

Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of Atheists of Florida, Inc.

February 14, 2016

1. INTRODUCTION.

- 1.1 Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM.
- 1.2 Thomas announced that this was the Annual Meeting of the Directors of ATHEISTS OF FLORIDA, INC. (A OF F), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Florida Corporation, being held at the Atheists of Florida office, 5002 B S. MacDill Ave., Tampa. The Chair noted that this was the annual meeting called by the directors of the above named corporation pursuant to the bylaws of said corporation for the purpose of discussing items specified on the agenda which had been delivered to all board members prior to the meeting.
- 1.3 Roll was called by the Secretary and the following Directors were present:
- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Ed Golly, <i>Secretary of the Meeting</i> | Tracy Thomas, <i>Chair</i> |
| Eileen Stafford, <i>Secretary</i> | Judy Adkins, <i>President</i> |
| Galen Matson | Chris Brown, <i>Vice President</i> |
| James Peterson | Al Hann |
- Also present (not voting):
- Nan Owens, *Treasurer*
- The Chair noted that a quorum was present and proceeded with the meeting.
- 1.4 No Announcements were made.
- 1.5 Review and revision of Agenda.
- 1.5.1 Golly requested that Item 7.5.2.3 be added under the sub-heading “Fund Raising” titled “Office Rent.”
- 1.5.2 Golly requested that Item 7.5.6 be added under the heading “Project Reports” titled “Office Sublet Rent.”
- 1.5.3 Adkins requested that Item 9.6 be added under the heading “New Business” titled “Lifetime Membership Nominations.”
- 1.5.4 Adkins requested that Item 9.7 be added under the heading “New Business” titled “Twenty-fifth Anniversary of A OF F.”
- All additions were accepted by the Board.
- 1.6 Owens distributed financial reports for the organization. A copy of each report is attached to these minutes.

2. MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS TO THE BOARD

- 2.1 No members had requested time to address the Board.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1 Upon MOTION made by Hann, SECONDED, and APPROVED by unanimous VOTE, the minutes of the August 24, 2014 meeting were approved.

4. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Adkins reported that 2015 had been a good year for A OF F. The organization had devoted considerable time to educating the public about state/church separation issues. The biggest event A OF F had participated in was the local appearance of Richard Dawkins through our involvement with the Coalition

of Reason (COR) which attracted over 800 attendees. All received information about Atheists of Florida but the event generated no new members.

Adkins had contacted several officials around the state regarding First Priority and the possibility of the schools having a problem with this group and the establishment clause and/or the Equal Access Act.

Our Jefferson/Hitchens event was considered very successful thanks in large part to the participation of Matson.

A OF F was continuing to grow in its affiliation with interested people through e-mail contact with potential members. Coded e-mails had been implemented to help remind members to renew their memberships every year. The current e-mail contact list consisted of 800 recipients, about ten percent of whom were paid active members. During the previous year under the implementation of the Pay What You Want (PWYW) dues structure, only two members had paid dues in the minimum amount available of \$5.00. All other members who joined or renewed had paid more.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Owens reviewed the Profit and Loss Statement for 2015; the Balance Sheets dated December 31, 2015 and February 1, 2016; and the Monthly Ledger Account for January 2016, all of which had been distributed to the directors and are appended to these minutes.

- 5.1 Upon MOTION duly made by Peterson which was SECONDED, the Board extended its appreciation to Owens for all her extensive work preparing the documents and serving as Treasurer for A OF F.

6. CHAPTER DIRECTORS REPORTS

Tampa Chapter Co-Director Brown reported that the chapter had continued the quarterly structure of monthly meetings beginning with a general meeting with an *Atheist Forum* audience-participation video production followed by a guest speaker meeting and ending with a potluck social meeting. The Thursday Office Day time had been changed to 3:00 to 5:00 followed by the *Atheist Forum* production that evening at 7:00. He announced that our "Atheism 101" event was planned for February 28 to be hosted by Joe Reinhardt.

7. PROJECT REPORTS

- 7.1 Publications Committee—Peterson had received no submissions to the Committee. Golly continued to serve as editor of the A OF F newsletter and sought additional input from any of the Directors. Adkins distributed a preliminary print of two pages of the 2015 Annual Report focusing primarily on the activities the organization had been involved in during 2015 for review and comment by the Directors, after which it would be posted on the Web site.
- 7.2 Outreach—Adkins reported she had been posting announcements about our Atheism 101 event on Craig's List and submitting them to WMNF and TBT. She planned to reach out to all other similar organizations to assist in developing a program for another Skepticamp later in the year.
- 7.3 *Atheist Forum* Webcast—Golly reported that we had generated quite a few programs but were still being plagued by technical issues.
 - 7.3.1 Following discussion of how to improve our productions by purchasing different cameras, Brown submitted a MOTION that A OF F allocate \$2,000.00 for the purchase of new video equipment, SECONDED by Matson. VOTE on the Motion was UNANIMOUS.

Production of the *Atheist Forum* would be postponed pending the installation of new equipment.

- 7.4 Website/Internet—Adkins had substantially modified the A OF F Website. She displayed the Website to the Directors and walked the Board through the various elements contained in the site.

7.5 Board Committees

7.5.1 Annual Report—Adkins reported that the 2015 Annual Report was complete except for the financial information she was awaiting from the Treasurer.

7.5.2 Fund Raising

7.5.2.1 Bingo—Adkins reported that too many complications were involved in setting up a Bingo parlor so the idea had been abandoned.

7.5.2.2 Web Site—Adkins announced that an icon would be included on the Site to solicit donations for our new TV equipment.

7.5.2.3 Office Rent—Golly committed to a donation of \$400 per month to the office rent for the next year. Additional funding for the next year's office rent would be solicited through our Web site as a general contribution to A OF F.

7.5.3 Newsletter—Golly announced he would complete the current issue in progress following the Board Meeting so the actions taken by the Board and the new Officers could be announced in the publication. He would maintain the bylaws-prescribed schedule of quarterly publications for 2016.

7.5.4 Membership—Adkins questioned whether or not we should establish a membership fee structure with various categories of membership. She suggested we offer a T-shirt to new members if they pay a certain minimum amount of dues.

7.6 Office Sublet Rent—Golly reported that the Committee that had been formed to establish rates for subletting the office space had established a rental fee of \$50.00 for the first two hours or \$75.00 for four hours. We would include a refundable deposit of \$50.00 for cleaning the space after use. Our video production facilities would also be offered for rent whenever they could be modified and demonstrated complete.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Financial Audit—Owens reported that the financial data for 2014 had been lost but an audit could be completed using whatever data was available. A OF F members Sandra Smith and Rick O'Keefe would prepare the audit.

Director Matson left the meeting and the Board moved to Item 9.5

9.5 2016 Budget.

9.5.1 Brown submitted a MOTION that the \$2,000.00 that had been earlier approved be added to the 2016 budget, SECONDED by Matson. Seeing no opposition the Motion was APPROVED.

The 2016 Budget was discussed and amended as follows:

| ITEM | AMOUNT |
|--|---------------------|
| Bank Fees | \$ 150 |
| Office Supplies | 50 |
| Office Rent | 10,450 |
| Postage & Delivery | 200 |
| Printing—Newsletters and miscellaneous | 300 |
| Special Events | 500 |
| State Solicitation of Contributions Registration | 200 |
| State of Florida Annual Report | 61.25 |
| Web site | 100 |
| FIOS | 420 |
| Meet-up operation | <u>200</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>\$ 12,631.25</u> |

Peterson submitted a MOTION, SECONDED by Brown, to accept the 2016 Budget as amended. By unanimous VOTE of the Board, the Motion was APPROVED.

8.3 Conflict of Interest—This issue was postponed until the next Board Meeting.

8.2 Establishment Clause 225 Year Anniversary—Adkins reported that A OF F was planning to conduct an event in December 2016 celebrating the 225th anniversary of the adoption of the Unites States Bill of Rights. The proposed event would involve a debate between preferably one of our members supporting the freedom of/from religion issue and an opposing speaker who presumes the nation was established as a theocracy. Conflicting opinions were expressed by the Directors. Adkins pointed out that A OF F already had two dedicated donations for the event.

9.1 Bylaws Revisions—Peterson proposed a Committee to prepare bylaws revisions to be submitted to the membership providing them ninety (90) days to submit comments, after which time the adjustments would be implemented and the new bylaws immediately adopted.

9.2 Hillsborough County School Board—Adkins relayed that she, Peterson (representing TBCoR) and Golly had met the previous month with Hillsborough County School Board Superintendent Jeff Eakins and three members of his staff to discuss our concerns relating to the involvement of Idlewild Baptist Church volunteers acting as mentors in the County Public Schools. Adkins was still waiting for a response from Eakins and would press him for one the following week. She reviewed our concerns and disclosed that she was more concerned about the involvement in the Florida Public School System of First Priority than Idlewild. She would also maintain her contact with *Tampa Bay Times* reporter Marlene Sokol who had reported extensively on the issue.

9.3 Candidate Review for 2016 School Board Elections—Adkins reported that A OF F would continue to develop this project and contact all candidates by e-mail seeking a response to the questions that would be submitted to them. A OF F would publish the results prior to the August 2016 primaries.

9.4 Speaker’s Bureau—Adkins would procure and review the requirements for the Hillsborough County School System Speaker’s Bureau Registration. Several Directors expressed interest in participating in the project.

- 9.7 A OF F 25th Anniversary Celebration—The Board formed a Committee to conceive ideas for the celebration. Peterson, Brown and Thomas volunteered to serve on the Committee.
- 9.6 Life Memberships—Adkins NOMINATED Brown and Matson for Honorary Life Memberships in Atheists of Florida, Inc., SECONDED by Hann. VOTE on the Motion was UNANIMOUS.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 10.1 Adkins NOMINATED Hann for Vice President of A OF F. The chair called for any opposition to the Nomination. Seeing none, Hann was elected Vice President.

Adkins NOMINATED the following Directors or Members for the remaining positions:

- President Adkins
- Secretary Stafford
- Treasurer Owens
- Chair Thomas

All nominees ACCEPTED their respective nominations. VOTE of the Directors to APPROVE the slate was UNANIMOUS.

- 10.2 Election of Financial Oversight Committee:
 The treasurer (Owens) and secretary (Stafford) were de-facto members of the Committee.
 Brown nominated himself.
 Hann nominated himself.
 With no further nominations, VOTE by the board for the two candidates was UNANIMOUS.

11. CONCLUDING BUSINESS

- 11.1 MOTION was submitted by Hann to ADJOURN. By UNANIMOUS VOTE of the Board, the Meeting was adjourned.

By: Ed Golly
 Secretary of the Meeting

Atheists of Florida 2016 Annual Board Meeting Recap

- 7.3.1 A OF F will allocate \$2,000.00 for the purchase of new video equipment.
- 7.6 Rates for subletting the office space established at \$50.00 for the first two hours or \$75.00 for four hours, including a refundable deposit of \$50.00 for cleaning the space after use. Our video production facilities would also be offered for rent whenever they could be modified and demonstrated complete.
- 8.1 A OF F members **Sandra Smith** and **Rick O’Keefe** would prepare the 2015 audit.
- 8.2 Establishment Clause 225 Year Anniversary—A OF F plans to conduct an event in December 2016 celebrating the 225th anniversary of the adoption of the Unites Sates Bill of Rights.
- 9.5 Budget for 2016 established at \$12,631.25.
- 9.3 A OF F would continue to develop the Candidate Review for 2016 School Board Elections project and contact all candidates by e-mail seeking a response to the questions that would be submitted to them. A OF F would publish the results prior to the August 2016 primaries.
- 9.4 **Adkins** would procure and review the requirements for the Hillsborough County School System Speaker’s Bureau Registration.
- 9.7 Committee formed to conceive ideas for the A OF F 25th Anniversary Celebration. **Peterson, Brown** and **Thomas** volunteered to serve on the Committee.
- 9.6 **Brown** and **Matson** voted Honorary Life Memberships in Atheists of Florida, Inc.
- 10.1 Officers:
 - President Adkins
 - Vice President Hann
 - Secretary Stafford
 - Treasurer Owens
 - Chair Thomas
- 10.2 Financial Oversight Committee:
 - Owens
 - Stafford
 - Brown
 - Peterson
 - Hann

Atheists of Florida, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors' terms are three years. This roster will serve until November 2017

Board Members as of February 2015

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| ADKINS, Judy <i>President, Web master</i> | 6814 Charlotte Harbor Way / Tampa, FL 33625 jmadkins@gmail.com | 813 / 531-8138 727 / 271-3548 |
| BROWN, Chris <i>Tampa Chptr Dir, FOC</i> | 3807 W Paxton Ave / Tampa FL 33611 christbrown@yahoo.com | 813 / 405-5985 |
| GOLLY, Ed <i>Newsletter</i> | 4303 S MacDill Ave / Tampa FL 33611-1940 Edgollystudio@aol.com | 813 / 839-7567 Cell 813 / 325-9139 |
| HANN, Al <i>Vice President, FOC</i> | 1647 W. Groveleaf Ave. / Palm Harbor, FL 34683-3297 Al@Alhann.com | 727 / 742-2806 |
| MATSON, Galen | 3403 W Paxton Av / Tampa, FL 33611 galen@galenmatson.com | 813 / 699-9089 |
| OWENS, Nan <i>Treasurer, FOC</i> | 4704 Lakewood Drive / Seffner, FL 33584 nanowen6s@gmail.com | 813 / 662-6612 Cell 813 / 424-2558 |
| PETERSON, Jim <i>Publications, FOC</i> | 6814 Charlotte Harbor Way / Tampa, FL 33625 JamesTP@metrodirect.net | Home 813 / 531-8138 Mobile 727 / 271-3549 |
| STAFFORD, Eileen <i>Secretary, FOC</i> | 800 35 th Avenue S / Saint Petersburg, FL 33705 eileenmcstafford@gmail.com | 727 / 515-8073 |
| THOMAS, Tracy <i>Chair</i> | 6411 93 rd Terrace #4901 / Pinellas Park, FL 33782 tthomas6667@gmail.com | 727 / 235-3220 |