

AHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Washington, DC Zoom Teleconference — August 30, 2022

1. Call to order (by chair: Sunil)
 - a. Roll call and introductions – Sunil called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM; members attending: Rob Boston, Vanessa Gomez Brake, Candace Gorham, Abby Hafer, John Hooper, Jennifer Kalmanson, Howard Katz, Juhem Navarro-Rivera, Sunil Panikkath, Mandisa Thomas; Humanist Foundation President: Roy Speckhardt; AHA staff: Nadya Dutchin, Nicole Carr.
 - b. Appointment of parliamentarian (Howard) – approved by unanimous consent
 - c. Appointment of recording secretary (Nicole Carr) – approved by unanimous consent
 - d. Suggestions for new business to be considered – none suggested

2. Acceptance/amendment of March meeting minutes
John moved the minutes be approved, Candace seconded, approved unanimously.

3. Between meetings actions for ratification:
 - a. Results of voting by the AHA Board to send a slate with three Trustee candidates in May 2022 to the Humanist Foundation - Abby moved to ratify, Mandisa seconded, approved unanimously.

4. Finance and Strategy update
 - a. Finance Committee Report (John) – John summarized the Finance Committee report that he disseminated prior to the meeting; the Executive Committee will be reviewing some key metrics on a monthly basis in the future.
 - b. Humanist Foundation update (John) – Humanist Foundation trustees met on June 6th; David Tamayo has been appointed the new Foundation treasurer; the renewal of the term of Scott Seidewitz as Trustee was being requested of the AHA Board by the HF Board; the response to the request that the AHA Board sent to the Foundation Board in December was approved by the Foundation Board and submitted to the AHA Board (and disseminated to AHA board members); Sunil welcomed Roy as the new Foundation President; Roy said he looks forward to working with the AHA Board.

5. Continuing measures related to the pandemic and update on open staff positions (Nadya)
Nadya reported that the AHA staff remains in a hybrid mode with many staff in the office 2-3 days each week. The position of Policy Director remains open. We continue to cast as wide a net as possible but it is challenging to find people with policy experience. Nadya and Nicole are finalizing the job description for the Communications Director and expect to complete hiring shortly. We may hire a digital organizer in the fall, which would be a new position.

6. DEI implementation update (Nadya)
Nadya stated that we are increasing professional development for staff. All staff have been assigned a LinkedIn Learning training module to complete by the end of next week with more training to follow. The next one will be CA sexual harassment training from our HR consultants. We expect to assign two more before the end of the year and then six training modules in 2023. John stated that it is important for the Board to have a follow-up for each of the recommendations that were in the institutional DEI review. Sunil has created a dashboard to track the DEI goals, some of which have already been met.

7. Programs, adjuncts and coalitions to act on or discuss (Nicole):

a. Chapter and Affiliates: approve new and defunct groups

i. New Affiliates

1. Unitarian Humanists of Birmingham - Birmingham, AL – John moved, Howard seconded, approved unanimously
2. Humanist Fellowship Assembly - Fort Wayne, IN – Howard moved, Candace seconded, approved unanimously

ii. New Chapters

1. Anne Arundel County Secular Humanists - Edgewater, MD - affiliate becoming a chapter - Howard moved, Rob seconded, approved unanimously
2. New Jersey Humanist Network - Somerset, NJ - affiliate becoming a chapter – Abby moved, Candace seconded, approved unanimously

iii. Defunct Chapters – Candace moved, Abby seconded, approved unanimously

1. Humanists of the Western Reserve - Solon, OH
2. Humanist Chaplaincy at Rutgers University - New Brunswick, NJ
3. Humanist Chaplaincy at American University - Washington, DC
4. Humanist Chaplaincy at USC - Los Angeles, CA

8. Resolutions Committee Update (Rob)

Update re: Resolution on Bias Against Nonbelievers (see p. 5). Rob referred Board members to the Resolution on Bias Against Nonbelievers that he and Howard drafted and disseminated to Board. Rob asked board members to read it and send him comments by email. Rob stated that the idea is to streamline the resolution process to create “shorter, punchier” resolutions.

9. Chapter Grant Committee Update (Howard)

Howard stated that there are two grants under discussion but still waiting for a full vote from the Committee.

10. CFE Board size increase and CFE Board 2022 elections slate nominations (Sunil)

Sunil stated that the CFE is a 501(c)4, affiliated with the AHA. It has its own by-laws which state that the AHA Board is the Nominating Committee for the CFE board and also has the authority to set the size of the CFE board.

- a. Because the scope of the CFE is expanding, the CFE Board has requested that the AHA Board increase the size of the CFE Board by one. Howard (who is also CFE Board President) stated that the larger Board will provide a wider scope of discussion and viewpoints.
 - Candace moved, Howard seconded, approved unanimously.
- b. Sunil reminded Board members that the slate of eight potential nominees was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting
 - Mandisa moved for approval of the slate, John seconded, approved unanimously

11. Next board meeting

The next meeting will be the Fall meeting which is typically held in late November or early December. This year the meeting will be quite significant because there will be large turnover on the Board because of retirements. In election years, the newly elected Board members are also invited to participate in the Fall meeting as part of the transition. Sunil suggested that this would

be a good meeting to hold in person. Mandisa suggested that there should still be a virtual option for those who have trouble attending in person and Sunil agreed. Sunil will put together a poll to disseminate regarding potential dates.

12. There was a Q&A session for the AHA members who were present.

13. Adjournment

Sunil requested a motion to adjourn the meeting; Rob moved, Candace seconded, approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM ET.