

# The Atheist Voice

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPLEX ATHEISTS

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## Expanded Social Events

Metroplex Atheists has added additional social events to our calendar. Julio Rosario has volunteered to coordinate new social events on weekends in addition to our traditional Wednesday night meeting at J. Gilligan's in Arlington. The first such event was held at On The Border in Arlington and about 30 people attended. These weekend social gatherings give people an alternative to Wednesday nights at Gilligan's. These new meetups are not held every weekend so be sure and sign up for our meetup announcements at [Metroplexatheists.org](http://Metroplexatheists.org)

## Rowlett City Council Prayer

MetroplexAtheistsRowlett consulted with both FFRF (Freedom From Religion Foundation) and AU (Americans United For Separation of Church and State) in March, 2015 and were told that a law suit will not be filed regarding the humanist invocation request which was denied on the basis of discrimination due to an unconstitutional invocation policy in Rowlett. The reason for this decision is because Rowlett is in the 5th Circuit which is very conservative thus reducing the chances for a favorable decision. Both FFRF and AU are looking for the same case elsewhere in the country but in a federal district that would be much more likely to rule favorably. The key is patience while waiting for a favorable court decision, but MA will to continue to fight this battle and we will be announcing our strategy soon.

## 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.

Memberships start at \$12 per year. Student memberships are free.

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

### MA Is On The Map

The American Family Association has now created their own version of a hate group list. The AFA Bigotry Map identifies “groups and organizations that openly display bigotry toward the Christian faith.”

Metroplex Atheists proudly recognizes our place on that map. To view the map go to [afa.net/bigotrymap](http://afa.net/bigotrymap).

### 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](mailto:director@metroplexatheists.org).

## 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**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!**



**TEMPTED?**

Go to [www.metroplexatheists.org](http://www.metroplexatheists.org)

## **Secular Policy Institute Endorsement**

Metroplex Atheists is now an official endorsing organization of the Secular Policy Institute (SPI). Edwina Rogers, formerly head of the Secular Coalition for America, is the current CEO of the SPI.

### **Mission**

The Secular Policy Institute (SPI) is a think tank organization of thought leaders, writers, scholars and speakers with a shared mission to influence public opinion and promote a secular society. We believe governmental decisions and public policies should be based on available science and reason, and free of religion or religious preferences.

### **Objectives**

1. Promote a secular society to the public, worldwide, without rancor towards religion
2. Lobby governments and businesses, worldwide, towards separation of church and state
3. Develop, fund, and manage high impact secular projects
4. Organize high impact secular events, including the World Future Forum
5. Gather the world's leading secular books, academic papers, demographic studies, and articles and make them available for decision-makers
6. Help local secular groups grow and organize projects that engage their entire community, not just their members
7. Coordinate the nonbelief movement towards these objectives by building the world's largest secular coalition  
Run the world's largest think tank of secular fellows and coordinate their work towards these objectives

For more information go to [secularpolicyinstitute.net](http://secularpolicyinstitute.net).

## **Secular Coalition of Texas**

The Secular Coalition of Texas(SCoT) held its first ever state convention on Feb 29-Mar 1st in Austin. Kicking off the convention on Friday afternoon was Barry Lynn of Americans United. Immediately following his talk the attendees divided up into small groups and lobbied the members of both houses who are sitting on committees looking at bills relevant to the issues supported by SCoT. A special thanks to SecularTexas, also a convention co-host, for preparing instructions and leave behind handouts.

The remainder of the convention was filled by excellent speakers including Annie Laurie Gaylor of FFRF and state representative Donna Howard of Austin.

It is the mission of the Secular Coalition for Texas to increase the visibility of and respect for nontheistic viewpoints, and to protect and strengthen the secular character of our government as the best guarantee of freedom for all.

[texas@secular.org](mailto:texas@secular.org)  
<https://states.secular.org/states/texas>

The Secular Coalition of Texas is a state chapter of the Secular Coalition for America and Metroplex Atheists is an endorsing organization of both. For more information about Secular Coalition for America go to [secular.org](http://secular.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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