

The Atheist Voice

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPLEX ATHEISTS

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Weekend Meetups Re-Instated

Metroplex Atheists is again sponsoring weekend social meetups. These are being offered to accommodate anyone who cannot make our weeknight meetup or prefer a different location from Gilligan's. Please watch for our meetup announcements and if you don't receive them please sign up at Meetup.com.

MA Invited to Hospital Chaplin Training.

The Chaplin training program at Children's Medical Center in Dallas invited Metroplex Atheists to participate in their training program. On Feb 1st Randy Word and Terry McDonald spoke and answered questions from this group. The Chaplins at CMC made it clear that they are dealing more and more with non-believers and would like know how to approach and provide support and comfort for atheists without offending them. This is a sign of real progress in getting atheists accepted in the community and two things jump out. One is that they approached us and the other is that our visibility is increasing. The Chaplins deal with very sick and dying children which is the worst thing a believer or non-believer would ever have to face in their life so their work is very important and extremely difficult.

SCA Resolutions Approved

The Secular Coalition of Texas(SCoT) is a lobbying group that Metroplex Atheists has endorsed. On March 19th local political party conventions were held all over Texas. Thanks to Elizabeth Tarrant and Wanda Foster for taking six SCoT resolutions to the SD 97 Tarrant County Democratic Convention. Elizabeth and Wanda were able to get all six resolutions approved by committee and then passed by majority vote to hopefully become part of the Texas Democratic Party platform. The topics of the six resolutions were as follows: Upholding Religious Freedom and the Separation of Church and State, Repealing Religious Exemptions from Child Protection Laws, Supporting Access to Reproductive Health Care, Supporting End of Life Choice, Supporting LGBT Rights Supporting Comprehensive, and Medically Accurate Sex and HIV Education. You can sign up to become

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.

Adopt-A-Highway

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.

Our adopt-a-highway is located on Davis Blvd just north of Loop 820 in North Richland Hills, Tx. Come out and help us if you like. We do a trash pick up every 3mos. Just watch for the Meetup announcement.

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.

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

In God We Trust—Huh?

On March 14th the City Council of North Richland Hills voted on a resolution to display “In God We Trust” in the new city hall. Resolutions do not require any public hearings and need only appear on the agenda 72 hours before the vote. This meant no one could do public input regarding this resolution at the meeting. However, on March 28th, Randy Word did do citizen’s input at the council meeting in opposition to this resolution. Metroplex Atheists will be contacting FFRF about this matter along with the proselytizing invocation given on March 28th. Along with that MA is considering a protest at a later date. Watch meetup.com for announcements concerning this effort. Here is the text of Randy Word’s input to the city council on March 28th.

“I am here to talk to you about the resolution approving the posting of “In God We Trust” (IGWT) 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 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.”

Metroplex Atheists Volunteers Needed

We are an all volunteer organization so the number and robustness of activities and events MA can do for the local non-theist community is totally dependent on the level of volunteerism we have at any given time. If interested please contact Randy Word at 972 342 7958.

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, Atheists Alliance of America and the Dallas Fort Worth Coalition of Reason.

Contact Info

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