

May/June 2018  
Volume 28  
Number 5

## May Public Meeting 17 Reasons that God-Belief is Dying

*Guest Speaker: August Berkshire*



Polls and surveys have shown that religion is losing its grip in most societies, especially among young people. How and why are people losing their faith? Our speaker, August Berkshire, will document the decline of religion and present seventeen reasons that god-belief is dying and how our efforts as atheists are succeeding.

August Berkshire has been active in the atheist movement since 1984. He is currently a director-at-large on the board of Minnesota Atheists and serves on the national board of directors of American Atheists. He is the author of numerous pamphlets and is the owner of the ATHEIST car license plate for Minnesota. He is proud to be listed in the reference book *Who's Who in Hell*.



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### Sunday, May 20, 2018

1:00–1:15 p.m.: Social  
1:15–1:45 p.m.: Business Meeting  
1:45–2:00 p.m.: Break  
2:00–3:30 p.m.: Program

4:00 p.m.: Dinner

Southdale Public Library  
7001 York Av S  
Edina, MN 55435

Q. Cumbers  
7465 France Ave S  
Edina, MN 55435

# Minnesota Atheist Members Testify Against “In God We Trust” Senate Bill

*By George Francis Kane*

Bob Schmitz alerted us that there would on April 17 be a hearing of Senate Bill SF3061, requiring the display of the national motto “In God We Trust” in all school buildings. We learned that there would be no vote taken, as the legislative session is near completion. We are in “constituent happy time.” Nevertheless, Heather Hegi created a Meetup event and several members of Minnesota Atheists turned out. As Steve Petersen noted, “If we don’t show up, the other side wins by default.”

The companion House Bill is HF3665. The

principal provisions of the bill are:

- a. *To the extent funds are available, a school board must provide a durable poster or framed copy of the national motto of the United States, “In God We Trust,” for display in each school building in the district. A school board may accept nonpublic funds or in-kind contributions to implement this section.*
- b. *In the event the display of the national motto is challenged in court, the Office of the Attorney General must defend the display. The school and school board shall be held harmless for complying with this section.*

The bill was referred to the E12 Policy Committee, which is concerned with public education through high school. The first person to testify

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## Cryptogram

*By George Francis Kane*

Akh tvnocyaevo vt gvzyseai jkvnsc ova wh gych  
 chmhochoa vo giak ovz aehc av yoi ynakvzeai shja  
 cvnwa ywvna akh giak vz ywvna akh shpeaegyfi vt  
 akh ynakvzeai egmhzes akh tvnocyaevo vt jvnoc  
 rncpghoa yoc yfaevo.

—Yswhza Heojaheo



## News & Notes Separation of Church and State

By *George Francis Kane*

I find it surprising that, after decades of litigation over religious monuments on public property and Supreme Court decisions in Establishment Clause cases, there is still so much uncertainty over each new trial. The religious right fears apocalyptic consequences unless the Supreme Court reverses a decision by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals over a cross displayed in a public park.

The case at issue is *The American Humanist Association et. al v. the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission*. After a 3-judge panel declared the Bladensburg Peace Cross unconstitutional, the Circuit Court rejected in March a request that the case be reheard by the entire court. The General Counsel for the state agency defending the case immediately declared that they would consider an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. Hiram Sasser of the religious-right legal organization First Liberty declared that “If this decision stands, other memorials — including those in nearby Arlington Cemetery — will be targeted for destruction as well.”

The cross is a 40-foot tall memorial to 49 veterans from Prince George’s County who died in battle during WWI, located above the intersection of two busy freeways. The cross was erected on public land with private funding, but the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission assumed control because the location of the cross created public safety concerns, and because the memorial had fallen into disrepair.

### *The appellate court held that government maintenance of the cross demonstrated excessive religious entanglement*

There are several reasons that the outcome of such cases remains at issue. Although the Establishment Clause makes religious monuments on public land a constitutional issue, the Supreme Court has issued several different tests to determine when a constitutional violation has oc-

curred, and it is always a question which test will be applied. Conflicting court decisions reflect a sharp political division from which judges are not immune. At issue is not only a question of law, but of culture war, and who represents the identity of the nation.

The appellate court found that the monument violated two of the three clauses of the Lemon Test. This test was created in 1971 by the Supreme Court to decide the *Lemon v. Kurtzman* case over subsidies for parochial schools. The three parts of this test for Establishment Clause violations are:

1. The government’s action must have a legitimate secular purpose;
2. The government’s action must not have the primary effect of either advancing or inhibiting religion; and
3. The government’s action must not result in an “excessive entanglement” of the government and religion.

The appellate court agreed with the trial court that the cross did serve a valid secular purpose as a war memorial. With regard to the consequence of government displaying the cross, “the preeminent symbol of Christianity,” it ruled that a reasonable observer would conclude that the memorial had the primary effect of endorsing religion:

*The immense size and prominence of the Cross necessarily evokes a message of aggrandizement and universalization of religion, and not the message of individual memorialization and remembrance that is presented by a field of gravestones.*

Finally, the appellate court held that government maintenance of the cross demonstrated excessive religious entanglement in this case for two reasons. First, the commission has spent at least \$117,000 to maintain the cross and has set aside an additional \$100,000 for its restoration. Second, the display aggrandizes the Latin cross in a manner that says to any reasonable observer that the commission either places Christianity above other faiths, or views being American and Christian as one and the same, or both.

If the Maryland commission does not appeal to the Supreme Court, or if the Court declines to

### Atheists Talk Radio Show

Podcasts can be listened to at [www.mnatheists.org](http://www.mnatheists.org) (scroll down to the podcast link), <https://www.patreon.com/AtheistTalk>. You can catch our show live, every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. Central on AM 950 KTNF or online at <http://www.am950radio.com/listen-live/> and <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/a-minnesota-transatheist/atheist-talk>. Contact us during the show with questions or comments at (952) 946-6205 or contact us anytime via [radio@mnatheists.org](mailto:radio@mnatheists.org) or tweet us anytime at [@atheiststalk](https://twitter.com/atheiststalk).

Sponsors of the program are Q.Cumbers restaurant in Edina, American Atheists, and the members and donors of Minnesota Atheists. To support the program, go to the MNA web page [donation/radio, giveMN/minnesotaaatheists, https://www.patreon.com/AtheistTalk](http://www.patreon.com/AtheistTalk) or donate by mail to our PO Box. All donations are tax deductible.

### Recent Programs

#### Ep 445 Grandmother Fish, March 18, 2018

Hertzey and Maddy were joined by Jonathan Tweet, author of *Grandmother Fish*, a children's book on evolution. We also discussed how Jonathan is a game developer by day, and so we also touched on his newest games Clades & Clades Prehistoric.

Links

Grandmother Fish homepage: <http://www.grandmotherfish.com/>

Clades & Clades Prehistoric: <http://www.grandmotherfish.com/clades/>

Find Grandmother Fish on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/grandmotherfish>

Follow Grandmother Fish on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/grandmotherfish>

#### Ep 446 Secular Women Work, March 26, 2018

One of our hosts, Stephanie Svan, switched her role from being a host to being a guest. Stephanie joined us to talk about the Secular Women Work conference; how you can be a part of it, what you can learn, and how everyone is welcome regardless of their gender.

You can find the kickstarter for Secular Women Work here: [\[ects/1033564734/secular-women-work-returns\]\(https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1033564734/secular-women-work-returns\)  
Secular Women Work homepage: <http://secular-womenwork.org/>](https://www.kickstarter.com/proj-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Secular Women on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SecWomenWork>

Secular Women work on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SecularWomenWork>

Patrons of Atheist Talk can enjoy a bonus 30 minutes of content, where Stephanie goes into details about the "Outrage Brigade" and how someone in particular has labeled her an "extremist." It's a powerful conversation, and one that should make us think about who we set up as our own personal heroes, why we feel the need to have heroes, and the definite foreseeable problems of having heroes in a movement that pays great lip service to rational & critical thinking that is distinct and different from religious dogma.

#### Ep 447 Unicorns, Real or Imaginary? April 1, 2018

A rational discussion on the existence of unicorns...because its Easter, April Fools Day, Skeptics Day, and because the argument for unicorns is pretty much the same argument for god.

Patrons get an extra 30 minutes of content on the Patron RSS feed.

#### Ep 448 Grief Beyond Belief

Rebecca Hensler, founder of Grief Beyond Belief, joined us to discuss the founding, the purpose, and why this is such a needed community for grieving non-believers.

Patrons get an extra 30 minutes of content on the Patron RSS feed...where we will take a hard right and discuss the pros and cons of Instant Pot and delicious recipes.

Links:

Homepage: <http://griefbeyondbelief.org/>

Grief Beyond Belief Facebook (not closed group):

<https://www.facebook.com/faithfreegriefsupport/>

Secular Grief Support Handbook: <https://www.facebook.com/seculargriefsupporthandbook/>

**Testify** continued from page 2

was the bill's principal author, Senator Dan D. Hall (R) of District 56 (Burnsville), the co-chair of the Minnesota Prayer Caucus. He asserted that the bill is intended to address a growing lack of respect in the nation that he attributes to a change by the schools to eliminate god and pride in the country.

Senator Hall brought with him James Davis of the religious Regent University in Virginia, an expert in faith-based initiatives. Davis argued that the courts have consistently ruled that the display of "In God We Trust" does not violate the Establishment Clause. He claimed that since the phrase "In God We Trust" has been on coins since the Civil War and has been our National Motto for over 60 years, its legality is justified by its antiquity. The late conservative stalwart Justice Antonin Scalia argued for a historical defense against Establishment Clause challenges that if a government action was practiced in the early days of the nation, it must have been constitutional. Citing the Civil War as the origin of government embrace of the phrase "In God we trust" does not provide that antiquity.

Davis asserted that as our National Motto it is not religious, but a reminder of our nation's heritage. Displaying it in our public schools would, he declared, promote an environment that we want to create for our nation's future leaders.

***"The truth is, God is not a neutral and benign term to the world's religions and beliefs, which are represented in the children that attend our public schools."***

Mr. Aronson, a local, testified as a representative of a national "In God We Trust" advocacy group. He mentioned that a pending amendment to the bill would change the wording of the first subsection of the bill from "a school board must provide a durable poster or framed copy of the national motto of the United States, 'In God We Trust,' for display in each school building in the district" to "a school board may provide a durable poster or framed copy of the national motto of the United States, 'In God We Trust,' for display in each school building in the district." The chair of the panel inquired if there is currently any restriction that would prevent a school district

from doing so, and he said there is not. This struck me as an amazing admission, that the bill will be completely meaningless!

The arguments for the bill were rebutted by a couple of Minnesota Atheists' founding members. August Berkshire, a Minnesota Atheists Director-at-Large argued that the bill would inject dangerous divisiveness into public education:

*America has two national mottos; "In God We Trust" is one of them. So it's understandable that, on the surface, putting it in public schools would not seem to be controversial.*

*But there's a big difference between reading it in a history book as part of a lesson and putting it on a wall. The first is educational. The second gives the unmistakable impression that a public school takes an official stance on whether or not a god exists.*

*Courts have held K through 12 public schools to a higher standard, because the students are young, impressionable, and a captive audience. Whether or not a child believes in a god is between that child and his or her parents. It is not the state's business and it is not the school's business to be taking sides in this very personal decision.*

*I guarantee that, even though this is by no means your intention, these signs will be used as a justification by some religious students to bully atheist students.*

*According to the 2014 American Values Atlas, 21% of all Minnesotans are "unaffiliated" when it comes to religion — though they are not all atheists. The percentage of unaffiliated people, and the percentage of atheists, is increasing, especially among young people, meaning that this bill, if it becomes law, will only grow more divisive over time.*

*Instead of this bill, why not post the other American motto: E Pluribus Unum: from many, one. That's something we should all agree on, despite our differences regarding god-belief.*

Life Member Steve Petersen, former board member, argued against the bill on the basis of equal protection of all tax payers and institutionalizing a culture war:

*I oppose SF 3061 as it establishes a religious belief through the utilization of the tax payer*

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supported public schools. The posting of "In God We Trust" posters gives the perception that a god belief is being promoted by the school, a system I support with my tax dollars, and thus makes me a supporter of a religious view I do not share. The idea that the government should be an enabler of a religious concept and it can be magically privately funded is unreasonable as is the Hold Harmless provision.

It may make a supporter feel good in a vote yes but when the court challenge

comes, the cost will be administered by the local school system causing more funds to be diverted from classroom to the courtroom.

The Constitution gives equal rights to each of us as citizens and does not say one group is better or worse, but equal. That equality applies to government properties and government institutions. I find it a waste of taxpayer funds that should go for education, not for religious indoctrination.

This bill is about religious belief and the use of government as the vehicle in promotion of this belief.

God is not mentioned in the Constitution, not even in the Presidential oath nor is holding the bible when taking the oath, both are ceremonial individual adlibs.

Article 6 establishes The Constitution as the "Supreme law of the land" versus, say, religious authority. Article 6 further states there is not to be a religious test for public offices. Both of these directives seem to be violated by this bill. In God We Trust was not established as the country's motto until the 1950's, coupled with Under God in the Pledge of Allegiance and In God We Trust added to our paper money. This trifecta of government endorsement of god belief is not very historical considering they coincide with my lifespan. I do not yet find myself a historical relic of some long ago past.

This is less about Constitutional history but of our cultural war history. I contend our society might be less divided if we did not use our public institutions as the source of our battle ground, but we should argue between us as individuals

**"We also have to note that he is getting support on this bill from the Prayer Caucus, whose focus has and is to put prayer in public schools."**

or through nonpublic institutions.

I would contend the display of the In God We Trust posters establishes a government sponsorship of one category of religious belief in god with the goal of marginalizing the non-believer. I urge you to vote in favor of Constitutional freedoms of equality for each of us citizens and against this bill.

Minnesota Atheists member Steve Adams did not get put on the list of speakers, but had prepared the following remarks proving Senator Hall's intended religious advocacy.

To start I have a copy of Senator Hall's email he sent out asking for support on this bill from his constituents. In his email he states, and I quote "Please join us to encourage faith in our schools."

We also have to note that he is getting support on this bill from the Prayer Caucus, whose focus has and is to put prayer in public schools.

This makes it very clear that he is wanting to put religion in public school and this is just not an attempt to place the Federal motto of "in god we trust" in public schools. I have printed Senator Hall's email to his constituents and brought it with me today.

This is an opening for religious discrimination in the public-school system.

Last night I posted in a small neighborhood message board, and within a few hours there were over 60 responses to show just how divisive this bill is. I have a thirteen page print out of these responses. And this is just a small neighborhood in Crystal, MN. One person very eloquently even posted, and I have to agree "our schools have students from many different countries, cultures and religions. To assert that one of these ideologies is superior to another, in a school setting, may perpetuate the kind of atmosphere we are seeing at the root of so much strife in our country – one of supremacy of on culture, race, or religion over another."

Many Christians see the term "God" as neutral for all religions. The truth is, God is not a neutral and benign term to the world's religions and

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**Testify** continued from page 6

*beliefs, which are represented in the children that attend our public schools. The term “God” is divisive and can be found very argumentative as you are witnessing here today.*

*If you want children to learn, making an environment of inclusion is necessary. And “in god we trust” is more divisive than you are imagining.*

*Then we also have to address the waste of money this bill will be. There will be litigation over this, if the bill passes. If we want to put more money into the schools, let’s spend the money in a way that students get a better education, not put a sign up that states one ideology of religion is better than others.*

James Davis and Senator Hall were called back for concluding remarks. Davis made the surprising claim that the bill is justified by the Lemon Test, the second prong of which requires that the government action must neither advance nor inhibit religion. He asserted that defeating the bill would demonstrate hostility to religion, which is wrong. Defeating the measure would simply refuse to require schools to profess god belief. The constitution gives citizens an unrestricted right to religious belief. The government has no such right. The bill has the primary purpose of promoting religion, and the case that the bill’s proponents made for a secular purpose – promoting “respect” – was hardly credible. The bill is in clear violation of the first clause of Lemon, that a government action must have a significant secular purpose.

Coverage of the hearing, including an excerpt from August Berkshire’s testimony, was broadcast and written about by WCCO TV, which you can view here: <http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2018/04/17/lawmaker-in-god-we-trust-sign-public-schools>.

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hear it, this decision will be prevailing only in the 4th Circuit but may have considerable influence elsewhere. If the Court does hear the case, its decision will probably depend on which test it applies for an Establishment Clause violation. The Lemon Test, used by the appellate court, has never been overturned, but has for many years often been ignored by the Supreme Court.

**Treasury Report****March***By Chris Matthews***Radio Fund**

\$50 Erik Englebretson  
\$10 August Berkshire  
**\$60 Total Radio Fund**

**General/Visibility Fund**

\$50 Dean Borghorst  
\$30 Angela Stehr  
\$20 Ben Zvan  
\$202 cash / anonymous  
**\$302 Total General/Visibility Fund**

**Total Income** \$362**Current Building Fund** \$138,815**Top Expenses**

\$820 Radio Show  
\$337 Newsletter Printing  
\$135 Meetings / Picnics

**Get Famous (Sort of)**

You too can become published by simply submitting something to The Minnesota Atheist newsletter:

Have a blog? *Let us reprint it.*  
Have an opinion? *Let us hear it.*  
Want to review a movie/TV show/book etc.? *Give us your take.*

Enjoyed a gathering or event? *Tell us about it.*

*You can also send us a photo.*

Have a comment about something we printed? *Don’t hold back.*

Just send your input to [editor@mnatheists.org](mailto:editor@mnatheists.org) and we’ll do the rest.

## Picnic!

### Family Friendly; Freethought Friendly

Join us for this year's Family Friendly Freethought Picnics featuring food for everyone, "grown-up" conversation, and lots of opportunity for playing for children and youth. Hosted by Minnesota Freethought Communities, all are welcome to attend.

#### About the Picnic:

- This is a Potluck Picnic, so bring some picnic food to share if you can!
- Bringing your own beverage, plate, and utensils helps out.
- The picnic takes place in a shelter so it will occur rain or shine.
- The shelter area has electrical outlets, a sink, and bathrooms.

There will be:

- Lots of Friendly People!
- Lively Discussion
- A Playground for the Kids
- Plenty of room for Frisbee, Ladder Ball, etc.

June Picnic will be June 10, 12:00–3:00 p.m.  
Hosted by Camp Quest  
Columbia Park  
800 Columbia Pkwy  
Minneapolis

July Picnic will be July 29, 12:00–3:00 p.m.  
Hosted by Humanists of Minnesota  
Central Park: Foundation Shelter  
2495 Victoria St N  
Roseville

August Picnic will be August 19, 12:00–3:00 p.m.  
Hosted by Minnesota Atheists  
Columbia Park  
800 Columbia Pkwy  
Minneapolis





## In Memoriam

### Matt Stark

By Steve Petersen

One of Founding members died in April, Matthew (Matt) Stark was 88. He is survived by wife Terri. Matt was born in Brooklyn NY in 1930 earned a PhD in Educational Physiology and came to Minnesota around 1962.

From Matt's Wikipedia page:

*Stark left the University of Minnesota in 1973 to head the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota, then known as the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union (MCLU). Stark was elected president of the MCLU in 1966. Until then, the board of the MCLU had taken an accommodationist position on religion in the schools, but Stark persuaded them in 1967 to take a separationist position. Stark claimed to have been "greatly inspired" by the leading church-state separationist in Minnesota, Samuel Scheiner of the Jewish-Christian Community Relations Council of Minnesota. From then on, he was "the undisputed leader" of the church-state separation movement in the state. In 1980, Stark filed suit against the school district of Bloomington, Minnesota, challenging its practice of having a religious invocation at high school graduation. The suit was dismissed because Stark lacked standing in Bloomington. The debacle highlighted the MCLU's frequent inability to find live plaintiffs for its lawsuits. Stark has often been a critic of organized religion. "I think the Roman Catholic church is the major institution pushing for restrictions on other peoples' civil liberties," he told an interviewer in 1980, "and the Mormon church is second." "One of Stark's trademarks," a journalist noted in 1988, "has been holding MCLU press conferences on Sunday ... to seek maximum coverage." During his time heading the MCLU, Stark was "denounced from pulpits as an agent of the devil and from police headquarters as a stooge for pornographers."*

In 1970 he motivated the MCLU to represent Jack Baker and Michael McConnell in their right for same-sex marriage thus the first case filed in the country and they won the right to marry but

it would take years for others to win that right.

Matt co-wrote a history of LGBTQ rights movement in Minnesota for fellow MNA founding member Dick Hewetson. Matt was also a past Grand Marshal of the Twin Cities Pride parade.

In 1984 Matt and the MNCLU brought Madilyn Murry O'Hair in for a fundraiser. After the event, there was an organizing meeting for those interested in starting a local Chapter of American Atheists. Shirley Moll and August Berkshire attended and went on to form The Twin Cities Chapter of American Atheists. In 1991 the Chapter closed and Minnesota Atheists was formed. Matt played a consulting role in the formation of the organization and became a Charter member and maintained that membership over the years.

Matt was an intense person whose drive was to get things done, hold authority accountable, demanded equality for all citizens, and maintain the separation of government and religion. In his retirement years he helped organize freethought groups all around the state through a Free-thought Outreach program. Matt loved coming to picnics, banquets and other social events.

We offer our condolences to Terri Stark who will miss the love of her life.



# The “Nones” That You Know

Daniel Radcliffe

By *Milo Grika*

Daniel Jacob Radcliffe (born 23 July 1989) is an English actor best known for his role as Harry Potter. While J.K. Rowling states that she is a Christian, and that her faith “shaped” the books, many Christian groups have called the books Satanic, and fear their children are being lured into the occult.

With Jewish roots and his father being a Protestant, Radcliffe was nonetheless raised in a non-religious household:

“I’m an atheist, and a militant atheist when religion starts impacting on legislation.”  
—Radcliffe

And a bonus, related quote that I couldn’t resist sharing:

“You know that Daniel Radcliffe has declared himself an atheist? I’m serious. What a weird thing. Why would a guy who has had all that success just, I mean, what the hell is wrong with him?”

—John Kasich, governor of Ohio (R)

## Cryptogram Answer

The foundation of morality should not be made dependent on myth nor tied to any authority lest doubt about the myth or about the legitimacy of the authority imperil the foundation of sound judgment and action.

—Albert Einstein

## Minnesota Atheists Membership and Donations

### Membership Levels

- 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
- One-year sustaining membership \$75
- Three-year sustaining membership \$200
- Life membership \$600

### Donation Funds

General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Building Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Radio 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 make checks payable to:

**Minnesota Atheists.**

Students, please enclose a copy of your fee statement or school identification.

Minnesota Atheists  
PO Box 120304  
New Brighton, MN 55112

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Just email newsletter    Email address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Required for student memberships and email subscriptions)

## Upcoming Events

**Freethought Picnic hosted by Camp Quest** Sunday, June 10, 12:00–3:00 p.m., Columbia Park, 800 Columbia Pkwy, Minneapolis.

**Freethought Picnic hosted by Humanists of Minnesota** Sunday, July 29, 12:00–3:00 p.m., Central Park Foundation Shelter, 2495 Victoria St N, Roseville.

**Freethought Picnic hosted by Minnesota Atheists** Sunday, August 19, 12:00–3:00 p.m., Columbia Park, 800 Columbia Pkwy, Minneapolis.

**Atheists Talk Community Brunch** 1st Sunday of every month at 10:30 a.m., Q. Cumbers, 7465 France Ave S, Edina.

**Atheist/Agnostic Alcoholics Anonymous** Every Sunday from 6:00–7:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 7:00–8:00 p.m., Health Recovery Center building, lower floor, 3249 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis. Based on A.A., minus beliefs in any form of a God.

**Freethought Toastmasters Meeting** 1st and 3rd Monday of every month from 6:30–8:00 p.m., Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1280 Larpenteur Ave W, St Paul. [freethought.toastmastersclubs.org](http://freethought.toastmastersclubs.org)

**Minnesota Atheists Board Meeting** 1st Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., Amherst H Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Pkwy N, St Paul. All Minnesota Atheists members are welcome.  
**NOTE:** The day of the month has changed.

**Godless Gamers** Every Thursday at 6:00 p.m., Fantasy Flight Games Center, 1975 County Rd B2, Roseville.

**Freethought Dinner Social** 2nd and 4th Monday of every month from 5:00–7:00 p.m., Davanni's, 8605 Lyndale Ave S, Bloomington.

**Freethinking Females** 2nd Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m., Claddagh Irish Pub, 7890 Main St N, Maple Grove, and 4th Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m., Sweeney's Saloon, 96 North Dale Street, St. Paul (Note, two different locations). Shattering the myth that atheist groups are male dominated with a females-only event.

**Volunteer Food Packing** 2nd Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m., The Food Group, 8501 54th Ave N, New Hope.

**Blasphemer's Brunch** 2nd Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m., Pizza Lucé, 800 W 66th St, Richfield.

**Bowling for Deities** Last Saturday of every month at noon, Memory Lanes, 2520 26th Ave S, Minneapolis.

For more events, visit [www.meetup.com/minnesota-atheists](http://www.meetup.com/minnesota-atheists)



## 12 The Minnesota Atheist

Minnesota Atheists

### Positive Atheism in action 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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#### 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 Media

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#### Minnesota Atheists Affiliations

Atheist Alliance of America

Atheist Alliance International

American Atheists

The American

Humanist Association

Council for Secular Humanism

The International

Humanist and

Ethical Union

Secular Coalition

for America

#### Minnesota Atheists Membership

Regular members: 183

Life members: 43

Meetup members:

3,045

#### Minnesota Atheists Honorary Members

Hector Avalos, PhD

Dan Barker

Gerald Erickson, PhD

Annie Laurie Gaylor

Dick Hewetson

Robert M. Price, PhD



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