

The Atheist Voice

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPLEX ATHEISTS

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DFWCoR Picnic

The CoR picnic took place on Sunday June 15th at Cedar Hill State Park. We had about 40 people show up and all had a good time. The night before there were about a dozen people who camped out and imbibed in mass quantities of adult beverages around the campfire. Next year we will try and hold the picnic on a Saturday in May to take advantage of cooler weather and we will also publicize the event more rigorously.

Sam Houston HS

Randy Word represented Metroplex Atheists on Sept 26th at a “Theory of Knowledge” class at Sam Houston HS in Arlington, Texas. He sat on a panel that included a Buddhist monk and a Baptist preacher. The topic for the day was “Faith as an Epistemology”. There were about 80 students present including a group bussed in from Lamar HS which is also in Arlington. Although the discussion turned into more of a debate about atheism vs religion between Randy and the preacher the moderator did a good job of keeping it more or less on track. It turned out there were a lot of atheists among the students as well as adherents to several other world religions. We were invited to come back next year.

Garage Sale

Metroplex Atheists held a garage sale on May 3rd at James Hardwick’s house. The sale raised about \$200 for Metroplex Atheists and we will be holding another garage sale next year. Thanks James.

Anyone interested in helping and/or donating at the next garage sale should contact director@metroplexatheists.org.

Atlanta, Texas ISD Victory

A student at Atlanta HS complained to Metroplex Atheists that his economics teacher was showing bible shows from the History channel in class. Metroplex Atheists then contacted FFRF who wrote a letter to the school district on behalf of the student. The teacher was reprimanded, had to apologize to the student and the school said it would not happen again.

Please inform us of any Church/State violations you come across and we will help if we can.

Church Outreach

We mailed out about 120 letters to local churches in Arlington, Tx requesting to come in and educate the congregation or Sunday school classes on atheism. We stressed that the intent was not to spread atheism but rather to misspell the common myths and misconceptions most believers hold about atheism. We received four responses. Three of them were negative but one was an invitation to come speak to an adult class at a 7th Day Adventists Church. Randy Word and Julio Rosario attended and answered questions from the audience about atheism. This was not a debate or argument and did not go there. At the end of the class a number of Christians made statements that they now saw atheists in a much more positive light.

Alan Ross Parade

We had a very disappointing turnout this year at the parade with only about 25 people showing up. We were late in getting the word out about the parade so maybe that was the reason for the poor turnout. We will market this event better next year. However it was still a blast as usual and the closest thing to mardi gra we have around here.

Arlington 4th of July Parade

We had some real excitement this year at the parade. About half way through a stranger appeared in our midst who had a very angry look on his face. We informed the police who took him aside and we thought that was the end of it. But no, he showed up again towards the end of the parade walking with us and staring at different people in our group with those angry eyes. We again engaged the police who tried to take him aside but he started refusing the orders of the police and the next thing we knew he was on the ground with about six officers on top of him. He was taken to jail where he was unable to make bond for a couple of weeks or more. No word since. Other than that we had a successful parade interrupted only by the usual comments like “you think it’s hot today”, “Jesus loves you”, “god bless you” and other taunts about how lucky we were to live here and enjoy freedom of speech.

Rowlett City Council Prayer

MA, FFRF, AU and a local Rowlett resident sent letters to the city requesting that two local residents of Rowlett who are members of MetroplexatheistsRowlett be allowed to deliver a secular invocation at a city council meeting. The city did not respond but instead engaged the Liberty Institute(a right wing evangelical legal entity) to respond for them. The answer to our letters was an emphatic NO. We then protested this denial of our rights at the Sept 16th city council meeting with plenty of signs and interviews with media who were present. Some of us then gave citizens input during the council meeting expressing our disappointment with this refusal to allow us equal time concerning invocations. This refusal by the city flies right in the face of the recent Greece NY Supreme Court ruling based on the discriminatory nature of the city’s decision. We are now discussing our strategy and next steps.

Plano ISD

MA was alerted by a concerned parent who has a daughter attending one of the middle schools in the Plano ISD that Gideon bibles were being displayed and offered for free at a table in the lobby of the administration office. When we investigated the district policy concerning literature we learned that any free literature must have a district disclaimer printed on the front of it. The disclaimer did not appear on the bibles. When we contacted the ISD they assured us that in the future all Gideon bibles would have a sticker placed on the front cover that stated the disclaimer policy. The ISD also allowed us to put out our “what is atheism” brochures(with the required disclaimer printed on the front) in the administration office as well. A small but important victory for separation of church and state.

Solstice Party Update

Tickets for the Solstice party are now available on line at Metroplexatheists.org or can be purchased from any MA officer with cash. Tickets are \$12 per adult and \$6 per child under the age of 12. An entrance fee is necessary to offset the cost of the caterer, tableware and decorations.

Miraslov, fellow atheist and former owner of the Blue Danube Restaurant, will be catering the main course at the Solstice party this year. We do encourage everyone to bring a side dish, snack or dessert. See our website for details and to sign up for a dish. Beer, wine and liquor are allowed so BYOB, ice is provided. Bring a gift for the white elephant gift exchange if you wish to participate but don't spend over \$10 or \$20. There will be an adult and separately a kid gift exchange so bring age appropriate gifts.

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 return it to an officer or mail it in when completed.

Atheist Day at Scarborough Faire

Metroplex Atheists sponsored an atheist day at Scarborough Faire on May 10th. There were about 20 people there and all had a great time.

Please make sure you are signed up on Metroplex Atheists Meetup so you can be notified of the events we sponsor throughout the year.

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

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

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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