

The Atheist Voice

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPLEX ATHEISTS

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New Officers Elected for 2014

Officer elections were held at the November, 2013 business meeting. The newly elected officers will serve 2 year terms beginning Jan 1st, 2014. The new officers are: Randy Word - President, La Verda Feagans - Vice President, Terry McDonald - Treasurer and Tuesday Morris - Secretary. Congratulations to these brave volunteers.

Metroplex Atheists is Incorporating

Metroplex Atheists is now a non-profit corporation instead of a non-profit association. For those of you who are not familiar with the difference, a corporation is registered with the state where an association is not. We are currently a 501c3 under our articles of association and have applied for 501c3 status under our articles of incorporation. We will be operating as an association until the 501c3 for the corporation is approved. The primary reason we chose to incorporate is due to our rapid growth over the last few years and the possible legal issues arising from that growth and our ever growing involvement in the community.

In line with the new MA Corporation we are updating the by-laws. The committee overseeing this is made up of Edgar Carpenter, Tuesday Morris, Randy Word and Terry McDonald. We are in the final draft which will be presented to the voting members at an upcoming business meeting for a vote. When the final version passes the member vote it will be posted on our web site. Note that we are keeping the same three initiatives that were included in our association by-laws. They are education, social events and separation of church and state issues.

Arlington 4th of July Parade

The 4th of July parade in Arlington was a big success again this year. We had about 60 people participate including at least one uniformed veteran. Of course we received the usual taunts and insults from a lot of the parade viewers but there were also a smattering of applause and thumbs up from supporters and sympathizers. We are shooting for a turnout of at least 100 participants this year so keep an eye out for the Meetup announcement.

Membership in Metroplex Atheists

First a big thanks to LaVerda Feagans and her committee for putting together a great membership policy during 2013. Official membership in Metroplex Atheists is voluntary and helps us financially support our initiatives as laid out in our by-laws. We had about 40 people join in 2013 and look forward to growing that number this year. Memberships run from Jan to Dec of each year. We have over 700 people signed up on the Metroplex Atheists meetup site and you don't have to be a card carrying member to be welcome at our social events, parades, parties, etc.

We started taking memberships manually last year and are now working on the capability to join on-line at the Metroplex Atheists web site. Stay tuned and thanks to everyone who has officially joined.

Education at Local Universities

Terry McDonald presented on atheism to a philosophy class at TCC(Tarrant Community College) on Sep 12th, 2013 and again to a comparative religion class at SMU on Oct 22nd, 2013. Randy Word then joined him in a Q & A session at both events after the formal presentation by Terry. Both events evoked a lot of questions from the students who represented everyone from non-believers to conservative Christians to at least one Muslim.

Kids Beach Club and HEB ISD Success

Metroplex Atheists received an email from an out of state supporter who found that a Deputy Superintendent of the HEB(Hurst-Eules-Bedford) ISD had placed an endorsement on the Kids Beach Club web site using her official title and the HEB ISD school logo. According to Kidsbeachclub.org their sole purpose is to proselytize the Christian religion to 3rd thru 6th graders in local school districts. They do this by forming after school clubs in the schools, which is legal, and use the member kids to invite other students to after school religious sessions. Metroplex Atheists sent a letter to the Deputy Superintendent explaining the unconstitutionality of this endorsement as a school official and use of the HEB ISD logo. Within a week we received a letter from the Deputy Superintendent that the endorsement had been removed from the Kids Beach Club web site. This was a huge local success by Metroplex Atheists without having to engage help from any national organization.

Solstice Party Rained On Again

The annual winter solstice party at Cedar Hill State Park sponsored by Metroplex Atheists turned into a party in the mud and the beer for the second straight year. But even the bad weather didn't discourage about 45 people from showing up either for a few hours or the entire weekend. It was too cold to use the pavilion so we assembled at the camping area, built a huge fire and cooked burgers and dogs for everyone. The "White Elephant" gift exchange was a big hit as usual. Tuesday Morris and Yasmin Ali are looking into alternative venues for next year where the weather won't be an issue.

LLS Walk

We did not reach our goal of \$2,500 this year in our fundraising effort for the (LLS) Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in conjunction with the (FBB) Foundation Beyond Belief which was somewhat disappointing, but we did manage to raise around \$1,700. We had about 7 people show up for the LLS “Light the Night” walk out of a total of about 3000 walkers from various groups. We will be discussing what we should do next year in our business meetings and it will probably be something entirely different. Feel free to attend these meetings and help us with this. Be sure you are signed up to receive our meetup announcements about the time and place of our business meetings.

Adopt-A-Highway

Our adopt-a-highway is located on Davis Blvd just north of Loop 820 in North Richland Hills, Tx. This volunteer effort provides us with the satisfaction of contributing to the community by helping to keep it clean, and with the signs displaying our name on a heavily trafficked street we get visibility as well. We have had several like minded people find out about us by seeing these adopt-a-highway signs. Come out and help us if you like. We do a trash pick up every 3mos. Just watch for the meetup announcement.

Fort Worth Gay Pride Parade

The Fort Worth parade was a big success again this year. We had at least 35 people participate. Although Metroplex Atheists sponsors this parade we invite everyone in the DFWCoR to join in. After the parade Metroplex Atheists had a table in the party area where we held a “Hug An Atheist for \$1” fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. We raised almost \$100 for this cause.

This is the smallest parade we participate in but it is in Tarrant County which is one the most conservative counties in the state so it is a also a statement that we are here and our numbers are growing.

Alan Ross Parade

The Alan Ross Parade is the Dallas gay pride parade. Unlike the other two parades we sponsor each year this one is more like a huge Mardi Gras party and is always a blast. We had about 60 people participate this year and, like the other parades we sponsor, Metroplex Atheists always welcomes anyone from the DFWCoR affiliates to join in.

Rowlett City Council Prayer

Update: After two unsuccessful tries to convince the Rowlett City Council to cease opening their meetings with a Christian prayer we are patiently awaiting the outcome of the Greece v. Galloway Supreme Court decision challenging sectarian prayer in local government meetings. A decision is expected around June of this year and we will then decide how to proceed.

WHY DO WE FIGHT?

‘Because we must. Because we have the call. Because it is nobler to fight for rationality without winning than to give up in the face of continued defeats. Because whatever true progress humanity makes is through the rationality of the occasional individual and because any one individual we may win for the cause may do more for humanity than a hundred thousand who hug superstition to their breasts.’

– Isaac Asimov, when asked why he fights religion with no hope for victory



**Metroplex
Atheists.org**
NO STRINGS ATTACHED.

Metroplex Atheists is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organized for the purpose of education, maintaining Constitutional separation of government and religion, protection of atheists' rights and to provide social meetings for those of similar worldviews. We are affiliated with American Atheists, Atheists Alliance of America and the Dallas Fort Worth Coalition of Reason.

Contact Info

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