

2008

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of Atheists of Florida, Inc. for the year 2008

**1. Introduction.** The 2008 annual meeting of the Board of Directors of ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Florida Corporation was held on Sunday, February 24, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel Clearwater Central, Clearwater, Florida.

**2. Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Golly at 10:15 AM.

**3. Roll Call.** Roll was called by the Secretary and the following members were present:

Ed Golly, <i>Chairman/ Treasurer</i>	Joe Reinhardt, <i>President</i>
Robert Curry, <i>Vice President</i>	Julia Scott, <i>Secretary</i>
Stephen Brown	Anita Garcia
Jackie Jordan	Gloria Julius
John Kieffer	Steven Miles
Jack Basart	James Peterson
Christos Tzanetakos, <i>Founder</i>	

All board members were present at the meeting. Noting a quorum was present, the Chairman proceeded with the meeting.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting.** The minutes of the 2007 Board Meeting had been previously delivered to all board members. Upon MOTION by Tzanetakos, SECONDED, the minutes of the 2007 meeting were approved as posted.

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

Reinhardt reported that even though he had winnowed out ideas and committees at the previous Board meeting, we have lacked the manpower and money to carry out these concepts. He felt the most important effort A of F should pursue through the coming year should be to challenge the property tax exemptions enjoyed by religious organizations in Florida. Reinhardt pointed out that there are currently 17,643 Christian churches in Florida with over 2,300 in Pinellas County alone enjoying property tax exemptions running into some \$1.3 billion just for those Christian churches alone. This does not include additional tax exemptions of the churches of other denominations. He directly quoted Article I, Section 3 of the state Constitution which absolutely prohibits any revenue of the state to be given directly or indirectly to any religious organization. He and some other Board members had taken some initial steps toward generating interest by other organizations concerned about state/church separation in allying with us to pursue this agenda. Reinhardt and Golly had met with Rebecca Steele a few months prior who showed interest in the concept, and were also told by an attorney that we have a 'strong footing' to bring legal action against the state to require them to uphold the Constitution.

Reinhardt felt that there is nothing we can do that would be of more benefit to atheists than to accomplish this agenda. In that interest, we have tentatively begun to form "Fair Share for Florida" as an umbrella name intended to attract cooperation from a variety of sympathetic organizations and business interests.

Our Public Access TV show was currently on a hiatus. The Hillsborough County Public Access channel had been relocated from channel 20 to channel 950. Reinhardt estimated that we had drawn 25 to 30 new prospects to our Tampa chapter meetings as direct result of the TV show, but we had drawn no new prospects to the meetings since we had suspended production. We had a low rate of these attendees actually joining A of F, and Reinhardt concluded we should place more emphasis on encouraging attendees to become members. He suggested development a step-by-step program applicable to new attendees in order to encourage their eventual membership in A of F and find a means to follow up their attendance at meetings with an inquiry seeking their feedback.

Reinhardt also expressed an interest among himself and other members in development of an Internet video Web cast. He estimated the initial cost to construct a suitable studio would be \$15,000 to \$20,000. We would be able to determine from our server specifically how many viewers would actually be viewing and for how long. A committee had been formed from among the Board to investigate a location and report to the Board at a later date with their recommendation of procedure to instigate the project.

**6. Treasurer's report for the year 2007.** Golly presented the Treasurer's Report for 2007:

**Opening Balance January 1, 2007**

Checking Account		11,288.91	
Petty Cash		84.13	
<b>Certificates of Deposit</b>			
Life Memberships (3%CD Due 6/04/2008)	1,482.44		
Cossey Estate (4.4%CD Due 3/20/2007)	63,250.00	64,732.44	
			<u>76,105.48</u>

**Income**

<b>Memberships</b>			
New	400.00		
Renewals	2,238.00		
Life			
<b>Total Memberships</b>		<u>2,838.00</u>	
<b>Donations</b>			80.00
<b>Merchandise Sales – General</b>			
St. Pete Pride	534.00		
Times Festival of Reading	221.10		
Florida State Fair	1,041.00		
<b>Total Sales</b>		<u>1,925.10</u>	
<b>Bequests</b>			
Cossey Estate Distribution	124,962.71		
Zaccar Annuity	69,739.14	194,701.85	
<b>Interest</b>			<u>2,566.24</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<u>201,911.19</u>

**Expenses**

Annual Picnic		197.66	
Board Annual Dinner Banquet		2,105.10	
Certificates of Deposit Cashed		65,756.29	
Contract Labor		842.10	
<b>Contributions:</b>			
Camp Quest	440.00		
Speak Up Tampa Bay	100.00	540.00	
Credit Card Service		21.00	
Office Supplies			
Misc Administration		11.93	
<b>Newsletter Production</b>			
Editor Fees	400.00		
Printing	60.85	460.85	
Postage and Delivery		96.92	
Post Office Box Annual Fee		40.00	
Printing & Reproduction		139.26	
<b>Program Expenses:</b>			
Atheist Forum Video Tape			
Old Time Atheist Hour			
Signs & Banners		0.00	
Service Charges		5.00	
<b>Special Events:</b>			
Florida State Fair	1,335.00		
St. Pete Times Festival of Reading	150.00		
St. Pete Pride Festival	60.00		
General Handout	138.00		
Supplies	10.00	1,693.00	
State solicitation of contributions registration		75.00	
2005 State of Florida Annual Report		61.25	
Telephone		416.58	
<b>Travel &amp; Entertainment</b>			
Atheist Forum Crew Dinners	2,000.85		
Travel	175.00	2,175.85	
WEB Site		214.80	
Wholesale Merchandise		317.38	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			<u>75,169.97</u>
<b>NET INCOME OR (LOSS)</b>			<u>126,741.22</u>

**Year-End Balance**

Checking Account		88,167.93	
Petty Cash		40.43	
Certificate of Deposit-Risk Free 11 Months		115,000.00	
			<u>203,208.36</u>

We had not been diligent with membership renewals over the previous year. Jim Young had begun by consolidating the membership list and sending renewal notices, but resigned during the year. Julia Scott was appointed secretary in his absence and had taken charge of processing membership renewals.

All estates and annuities directed to Atheists of Florida had now been received in full.

Our checking account was holding a substantial balance of over \$88,000.00 bearing no interest. Reinhardt suggested transferring most of that money to a money market account, which has no fees and pays about 5% interest and can be used like a checking account.

Since the Atheists of Florida endowment fund had never been funded, all bequests we had received remained available as cash to be utilized as directed by the Board.

Upon MOTION by Golly, SECONDED, and PASSED, the report was adopted as posted.

## **7. Project Reports.**

### **7.1 Chapter Formation—Golly**

Golly reported that we had sent out several Chapter Operation and Guideline booklets upon request from atheists around state including Orlando, Palm Beach and Sarasota. Recipients apparently were overwhelmed with the large packet and found it difficult to get members in their area. Jordan suggested that when we are contacted we should give financial help to advertise for members in their area. Most of our active members were in the Tampa Bay area.

Reinhardt suggested we have people in other areas that want to attend atheist functions but don't want to assume responsibility for running a chapter.

Kieffer suggested we can send a core set of people out to meetings in new areas to give more support with set up. The Internet is also the best source for new chapters with regards to online forums. People can interact with A of F on their time.

### **7.2 Budget & Finance—Golly**

The proposed budget for 2008 was TABLED until end of new business.

### **7.3 Publications—Jim Young**

Young had resigned from the Board; therefore the Board needed to consider replacing him as Publications Project Director. This action was TABLED until end of new business.

### **7.4 Fund Raising—Reinhardt**

No fundraising efforts had been carried out in 2007, except for new memberships. Further discussion was TABLED until end of new business.

### **7.5 Organizational Manual**

Nan Owens had developed our Chapter Operation and Guideline as a work in progress, but was no longer a member of the Board. Discussion of this issue was TABLED until end of new business.

### **7.6 Outreach—Young**

Young had resigned from the Board; therefore the Board needed to consider replacing him as Outreach Project Director. This action was TABLED until end of new business.

### **7.7 Advertising—Golly**

A of F had budgeted \$1,000 for advertising for 2007 but had not spent any of that budget. Development of the advertising budgeting for 2008 was TABLED until end of new business.

### **7.8 Public Access TV & Web cast**

#### **Hillsborough County—Golly**

The city of Tampa was still funding the Public Access facilities, but this amounted to only about two-thirds of the amount they had received before the County eliminated their share of funding in 2007. A of F intended to resume production of the *Atheist Forum* in the second season of 2008. As the channel position had changed, we would determine what response the program would produce and then determine if continued production was worth our effort. The *Atheist Forum* had been in continuous production in Hillsborough County for 5½ years.

Jordan suggested we commit some of the advertising budget for 2008 to promote the channel change.

#### **7.9 Web site—Peterson**

Our new site is up and running but still under some construction. Peterson had posted a redirect on our old Web site to the new Web site. The layout of the Web site was shown to the board.

#### **7.10 Final Bequests—Owens**

Owens resigned from this position last year and is no longer a member of the Board. The Board needed to consider the replacement of Owens or whether or not to continue the project. Further discussion was TABLED until end of new business.

#### **7.11 Annual Conference—Young**

Young had resigned from the Board; therefore the Board needed to replace him as Annual Conference Project Director. Upon MOTION by Golly, SECONDED and PASSED, Jerry Moore was nominated and approved as new annual conference project director.

### **8. Old Business.**

**8.1 Pay Pal Account—Re: 2006 Board Meeting, 10.4.** Curry had assumed responsibility for setting up the Pay Pal account at the 2007 Board Meeting. He had developed Google checkout, and both were now ready and just needed to be added to the Web site. Upon completion and submission of the 2007 IRS Form 990, we would be able to utilize Pay Pal for one year at no cost to us.

#### **8.2 Credit Card Account—Golly**

No change had occurred in our availability of credit card processing since the previous meeting.

**8.3 Executive Director—**Since the position was vacant, the Board postponed discussion of the issue until the end of new business.

**8.4 Sexual Harassment Policy—**Former Board Member Brent Yaciw had submitted a MOTION at the 2006 Board Meeting which had been APPROVED that Atheists of Florida develop a sexual harassment policy. No policy had been prepared. At the previous Board meeting, Owens had agreed to provide Young with some guidelines on this issue. Since neither of them was any longer serving on the Board, the Board had to address either replacing them or discontinuing this project.

Tzanetakos submitted a MOTION, SECONDED, to discontinue development and implication of this policy. Upon VOTE by the Board, the motion PASSED.

**8.5 Investment of Endowment Funds—**The Endowment Fund had not been funded to date.

Miles submitted a MOTION that the funds received from the bequests be placed in the highest interest bearing and insured account possible under the discretion of the Treasurer. The motion was SECONDED and TABLED until the end of new business.

#### **8.6 Life Membership CDs**

All funds remaining from Life Memberships had been combined with partial receipt of the Cossey Estate in an 11-month Risk Free Certificate of Deposit which could be cashed without penalty at any time.

#### **8.7 Purchase of real property—Julius (2007 10.6)**

Julius had investigated the property tax exemption availability for 501 (c) (3) organizations at the Pinellas County tax office and reported that Atheists of Florida could receive full property tax-exempt status for any owned property used as a meeting venue, but would not receive a tax exemption for any property used as income, i.e. rental/lease.

#### **8.8 A of F advertising—Kieffer (2007 10.8)**

Kieffer reported that no advertising had been carried out to date.

### **9. New Business.**

#### **9.1 Video Web cast**

Golly submitted a MOTION to retain the established committee (consisting of Golly, Reinhardt, Kieffer, Curry and Peterson) to develop a proposal for establishment of facilities to produce a Web cast for Atheists of Florida. The motion was SECONDED.

Upon further discussion, Golly submitted an AMENDMENT that within 60 days the committee would report proposals via e-mail to the Board. The amendment was SECONDED and APPROVED by VOTE of the Board.

VOTE was held on the MOTION and it was PASSED.

## 9.2 Budget & Finance—Golly

Treasurer Golly submitted a proposed budget for 2008 leaving several items to be determined by the Board.

9.2.1 Curry submitted a MOTION, SECONDED, to include a new budget item of \$1,000 for grants to student atheist groups to be used for advertising those groups.

9.2.1.1 Golly submitted an AMMENDMENT that funds limited to public universities within the state of Florida. The amendment DIED for lack of a second.

9.2.1.2 Curry submitted an AMMENDMENT that the funds would be made available to student groups in Florida Universities who defined themselves as atheist. The amendment was SECONDED and PASSED by VOTE of the Board.

Discussion returned to the main motion. Upon VOTE by the Board, the motion as amended was APPROVED.

9.2.2 Upon MOTION made by Peterson, SECONDED, and APPROVED by VOTE of the Board, the advertising budget for 2008 was increased to \$2,000.

9.2.3 Golly submitted a MOTION, SECONDED, to establish the commission for processing membership applications and renewals at 20% of received fees. Upon VOTE of the Board, the motion was APPROVED.

9.2.4 Upon MOTION made by Kieffer, SECONDED, Atheists of Florida will formulate a membership package for new members, which will be discussed at a committee meeting with Curry, Kieffer and Scott. Upon VOTE of the Board, the motion was APPROVED.

9.2.5 Golly submitted a MOTION, SECONDED, to approve the established 2008 budget. Upon VOTE of the Board, the motion was APPROVED.

ITEM	2007 PROPOSED	2007 ACTUAL	2008 PROPOSED
Advertising	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,000
Board meeting Lunch	75	75	75
Camp Quest contribution	50	440	450
Commissions	500	842	20%
Contract Labor	1,000	0	
Credit Card Services	0	21	21
Office supplies	150	0	150
Postage and delivery	120	97	120
Post Office Box annual fee	40	40	40
Printing—newsletters and miscellaneous	500	200	200
Program Expenses:			
Web cast of <i>Old Time Atheist Hour</i>	50	0	
Video Web cast of <i>Atheist Forum</i>			
<i>Atheist Forum</i>	200	100	
Special Events:			
<i>St Pete Times</i> Festival of Reading	150	150	150
St. Pete Pride Festival	50	60	60
General Handout		138	150
Annual Meeting	2,500	2,105	2,500
Tampa Chapter Picnic	500	198	200
State Solicitation of Contributions registration	10	75	75
Student Atheist Group Grants			1,000
2005 State of Florida Annual Report	61.25	61.25	61.25
Telephone	500	417	450
Web Site	0	215	
Wholesale merchandise	2,000	317	400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 9,456.25</b>	<b>\$ 5,413.25</b>	<b>\$ 8,102.25</b>

9.3 Upon MOTION by Tzanetakos, SECONDED, and APPROVED by VOTE of the Board, Atheists of Florida would produce a hard copy annual report for 2008.

9.4 Tzanetakos submitted a MOTION for Atheists of Florida to readopt the guidelines set in 1997 by the Board of Directors regarding the debate of the Bible. The motion was SECONDED. Upon VOTE of the Board, the motion FAILED.

9.5 Upon MOTION by Brown, SECONDED, and APPROVED by VOTE of the Board, Atheists of Florida would promote and participate in a 2009 Darwin Day celebration.

9.6 Upon MOTION by Brown, SECONDED, and APPROVED by VOTE of the Board, Atheists of Florida would give our congratulations to Gary Thompson for his work with the Atheist Meet-up.

9.7 Golly submitted a MOTION, SECONDED, to make the minutes of the Board meetings available on our Web site. Following discussion and VOTE by the Board, the motion FAILED.

9.8 Golly submitted a MOTION to consolidate the following projects: Chapter Formation, Publications, Fund Raising, Organizational Manual, Outreach, Advertising, and Final Bequests. President would assume responsibility for all projects except: Budget and Finance, Public Access television production & Web cast, and Annual Conference. The motion was SECONDED. Upon VOTE by the Board, the motion was PASSED.

9.9 Upon MOTION by Julius a new committee would be established to write and approve letters to editors and press releases on behalf of Atheists of Florida regarding atheist issues. The committee would initially consist of Julius and A of F member Abigail Martin. The motion was SECONDED and without objection PASSED by the Board.

9.10 Upon MOTION by Tzanetakos, SECONDED, Atheists of Florida would begin to search for an attorney to represent our causes. By VOTE of the Board, the motion was PASSED. Kieffer suggested seeking out Stetson university college students for possible pro bono work. Curry agreed to spearhead this investigation.

#### **10. Election of Chairman & Officers.**

10.1 **President.** NOMINATIONS were called for the position of president of Atheists of Florida. The following names were placed in nomination: Golly, Kieffer, and Curry. Curry declined to accept his nomination.

Upon VOTE by the Board with Kieffer and Golly in abstention, GOLLY was ELECTED president.

10.2 **Vice President.** NOMINATIONS were called for the position of vice president of Atheists of Florida. Kieffer was nominated and accepted. Lacking any further nominations, Kieffer was appointed by ACCLAMATION.

10.3 **Chairman.** NOMINATIONS were called for the position of Chairman of Atheists of Florida. Curry was nominated and accepted. Lacking any further nominations, Curry was appointed by ACCLAMATION.

10.4 **Secretary.** NOMINATIONS were called for the position of secretary of Atheists of Florida. Scott was nominated and accepted. Lacking any further nominations, Scott was appointed by ACCLAMATION.

10.5 **Treasurer.** NOMINATIONS were called for the position of treasurer of Atheists of Florida. Golly was nominated and accepted. Lacking any further nominations, Golly was appointed by ACCLAMATION.

#### **11. Wrap Up And Adjournment.** Closing comments were made by the Chair.

11.1 Upon MOTION by Peterson, SECONDED, and APPROVED by VOTE of the Board, a vote of thanks was given to all the 2007 officers for their great work.

The 2008 Atheists of Florida board meeting was adjourned by Chairman Ed Golly at 4.00 PM.

## Atheists of Florida 20085 Board Meeting Recap

- 7.8 Public Access TV**  
SUGGESTION that the Board commit some advertising budget to promote the channel change.
- 7.11 Annual Conference**  
JERRY MOORE appointed annual conference project director.
- 8.4 Sexual Harassment Policy**  
Board voted to discontinue development and implementation of a sexual harassment policy.
- 9.1 Video Web cast**  
Committee—GOLLY, REINHARDT, KIEFFER, CURRY and PETERSON—retained to develop within 60 days a proposal to establish facilities to produce a Web cast.
- 9.2.1 Grants to Student atheist groups**  
A of F will budget \$1,000 to offer to student atheist groups in Florida Universities who identify themselves as atheists.
- 9.2.3 Commissions**  
Established commission of 20% for membership and renewals processing.
- 9.2.4 Membership Package**  
CURRY, KIEFFER and SCOTT will formulate new membership package for new members.
- 9.3 Annual report**  
A of F will produce a hard copy annual report for 2008.
- 9.5 Darwin Day**  
A of F will participate in a 2009 Darwin Day celebration.
- 9.6 Atheist meetup**  
A of F will give congratulations to Gary Thompson for his efforts with the Atheist meetup.
- 9.8 Consolidation of Projects**  
Consolidates the following projects and places them under the responsibility of the president: Chapter Formation, Publications, Fund Raising, Organizational Manual, Outreach, Advertising, and Final Bequests.
- 9.9 Press Releases**  
Committee of JULIUS and ABIGAIL MARTIN to create press releases and letters to media.
- 9.10 Legal counsel**  
CURRY will seek legal counsel to represent our causes.

—END—



# Atheists of Florida, Inc.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors terms are three years. This roster will serve until September 2011

### Board Members as of February 2008

BASART, Jack	14503 Bayshore Dr. / Madeira Beach, FL 33708 jkbluv@yahoo.com	727 / 399-9944
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