

The Atheist Voice

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPLEX ATHEISTS

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In God We Trust and the NRH City Council

There is an ongoing fight all over the country against a Christian movement to get “In God We Trust” displayed in as many government settings as possible including but not limited to city halls, public schools classrooms, law enforcement vehicles, etc. Please keep your eyes open, especially in local public/charter schools, for this 1st amendment violation. Metroplex Atheists is currently planning events for 2018 to continue this fight—stay tuned.

The following is the text of the 3 minute citizen input given by Randy Word to the NRH City Council in 2016 regarding the display of “In God We Trust” in the foyer of the new city hall building.

“I am here to talk to you about the resolution approving the posting of “In God We Trust” in the new city hall.

First, I am not here to try and change any of your closely held religious beliefs and I fully support your constitutional right to believe what you want. I also support your right to display any religious message you want on your private property, church property or private business but not on public property and here is why.

In God We Trust is clearly a Christian religious message as supported by a number of verses in the bible that instruct believers to trust in God with no reference at all to patriotism or the business of the people. **Quoting Proverbs 3:5** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not to your own understanding “.

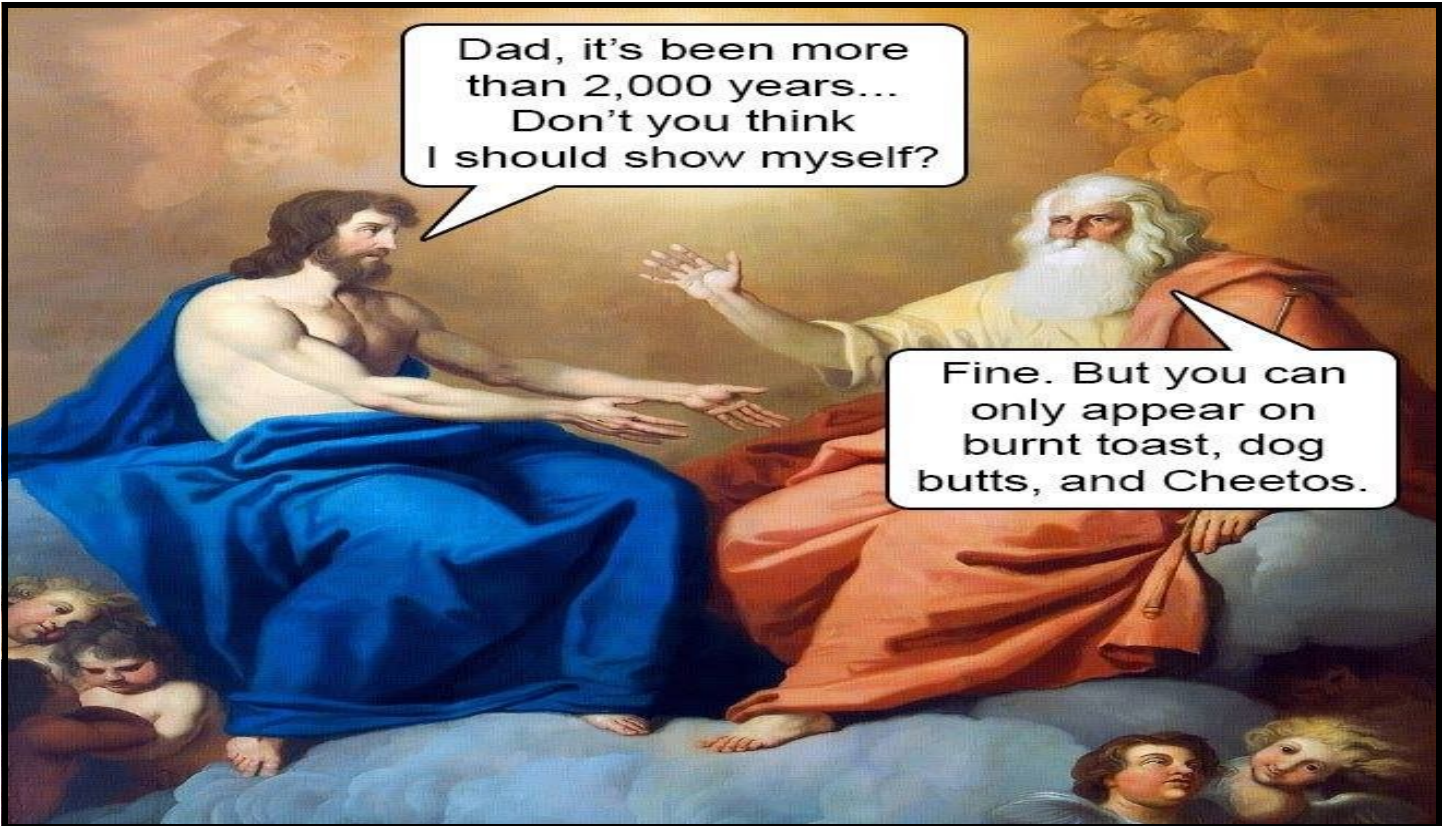
Just because it is our national motto does not make it a fair or accurate motto. Who are the “we” referred to in the motto? Since many Americans do not trust in a god, the “we” in the motto obviously refers to Christians, making this a Christian motto not a truly national motto.

You said the majority of feedback you received supported the resolution but that is irrelevant when it comes to religious messaging in the public domain. The 1st amendment is supposed to protect religious minorities and non-religious minorities from being dominated by a majority religion. The Establishment clause gives us freedom from religion which guarantees the Free Exercise Thereof being freedom of religion.

Imagine for a moment that you are a Christian minority living in India in a majority Hindu community and you went into the town hall to do business and the first thing you saw was a display of “In Vishnu We Trust”. How would that make you feel?

The points I just made are some of the reasons why “IGWT” is divisive and exclusionary and makes many of us feel like second class citizens.

I would propose displaying a motto that unites us all, is all-inclusive and is a patriotic reminder for all the people. That motto is on our Great Seal approved by Congress in 1782. E. Pluribus Unum – out of many ONE.”



Adopt-A-Highway

Our Adopt-A-Highway program serves two purposes for us. First it is a way to show that atheists care about their community and secondly it is a way to get our name displayed to the public. Participation in our quarterly clean ups has been declining and we need your support to continue to benefit from this program. Please check our Meetup.com site for clean up dates. We do these pick ups once a quarter from about 10AM to 12PM on Sundays including a lunch so it does not take much time. So please come out and join us for our next clean up.

Metroplex Atheists Business Meeting Location

METROPLEX ATHEISTS MEETS AT 1:00 P.M. THE MEETINGS ARE HELD ON A SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

**THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AT:
Irving, Texas—monitor Metroplex Atheists Meetup announcements for the exact date and location**

ALL ARE WELCOME!!



TEMPTED?

Go to www.metroplexatheists.org

MA Membership

Metroplex Atheists membership enrollment is now accessible on our web site. Membership is not required to participate in any MA event but by joining, at any of the membership levels we offer, you help us to continue to provide a wide variety of events and other services to the non-believing community in the Metroplex.

You can also join by filling out a membership form, available from an officer of MA at any of our events or social gatherings, and return it to an officer or mail it in when completed.

New Board Member Elected

First MA would like to thank Brandy Jones for her service as Secretary and Director. However, after her term as Secretary expired she decided to not stay on as a member of the board of directors.

The responsibility to fill the director position between regular elections falls to the board of directors and they voted to instate Tildon Peacock as a board member. Tildon has been an active member and volunteer for MA for a couple of years now and so please welcome him to his new position.

Support Secular Values

MA is an endorsing organization for the Secular Coalition of America (SCA) which is a secular values lobbying group. SCA has an option for email Action Alerts to contact your local representatives about specific legislative concerns - secular.org. This is very important to all of us based on the current political climate. It is time to resist!!!!

Town Hall Project is a simple website where you can type in your zip code and it will list when/where any local, upcoming town hall meetings are happening - townhallproject.com.

Separation of Church and State

Possibly the most important initiative of Metroplex Atheists is the fight for the complete separation of church and state as well as "religious" civil liberties for non-believers under the Civil Rights Act.

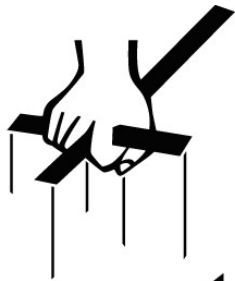
Please report any violations of separation of church and state or religious civil liberties to Metroplex Atheists at director@metroplexatheists.org.

THE ATHEIST VOICE is a quarterly publication of Metroplex Atheists.
For more information, please visit our website: www.metroplexatheists.org
To submit an article or letter to the editor, please email us.
The Atheist Voice Editor: editor@metroplexatheists.org

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, Secular Coalition of America and the Dallas Fort Worth Coalition of Reason.

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