

The Atheist Voice

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE METROPLEX ATHEISTS

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Atheism Is Not!!!

Atheism is not "the positive assertion that there definitely is no God": Atheism is the default nonbelief in the existence of gods in the absence of evidence for them. Nonbelief in any positive claim does not require evidence against it if no evidence exists in its favor i.e I don't need evidence against fairies to say they don't exist if no evidence is available to show that they do.

Atheism does not automatically grant rationalism: You can be an atheist and believe in all manner of unsupported claims: homeopathy, crystal healing, vaccine-autism "link", alien abductions etc. If your rationalism ends at religious claims, you're doing it wrong.

Atheism is not evolution and vice-versa: You don't have to be an atheist to accept the scientific fact of evolution. Likewise, atheism is a position that can be taken without the knowledge of evolution. Atheists existed and had rational reasons for their position before and after Darwin.

There are concrete definitions for the words "evidence" and "scientific theory": Evidence is not just "what sounds right" and a "theory" in science is an extremely well supported position that has ample evidence and little relation to the popular definition of theory, which is more of a "guess" and in science would be more properly defined as a "hypothesis" (though not all guesses can even be called hypothesis either). When you hear "It's just a theory, not a fact" with regards to some aspect of science, you know you are dealing with someone who understands almost nothing about actual science. Don't be that person.

There is no evidence that supernatural beliefs are required for ethical behavior: When someone says "You can't be good without God", ask for their evidence. Once they've stopped saying "Hitler was an atheist" ask if vegetarianism leads to genocide (Hitler was a vegetarian). Then ask them if they have any evidence that a lack of belief causes less moral behavior. Do nonbelievers have higher incarceration rates (they have lower ones)? Do democracies with high rates of nonbelief have higher crime rates and less social wellbeing (the opposite is true)? Can they provide any scientific evidence to back up their claim?

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.

Arlington PD Bible Verse Display

It was recently brought to our attention that the City of Arlington commissioned the Arlington Museum to do a project called the "Texas Star" which called for the artistic design of multiple stars to be installed at various businesses and city buildings. One star installed at the Arlington PD has two bible verses on it. We engaged FFRF to write a letter of complaint for us to the City of Arlington which was done in early June. We are awaiting a response but were told by FFRF that this one lies in a grey area and probably won't be worth pursuing. We will be discussing our next actions, if any, at upcoming business meetings.

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

Camp Quest Campership

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated or participated in the fund raising events. Our efforts resulted in raising \$700. A Metroplex Atheists check was presented to Zach Moore of Camp Quest on the June 11th episode of The Atheist Edge youtube podcast by Jim Hall.

Camp Quest is a secular summer camp for kids that includes the normal fun things kids do at camp - swimming, games, friends, etc. - with a focus on critical thinking weaved in.

Parade Activity

Metroplex Atheists will participate in three parades this year. The first will be the July 4th parade in Arlington. The second will be the Alan Ross Gay Pride Parade in Dallas where we will have a booth in the festival area but will not be marching in the parade. The third will be the Fort Worth Gay Pride parade in which we will be marching and will have a booth in the festival area. Anyone can join us at these events whether they are a paying member or not. Please see our Meetup.com web page for details on these upcoming events.

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.

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

Contact Info

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