

2006

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of Atheists of Florida, Inc. for the year 2006

## 1. Introduction.

The 2006 annual meeting of the Directors of ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Florida Corporation was held on Sunday, February 12, 2006 in the conference room of Raytheon Beech Aircraft, 2450 N. Westshore Blvd., Tampa, Florida.

## 2. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Golly at 11:00 a.m.

## 3. Roll Call.

The following directors were in attendance. Note: Bylaws stipulate that missing two consecutive Board meetings automatically removes a Director from the Board.

Ed Golly, <i>Chairman/ Treasurer</i>	Alex Giannakoulis,
James Peterson	Raymond Erickson
Steven Miles	Brent Yaciw, <i>Vice President</i>
Jim Young, <i>Secretary</i>	Joe Reinhardt, <i>President/Tampa Chapter</i>
Christos Tzanetakos, <i>Chairman/Mark Twain</i>	Jackie Jordan
Anita Garcia	Gloria Julius

Directors absent:  
Nan Owens - sickness

## 4. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the 2005 Board Meeting had been previously delivered to all board members.

## 5. Treasurer's report for the year 2005.

5.1 Atheists of Florida, Inc.—Golly submitted the Atheists of Florida Treasurer's Report for 2005.

<b>Opening Balance</b>			
Checking Account	4,750.17		
Petty Cash	272.50		
Certificates of Deposit (2.4% Due 6/04/06)	1,481.74		
			<b>6,504.41</b>
 <b>Income</b>			
Memberships			
Renewals	1,710.00		
New	635.00		
Life	500.00		
Total Memberships		2,845.00	
Donations			
General	250.00		
Book Fair	55.00		
ForumRADIO	259.00		
Camp Quest	15.00		
Total Donations		579.00	
Sales		1,563.29	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>4,987.29</b>	
 <b>Expenses</b>			
Board Meeting Lunch		73.57	
Contributions:			
Twain Scholarship Fund			
Camp Quest	20.00	20.00	
Credit Card Service		76.00	
Office Supplies		38.97	

Computer	799.00	
Postage and Delivery	196.48	
Post Office Box Annual Fee	38.00	
Printing:		
Newsletters	198.00	
Bumper Stickers	851.00	1,049.00
Program Expenses:		
WTAN ForumRADIO	1,875.00	
Bible Madness	23.00	1,898.00
Special Events:		
Heat Wave	124.19	
St. Pete Times Festival of Reading	150.00	
Circus McGurkie	20.00	294.19
State solicitation of contributions registration		10.00
2004 State of Florida Annual Report		61.25
Telephone		380.07
Wholesale Merchandise		253.50
TOTAL EXPENSES		5,188.03
NET INCOME OR (LOSS)		<u>(200.74)</u>
<b>Year-End Balance</b>		
Checking Account	4,330.25	
Petty Cash	307.22	
Certificates of Deposit	1,481.74	
		<u>6,119.21</u>

MOTION by Peterson, SECONDED to accept Treasurers report. CARRIED.

**5.2 Mark Twain Scholarship Fund Treasury.—Tzanetakos  
Financial report as of February 2006**

<b>UNRESTRICTED ASSETS:</b>		
Bank account Balance 12/31/2004	\$ 6,973	
<b>REVENUES:</b>		
CONTRIBUTIONS	3,356	
TOTAL REVENUES:		\$ 3,356
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
<b>PROGRAM SERVICES:</b>		
Scholarship grants and books to Applicants (2004)	4,090	
Licenses	80	
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES		4,170
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS:</b>		
Fund-raising:	308	
Office expenses:	110	
Bank charges (new checks)	105	
Post office box	40	
Bank charges	50	
Brokerage fees and commissions	133	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST		746
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:		\$ 4,916
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE BEFORE OTHER EXPENSES		(1,560)
<b>INVESTMENT:</b>		
06/15/2005		
Bought 300 TASER International, Inc. ((TASR)	3,269	
Fair value as of February 2006	2,800	
Increase in fair value		(469)
<b>EVERGREEN FUND. ( EKHBX )</b>		
Fair value at the end of 2004	6,201	
Reinvested dividends Jan-Dec 2005	358	
Total	6,559	

Fair value as of February 2006	6,040	
Increase in fair value		(19)
<b><u>CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</u></b>		
NET ASSETS—BEGINNING OF YEAR 2005		13,174
Bank account as of February 2006	2,222	
Investments fair value as of February 2006	8,840	
NET ASSETS—AS OF FEBRUARY 2, 2006		11,062
<b><u>ANTICIPATED CURRENT LIABILITIES:</u></b>		
Grants to students	3,200	
Books to all applicants	500	
Postage and others	500	
Total liabilities (approximately)		<u>4,200</u>
Net amount after dissolution		<u><u>\$ 6,862</u></u>

**6. A of F President's report.**—Reinhardt

Reinhardt reported that no new programs had been implemented during the year. Atheists of Florida had produced a radio program on WTAN radio but low response led Reinhardt to determine that it was not worth the cost to continue with the production. He decided that A of F should disband the idea of broadcasting locally except for the continuing effort to secure a program on WMNF. The planned Web cast was projected to cost about one-tenth the amount of commercial broadcasting.

Reinhardt announced that Atheists of Florida would begin a weekly Web cast the following Wednesday, February 15 at 9:00 PM. The cost to A of F would be only \$10 per Web cast, regardless of the length of the cast. He described details of the engineering setup for the Web cast and explained that all necessary elements were readily available for installation.

Our legal counsel, John MacKay, had not rendered a legal opinion regarding preparation of a statement about the harassment allegations brought against a member of A of F in December.

Reinhardt explained that for the first time in the history of the organization two outreach events had been staged simultaneously with Circus McGurkis and the Saint Petersburg Times Festival of Reading. A of F sold about eighty custom "Right to Choose" license plates along with a lot of novelties and bumper stickers. A of F had also participated in the Ybor City Heat Wave event. We had been unable to participate in the Plant City Strawberry Festival or the Florida State Fair but anticipated participation this year. We also plan to continue to maintain the projects we have done in the past.

Reinhardt plans to develop an effort for Atheists of Florida to sponsor placement of an amendment to the State of Florida constitution to tax the property holdings of all churches in Florida. This amendment would be voted on in the next general state election. He alleged that this effort would generate substantial publicity for Atheists of Florida.

He also outlined his plan to participate in the Pinellas and Hillsborough County Mentoring Programs. He proposed that members of A of F contact the heads of these programs to offer our services. He announced the existence of a faith-based prison for women in Hillsborough County that offers a faith-based program and suggested Atheists of Florida members offer to participate in this program. Anyone wanting to join the mentoring program in Pinellas County should call Lucy Dahl at 727-551-3268

**7. Mark Twain Scholarship Fund Report.**—Tzanetakos

February 6, 2006 marked the tenth anniversary of the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund, Inc.

During the past decade, the Fund provided \$23,000 in grants to qualified student applicants from our state as well as from states around the nation. In addition to the grants, the recipient students and all the remaining applicants received a free copy of the Bertrand Russell's book *Why I Am Not A Christian* with an estimated book value of \$4,100.

Personally, it was a great pleasure to read the submitted essays and I am confident that the other Trustees and the members of Atheists of Florida whose generous support made the program possible, enjoyed reading the winning essays which were published through the years in the newsletter.

Initially the program provided two grants, one of \$500 and one of \$300 till 1999 when Ed Golly informed me that his father's foundation, The Jack Golly Family Fund would be donating in perpetuity a donation of perhaps up to \$5,000 annually.

With the assurance of financial support, the Trustees voted to increase the number of grants from two to four and

finally since 2001 to eight grants (Four \$500 and Four \$300).

Unfortunately the Jack Golly Family Fund gradually decreased its support from the maximum of \$2,500 to \$500 and last year cancel its support altogether.

In addition to the annual donations from members of Atheists of Florida and the Jack Golly Family Fund, the Scholarship received once a grant of \$5,000 from the Louis J. Appignani Foundation and since our inclusion in 1996 to the Florida State Employees' and the Federal Employees' annual campaigns we were receiving approximately \$800-1000 annually in donations.

In 2005 we received seventy one applications and essays on the topic:

**E.M. Forster wrote, "I do not believe in belief." Pete Hamill called "belief the great killer. Political belief has slaughtered millions. Religious belief has slaughtered the rest." How relevant are these quotes in our present state of world affairs?**

Again, I found the submitted essays thought-provoking and in my opinion the best since the founding of the scholarship in 1995.

And now the bad news. To compensate the loss of the Jack Golly Family support, in addition to the spring fundraising letter that I sent to all the members of Atheists of Florida, I donated a hand crafted Barrister bookcase to be raffled in the Fall of 2005.

The drawing was conducted at the January Tampa Bay Chapter meeting at Pinellas Park Library.

Although the support from the members of Atheists of Florida was appreciative, with the exception of the Trustees, NONE of the current board members of Atheists of Florida responded with even a nominal donation to the Fund either on the Spring fundraising or the Fall raffle.

Therefore, since the Board of Atheists of Florida does not support the official scholarship of the organization, I regretfully submit a MOTOIN for the dissolution of the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund, Inc., and after satisfying its liabilities, (grants and books for 2005) the remaining assets shall be donated to Atheists of Florida, Inc.

## **8. Committee Reports**

### **8.1 Chapter Formation—Owens/Golly**

Golly reported that there had been several inquiries from other Florida cities regarding the formation of a chapter of Atheists of Florida. In order to assist these persons in forming a chapter, we need to complete organization of the database and newsletter production and we need more time to go to the cities for formation meetings. Golly suggested we appoint an individual whose sole voluntary activity with A of F would be to coordinate chapter formation when we receive inquiry from interested parties.

### **8.2 Financial Audit—Golly**

Golly referenced Motion 10.1.1 from the 2003 minutes to "conduct an internal review of our books for procedures and accuracy and have a report presented to the Board." There was no requirement for an "annual" audit of the organization's finances construed from this or any other motion.

### **8.3 Budget & Finance—Golly**

Atheists of Florida began 2006 with a cash balance of approximately \$5,000.00. Golly submitted the following budget for 2006:

Advertising	\$ 1,000
Board meeting Lunch	75
Camp Quest contribution	50
Credit Card Services	76
Office supplies	150
Postage and delivery	120
Post Office Box annual fee	38
Printing—newsletters and miscellaneous	500
Program Expenses:	
Webcast of Atheist Forum	700
Atheist Forum	200
Special Events:	
St Pete Times Festival of Reading	150
Circus McGurkis	20
State Solicitation of Contributions registration	10
2005 State of Florida Annual Report	61.25

Telephone	400
Wholesale merchandise	250
TOTAL	<u>\$ 3,800.25</u>

MOTION by Young, SECONDED, to approve the budget.

MOTION by Peterson to AMEND, SECONDED, to add a line item of \$1,000.00 for new projects with the prerogative of the officers to decide how it would be spent. Amendment CARRIED.

Main Motion CARRIED.

**8.4 Publications committee—Young**

Approved inclusion of Parliamentary Procedure in Chapters Manual.

**8.5 Fund Raising—Reinhardt**

Reinhardt announced that A of F had generated funds by participation in outreach programs during the year, including the Saint Petersburg Times Festival of Reading, Circus McGurkis and Heat Wave. He alleged that our main fundraising should involve the hiring of a full-time fundraiser. Reinhardt had spoken with a professional fund-raiser and obtained e-mail addresses of professional fundraising organizations. His consensus was that fundraising is very competitive and our best opportunities lay in two areas—more members in the organization and conducting fundraising events. This would require people to accomplish the legwork. A of F has complied with all state requirements to conduct fundraising events.

Reinhardt also pointed out that A of F can generate free publicity by being obnoxious. Picketing or launching a “war on Christmas” were cited as examples of generators of negative publicity, which may be more beneficial than positive publicity. However, we need someone to take charge of production of these events, either a full time volunteer or a paid employee.

**8.6 Organizational Manual—Owens**

No report due to the absence of Owens.

**8.7 Outreach—Young**

No Miami Book Fair in 2005 due to sales restrictions.

St Petersburg Times Festival of Reading a success.

No Strawberry Festival in 2006, possible in 2007.

No Florida State Fair. Possible in 2007

Two other events in 2005 were successful.

USF outreach continues weekly.

TV show continues.

**8.8 Advertising—Golly**

Golly reported that print advertising has become too expensive for Atheists of Florida budget of \$1,000. He explained an advertising opportunity offered by the *Weekly Planet* to have A of F profiled on page 5. Golly submitted a MOTION that Atheists of Florida purchase a profile in the *Weekly Planet* for \$590. The motion was TABLED and addressed in 10.3 of these minutes. Jordan volunteered to notify the press of our meetings.

**8.9 Public Access TV & Radio**

**8.9.1 Hillsborough County—Golly** reported that Atheists of Florida continues weekly production of the *Atheist Forum* even though we were reduced to a skeleton crew at the beginning of 2006 when three members of the crew announced they would no longer assist with production and Michael Harvey announced he would temporarily discontinue assistance with the production pending resolution of allegations made against him by former members of Atheists of Florida. He has announced he expects to resume involvement with the production during the current season. Golly intends to continue to offer to produce the production indefinitely, or until some other member becomes a certified Public Access producer and offers to produce the program for a season.

The *Atheist Forum* generates an average of three telephone calls and one e-mail response per production.

**8.9.2 Pinellas County—Reinhardt** had suspended the ForumRADIO due to the cost of production, and public access TV in Pinellas County because of the elaborate training requirements and the fact that the programs are canned 30-minute productions that do not allow for interaction between viewer and host. In addition, Pinellas public access holds the copyright on all productions, which would deny us the ability to duplicate and distribute our productions.

**8.10 Website—Peterson**

Verbal report not recorded by the Secretary.

**8.11 Final Bequests—Owens**

No report due to the absence of Owens.

**8.12 Annual Conference—Owens**

Although Owens was absent, other members reported she had not accomplished enough progress to set up a conference.

**8.13 Public Relations—Yaciw**

Verbal report not recorded by the Secretary.

**9 Old Business**

**9.1 Purchase of Copy Machine—Golly**

Golly reported that he had discussed the purchase of a copy machine with President Reinhardt and determined that with electronic production and distribution of the newsletter it is not practical to incur the expense and maintenance of a copy machine.

MOTION by Golly, SECONDED that A of F suspend consideration of the purchase of a copy machine until such time as such equipment might be necessary in the future. Motion CARRIED.

**9.2 Electronic Format & Distribution of Newsletter—Golly**

Golly announced that the first newsletter, issue number XII-8, had been produced and distributed electronically and posted on the A of F Web site. Consequently A of F has allowed its Bulk Mail permit to expire.

**9.3 Disposal of Library—Golly**

In view of elimination of the A of F library, Golly will dispose of the books by offering a free book as a door prize at every chapter meeting, selling the books at outreach events at half cover price, and offering to give books to AAI Member Societies that have buildings and want to expand existing libraries. Reinhardt will send books to Emmit Fields for scanning into his library if Yaciw provides a list.

**9.4 Formulate Wording for ARTICLE II of BYLAWS—Peterson**

MOTION by Peterson, SECONDED to amend the Bylaws of the organization to replace the language of ARTICLE II PURPOSES with the following language as it appears on the website.

The purposes for which this corporation is organized are:

1. To advocate for social acceptance of the essential fact that there is no reason or evidence that supports the proposition that gods or supernatural phenomena exist.
2. To offer the Atheist position as a foundation for a truly free and fulfilling life.
3. To advance Atheism as a necessary premise of any social or ethical philosophy which accepts as valid, only propositions verifiable by sound logic and the scientific method, and rejects supernatural or other explanations contingent on non-rational ideologies.
4. To educate the general public about Atheist ideas, history, methods, and objectives.
5. To defend freedom of thought and expression as well as the complete and absolute separation of state and church as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.
6. To vigorously campaign for higher educational standards that fully embrace scientific discipline in acquiring reliable knowledge, and emphasize the development of critical thinking skills in every person.
7. We welcome all whose concern is to positively contribute to the advancement of human well-being through clarity of thought and the application of rational principals.

MOTION to AMEND BY Julius to eliminate number 2. Amendment DIED for lack of a second.

MOTION to AMEND by Giannakoulis, SECONDED, to eliminate number 7. Motion FAILED

MOTION to AMEND by Reinhardt, SECONDED, to substitute "universal" for "human" in number 7. Motion FAILED.

MOTION to AMEND by Tzanetakos, SECONDED, to substitute "human well-being" with "all living matter in number 7." Amendment FAILED.

Main motion CARRIED without AMENDMENT.

#### **9.5 Recognition of Volunteer Work (Award)—Reinhardt**

Last year the Board voted to award a special recognition certificate once per year for one (1) A of F member or Board member (officers exempt) who had participated unselfishly in volunteer work to promote atheism. During the month of January, A of F officers and Board members would nominate via e-mail a qualifying nominee for this special recognition award. In February, the officers would convene and vote to award the recipient with a recognition certificate and a \$50 restaurant gift certificate. The winner of the award would be announced at this Annual Board Meeting. No action was taken.

**9.6 WTAN Radio Call in Show**—Reinhardt had covered this topic in his President's Report (Section 6 above).

### **10 New Business**

**10.1 MOTION** by Tzanetakos, SECONDED, to suspend immediately all grants and fund raising associated with the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund and to take up the issue of the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund at our next Board Meeting in 2007.

MOTION to AMEND by Young, SECONDED, to replace the wording "to take up the issue of the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund at our next Board Meeting in 2007" with the wording "to officially dissolve the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund effective December 31<sup>st</sup> 2006 and following satisfaction of all outstanding debts, donate all remaining funds to Atheist of Florida, Inc."

The MOTION and AMENDMENT were ruled OUT OF ORDER because it was determined the Board lacked authority to effect action directed toward the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund.

MOTION by Young, SECONDED, to officially separate Atheists of Florida from any association with the Mark Twain Scholarship Fund, effective immediately. Motion CARRIED.

**10.2 MOTION** by Young, SECONDED, to dissolve the Volunteer Recognition Award Project. Motion CARRIED.

**10.3 MOTION** by Golly, SECONDED, that Atheists of Florida purchase a profile in the *Weekly Planet* for \$590. Motion FAILED.

**10.4 MOTION** by Young, SECONDED, that Atheists of Florida set up a PayPal account to accept money. Motion CARRIED.

**10.5 MOTION** by Golly, SECONDED, to close the credit card account. Motion CARRIED.

### **11 Annual Conference 2007.**

MOTION 2006-11.1-01 by Young, SECONDED to hold some kind of Annual Conference in 2007.  
MOTION CARRIED.

### **12 Election of Chairman & Officers**

**Chairman**  
Nominated Jim Young  
Nominated Ed Golly  
Ed Golly elected.

**President**  
Reinhardt nominated and elected.



**Vice President**

Yaciw nominated and elected.

**Treasurer**

Ed Golly nominated and elected.

**Secretary**

Jim Young nominated and elected.

**13 Project Manager Nominations**

Project Manager for Public Access Television and/or Radio for Pinellas County, Florida.  
Reinhardt nominated and elected.

Project Manager for Public Access Television and/or Radio for Hillsborough County, Florida.  
Ed Golly nominated and elected.

Project Manager for 2007 Annual Conference  
Jim Young nominated and elected.

**14 Miscellaneous Proposals**

MOTION by Young, SECONDED, to appoint Nan Owens, Executive Director of Atheists of Florida, pay her a minimum of \$1,200.00 the first year for her independent contractor services and to expand her duties and compensation as appropriate.

MOTION to AMEND by Golly, to pay her a \$100.00 a week instead of \$100.00 a month. Amendment DIED for lack of a SECOND.

By VOTE of the Board, the MOTION was CARRIED.

MOTION by Yaciw, SECONDED, to develop some sort of procedural policy to handle sexual harassment allegations. Motion CARRIED.

**15 Wrap Up And Adjournment**

Closing comments by the Chair and entertain MOTION to adjourn.  
MOTION by Young, SECONDED, to adjourn. CARRIED. Time: 4:02 pm.