

2009

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors
of Atheists of Florida, Inc.
for the year 2009**

1. Preliminaries

1.1 The 2009 annual meeting of the Directors of ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Florida Corporation, was held Sunday, January 18, 2009 at the Atheists of Florida office, 3614 South Manhattan Avenue, Tampa, Florida. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rob Curry at 10:12 A.M.

1.2 Roll call

Roll call was taken and the following Directors were found to be present:

Jack Basart	Steve Brown
Robert Curry, <i>Chairman</i>	Ed Golly, <i>President/Treasurer</i>
Jackie Jordan	Gloria Julius
John Kieffer, <i>Vice president</i>	Steven Miles, <i>Trustee Mark Twain</i>
James Peterson, <i>Web Master</i>	Joe Reinhardt
Julia Scott, <i>Secretary</i>	Christos Tzanetakos

1.3 Resignations

Ed Golly announced that Anita Garcia has resigned from the board.

1.4 Amendments to Agenda

The Chairman called for any amendments to the agenda and none were requested.

2. Officer Reports

2.1 President's Report—Ed Golly

With Atheists of Florida remaining an all-volunteer organization, we continue to be plagued by a shortage of manpower to accomplish all the goals we typically set forth at our annual board meetings, and 2008 was no exception.

The most exciting accomplishment of 2008 was the realization of our office which was an opportunity unanticipated at the 2008 board meeting. But when it became available in mid-year, the board agreed we should seize the opportunity, which we did. This redirected the time our staff may have used to accomplish some of the items we had laid out for A of F last year in favor of directing their attention to completing the tasks necessary to set up the office.

This availability of this space came at an ideal time for the Tampa Bay chapter. The library where meetings had previously been held, just a block from the office, was becoming difficult to reserve, which causes confusion among potential meeting attendees.

Perhaps the best news for this board is the fact that all of the funds in our rather substantial endowment remain completely intact. When the board voted to invest the endowment in a portfolio of mutual funds in pursuit of growth and return on investment, it neglected to set a specific deadline for such investments to be accomplished. In hindsight it seems that more conservative heads prevailed and, rather than trade our wealth for paper that is valued at the whim of the market, we secured it in a certificate of deposit where today every dollar remains intact. This move proved to be the more prudent for A of F, since it is indeed easier to replace disgruntled board members than it is to replace potentially \$100,000.00.

With the office now nearly complete, we can again direct our attention to the issues we want to accomplish. But I would caution this board to exercise a realistic approach to what it can propose to actually carry out in the coming year. We must prioritize our agenda and pursue its completion on the basis of available manpower to do so.

2.2 Vice-president's report—John Kieffer

Kieffer had been very active with the USF Atheist Student Alliance and had just signed up the 151st member. He sends e-mails to the ASA regarding all A of F events and meetings. He expressed interest in having A of F send two ASA members to the AAI convention this year.

2.3 Secretary's report—Julia Scott (see attached report)

2.4 Treasurer Report—Golly submitted the following Treasurer's Report for 2008:

Atheists of Florida, Inc.

2008 Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance January 1, 2008

Checking Account	88,079.93	
Petty Cash	50.43	
Certificates of Deposit-Risk Free 11 Months	115,000.00	
		<u>203,130.36</u>

Income

Memberships		
New	430.00	
Renewals	1,610.00	
Life		
Total Memberships		2,040.00
Donations		183.00
Banquet for 2008 Board Meeting		280.00
Merchandise Sales— <i>General</i>	87.00	
<i>Times</i> Festival of Reading	262.50	
Google	0.70	
Total Sales		350.20
Interest		5,238.72
TOTAL INCOME		8,091.92

Expenses

Annual Picnic		250.43
Board Annual Dinner Banquet		2,114.75
Commissions		364.10
Contributions:		
Camp Quest		
Credit Card		
Annual Membership Fee	21.00	
Finance Charges	10.4	
Late Payment Fees	58.00	89.40
Office		
Supplies	8.00	
Rent	2,000.00	
Improvements	2,250.00	
Paint and Carpet	335.25	
Chairs	660.00	
Refrigerator	299.00	
Surge Protector	99.98	
Cable Installation	95.12	
Snacks & Beverages	66.44	
Bright House— <i>Installation and setup</i>	152.68	
Miscellaneous	22.19	5,988.66

Newletter Production		
Printing	38.52	38.52
Postage and Delivery		43.34
Post Office Box Annual Fee		42.00
Printing & Reproduction		
Program Expenses:		
<i>Old Time Atheist Hour</i>		
Signs & Banners	335.00	335.00
Special Events:		
Atheist Alliance Convention Feed	75.00	
<i>St. Pete Times</i> Festival of Reading	150.00	
General Handout	154.90	
Student Atheist Group caps	445.00	824.90
State Solicitation of Contributions registration		125.00
2008 State of Florida Annual Report		61.25
Telephone		461.44
Travel & Entertainment		
<i>Atheist Forum</i> Crew Dinners	859.86	
Travel		859.86
WEB Site		
Wholesale Merchandise		
TOTAL EXPENSES		11,598.65
NET INCOME OR (LOSS)		<u>(3,506.73)</u>
Year-End Balance December 31, 2008		
Checking Account		4,221.28
Petty Cash		73.39
Certificates of Deposit-Risk Free 11 Months		197,804.96
		<u>202,099.63</u>

Following review and discussion by the board, Golly submitted a MOTION to approve the 2008 report, Seconded by Tzanetakos. Upon VOTE of the board, the motion was APPROVED.

3. Committee and Project Reports

3.1 Chapter Formation—Golly

Golly reported that people have contacted us expressing interest in forming chapters in the Sarasota and Central Florida regions, but nobody would volunteer to become chapter directors. The board considered the idea that the Chapter Formation document may be overwhelming and should be simplified to encourage members to form chapters.

3.2 Budget and Finance—Golly

The board decided to consider the budget following old and new business.

3.3 Membership Package—Curry, Kieffer, Scott

The committed reported that they had met to consider ideas for items to include in the package, but as of this meeting they had been unable to move forward until the database was updated.

3.4 Publications—Golly

Two new publications had been submitted in 2008 but had not yet been reviewed.

3.5 Organization Manual—Golly

No significant changes had been made to the document in 2008.

3.6 Outreach—Golly

During 2008, the Saint Petersburg Times Festival of Reading had been the only outreach event in which Atheists of Florida had participated.

3.7 Advertising—Golly

No advertising funds had been spent in 2008 due to price increases for our previously-used sources. We did advertise and hold our first orientation meeting at our office through free notices in local newspapers.

3.8 Video Web cast—Golly, Reinhardt, Kieffer, Curry, Peterson

A of F had constructed a Web cast studio, and were set up to begin production of audio Web casts. We anticipated production would begin soon.

3.9 Web Site—Peterson

Peterson reported that the Web site was now fully developed. As such, it was time to add some new capabilities such as online membership renewals. He wanted to have more input to include on the site, such as positions A of F has taken on issues.

3.10 Final Bequests—Golly

Golly announced that A of F was compiling information regarding Final Bequests from other organizations to utilize as a template to produce our own forms.

3.11 Annual Conference—Moore

The board decided to postpone discussion of an annual conference until later in the meeting.

3.12 Annual Report—Golly

The time and effort required to construct and occupy the new office had left inadequate time to prepare an annual report for Atheists of Florida. The committee remained intact anticipating a report could be prepared for 2009.

3.13 Public Relations—Golly

No activity concerning the development of public relations had been accomplished in 2008.

3.14 Press Releases—Julius, Abigail Martin

A number of responses to articles in the local papers had been written. They were sent to the President for approval but had no response, so they were submitted for publication under the author's name and had been published.

4. Old Business

4.1 Public Access TV

After a 5½ year run, production of the *Atheist Forum* Public Access TV program had been discontinued following relocation of the TBCN channels from 19 & 20 to 949 & 950. We were also experiencing problems providing an adequate crew due to residency restrictions implemented when Hillsborough County dropped funding for Public Access TV.

4.1.1 Golly submitted a MOTION to construct a studio in the office so we could record the *Atheist Forum* and supply programs to TBCN for cable telecast, SECONDED by Reinhardt.

4.1.2 Tzanetakos submitted an AMMENDMENT to resume production of *Atheist Forum* on TBCN and for Atheists of Florida to budget up to \$5,000 for the purchase of equipment to accommodate in-house production of the programs, SECONDED by Scott.

VOTE on the AMMENDMENT—PASSED.

VOTE on the MOTION—PASSED.

4.2 Grants to Student Groups

Kieffer reported that two advertisements, each one-month in length, had been run in the University of South Florida *Oracle*.

4.3 Commissions

A 20% commission had been paid to the secretary to process membership renewals in A of F. However, the secretary announced she did not seek further compensation for the service she was providing.

4.4 Darwin Day

Nothing had been organized to celebrate or acknowledge Darwin Day. The board considered reviewing a local Web site that had been set up titled: evolveta.com to determine if A of F would become involved in any activities.

4.5 Atheist Meet up

A letter of appreciation had been sent to Gary Thompson for this work on the St. Petersburg Atheist meet-up, which he had successfully organized for several years.

4.6 Legal Council

The board had determined that Stetson University law students are not allowed to do any outside work, so A of F would need to continue to seek legal counsel for the organization.

1:12pm Meeting in recess

2:08pm Meeting called to order by Chairman Rob Curry

5. New Business

5.1 Atheists of Florida Annual Report

Upon MOTION submitted by Golly, **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED** by the board, production of the Atheists of Florida Annual Report would be postponed until time permitted its production.

5.2 Motion to promote clarity in our Organizational purpose(s)

Tzanetakos submitted a MOTION to clarify the organizational purposes of Atheists of Florida, to read as follows:

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

The motion was **SECONDED** by Peterson.

Following discussion by the board, Brown called the question.

Upon **VOTE** of the board, the motion **FAILED**.

5.3 Photo gallery

Tzanetakos submitted a MOTION to create a photo or painting gallery of well-known atheists who have contributed to the advancement of atheism. The gallery should be installed on the walls of the Atheist Center. To finance the project, members should be solicited to adopt a favored atheist and the donor's name which would be acknowledged on a plaque under the exhibit. The proposed minimum donation for each exhibit would be \$100. The motion was **SECONDED** by Miles.

By **VOTE** of the board, the MOTION was **PASSED**.

5.4 Lawsuit

A MOTION was submitted by Basart that A of F should pursue all avenues to file a lawsuit to enforce Article 1, Section 3 of the Florida State Constitution, SECONDED by Reinhardt. Following discussion and VOTE by the board, the MOTION was PASSED.

5.5 Chapter meetings

Julius submitted a MOTION specifying that all chapter meetings should be conducted in a more formal manner, SECONDED.

Following discussion by the board, the Motion was called to a VOTE.

The Motion FAILED.

5.6 Earmarked funds

Curry submitted a MOTION to earmark funds for donations for 1) a Building Fund, and 2) the Atheist Student Alliance. The Motion was SECONDED by Tzanetakos.

Following discussion by the board, Brown called the question.

VOTE to call the question PASSED.

VOTE on the Motion—PASSED.

5.7 Comparative religion studies

Brown submitted a MOTION to promote the mandatory inclusion of comparative religion in Florida public schools, SECONDED by Julius.

Following discussion by the board, Peterson called the question.

VOTE to call the question PASSED.

VOTE on the Motion—PASSED.

5.8 Signage

Kieffer submitted a MOTION to authorize Atheists of Florida to spend up to \$3,000 to purchase and install at our office a lighted sign that says "Atheists of Florida" and for video cam security, SECONDED by Miles.

Following discussion by the board, the Motion was TABLED.

5.9 Budget

The proposed budget for 2008 was submitted for review, amendment, and approval by the Board:

ITEM	2008 PROPOSED	2008 ACTUAL	2009 PROPOSED
Advertising	\$ 2,000	0	\$ 2,000
Board meeting Lunch	75	0	75
Camp Quest contribution	450	0	450*
Commissions	500	364	800*
Contract Labor	0	0	0
Credit Card Services	21	21	21
Internet Service			600
Office supplies	150	75	150
Postage and delivery	120	44	120
Post Office Box annual fee	40	42	42
Printing—newsletters and miscellaneous	200	194	200
Program Expenses:			
Web cast of <i>Old Time Atheist Hour</i>	0	0	500
<i>Atheist Forum</i> crew dinners		860	0
Rent—A of F Office		2,000	4,800
Special Events:			
<i>St Pete Times</i> Festival of Reading	150	150	150
St. Pete Pride Festival	60	0	60
General Handout	150	155	150
Annual Meeting	2,500	2,115	500

Tampa Chapter Picnic	200	250	200
State Solicitation of Contributions registration	75	125	10
Student Atheist Group Grants	1,000	589	1,000
State of Florida Annual Report	61.25	61.25	61.25
Telephone	500	461	500
Web Site	0	0	500*
Wholesale merchandise	400	0	400
TOTAL	8,602.25	7,506.25	13,289.25

Following review and discussion by the board, the budget for 2009 was APPROVED.

5.10 Camp Quest

Reinhardt submitted a MOTION to authorize Atheists of Florida to provide sponsorship for eligible children of the members of Atheists of Florida, SECONDED by Peterson.

Following discussion by the board, the motion was APPROVED by VOTE of the board.

5.11 Postponed Reports

No postponed reports were reviewed by the board.

5.12 Awards Banquet

The board determined that no Awards Banquet would be held this year.

6. Nominations, Elections and Appointments

6.1 President

Nominations:

Steve Miles was nominated by Peterson. Miles declined.

John Kieffer was nominated by Curry. Kieffer accepted.

Rob Curry was nominated by Brown. Curry accepted.

Each candidate was given three minutes to present their qualifications to the board.

By VOTE of the board, ROB CURRY was elected PRESIDENT.

6.2 Vice president

Nominations:

Gloria Julius was nominated by Peterson. Julius declined.

Stephen Brown was nominated by Scott.

Nan Owens was nominated by Brown. Owens was contacted by telephone and accepted.

Brown withdrew acceptance of nomination.

With no further nominations, OWENS was appointed VICE-PRESIDENT by ACCLAMATION.

6.3 Secretary

Nominations:

Julia Scott (incumbent) was nominated.

With no further nominations, SCOTT was appointed SECRETARY by ACCLAMATION.

6.4 Treasurer

Nominations:

Ed Golly (incumbent) was nominated.

With no further nominations, GOLLY was appointed TREASURER by ACCLAMATION.

6.5 Chairman

Nominations:

John Kieffer was nominated by Tzanetakos.

With no further nominations, KIEFFER was appointed CHAIRMAN by ACCLAMATION.

6.6 Appointments by new President

Ed Golly was appointed to serve as EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR without compensation.

Christos Tzanetacos was appointed as LEGAL AFFAIRS COORDINATOR.

Jackie Jordan was appointed OFFICE MANAGER.

Jim Peterson was appointed as PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR.

John Kieffer was appointed as MARKETING COORDINATOR.

President announced he would ask Anita Garcia to serve as VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR.

7. Concluding Business

7.1 Tabled items

No tabled items were discussed.

7.2 Adoption of adjournment motion

MOTION made by Peterson and PASSED.

7.3 Meeting declared adjourned

Meeting declared ADJOURNED by Rob Curry at 5:00 P.M.

Julia Scott
Secretary of the Meeting

Atheists of Florida 2009 Board Meeting Recap

- 1.3 **Resignations**
Anita Garcia RESIGNED from the board.
- 4.1 **Public Access TV**
 - 4.1.1 A of F will construct a studio at the A of F office for recorded productions of the *Atheist Forum* for submission and telecast on TBCN.
 - 4.2.2 A of F will budget up to \$5,000 for the purchase of equipment to produce in-house *Atheist Forum* programs.
- 4.3 **Commissions**
The Secretary announced she would decline further commissions for membership renewals.
- 5.1 **Annual Report**
Production of the Atheists of Florida Annual Report would be postponed until time was available for its production.
- 5.3 **Photo Gallery**
Creation of a photo gallery at the A of F office by sponsorship of members.
- 5.4 **Lawsuit**
A of F should pursue all avenues to file a lawsuit to enforce Article 1, Section 3 of the Florida State Constitution.
- 5.6 **Earmarked Funds**
A of F will earmark funds for donations for 1. a Building Fund, and 2. the Atheist Student Alliance.
- 5.7 **Comparative Religion Studies**
A of F will promote the mandatory inclusion of comparative religion in Florida public schools.
- 5.9 **Budget**
The 2009 Budget was approved.
- 5.10 **Camp Quest**
A of F will provide sponsorship for eligible children of A of F members to attend Camp Quest this year.

—END—