

AHA Board of Directors Meeting

Washington, D.C., Zoom Teleconference - December 8, 2023 at 4.30 PM ET

1. Call to order (by chair: Sunil)
 - 1.1. Roll call and introductions
 - 1.1.1. Board members present: Rob Boston, Vanessa Gomez Brake, Candace Gorham, Abby Hafer, John Hooper, Krystal Jackson, Jill Martinez, Jim Palmquist, Sunil Panikkath, Darin Stewart, Valerie White, Jason Wiles; Staff Members Present: Lily Bolourian, Nicole Carr, Kristin Wintermute, Emily Newman
 - 1.2. Appointment of recording secretary (Lily) – approved by unanimous consent.
 - 1.3. Suggestions for new business to be considered – none
2. Acceptance/amendment of September meeting minutes
 - Motion by Candace, seconded by Abby - approved unanimously.
3. Actions since last meeting, to be ratified: none.
4. Finance update
 - 4.1. Finance Committee Report (John)
 - Reporting of financial results is delayed due to the extended absence on medical leave of our long-time Comptroller. New firm temporarily retained for assistance with financial recordkeeping. Nicole reported that the firm was recommended by the AHA auditor and was chosen after considering three firms.
 - Continuing shortfalls in memberships and contributions are a concern.
 - Advancement Committee engaged on addressing this.
 - John reported that work has begun on the 2024 Budget, including on areas where expense reductions may be possible.
 - 4.2. Humanist Foundation update (John)
 - HF Board is considering updating the bylaws of the Foundation to ensure it is as much in line with current best practices as the AHA bylaws are.
5. Update on Staff (Nicole)
 - Comptroller away on medical leave.
 - No other staff changes
6. Programs, adjuncts and coalitions to act on or discuss:
 - 6.1. Chapter and Affiliates:
 - 6.1.1. New Chapter: *Martin Correctional Institution*, Martin County, FL
 - Motion by Rob, seconded by Jill - approved unanimously.
 - 6.1.2. Chapter to Affiliate: *Humanists of North Central Florida* (Ocala, FL) is now *Freethinkers Club*
 - Motion by Jim, seconded by Krystal - approved unanimously.
 - 6.1.3. Defunct Chapters/Affiliates
 - 6.1.3.1. *Hartford Humanists* (Rock Hill, CT)
 - 6.1.3.2. *Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area* (CA)

6.1.3.3. *Wild Wonderful Humanists* (Morgantown, WV)

- Motion by John, seconded by Jim – approved unanimously.

7. Education Committee Update (Nicole/Kristin)

- Wrapped up a year of celebrating the Ten Commitments
- Planning robust programming for 2024 - the first will be a town hall on protecting transgender rights, with more programming being planned around consent, climate change, reproductive rights, food production, inflation, AI, democracy, capitalism, economic equality, and more
- AHA Education Director Kristin reported that the Education Committee expects to be more active in 2024 to help us achieve the vision and objectives of the Strategic Plan.

8. Resolutions Committee Update (Rob)

- Been discussing reviewing and updating LGBTQIA rights resolutions the Board has previously adopted to ensure protection of transgender folks are centered; also discussing creating resolutions related to censorship in public schools.

9. Chapters and Affiliates Committee Update (Candace)

- Only one funding/grant request made, came from New Jersey Humanist Network for marketing supplies.
- Kristin reported we used to have many more grant requests come in and there appears to be a decline in these requests since COVID; AHA Senior Education Coordinator Emily said lots of outreach is done to ensure that groups are aware of these grants.

10. Strategic Planning Committee update (Sunil)

- Sunil reported that the Committee has sent out surveys to several dozen stakeholders, had multiple rounds of input from the Committee members, and two rounds of input from AHA staff.
- Target is the final approval of the Strategic Plan 2024-26 to happen no later than early January so that implementation can begin without delay.

11. Humanists International (Sunil)

- Sunil explained that there have been discussions about the General Assembly of Humanists International being made a hybrid event, but HI has not yet committed to this change. There are several reasons for the AHA, as a democratic organization committed to equitable access, to work to advance this change. After further discussion, Sunil asked for a motion to send the following statement to Humanists International:

The AHA Board is of the view that holding the Humanists International General Assembly as a fully hybrid event, which would include the facility for delegates to fully exercise their rights and participate by videoconference, will mark a critical improvement in equitable access to decision making at Humanists International for member organizations from areas of the world with limited financial resources, given the travel costs involved in attending the GA. This Board is also of the view that a fully hybrid event, with the physical presence of delegates at the GA venue not being required, will be extremely valuable for those delegates who have concerns about

safety or about being able to exercise their free speech rights fully at a particular GA site. Consequently, the AHA Board calls on the HI Board to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the GA will be held on a regular basis as a fully hybrid event starting in 2024.

- Motion by Candace, seconded by Jim - adopted unanimously

12. Next board meeting

- There was a discussion about the pros and cons of having in-person Board meetings vs. virtual meetings in 2024.

13. New business

- Sunil reminded the Board that the Executive Director search will begin early in 2024.

14. Adjournment of Session

- Motion by Candace, seconded by Jim – approved unanimously.

15. Q&A for attending AHA members

- There were no questions.