

September 2014  
Volume 24  
Number 8

# The Minnesota Atheist



## The Relevance of Religion for Atheists

September 21, 2014

Grant Steves is a past member and chair of the board of directors as well as host for the Atheists Talk program on both cable and radio. He has presented several lectures to Minnesota Atheists, including one on cults and fundamentalism and another titled "Ethics: Science or religion – Which has the Answer?" Grant has also been a regular speaker at our Day of Reason annual event at the Minnesota Capitol. His presentations are always very organized and thought-provoking, and generate vigorous discussion.

On September 21, 2014 at 2:00 at the Roseville Public Library, Grant will present for atheists an expanded perspective on religion. From that perspective he will provide an analysis of religious thinking and advice on how to communicate with religious people.

The first part of the presentation will be concerned with the modern approach to the study of religion. Critical study of religion is relatively new, dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. This led to a movement begun in 1889 by Max Muller to study religions scientifically. Diverse, contending definitions of religion in Western thought has impeded this study. Redefining religion has led to progress in understanding it, and explaining what it means for an atheist in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Another topic of the presentation will be how to communicate with religious believers. We can understand the cognitive process that is used to construct a believer's world view. Grant hopes the presentation will encourage a discussion of religion and our understanding of the difficulties we encounter with religious groups. He will provide links to recordings of debates that illustrate the problems of communication between believers and non-believers.



1:00-1:15. – Social time  
1:15-1:45pm. – Business Meeting  
1:45-2:00pm. – Break  
2:00-3:30pm – Grant Steves Talk  
4:00-whenever – Dinner at Szechuan in Roseville.  
2193 Snelling Ave N  
Roseville MN 55113.

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## President's Column - Fun Aint Free

By Eric Jayne

Fun is good. That is the mantra of Mike Veeck, who co-owns the local minor league St. Paul Saints baseball team along with "team psychologist" Bill Murray. Thanks to support and feedback from members and board officers, Minnesota Atheists offered a heaping amount of summer fun with the re-branded, secularized "Mr. Paul Aints" baseball game and regional conference.

Countless hours went into the planning of these two events. The conference planning committee consisted of Audrey Kingstrom and Scott Lohman from Humanists of Minnesota along with Stephanie Zvan, August Berkshire, and me from the Minnesota Atheists. Without their commitment and time-consuming efforts the conference would not have been possible.

Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) and Center for Inquiry provided financial support for the conference and FFRF split the St. Paul Saints sponsorship fees with Minnesota Atheists. FFRF also helped with advertising.

The business partnership with the Saints proved to be especially helpful this year because their representative, posting tweets on their Twitter page, caught the attention of a few national blogs, including the popular *Daily Beast*. The Pioneer Press also featured our sponsored *Night of Unbelievable Fun* with the St. Paul Saints twice. One article was prominently featured on the front page in August (after the game was over). Some other local papers – including La Crosse and St. Cloud -- picked up the front page August Pioneer Press article. After all the time and hard work that went into planning the July 11-12 weekend of *unbelievable fun*, it was satisfying to see it all unfold with great success.

I think that Mike Veeck is right when he said, "fun is good." It's good because it helps build community; people are drawn to pleasurable things like fun. Fun is also good because it invokes passion and creativity in groups and organizations.

If you think fun is good and you want the Minnesota Atheists to continue this trend of positive atheism please consider becoming a member, or renewing your membership. Your financial support is the only thing that sustains our not-for-profit non-*prophet*.

If a financial contribution isn't in your budget I hope you consider joining one of our committees. You don't need to be a dues paying member to be on a Minnesota Atheists committee. We have a radio committee, cable TV committee, public relations committee, building committee, membership committee, and a few more.

Another idea is to attend one of our monthly volunteer service projects. A group of us pack and sort food at the Emergency Food Shelf Network (EFN) food bank in New Hope. We also prepare meals at the Family Place Shelter in St. Paul which serves families without permanent housing. We will be expanding our volunteer service projects so look for more opportunities to come in the near future.

Our membership level ranges from \$10 per year for a full-time student all the way to \$600.00 for a lifetime member -- although \$666.00 would be a more *fun* donation.

It's been a privilege to serve as president of Minnesota Atheists for the past two years. I couldn't be prouder to be in this leadership position. Our unpaid, all-volunteer 501c3 organization is one that exists out of pure passion for a cause: separation of church and state, and to promote the positive contributions of atheism.

Thank you for supporting Minnesota Atheists, and God-less America.



## News and Notes

By George Kane

For the last couple of months I have noted apprehensively that the Roberts Court has practically reduced the Establishment Clause to a rhetorical flourish, forcing supporters of the separation of church and state to move the struggle out of the courts and into the political arena. But how, exactly, can this be done?

Certainly, we have to intensify lobbying efforts at every level of government. Every atheist must come out of the closet to make the nation's religious diversity more evident. We have to justify the separation of church and state in letters to newspapers and editorials. When city councils establish a policy of opening their meetings with invocations, atheists must volunteer to provide them.

We have a variety of legislation that we support, but we need a point of focus to build the movement for separation. I believe that focus should be to repair with a new constitutional amendment the damage that the Roberts Court has done to the Establishment Clause.

The amendment that I propose must make clear when government action impermissibly transgresses the separation of church and state. Earlier courts provided several tests for Establishment Clause violations that were all put in question by the decision in the case *Township of Greece v. Galloway*. The court ruled that if a government action had occurred in the early days after the Bill of Rights passed, the presumption of tradition secured it against an Establishment Clause challenge. A concurring opinion by Antonin Scalia held that the only proper test for an Establishment Clause violation was whether government used force of law and threat of penalty to compel conformance to religious orthodoxy. In a dissent to denial of *certiorari* in the case *Doe v. Imbrook School District*, Scalia filed a dissent

that revealed a plan to completely collapse Jefferson's Wall. Scalia wants to apply the reasoning of the *Greece* decision to every Establishment Clause issue. If a practice was common when the constitution was adopted, it could not be challenged as an Establishment Clause violation. If only his "coercion test" may be applied, every practice that has been found to be an Establishment Clause violation would become permissible.

I propose, therefore, that the amendment begin with the following clauses:

*In order to ensure the separation of church and state:*

- *Government must be neutral toward religion. No government agency may favor one religion over any other, or religion over non-religion.*
- *All government acts must have a secular purpose.*
- *Government acts may not have the effect of promoting or hindering religion.*
- *Government may not become entangled in the affairs of religious institutions.*
- *Tradition cannot justify government acts that violate this amendment.*

These clauses would restore the neutrality test, the endorsement test and the Lemon test, and strip away the immunity to such tests for "traditional" practices.

The Roberts Court has hammered Jefferson's Wall in still other ways that this amendment must address.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

### George Kane Cryptogram

Abklh yvpljfi lv leh ysfkxz vc cfpflkyfs Yejkzlkfpz, leh ehfjl vc f lejkkqpr thxyjfyi efz lv wh yvpzlfpl abhzlkvpkpr vc leh vohjflkvp vc rvqhjpxhpl.

*O. D. Xihjz, Leh Efooi Flehkzi*

## Out of the Closet Campaign

Twenty eight persons gave quotes and had portraits taken for virtual billboards. Of those, twenty requested that their virtual billboards be published in both the Humanists of Minnesota and Minnesota Atheists newsletters. Nine identified as both Humanist and Atheist.



Out of the Closet photo booth with photographers Sonny Taylor and Richard Trombley. The project was organized by Jerry Rauser.

## Out of the Closet!



"Wishing it's true doesn't make it true."

Heather Hegi

Out of the Closet Atheist

## News and Notes (continued from page 3)

By George Kane

On the last day of this year's term, the Supreme Court interpreted the Religious Freedom Restoration Act to justify claims of religious privilege as free exercise. It held that the for-profit company Hobby Lobby had the right to an exemption from insurance requirements of the Affordable Care Act because the owners of the company had religious objections to certain forms of birth control. This decision entitles employers to impose their religious beliefs on their employees.

In 2011, in the case *Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization v. Winn*, the Court reversed a precedent set in 1968 that being a taxpayer gives a plaintiff standing to sue a government entity to get it to stop an Establishment Clause violation. Instead, plaintiffs must demonstrate that they suffered individual harm. This makes it much harder to get hearings against even *prima facie* violations.

Our constitutional amendment must therefore have two additional clauses:

- *The right to the free exercise of religion shall not exempt individuals or organizations from compliance with laws that have a secular purpose.*
- *A taxpayer always has standing to sue to stop a government violation of this amendment.*

Atheists are a tiny minority with scant political clout, but we are not the only citizens who support secular government. The two sides in the political battle are clear. One side believes that America is a Christian nation, and that government must acknowledge God. The other believes that government must be secular, and religious doctrine left to the exclusive authority of the individual. Jefferson's wall of separation provides a conception of secular government that holds widespread support, but the political promotion of America as a Christian nation is well funded and organized. We do not have good measures of the popular breakdown of this division.

In some regions, we don't have a chance. The Bible Belt is a lost cause. Nationally, however, I think it is quite possible that there are more secularists than Christian nationalists. Everywhere that national government belongs to one religion we find endless strife, fanaticism and disaster.

If secularists are strategically and tactically effective, we can win the political battle here.

To pass a constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and passage by 38 states. It will be difficult, but if we are forced to fight the battle for secular government in the political sphere, we must undertake the historic task of amending the fundamental law of the land.

We must be clear that we are not calling for a revolution; we want only to restore the law to how it was understood throughout our lifetime. Supporters of the amendment will therefore be the true traditionalists. We are the side that is being inclusive and tolerant, and promoting universal values.

Passing this amendment would be the most critical goal for secular government since the First Amendment was ratified.

### Emergency Foodshelf Thanks Minnesota Atheists

#### Minnesotan's Served By Your Group: 1,961 individuals

Dear Minnesota Atheists Volunteers,

I would like to thank you and your entire group for donating your time at Emergency Foodshelf Network on June 19<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup>. Your group made a significant difference in the community and to the impact of EFN's work and mission! In 2013, more than 13,000 volunteers donated over 32,000 hours of service to EFN and its programs – which is equivalent to 15 full-time employees – and your time will help us surpass that number in 2014. Volunteers like you all have allowed EFN to expand our family of programs and tailor our services to fit the needs of our clients.

We always love having your group volunteer with us! Thanks again for your time, hard work, and enthusiasm to help those in our community!

Sincerely,

Michelle Barcelona  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Emergency Foodshelf Network

## Cable Report

By Steve Petersen

In July, Chris Shelton joined James Zimmerman for a two-part program about Chris' experiences with Scientology. Part 1 was an explanation of how Scientology, operates to find and hold onto converts. Part 2 was Shelton's personal story of joining and leaving Scientology. In the first two days after posting these videos on the Minnesota Atheists Youtube and Itunes channels, they had close to 1,000 views and downloads.

In August, James Zimmerman interviewed Audrey Kingstrom, President of the Humanists of Minnesota regarding Humanism.

If you would like to see if a program could be shown in your area, or you have a program idea, please contact Steve Petersen at [address@mnatheists.org](mailto:address@mnatheists.org)

**Cable Crew:** George Kane, Brett Stemberidge, Shirley Moll, Steve Petersen, Les Stordahlen, Grant Hermanson and Art Anderson.

**Podcasts:** MinnesotaAtheists.org. Available via Itunes and YouTube. Made possible by Grant Hermanson. To date our channel has had over 134,000 views.



Chris Shelton

## Cryptogram Answer

Quite contrary to the claims of fanatical Christians, the heart of a thriving democracy has to be constant questioning of the operation of government.

-P. Z. Myers, *The Happy Atheist*



Audrey Kingstrom and James Zimmerman

## Cable Schedule

**Burnsville/Eagan Community Television:** CH 14. Check their web site [www.bect.tv](http://www.bect.tv) for day and times. Sponsor: Kevin Hardisty

**Bloomington:** Ch. 16. Sunday 11:00 p.m. Sponsors: David and Joanne Beardasley.

**Minneapolis:** Ch. 75. Monday 7:00 p.m. Sponsor: Steve Petersen.

**Northwest Community Television (NWCT)**  
**Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth and Robbinsdale,** Ch. 20 check web page for date and times:  
<http://nwct.org/programming.aspx> Sponser: Grant Hermanson

**Rochester:** Ch. 10. Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 7:30 p.m. Sponsor: Jim Salutz.

**Roseville, Shoreview, Arden Hills, North Oaks, Little Canada, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Moundsview/New Brighton:** Ch. 14. Wednesday 10:30 p.m. Sponsor: Shirley Moll.

**St. Cloud:** Ch. 12 Thursday 8:30 to 9:00 p.m. Sponsor: Tom Stavros.

**St. Paul:** Ch. 15 Wednesdays 5:00 p.m. Sponsor: Jim Wright.

**Stillwater:** Ch., 16. Tuesday 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Sponsor: Lee Salisbury.

**White Bear Lake, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Mahtomedi, Maplewood, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights:** Ch. 15. Saturday 8:00 p.m. Sponsor: Michael Seliga.

## Atheists Talk Radio Report

By Steve Petersen

**Greece v. Galloway**, Linda Stephens on *Atheists Talk* #273, June 20, 2014. Carl Hancock interviewed Linda Stephens from the Town of Greece, NY. Stephens, an atheist, and Susan Galloway, who is Jewish, fought for the rights of secular citizens in a court case that went to the U.S. Supreme Court in November of 2013. The issue is government-sponsored prayer at town council meetings. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of "tradition," and Greece continues to pray.

**39 Unconvincing Arguments for God**, August Berkshire on *Atheists Talk* #274, June 29, 2014. How many unconvincing arguments are there for God? Trick question, and the answer is "all of them." August Berkshire has collected and rebutted at least 39 of them in a new brochure he has published. Stephanie Zvan walked the 39 Steps, sorry, arguments with August on this show.

**Pop Culture Chemistry**, Raychelle Burks on *Atheists Talk* #275, July 20, 2014. Dr. Raychelle Burks goes by the *Nom de Test Tube* Dr. Rubidium. Dr. Rubidium is a forensic chemist seeking a cure for chemophobia. Be not afraid of covalent bonds and reactive agents, they are Science, after all. She is the inventor of Eau de Death, a zombie-repellent perfume. Don't scoff, it may save your life someday. Fresh from her appearance at CONvergence earlier in the month, Dr. R talked to Stephanie Zvan about *Breaking Bad*, *Song of Ice and Fire* and of course, the science of zombies.

**Greater Minnesota Freethinking**, Amy LaValle Hansmann and Ken Kressin on *Atheists Talk* #276, July 27, 2014. What's it like to be a humanist, an atheist, a freethinker in outstate Minnesota? How do atheists find each other in a small town, where they risk exposure leading to the loss of friendships or even business if word gets out that they aren't religious? Mike Haubrich interviewed Amy LaValle Hansmann from Brainerd and Ken Kressin from Cannon Falls. These two have taken the initiative to form groups for atheists to gather, to talk, to have fun and to provide mutual support in areas that can be less than supportive. We talked about their struggles, their successes and a bit about what sorts of activities they have engaged in.

**Atheists in America**, Melanie E. Brewster on *Atheists Talk* #277, August 3, 2014. Dr. Melanie Elyse Brewster is a professor in counseling psychology who studies the mental health

effects of marginalization, including marginalization of atheists. In her new book, *Atheists in America*, Dr. Brewster collects more than two dozen stories from atheists across the country, illuminating both what atheists have in common and how atheism interacts with other aspects of our identities. Carl Hancock talked to Dr. Brewster in this interview.

**Accessible Philosophy for Everyone**, Dan Fincke on *Atheists Talk* #278, August 10, 2014. Recently a few well-known physicists have said that philosophy is unnecessary because now we have the means in our technological age to answer questions that metaphysicists attempted to resolve without fancy tools. Fincke says "Philosophy and science, however, are mutually dependent on each other." Fincke is a professor who has moved out of the university setting to teach philosophy online through Hangouts, making the vast field accessible to busy, curious and yearning people worldwide. Mike Haubrich and Dr. Fincke engaged in a dialogue on philosophy.

**Pathfinder's Project** Ben Blanchard on *Atheists Talk* #279, August 17th, 2014. Ben served in Africa and South America, and in those places he met and worked alongside people in numerous countries, participated in cultural exchange and shared in the lives of new friends. Before his trip, Ben was well-known known for his work with the Secular Student Alliance and was involved with the Campus Atheists, Humanists and Skeptics at the University of Minnesota where he was a student. Brianne Bilyeu talked to him about his tour of duty with the volunteer Pathfinder Project.

Minnesota Atheists produces the radio program, and the director is Carl Hancock with hosts Carl Hancock, Brianne Bilyeu, Scott Lohman, David Pacheco and Stephanie Zvan. Both Stephanie and Brianne upload podcasts to our web site. The radio program is broadcast live every Sunday from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. from AM950 KTNF studios in Eden Prairie, MN. Live streaming is available on our web page. [www.mnatheists.org](http://www.mnatheists.org). Original music was composed, played and recorded by Brent Michael Davids. The cost to us is \$5,320.00 every six months. Your donations will be appreciated. They can be sent to our post office box or posted online at [minnesootatheists.org/join-and-donate/radio-fund](http://minnesootatheists.org/join-and-donate/radio-fund). Thanks to Brianne Bilyeu the program has a presence on social media: an Atheists Talk Facebook page and an account at [Twitter.com/atheists\\_talk](https://twitter.com/atheists_talk).

All past programs can be accessed via the MNA web page <http://minnesootatheists.org/news-and-media/podcast> or on iTunes. If you are interested in helping on the radio program, please send a message to [radio@mnatheists.org](mailto:radio@mnatheists.org).

## Secretary's Report - July

- A summary and discussion occurred regarding the summer conference, Saints game and silent auction. Final attendance count at the conference was 140. The silent auction raised about \$1300.
- MNA board approved spending \$25 on a table for the South Central GLBT pride event in September.
- MNA board formed a Solstice planning group and brainstormed possible ideas for presenters or performers if Dessa is no longer an option.
- MNA completed final planning for monthly meeting speakers for the Fall months.
- A brief discussion occurred promoting best practices with timely newsletter printing and general organizational communications

## Secretary's Report - August

- The Board authorized a \$200 expenditure to Leo Igwe, a Nigerian humanist, to present at the November monthly meeting. Mr. Igwe will be in the country for another professional conference and inquired about collaborating with like-minded organizations while he is in the US.
- The MNA monthly meeting guest speakers have been secured for September and October. Grant Steves will speak for September about non-believers coping with the religious and Kim Socha will speak in October on ethical eating and animal rights.
- A discussion occurred about planning for the Winter Solstice. "Republic" is being explored for a venue in the Uptown neighborhood of Minneapolis.

## Call for October Articles

We welcome contributions from all readers of The Minnesota Atheist. While we cannot guarantee that your submission will be accepted for publication, we will carefully consider anything that is related to atheism. We would especially like to receive contributions which provide profiles of individual atheists and which report atheist-related events in the wider community.

Because we are a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, we cannot print articles that support or oppose a specific candidate, but we can print articles that support or oppose specific causes. Article length should ideally be 500-1000 words and no more than 2000 words.

Please send submissions to the editor, Jenny Nolan at [editor@mnatheists.org](mailto:editor@mnatheists.org) by 11:59pm on September 22. All submissions may be edited for style and length.

We look forward to receiving your submissions. Without contributions for readers like you, The Minnesota Atheist would be needlessly constrained in its breadth and depth.



- The MNA Board approved August Berkshire to sign an agreement with a MN Renaissance Festival to promote the event this season in exchange for discounts for our members. An MN Renaissance Festival Meetup is planned for MNA members in September.
- A menu and itinerary was planned for "Dinner with Board" that will occur September 27.



## Minnesota Atheists Conference 2014

By Eric Jayne

Minnesota Atheists partnered with the Humanists of Minnesota for this year's regional freethought conference at St. Paul's RiverCentre. Freedom from Religion and Center for Inquiry were also sponsors who sent two significant representatives: Dan Barker and Debbie Goddard, respectively. Other speakers were PZ Myers, Rebecca Watson, and Susan Jacoby.

The all-day conference featured one-hour talks from each speaker, morning workshops, stand-up comedy from local comedian Elizabeth Ess, and a musical performance by Dan Barker. We also had a photobooth set up by Jerry Rauser. The photos were formatted into a digital FFRF billboard with a personal freethought statement.

Several people bid on unique items at the silent auction, which featured a number of items donated by members and supporters. Some were collectable books, handmade knitted Flying Spaghetti Monsters, wine, chocolate, and a lot more. The auction helped us raise money for Minnesota Atheists and Humanists of Minnesota.

The evening concluded with a pub crawl on West 7<sup>th</sup> Street near the RiverCentre and Xcel Energy Center. We didn't "crawl" too much, however, since our first stop at The Liffey had a roomy outdoor patio bar and it was such a beautiful evening.



The 40 or so pub crawlers turned into just a dozen pub crawlers by the time we made it to Burger Moe's. That's where we ended the festivities well past 1am.

## Highway Cleanup and Lunch

By Steve Petersen

Our long tradition of helping beautify our highways and getting public recognition for atheism (in the form of a road sign informing motorists that this stretch of highway is maintained by Minnesota Atheists) continues. On Sunday, September 28, Minnesota Atheists will be performing its Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup. The work goes from 10:00 am to about noon on Highway 10 in Rice, Minnesota.

We will meet at The Old Creamery Cafe, 405 Main St., Rice, MN 56367. (Follow the detour signs to the Old Creamery in Rice.)

Arrive at 9:45 a.m. and stay for lunch afterwards. Gloves and sturdy footwear are recommended. The Department of Transportation sent out reminders to all crews that no children under the age of 12 are to help. This is a safety concern of the state.

Go to Minnesota Atheists Meetup page to coordinate car pools from the Twin Cities. Contact: Deb Doucette, 320-253-5422, or Steve Petersen, [spetersen175@comcast.net](mailto:spetersen175@comcast.net), for more details.

Hope to see you there!

## Minnesota Atheists Aints Game 2014

By Eric Jayne

In what is becoming a summertime tradition, Minnesota Atheists took over St. Paul's beloved minor league baseball team for the third year in a row. We partnered with FFRF to split the sponsorship fees for *A Night of Unbelievable Fun: The Third Strike*. The team was again re-branded to the secular friendly Mr. Paul Aints but this year's jersey was navy blue instead of black, and the logo's script was white instead of blue. We kept the scarlet atheist "A" in Aints.

Even though there was a cloudy overcast all day leading up to the game, the clouds broke apart by the first pitch. We were treated to a couple hours of a sunny evening, which slowly gave way to a bright, full moon that was nicely placed over right field for the duration of the game.

The opposing Kansas City T-Bones looked as though they would hand our winless Aints a third consecutive loss, but the Aints tied up the score in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> to extend it to extra innings. Those that stuck around were rewarded in the bottom of the 11<sup>th</sup> when Jared McDonald scored from second base off a walk-off game-winning single from Angelo Songco. It was the first win ever for the Mr. Paul Aints!

The godless antics included a *Doubling Thomas* character that went around in a white robe depicting a question mark doubting things. He doubted that I was holding my phone the right way when taking a picture of him, for example. He also loudly doubted some of the calls made by the umpires. There was also the between-innings evolution race where contestants began in sea creature masks and flippers that were eventually shed only to be replaced with ape masks.

Our banners hung throughout the stadium, the "S" was covered on Saints signs, and we had a welcoming table with atheist resources and pamphlets at the one and only entrance gate. The "Get Out of Hell Free" cards, which directly parodies Monopoly's "Get Out of Jail Free cards", were a big hit with attendees. The player jerseys were auctioned off during the game; the proceeds from which go to Minnesota Atheists and the 501c3, secular Family Place Shelter for families without permanent housing.

The unbelievable fun concluded with a 15 minute fireworks display that was accompanied by an ironic choice of classic rock tunes like *Don't Stop Believing* by Journey and *Living on a Prayer* by Bon Jovi.

Thank you to everyone that celebrated and participated in both the annual conference and Aints game!

See you next year!



## Upcoming Events

**Agnostic Alcoholics Anonymous.** Sundays, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Men’s Center, 3249 Hennepin Avenue South, Suite 55, Minneapolis. Meets in the basement. Open to all genders.

**Lake Superior Freethinkers Monthly Membership**

**Meeting.** First Sundays, social time 9:00 a.m., breakfast 9:30 a.m. (\$13.00), program 10:00 a.m., Duluth Radisson, 505 West Superior Street, Duluth.

**Freethought Toastmasters.** First and third Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1276 Larpenteur Avenue West, Saint Paul. Contact George Kane, nup@Minn.net

**Freethought Lunch.** First Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Old Country Buffet, County Road B2 between Fairview and Snelling. Contact Bob or Marilyn Nienkirk, 612-866-6200.

**Burnsville Book Club.** First Wednesday, Dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7:00 p.m. to about 9:00 p.m., Davanni’s, 14639 County Road 11, Burnsville. Meet in the party room.

**Atheists Talk Television Show Recording.** First Thursday, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., MTN Studio A, 125 Southeast Main Street, Minneapolis. Contact Steve Petersen, 651-484-9277.

**Crafty Freethinkers North.** Second Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Brookdale Library, Study Room I, 6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center.

**Little Canada Book Club.** Second Sunday, 1:00 p.m., Caribou Coffee, 3354 Rice Street, Little Canada.

**Freethought Dinner Social.** Second and fourth Mondays, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Davanni’s, 8605 Lyndale Avenue South, Bloomington. Contact Bob or Marilyn Neinker, 612-866-6200.

**Godless Gamers—Board Game Night.** Second and fourth Thursdays, 6:00 p.m., Fantasy Flight Games Center, 1975 County Road B2, Roseville.

**Blasphemer’s Brunch.** Second Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Pizza Lucé, 800 West 66th Street, Richfield.

**Lunch at the Dragon House Restaurant.** Third Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Dragon House Restaurant, 3970 Central Avenue, Columbia Heights. Contact Bill Volna, 612-781-1420.

**Minnesota Atheists Board Meeting.** Third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Open to all members. Contact Heather Hegi, chair@mnatheists.org. for location.

**Freethinking Females Evening** at Chatterbox Pub. Fourth Monday, 7:30 p.m., Chatterbox Pub, 800 Cleveland Avenue South, Saint Paul.



Check out more events on our Meetup page at: [meetup.com/minnesota-atheists](http://meetup.com/minnesota-atheists).



**There’s always time to make a difference.**

**Join Minnesota Atheists, renew your membership or make a donation today.**

### Minnesota Atheists Membership and Donations

- One-year student membership \$10
- One-year individual membership \$35
- Three-year individual membership \$90
- One-year household membership \$45
- Three-year household membership \$115
- Three-year sustaining membership \$200
- Life membership \$600
- General Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Building Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_

Donations are tax deductible. Membership fees are deductible for the amount beyond their fair market value.

Student memberships include a subscription to the PDF version of *The Minnesota Atheist* delivered by email. All other memberships include a subscription to the printed version delivered by postal mail. If you would prefer the PDF version delivered by email, please check the box and provide your email address.

- Please send my subscription by email

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email (required for student memberships and email subscriptions): \_\_\_\_\_

**Minnesota Atheists, PO Box 120304, New Brighton, MN 55112. Please make checks payable to Minnesota Atheists. Students, please enclose a copy of your fee statement or school identification.**

# Minnesota Atheists

## Positive atheism in action<sup>sm</sup> since 1991

Minnesota Atheists is dedicated to building a positive atheist community that actively promotes secular values through educational programs, social activities, and participation in public affairs.

### Minnesota Atheist Board of Directors

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### The Minnesota Atheist Newsletter

#### Editorial Board Email

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Submissions may be edited.

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### Minnesota Atheists Goals

Minnesota Atheists practices positive, inclusive, active, friendly, neighborhood atheism in order to provide a community for atheists, educate the public about atheism, and promote separation of state and church.

### Minnesota Atheists Affiliations

Minnesota Atheists is affiliated with the Atheist Alliance of America, Atheist Alliance International, American Atheists, The American Humanist Association, the Council for Secular Humanism, The International Humanist and Ethical Union, and the Secular Coalition for America.

### Minnesota Atheists Membership

Regular members: 207  
Life members: 37  
Meetup members: 1566

### Minnesota Atheists Honorary Members

Hector Avalos, PhD  
Dan Barker  
Gerald Erickson, PhD  
Annie Laurie Gaylor  
Dick Hewetson  
Robert M. Price, PhD



The Minnesota Atheist September 2014.  
Published by Minnesota Atheists  
PO Box 120304  
New Brighton, MN 55112  
612-588-7031

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