman

### **12.0 Project Manager Nominations**

- 12.1 NOMINATION by Young to appoint Joe Reinhardt as Project Manager for Public Access Television and/or Radio for Pinellas County, Florida. Reinhardt ELECTED.

- 12.2 NOMINATION by Golly to appoint Jim Young as Project Manager for Public Access Television and/or Radio for Hillsborough County, Florida. Young ELECTED.
- 12.3 NOMINATION by Young to appoint Alex Giannakoulis as Project Manager for the 2005 Annual Conference.  
NOMINATION by Golly to appoint Jim Young as Project Manager for the 2005 Annual Conference. Giannakoulis ELECTED as Project Manager for 2005 Annual Conference.

### **13. Miscellaneous Proposals**

- 13.1 MOTION by Yaciw, SECONDED, to add wording to ARTICLE VI, Section 2 to clarify that "Chapter Director seats on the Board are limited to the current Chapter Director of an active Chapter." MOTION CARRIED.
- 13.2 MOTION by Golly, SECONDED, to establish an advertising budget based upon a percentage of its projected annual income to be determined by the Board each year. MOTION CARRIED.
- 13.3 MOTION by Golly, SECONDED, to set the advertising budget percentage at 20 percent of projected 2004 revenue of \$5,000.00, which is \$1,000.00. MOTION FAILED.
- 13.4 MOTION by Golly, SECONDED, to kill the first motion on advertising budget and simply budget \$1,000.00 for advertising in 2004. MOTION CARRIED.
- 13.5 MOTION by Giannakoulis, SECONDED, to purchase additional domain names such as floridaatheists.org and floridaatheists.com.  
AMENDMENT submitted by Yaciw, SECONDED, to purchase up to six domain names. AMENDMENT CARRIED.  
MOTION CARRIED.
- 13.6 MOTION by Giannakoulis, SECONDED, to send the suggestions to the President who will consult with Peterson to select the domain names. MOTION CARRIED.
- 13.7 MOTION by Golly, SECONDED, to provide financial assistance to an atheist church being constructed by A of F member Don Garver. MOTION FAILED.

### **14.0 Wrap Up And Adjournment**

It was noted by the Chairman that Dr. Brannon has missed two Board meetings and according to the Bylaws is no longer a member of the Board. The Secretary was directed to notify him.

- 14.1 MOTION by Young, SECONDED, to leave Mark Twain short one trustee. MOTION CARRIED.
- 14.2 MOTION by Reinhardt, SECONDED, to consult with our Legal Counsel to see if we should file a lawsuit on the Manatee prayer case or any other case. MOTION FAILED.

The Board discussed at length ways we could show support for the Miami Chapter.

- 14.3 MOTION by Yaciw, SECONDED, to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED.

*James A. Young*  
Secretary

## **Summary of 2004 Atheists of Florida, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting**

- 10.1.1 specified that members of the Board of Directors may simultaneously hold more than one office.
- 10.1.2 defined standing committees/projects in Bylaws revising ARTICLE VIII.
- 10.2 to approach Humanists of Florida Association and the Institute for Humanist Studies with a proposal to jointly co-sponsor an Annual Conference in 2005.
- 10.3 Transfers the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund and all financial assets of the Fund to the Atheist Alliance International.
- 10.4.1 dissolved library project.
- 10.4.3 dissolved greeting card project.
- 10.4.4 dissolved membership committee.
- 12.1 Joe Reinhardt appointed as Project Manager for Public Access Television and/or Radio for Pinellas County, Florida.
- 12.2 Jim Young appointed as Project Manager for Public Access Television and/or Radio for Hillsborough County, Florida.
- 12.3 Alex Giannakoulis elected as Project Manager for the 2005 Annual Conference.
- 13.1 Added wording to ARTICLE VI, Section 2 to clarify that "Chapter Director seats on the Board are limited to the current Chapter Director of an active Chapter."
- 13.4 Budgeted \$1,000.00 for advertising in 2004.
- 13.5 Allows purchase of up to six additional domain names such as floridaatheists.org and floridaatheists.com.
- 13.6 The President will consult with Peterson to select domain names.
- 14.1 Leaves Mark Twain Scholarship Fund short one trustee.