

**Meeting Notes for the Seattle Atheists Board Meeting
February 23rd, 2006**

Summary of action items follows meeting notes

Time and Date: Thursday, February 23th, 2006 at 7:00 PM

Location: Private Residence of Shellie Hoyt.

Board members present to form a quorum at the beginning of the meeting:

Marcus Dunavan – President

Shellie Hoyt – Vice President

Megan Spielbusch – Secretary

Jerry Schiffelbein – Treasurer

Jen Lees – Member at large

Kyle Hepworth – Member at large

Randy Rumley – Member at large

Wendy Britton – Alternate member at large

Others:

Tiffany, Kevin

10 people total were present.

The meeting was called to order by Marcus.

Activities:

- **Newdow case:** Wendy reported that Mike Newdow needs volunteers for his new initiative, to remove “In God We Trust” from U.S. currency. The volunteers are needed to find examples of the phrase in religious contexts. She is coordinating the volunteer efforts for this project, as with the previous pledge case. Anyone that is available to help out should contact her.
- **KUOW Pledge Drive:** Megan reported that the Spring pledge drive is coming up, and support was voiced to take part in this again. Our shift is tentatively scheduled for March 30th [Secretary’s note: This was later revised to Friday, March 31st], 5:30-9:15pm. Megan will send out announcement to members and the Yahoo group.
- **KSER:** Marcus mentioned that the Humanists of North Puget Sound have been advertising on local radio station KSER 90.7, which seem to be increasing contacts to their group. We should consider doing this as well. It is \$250 per year, and they announce our group name on air once per week.
- **Julia Sweeney Event:** Several (8-10) members of the Victoria humanist group are planning to attend the NPR event with Julia Sweeney and Ira Glass on May 6th. They are interested in coordinating to get a group discount, if available, and also to see if Seattle members had a few beds to share for Saturday night, before they head back to Victoria. Tiffany volunteered to coordinate with Victoria member, Nancy, to collect

RSVPs, look into the group discount, and solicit housing offers. Several board members suggested that the \$35 tickets would be much better seats than the \$25. If you would like to attend, and/or can welcome a fellow humanist into your home, please contact Tiffany.

- **Adopt-a-Highway:** We discussed doing this, and agreed that we could commit to up to two road cleanups per year. Megan will see if this is possible, and what roadway sections are available.
- **Member social events:** Shellie is hosting a Game Day on March 4th, and something might be planned for “Wester” on April 16th.
- **Meetup:** The last Seattle Meetup had at least 30 people, with several new faces. The Eastside Meetup, now being run by Secular Seattle, usually has about 10 people each month. Kyle has been distributing brochures and/or business cards at the Meetups.

Library: The library materials need to be transferred from Gloria to Jami, who will be our new librarian.

Membership: Jerry reported that we currently have 46 members. 3 new members joined since the last meeting, and we had one new Lifetime member. Megan will look up what we decided about reviewing and increasing Lifetime membership fees.

Honorary Membership: Last year we considered bestowing an honorary membership to one individual or family per year. Marcus made a motion to present an honorary membership to Jen and the Lees/Anderson family. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Credit Card: Wendy suggested we consider offering “affinity cards” to members. These are cards that credit companies offer that would have Seattle Atheists’ name and logo on it, and we get something like 1% of the amount people charge to the card. Jerry will look into this, and see what is required.

---A brief recess was taken to consume pizza---

501(c)3 application: Marcus has been trying but can’t get ahold of the person to find out the status of our application. Pat should have a copy of our original application, which Marcus will get.

Bank Account: Marcus and Jerry set up a checking account at WAMU, but is frozen until we show them a copy of our 501(c)3 application, or a letter attesting that the application is in process.

Contact Info: Wendy offered, and it was agreed, to use her address for all future correspondence, since it is more permanent than most other options. She also has an

extra phone line that can be used for the group. She will set up a voicemail message on this line, and Megan will change to this phone number on the website.

Misc: Marcus reported that a guy in Oregon contacted and interviewed him for a research paper he is doing on the history of non-religious organizations. He has a PhD in Anthropology, and also interviewed a couple other local groups. He commented that we are by far the youngest group he has interviewed.

Website:

- **Main page:** Kyle created a bunch of quotes to randomly appear on the main page graphic. He will put these up on the site.
- **New book reviews:** Kyle, Tiffany, Randy, Jen, and Wendy volunteered to write a book review. Megan will remind/pester these people weekly.
- **Hosting:** Marcus will send Jerry the info to pay for our web hosting, probably due on June 15th.
- **New pages:** Megan has plans for 3 new pages (Founders page, Newbie Info/Resources, and News links), plus the consolidation of some of the social activity pages.
- **Board Members Only Page:** We still cannot access this page. Marcus will contact web host and figure out what the problem is.
- **“Featured Member”:** A “Featured Member” section was suggested, and Randy volunteered to be the first one. Randy will write up a bio and send to Megan, who will post it on the website.
- **Past Events:** Megan expressed a need to keep track of our past events and activities, and suggested listing them, by year, as part of the “Upcoming Events” page.

Business Cards: Ordered and received. Contact Kyle if you want some to hand out.

Banner: Kyle got quotes for the banner. \$119 for the proposed white-on-blue banner, or \$56 to print black on the white banner we already have. The board expressed support for the black-on-white, and Kyle will place the order.

Monthly Update: Megan suggested sending out a monthly email “newsletter” to members, to keep them in the loop of what’s going on. Marcus suggested putting “headlines” in the email, and linking to the content on a page at the website, to keep the email short and get people to the website. Megan will send out the first Monthly Update with help from Shellie to put together the content.

Email to Members: As discussed last year, we should consider changing the board positions from 1-year to 2-year terms. We should solicit opinions from members, and then depending on support, do an online vote among all members. Marcus will write up the wording and send it to Shellie for inclusion in the email Update.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 27th, at Wendy's house.

Meeting was adjourned.

Summary of Action Items:

- Megan will solicit volunteers for the KUOW pledge drive.
- Tiffany will coordinate the Julia Sweeney event for Seattle and Victoria attendees
- Megan will look into Adopt-a-Highway opportunities.
- Megan will review past decisions about increasing Lifetime Member fees
- Jerry will look into getting an "affinity card"
- Marcus will get a copy of our NFP application from Pat
- Marcus will and continue to try to contact the NFP person to check our status
- Wendy will change her voicemail to a SA message.
- Megan will change the phone and address on the website.
- Kyle will put up the rotating quotes on the main page header.
- Kyle, Tiffany, Randy, Jen, and Wendy will write a book review
- Megan will send reminders to the above people on a weekly basis.
- Marcus will send Jerry the info to renew our web hosting fee.
- Megan will make new pages and edit and reorganize existing pages, as specified.
- Marcus will fix problem with Board Only page.
- Randy will write bio and send to Megan to post on the website.
- Kyle will order banner.
- Marcus will write up proposal for 2-year board terms.
- Megan and Shellie will put together the Monthly Update and email to members.