

October 2014
Volume 24
Number 9

The Minnesota Atheist



Minnesota Atheists Public Meeting Sunday, October 19, 2014

“Pathfinder's Project” - Ben Blanchard



PATHFINDERS PROJECT

Ben Blanchard recently returned from a year abroad. He was one of the first participants of the Pathfinder's Project, the purpose of which is described by their website: "Pathfinders Project is a yearlong international service trip sponsored by Foundation Beyond Belief, a nonprofit created to focus, encourage, and demonstrate humanist generosity and compassion. Through Pathfinders Project, humanist volunteers (the Pathfinders) are supporting clean water, education, human rights, and environmental conservation work around the globe."

Ben served in Africa, Asia, 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. He also caught malaria, lost 100 pounds, and nearly died!

Before his trip, Ben was well-known known for his work with the Secular Student Alliance at St. Cloud State University where he was a student.

Please join us to hear about Ben's adventures and lessons learned, and why the idea of humanist service is so vital to our movement and to the world.

North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave N, Minneapolis MN 55411

1:00-1:15. – Social time
1:15-1:45pm. – Business Meeting
1:45-2:00pm. – Break
2:00-3:30pm – Pathfinder's Project
4:00-whenever – Dinner at Banana Blossom (Southeast Asian Cuisine), 1724 N Lowry Ave, Minneapolis MN



Ben Blanchard (left) planting a tree with a student at Mustard Seed Secondary School in Busoga, Uganda.

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President's Column

By Eric Jayne

My favorite TV show from my youth was *ALF*. The popular NBC sitcom, which ran from 1986 to 1990, was about a three-foot tall furry, wisecracking Alien Life Form ("ALF") who crash landed his spaceship in a suburban family's garage. The family protects ALF from the military and nosy neighbors throughout the series while ALF tries to make sense of life on earth.

One of my favorite scenes from the show is where the family patriarch, Willie, clears up confusion about their \$10,000 *balloon payment* being for the mortgage and not for an actual balloon. He also explained that their garage is not for sale as they prepared for their garage sale. "So you understand what a balloon payment is?" Willie asks ALF. "Yeah", responds ALF. "And you know what a garage sale is?" asked Willie. After ALF confirms that he does he asks "Now can you explain secular humanism again?" To which Willie says "No".

I share this 1980s sitcom exchange because, in a light-hearted way, it illustrates one reason why I choose not to identify as humanist. Speaking as a former Christian who overcame a lot of bible-based instruction, and as someone who is an active proponent for separation between religion and government, I like my non-belief in God and other supernatural forces to be simply and clearly identifiable. Not only does the word "atheist" provide the simplicity and clarity I desire, but, as far as I can tell, an atheist is basically the same as a secular humanist anyway.

The Council for Secular Humanism website defines secular humanism as a comprehensive *lifestance* that "goes beyond" atheism by addressing issues related to values, meaning, and identity. That's what atheism did for me. It's when I reached the atheist conclusion that values, meaning, and identity crystallized. No longer did I need to make sense of eternal damnation sentenced by a benevolent god who created an imperfect corporeal world. And no longer did I need to consider how an omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent being fits into my worldview. This was all attributable to my newfound atheism.

The Council's website further explains that secular humanism is a naturalistic philosophy that proclaims supernatural forces do not exist and that knowledge is best achieved through the scientific method. It also claims that secular humanism provides a *cosmic outlook*, primarily meaning that humanists accept evolution and reject the notion of creationism. Of course these are things that directly fall in line with atheism as well.

A consequentialist ethical system is the last defining component for secular humanism. As explained by the Council's website, this ethical system "is in contrast to so-called command ethics, in which right and wrong are defined in advance and attributed to divine authority." I'm certain that the vast majority of those under the atheist banner also reject the notion of divine authority and recognize that right and wrong/good and bad/moral and immoral should be determined by the consequences that are produced.

Unlike secular humanism, the definition of atheism is limited to a lack of belief in God, gods, and any supernatural beings. Secular humanism does indeed go beyond atheism—but in definition only. In practice it's virtually the same thing. The most significant difference between the two is that secular humanism emphasizes the common results from reaching the atheist conclusion. It's really just a matter of how one chooses to identify.

Speaking as a social worker, a church/state separation activist, and a former Christian who overcame years of religious instruction, I want to challenge the stigma and negative stereotypes of atheism so that nonbelievers aren't reviled and scorned so easily in society.

I want to volunteer at food banks as an *atheist*. I want to donate holiday gifts to underprivileged families as an *atheist*. I want to do business as an *atheist*. I want to deliver social advocacy in my community as an *atheist* because doing good as an *atheist* and being a good citizen as an *atheist* is how atheism (the foundation of secular humanism) will gain more acceptance among our neighbors, colleagues, and family. I am an atheist because for me being an atheist is a more effective and empowering thing to be.

News and Notes

By George Kane

It is back-to-school time. That means a new round of battles over the separation of church and state, against people who want to use the public schools to turn the students into good little Christians.

In Florida, a new state program provides tax credits to donors to private schools, most of which are operated by churches. The state constitution expressly prohibits state support for religious schools, so Americans United for Separation of Church and State has joined the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers and the Florida Education Association in a suit to stop the program.

It seems to be a straightforward case. The tax credits reduce the state funding for public schools to subsidize donations to religious schools. The program suffers the same flaws as a voucher program that the state supreme court struck down in 2006. It may be more difficult to make the case this time around, however, because of an obstacle set up by the highly politicized Roberts Supreme Court.

That obstacle appeared last month when the New Hampshire Supreme Court dismissed for lack of standing a similar challenge to a tuition tax-credit program. Americans United, the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union and the American Civil Liberties Union had filed the suit on behalf of nine plaintiffs, including clergy, public school advocates and parents of public school children.

For decades, simply being a tax payer was sufficient to provide standing to challenge an Establishment Clause violation. However the Roberts Court ruled that standing did not attach to the case if the alleged violation was not a government expenditure, but a tax credit. This, of course, is smoke and mirrors. Tax credits have the same effect on the state budget as expenditures. The recipients of the exemptions have their taxes reduced by the amount that they donate to private schools, instead of the state paying vouchers directly to the parents of church school students. In either case, money is being paid to church schools, and the state treasury is being reduced by the same amount. Tax payers are affected just as much by the tax exemption as they are by a direct expenditures. Public school students will be harmed by the decreased funds available for public education, while tax payers not receiving the exemption are paying a larger share of the total tax bill. The Supreme Court does not see it that way, so the suit in Florida may also fail unless the plaintiffs can prove that they were individually harmed by the tax exemption.

With similar tax exemption programs popping up in Arizona, Florida and New Hampshire, the fingerprints of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) are evident. It is sure to pop up in other states to advance the conservative goals of undermining public education and providing state support for religious education.

(Continued on page 5)

George Kane **Cryptogram**

Yl npsidybli bx igyslgs, dws epdwbuydj bx e dwbpielm yi lbd
obudw dws wprkcs useiblylf bx e iyfcs ylmyzympec.

Fecycsb Fecycsy

Minnesota Atheists

Out of the Closet Campaign



Life is better without fear, guilt,
false hopes and phony promises.

Jill Carlson
Out of the Closet Atheist and
Humanist



The basis of ethics should be the
golden rule and not somebody's
"holy book".

Janet Conn
Out of the Closet Atheist and
Humanist

Contact us at board@mnatheists.org if you are interested in participating in the Out of the Closet campaign. We look forward to hearing from you!

News and Notes (continued from page 3)

By George Kane

A new law in North Carolina, the Respect for Student Prayer/Religious Activity Act, passed the state legislature with almost no opposition. Most of the bill does nothing but grant to students rights that they are already guaranteed under the Free Exercise clause of the First Amendment. It was little more than an opportunity for legislators to blow the dog whistle of protecting Christian students from persecution by liberals. But the law goes too far when it permits faculty and staff to participate in student-initiated prayer and worship.

The law states that "local boards of education may not prohibit school personnel from participating in religious activities on school grounds that are initiated by students at reasonable times before or after the instructional day so long as such activities are voluntary for all parties and do not conflict with the responsibilities or assignments of such personnel." However, teachers still exert authority over students regardless of when an activity takes place. Teachers will still be seen by the children as authority figures, and therefore as the representatives of government. Teachers participating in group prayer will create a religiously coercive environment for the students.



A glimpse of Minnesota Atheists supporting Duluth and Minneapolis Pride this summer.



Cable Report

By Steve Petersen

For September we did a program on Freethought Toastmasters. Toastmasters International is a network of nearly 15,000 clubs in 126 countries. Freethought Toastmasters was founded by George Kane, who also hosted this program. Guests on the program were two Minnesota Atheists and Freethought Toastmasters, members Heather Hegi and Ron Lindeman, who are the club's two top officers.

Check out the Minnesota Atheists Meet Up page or toastmastersclubs.org/directions for information on meeting times and locations. Many members of Minnesota Atheists have improved their speaking skills in this group, and they are always interested in new members and visitors.

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

Cable Crew: George Kane, Brett Stemberge, 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.



Cryptogram Answer

In questions of science, the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual.

Galileo Galilei



(left to right) Ron Lindeman, Heather Hegi, and George Kane

Cable Schedule

Burnsville/Eagan Community Television: CH 14. Check their website www.bect.tv for day and times. Sponsor: Kevin Hardisty
Bloomington: Ch. 16. Sunday 11:00 p.m. Sponsors: David and Joanne Beardesley.
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> Sponsor: 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 Mike Haubrich

"The Atheist Camel Returns," Bart Centre on *Atheists Talk* #280, August 24, 2014

Bart Centre, aka "The Atheist Camel," returned to the show to recount his recent wanderings through the desert of religion to the oasis of atheism.

"In Faith and Doubt," Dale McGowan on *Atheists Talk* #281, September 7th, 2014

Belief or non-belief in a god can play a very strong role in a person's worldview, and it may be hard to imagine that two people having such opposing worldviews could survive a long-term relationship with each other. Challenges such as deciding whether to go to church together, acceptance by each other's families, and decisions about raising children (circumcision, baptism, church, and religious education, to name a few potential issues) may seem insurmountable or at least more trouble than they're worth. Dale McGowan talked about his new book *In Faith and Doubt: How Religious Believers and Nonbelievers Can Create Strong Marriages and Loving Families*.

"Killing History," Robert M. Price on *Atheists Talk* #282, September 14, 2014

Bill O'Reilly published a book on Jesus that only nominally related to the story of a historical Jesus. As a member of the Jesus Seminar, Robert M. Price has done substantial investigation to come to the conclusion that Jesus likely never existed. He has responded to O'Reilly with a book of his own, *Killing History: Jesus in the No-Spin Zone*.

"Atheists Can't Be Republicans" C.J. Werleman on *Atheists Talk* #283, September 28, 2014

C.J. Werleman is a very entertaining writer and speaker. He returned to share his insights into the nexus of atheism and politics as related in his new book *"Atheists Can't Be Republicans: If Facts and Evidence Matter*. From the Amazon.com blurb: "Werleman contends that atheists who cling onto modern U.S. conservative ideology are hanging onto ideas that have either been proven mythical at worst or remain unproven at best. If atheists applied the same litmus test to their political ideology as they do to theology, then clearly an atheist cannot be a Republican.



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. 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 minnesotatheists.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://minnesotatheists.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.

Secretary's Report – September

By Jill Carlson

The following is a summary of Board of Directors activities for Minnesota Atheists September, 2014.

- The Board continued discussion and brainstorming for the Winter Solstice event occurring in December, 2014. The Solstice venue, entertainment and dates were priorities; "The Republic" continues to be a venue worth pursuing.
- The entire Board focused on the details and promotion of the September 27 "Dinner with the Board." It was decided that marketing for the night would take place on Facebook and Meetup, and that an announcement about the fundraiser would be made at the monthly meeting. A menu was posted on Meetup and dietary requests were honored.
- The MNA Board agreed to donate two items to the Camp Quest fundraiser in November. MNA will donate two tickets to the Solstice and various items of "Aints" merchandise to be auctioned. MNA agreed to co-sponsor the fundraising event and agreed to promote the activity to our membership to support Camp Quest.
- The monthly meeting topics were narrowed. The Board will approach Peggy Eggell from the University of MN to discuss her course on atheism that she started this academic year. January's monthly meeting may focus on "A View from the Sidewalk", a discussion on pro-life protesting at health care facilities.

Call for November 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@mnaatheists.org by 11:59pm on October 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.



Minnesota Atheists September Meeting Review

By Joyce Edwards

The September 21st public meeting featured Dr. Grant Steves, an active member of our organization and a retired teacher of philosophy and ethics with a Ph.D. in Theology. Almost forty attendees came out to hear Dr. Steves speak on the topic of the relevance of religion for atheists.

Steves introduced his presentation by



mentioning Sam Harris' new book, Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality without Religion. He asserted that there is a problem with the definition of religion and spirituality and it stems from the Christian domination of western culture. A brief history lesson: religion held sway for thousands of years – it explained all phenomena. The ancient Greeks dialogued about the gods and planted the seeds of science and philosophy, but it took the invention of the printing press, the Renaissance and the Enlightenment to advance those ideas. The 19th century saw the flowering of the physical sciences and social sciences, higher criticism of Christianity, and the translation of ancient religious texts. With all of these developments came the radical idea that religion should be “evaluated by science and held to the standard of science.” Max Muller introduced the idea in his 1873 work entitled Introduction to the Science of Religion. His approach to defining religion was to investigate the etymology of the word “*religio*” meaning reverence for God or gods.

Muller's definition and the definitions and theories of religion that followed reflected Christian influence and arrogance. Steves quoted multiple sources supporting that

contention including the work of Emile Durkheim: “Religion is “a unified system of beliefs and practices relative to sacred things”, that is to say, things set apart and forbidden – beliefs and practices which unite into one single moral community called a church” (from The Elementary Forms of Religious Life, 1912.) As time marched on, the definitions of religion by western authors became broader but were still inadequate. According to Mircea Eliade, religion is about “understand(ing) the sacred and the profane; (it is) primarily about belief in the supernatural; it has timeless forms that keep recurring all over the world” (The Sacred and the Profane: The Nature of Religion, 1959.) Steves proposed a new, non-traditional definition: religion is an “irrational belief, acceptance, dedication, or faith in an authority (could be a god or text or political figure [e.g., Stalin]) that results in an ideology and a closed thought system.” His definition attempts to overcome some of the common problems presented by earlier definitions: it is not too narrow or broad and it is free of religious, political and cultural constraints.

Steves emphasized that the power of religion to control people has been diminishing over time. Again he quoted Durkheim: “... not only is the sphere of religion not increasing...but it is continually diminishing. This regression did not begin at any precise moment in history, but one can follow the phases of its development from the very origins of social evolution” (The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life, 1912.)

The second part of Dr. Steve's presentation focused on communicating about religion. In a formal debate (or just informally talking about religion), if empirical evidence is not accepted then there can be no debate on the substance – it becomes a debate of style. Steves referenced the recent Ken Ham vs. Bill Nye debate (available on YouTube) as illustrative of that last point (Ham always had “the book” (Bible)). He emphasized that we have to pick our battles carefully – do we REALLY want to debate our religious family or friends? The consequences could mean discord or worse.

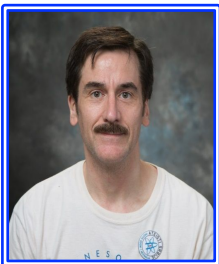
(continued on page 10)

Minnesota Atheists September Meeting Review (continued from page 9)

By Joyce Edwards Photos by Steve Petersen

Stev's wrapped up the presentation with a laundry list of bad debate topics (on subjects where no empirical evidence exists, the debate is without content). Examples include: 1) does god exist?; 2) is there a heaven or hell?; 3) does god communicate with people?; 4) did morality come from god?

In the Q&A session afterwards, a number of thought-provoking questions were asked, including a question about the existence of non-theist female debaters. Steves answered that there are many female bloggers but no prominent woman in the debate arena. On another question, Steves commented that it is the responsibility of atheists to become politically involved and move the community.



Belief without evidence is a bad idea.

Jack Caravela
Out of the Closet Atheist



Combined May, June, July, and August Treasury Report

By Chris Matthews

Radio Fund

Doug Benson and Duane Gajewski	\$300
George Kane	\$100
Nancy Ruhland	\$100
Mike Haubrich	\$70
Paul Heffron	\$69
James P Barri	\$60
Steve Petersen	\$60
Kurtis Rader	\$50
Arthur F Searcy	\$50
Jeffrey A Sella	\$50
Susan Christiansen	\$25
Georgia Hancock Tsoi	\$25
Ronald Lindeman	\$20
Mark Paquette	\$20
Rachel Graupmann	\$10
CASH	\$207
Total Radio Fund	\$1,216

Building Fund

Matthew Hertz	\$600
Jeffrey A Sella	\$100
Dean Borghorst	\$50
Total Building Fund	\$750

General/Visibility Fund

Mellisa Grant	\$485
Paul Larson	\$200
Theodore C Nagel	\$155
Michelle Tjernagel	\$130
Mike Haubrich	\$60
Justine Hartz	\$53
Dean Borghorst	\$50
Jeffrey A Sella	\$50
Paul Heffron	\$20
Sean Carstensen	\$10
Anonymous	\$200
Cash	\$123
Total General/Visibility Fund	\$1,536

Total Income: \$3,502

Current Building Fund Total \$133,274

Top Expenses

Conference	\$8,600
Radio Show	\$3,690
Newsletter Printing	\$1,759

Upcoming Events

Agnostic Alcoholics Anonymous. Sundays, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., or Wednesday 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 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.



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

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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 actionsm 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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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 October 2014.
Published by Minnesota Atheists
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