

# **AHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

*Washington, DC/Zoom Teleconference — November 20, 2022*

0. Call to order - Sunil called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM
  - a. Roll call and introductions: Members in person: Rob Boston, Vanessa Gomez Brake, Candace Gorham, John Hooper, Jenny Kalmanson, Juhem Navarro-Rivera, Sunil Panikkath, Mandisa Thomas, Jason Wiles; Members online: Abby Hafer, Howard Katz; Members-elect in person: Kelly Damerow, Erik Gregory, Darin Stewart; Member-elect online: Jill Martinez; Staff in person: Nadya Dutchin, Nicole Carr; Staff online: Jasmine Banks, Monica Miller, Kristin Wintermute.
  - b. Appointment of parliamentarian (Howard) approved by unanimous consent.
  - c. Appointment of recording secretary (Nicole) approved by unanimous consent.
  - d. Suggestions for new business to be considered - no new business proposed.
1. Acceptance/amendment of draft August meeting minutes
  - a. Howard moved, Jenny seconded, approved unanimously.
2. Ratification of actions since last meeting:
  - a. Only one item: motion to elect Abby Hafer as Secretary of the AHA - Jason moved, Rob seconded, approved with eleven in favor and one (Abby) not recording a vote.
    - i. John moved to ratify action, Juhem seconded, approved unanimously.
3. Bylaws amendments: Draft discussed by email and submitted 30 days before this meeting.
  - a. Sunil recapped the process prescribed for amending bylaws, which was the process followed. Jenny moved to accept the amendments, Mandisa seconded, Howard abstained, with all other members being in favor. Adopted.
4. Finance and Strategy update
  - a. Finance Committee report and update on status of draft 2023 Budget (John)
    - i. John stated that the Committee has reviewed year-end projections and is working on the draft budget for 2023 and expects to be bringing a final proposal to the full Board around the end of the year. Sunil stated that there will be a special Board meeting to approve the Budget either just before or just after the end of the year.
  - b. Humanist Foundation update (John)
    - i. HF Board has not met since the last AHA Board meeting.
5. Policy on Operating Reserve (Sunil)
  - a. Sunil summarized the proposed Policy on the Operating Reserve. Rob moved to accept the policy as proposed, Vanessa seconded, approved unanimously.
6. Update on staff (Nadya)
  - a. Nadya reported that we are still looking for a Policy Director. Our Communications Coordinator is leaving at the end of the month. We will be changing the job description for the role and will be hiring a Digital Coordinator. Staff is still in hybrid mode with people coming in 2-3 days/week with some fully remote.
7. Update on 2023 Annual Conference (Nicole/Nadya)
  - a. Nicole described plans for conference to be held in Denver on May 5-7, 2023.
8. DEI Review implementation update (Nadya)
  - a. Staff recently took a CA Sexual Harassment Training and Nadya mentioned that future trainings are to come. Nadya also mentioned that the staff leadership is working on rebuilding post-pandemic office culture with remote and hybrid employees. Management Committee will also be involved in overseeing DEI implementation.

9. Programs, adjuncts and coalitions to act on or discuss:
  - a. Chapters and Affiliates: approve new and defunct groups
    - i. New Chapter – Mandisa moved, John seconded, approved unanimously.
      1. Jackson Correctional Institution Humanist Group (Black River Falls, WI)
    - ii. New Affiliates – Candace moved, Abby seconded, approved unanimously.
      1. Secular Community of SW Florida (North Port, FL)
      2. Susquehanna Valley Ethical Society (Lewisburg, PA)
      3. Connections Humanist Community (Manheim, PA)
    - iii. Defunct Chapters – Candace moved, Juhem seconded, approved unanimously.
      1. Inmate Humanist Association (Marion, IL)
      2. Humanist Association of Las Vegas (Las Vegas, NV)
      3. Emerald Coast Humanist Fellowship (FL)
    - iv. Defunct Affiliate – Howard moved, Abby seconded, approved unanimously.
      1. Humanist Association at California State University at Los Angeles
10. Chapters and Affiliates Committee update (Howard)
  - a. The Committee has not met since the last AHA Board meeting
11. Resolutions Committee update (Rob)
  - a. Resolution on Bias Against Nonbelievers
    - i. Rob reported that he circulated the final draft resolution from the Committee to all Board members with no further comment received. The resolution is concerned with both governmental and societal discrimination and prejudice against nonbelievers.
    - ii. Juhem moved the resolution, Mandisa seconded, approved unanimously.
12. Update on AHA Documents Digitization Project (John)
  - a. John reported that the first phase of the Digitization Project is complete. “AHA Origins Collection” goes from 1938-1949. A committee will be meeting soon to plan how the collection can be used and how to digitize the rest of the collection.
13. Next board meeting
  - a. There will be a special meeting in late December/early January to approve the Budget.
14. Departing Members
  - a. Sunil recognized several members departing the Board. Jenny and Howard have been on the board since 2010, Christine has been on the board since 2016, Juhem has been on the board since 2019. Nadya thanked all of them for their service on behalf of the staff and said that she hopes they will continue to work with the AHA in other capacities.
15. New business
  - a. Howard stated that CFE just held Board elections and welcomed new and returning CFE Board members.
16. Adjournment of Session
  - a. Candace moved for adjournment, Howard seconded, approved unanimously.  
The meeting at was adjourned at 12:54 PM.
17. There was an informal Q&A for attending AHA members.