

The Atheist Voice

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPLEX ATHEISTS

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TCC Religious Philosophy Class

Terry McDonald presented on atheism to a class at TCC on January 30th. There were about 40 students in attendance. The class was very diverse with Christians, Muslims and Atheists present. Afterword there was a Q & A with Terry and Randy Word. The discussions got pretty lively with side conversations going on between the believer and non-believer students as questions were asked.

Camp Quest

At our March business meeting the qualified voting members of Metroplex Atheists voted unanimously to donate \$600 from the MA funds to Camp Quest to be used to pay the camping fee for one or more needy kids. Thanks to everyone who donates to MA for making this possible.

Mosque Tour By Julio Rosario

I put together a Mosque tour on February 23rd in Irving. It went well until the speaker that was supposed to do Islam 101 and a Q&A decided about 2 minutes into his explanation that he was going to prove to us, by using the free-will argument, that we're not really atheists. It got pretty dicey with me and the speaker until the other Muslims present basically separated us and took the speaker to another room. After he returned it went as planned and turned into a Q&A like it was supposed to be.

After the event it was explained to me that basically the speaker was an ex-atheist that found Islam and since the Mosque basically had no idea how to deal with atheists someone recommended him to the Mosque. They thought that since he was an ex-atheist he could speak to atheists better and understand our lingo and terms but he went rogue instead. I got a lot of apologies from the other Muslims about the confusion and they told me that it wasn't supposed to have been that way. Some people stuck around afterward to debate with the speaker.



Southlake NDOP

Metroplex Atheists sent a letter to the City of Southlake regarding their practice of letting a local group of churches masquerading as “The Mayor’s Advisory Council” utilize a special use pavilion, not normally available for the general public, to hold their National Day of Prayer service in. This is obviously government sponsorship of religion by proxy. They are really pushing the Establishment Clause with this vague but obvious endorsement of the National Day of Prayer by granting special privilege to this advisory council. We requested a response to our letter but have not received one and really don’t expect to. We will be planning our next step at upcoming business meetings. If you would like to support us in this fight against religion in the public sphere then please attend our business meeting. Check our Meetup announcements for the date, time and location of these meetings.

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.

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.

Metroplex Atheists Business Meeting Location

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

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



TEMPTED?

Go to www.metroplexatheists.org

Solstice Party Update

We have decided to hire a caterer for the Solstice Party this year. We have not yet decided who we are going to use for this service. What this means is we will have to charge an entrance fee that will cover our costs of the caterer, tableware and decorations. Tuesday Morris graciously decided to contribute the funding for an additional adjoining room for the party. We can now accommodate over 200 people. Beer, wine and liquor are allowed so BYOB.

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.

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, it helps 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 returning it to an officer or mailing it in when completed.

Seminary Students Visit Gilligan's

A group of students from the Southwest Theological Seminary in Fort Worth recently attended one of our Wednesday night socials at J. Gilligan's in Arlington. The interactions and discussions were lively but civil. The students sat in small groups at different tables so they were exposed to the diversity of our group-once you get past the common denominator of non-belief. As expected no one converted or de-converted anyone but at least the students were able to get out of their bubble and see first hand that atheists are people too.

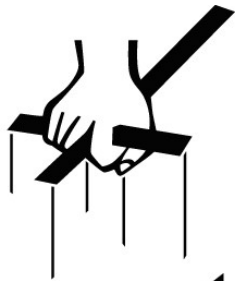
Upcoming Events

Metroplex Atheists is sponsoring an "Atheist Day" at both Six Flags and the State Fair of Texas later this year. Just sign up for our Meetup announcements for all the details. And remember, we are trying to get 100 people to march in the Arlington 4th of July parade this year so be sure and mark your calendars.

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

Web site: MetroplexAtheists.org
Email: director@metroplexatheists.org
Phone: 817-945-3146