

Board Retreat 2.0

2/27/2011

Attendance:

Shellie Brighton – President

Jerry Schiffelbein – Vice President

Mary Keiser – Secretary

Liz Frost – Treasurer

Jami Blackann – Member at Large

Ranjan Banerji – Member at Large

John Keiser – Member at Large

Kyle Hepworth – Member at Large

Kevin Brighton – Member at Large

History and Mission of SA

16% of US not religiously affiliated

Discussion of SA being a community organization versus being a global organization.

- ☺ Not easy to be both of these, need to choose path for the organization.

Community Organization:

- ☺ Building a local community has been our focus, a global mission has been our secret goal.
- ☺ We have been so focused on growing, is this important? It is hard to get people to volunteer, to be involved. Can we focus more on making the number we have now better, not just on adding more members? Is it a problem that members do not come to the meetings but are still members?

Global Organization:

- ☺ Do we want to be an activist organization? What do we need to be successful?
 - Legal department, we used to have a legal department, we did not have enough people on the board that were interested in legal issues.
 - We have a community that backs our activism.
 - Advertising. We would really need to focus on advertising and really get involved in the bus ads debate with the ACLU.
 - Be visible

- ☺ Members want something in return, what can we do for them if we become a global organization?
 - Advertising and awareness as outreach
 - Members join for solidarity, not benefits(more schwag, fewer events)
 - E.g. ACLU, Americans United etc.
- ☺ Shellie expressed concern that most atheists are apathetic about it and do not get hugely involved, they do not feel like they need to be activists.
- ☺ We may need to farm out some things if we go this route. Have 2 sides of the organization. Set up the SA meetup to take over the community part and SA.org does the advocacy. If we do this we would have to figure out what membership meetings would be like.
- ☺ Follow through has been an issue, the group comes up with ideas and it never gets off the ground. We would need to focus on doing this(advocacy) well, one thing with focus.
- ☺ Are we an organization of advocacy that has a community or the opposite?
- ☺ A statement of beliefs or philosophy is needed if we are to become a global organization, will need core values. Vision can stay the same, mission needs to change order.
- ☺ Discussed that atheists do not always have similar beliefs i.e. Abortion, politics etc.
 - Most atheists are humanists, adopting the tenets of the humanists is a possibility.
 - On April 11, 2010 SA put out a press release about the sexual abuse from Catholic priests, we received good feedback about the release.
 - We will need to take a few controversial stands.
- ☺ What we need to do:
 - Assign someone to manage and run the meetup and make it a community.
- ☺ Educating people about atheist issues.
- ☺ People want an organization to back their ideas with money, manpower and energy.
- ☺ Change name of membership meeting? It sounds boring and limiting. And if we take a new direction we will no longer focus on membership meetings.
 - SA presents
 - SA event
- ☺ Have the election meeting be a business meeting

-Come up with a value statement

- ☺ What would we be willing to do press releases on, hold a protest on?
- ☺ We are a chapter or affiliate of American Atheists We need to contact them to see if they can add us to their rider for insurance. Shellie will contact them.
- ☺ We are:
 - Atheists
 - Humanist
 - Skeptics
 - For Human Rights
 - Naturalists(non-supernatural)
 - Human powered
 - Humans first
 - Secular courses for action
 - Pro science
 - Friends of freethought

ALWAYS(1)

Religious freedom

Separation of church and state(1)

Support secular resources(1)

AS APPROPRIATE(2)

Gay rights(2)

Women's rights(2)

Civil rights(2)

Freedom of speech(2)

Reproductive rights(2)

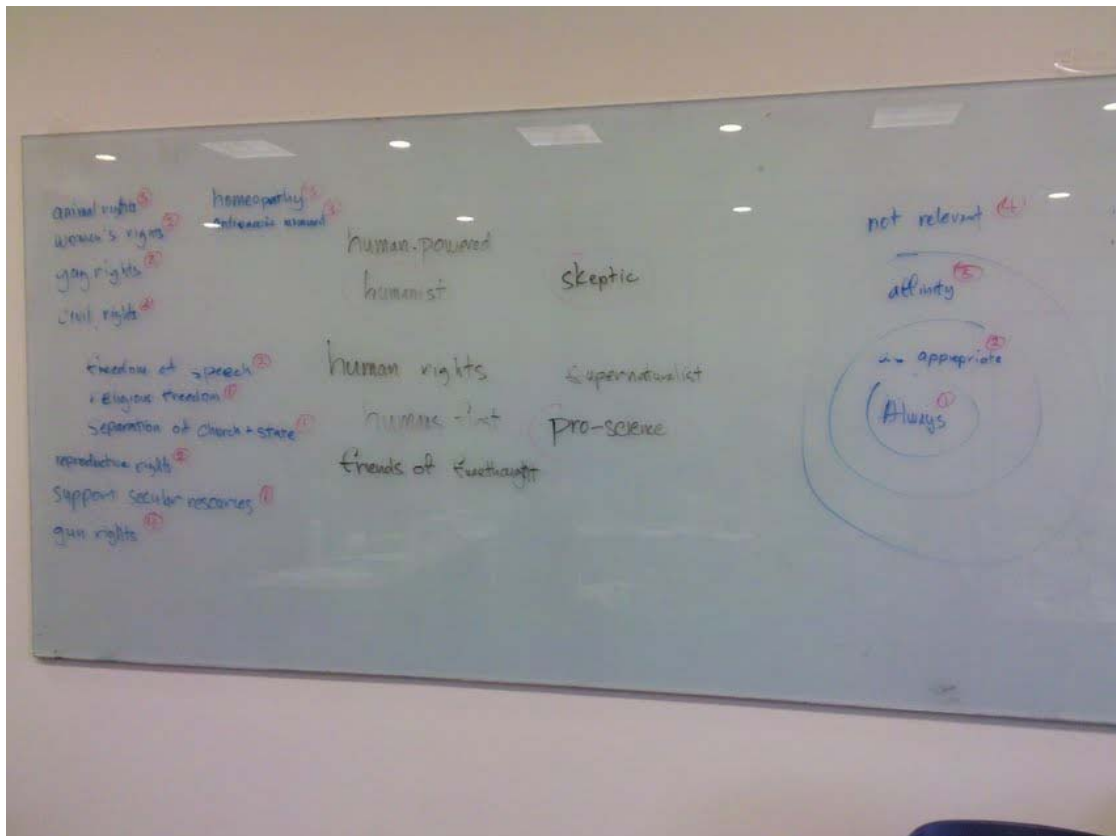
AFFINITY(3)

Animal rights(3)

Homeopathy/Anti-vaccine movements(3)

NOT RELEVANT(4)

Gun rights(4)



WHAT DO WE DO?

- ☺ Fairs. U-District, Fremont, Pride. DO we want to do more fairs, maybe in a different season? Issaquah Salmon Days is in Oct and the registration is affordable, Puyallup? Seafair pirates would like to be pirates along with our FSM
- ☺ Darwin Day
- ☺ Membership meetings
- ☺ Blood Drive
- ☺ Seasonless food drive
- ☺ Operation paperback
- ☺ Gift wrapping at the holidays to benefit Children's Hospital
- ☺ KUOW pledge drive
- ☺ Bus Ads
- ☺ 4th of July picnic
- ☺ Solstice potluck
- ☺ Capitol display, tree of knowledge
- ☺ Meetups

Treasurer's report

Current balance: \$10,976.28

Membership total: 278

Losing members, there have been 21 members who have not renewed.

Old/Ongoing business

- ☺ **Stranger Ads** We need to get the ads ready to run. Stranger can build the ads. Kyle will build ad ideas in 3 weeks for the stranger. Jerry will help Kyle get the ads placed and get him the dimensions for the ads. We need to advertise more; other newspapers, volcano, the weekly, U-W daily.
- ☺ **Bus Ads** We need to take action on King County shutting down non commercial bus ads. Talk to the ACLU, get the link on the website. Publically submit to re-run our ads on the busses. Shellie will contact the ACLU regarding us resubmitting the ads, Ranjan will write the boo-hoo we got rejected letter/press release. We have the inside ads designed, will need to design outside ads.
- ☺ **Darwin Day recap** Darwin Day went well, ideas for making it better next year. Having media there would be great, big name speakers. Discussed the possibility of taking on the event as an SA event since we do all the planning and incur all the costs and the other organizations do not help other than donating a few door prizes. We donated over 130 pounds of food for the seasonless food drive that was collected at Darwin Day!
- ☺ **Web site** The website needs to be updated and made more consumer friendly. John and Kevin will work on updating the website.

New business

- ☺ **Day of Reason Blood Drive** is Thursday May 5 2011.
- ☺ **Bank Account** Chase sent out a letter stating that if our account falls below \$7500 we will be changed fees. Discussed looking for a new bank. Liz will research possible banks.

Next Board meeting

- ☺ 4/17/2011 1:00-4:00 Foster Library