

AHA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Washington, D.C. Zoom Teleconference – May 21, 2024 - 7.15 PM ET

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://americanhumanist-org.zoom.us/j/82390947801>

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
 - 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 December meeting minutes
 - Motion by Valerie, seconded by Jason. Approved by unanimous consent.
3. Actions by e-mail since last regular meeting, to be ratified:
 - 3.1. Approval of the 2024-26 Strategic Plan – Motion by Jill, seconded by John, approved unanimously.
 - 3.2. Approval of the Philosophy, Ethics, and Society Humanist Club of Houston as a chapter of the AHA – Motion by Krystal, seconded by John, approved unanimously.
 - 3.3. Appointment of Maggie Ardiente, Nancy Bolt, Anthony Cruz Pantojas, Gayle Jordan, and David Williamson as the 2024 Nomination and Election Committee– Motion by Rob, seconded by Jason, approved unanimously.
 - 3.4. Election of Jim Palmquist as Treasurer effective July 1, 2024 – Motion by Jason, seconded by Darin, approved unanimously with Jim recusing.
 - Ratification motion moved by Valerie, seconded by Jim. Actions ratified unanimously.
4. Finance update
 - 1.1. Finance Committee Report (John)
 - 1.1.1. John reported that the Finance Committee went over Q1 financials yesterday; finances are tracking better than they did last year. The strategy of moderate increases to memberships and contributions, along with controlling operating costs, has been effective but still work to do. Sunil stated that it's important to keep in mind that donations are seasonal and we tend to see higher contributions in Q4 vs. Q1.
 - 1.2. Humanist Foundation update (John)
 - 1.2.1. John reported that The Humanist Foundation Board of Trustees will hold its Annual Meeting on June 15, 2024 in San Jose to discuss, among other things, the annual disbursements to the AHA for this year, approve the annual Gordon Gamm Fund disbursement, and discuss candidates for trustees elections for two upcoming openings.
 - 1.3. Advancement Committee update (John)
 - 1.3.1. John reported that a survey was sent to board members regarding how to reach major donors and asks for all members to please participate; John is working with Meredith Thompson from staff nearly weekly on issues related to the Advancement Committee and Awards Committee. John welcomes new ideas for reaching new major donors. Board members thank John for his service as the outgoing Treasurer.
5. Update on Staff (Nicole)

- 5.1. Sunil fills in for Nicole (who is attending a friend’s funeral) and says the only major change regarding staff is that there is no staff attorney at the AHA anymore. Work to rebuild the legal department will begin as soon as feasible but a new legal strategy needed. Sunil suggests considering pivot to “religious freedom” arguments versus Establishment Clause to consider the current legal climate. Lily gave a brief update on ongoing policy work.
6. Programs, adjuncts and coalitions to act on or discuss:
 - 6.1. Chapter and Affiliates: approve new and defunct groups
 - 6.1.1. New Chapters
 - 6.1.1.1. *Mississippi Gulf Coast Humanists* (Pass Christian, MS)
 - 6.1.1.2. *Humanists of Winchester* (Winchester, KY)
 - 6.1.1.3. *Chippewa Valley Humanists* (Eau Claire, WI)
 - Motion to admit three new chapters moved by Jill, seconded by Valerie. Approved unanimously.
 - 6.1.2. New Affiliate
 - 6.1.2.1. *Sunday Assembly Detroit* (Farmington Hills, MI)
 - Motion to admit new affiliate moved by Rob, seconded by Valerie. Approved unanimously.
 - 6.1.3. Converting from Affiliate to Chapter
 - 6.1.3.1. *Michigan Humanists* (Grand Rapids, MI)
 - 6.1.3.2. *Central Florida Freethought Community* (Oveida, FL)
 - Motion to convert two affiliates to chapters moved by Candace, seconded by Valerie. Approved unanimously.
 - 6.1.4. Defunct Chapters/Affiliates
 - 6.1.4.1. *Florida Humanist Association*
 - 6.1.4.2. *Harbor Humanists*
 - 6.1.4.3. *Humanist Association of Wisconsin*
 - 6.1.4.4. *Humanist Society of Gainesville*
 - 6.1.4.5. *Humanist Association of Greater Philadelphia*
 - 6.1.4.6. *Humanist Society of the Suncoast & Tampa Humanist Association*
 - 6.1.4.7. *Humanists of Buffalo*
 - Motion to formalize removal of above defunct chapters and affiliates moved by John, seconded by Jim. Motion adopted unanimously.
 - 6.2. Election of Humanist Society Board members by AHA Board, under HS bylaws
 - 6.2.1. Candidate recommended by Humanist Society Board – Janey Rizvi
 - Motion moved by Candace and seconded by Abby. Approved unanimously.
 - 6.3. Increase in the size of the Center for Freethought Equality Board from *nine to ten*, as requested by the CFE Board, under CFE bylaws
 - Motion moved by Candace, seconded by Jim. Approved unanimously.
 - 6.4. Nomination by AHA Board of candidates for the slate for the 2024 election by CFE members to the Center for Freethought Equality Board, under CFE bylaws
 - 6.4.1. Proposed candidates: Wil Judy, Howard Katz, John Laue, Steven Lowe, Renee Reif, Nick Schweitzer, Fortney “Fish” Stark III, Tanya White-Anderson
 - Motion to nominate candidates moved by Jim, seconded by Rob. Approved unanimously.

7. Education Committee Update (Nicole/Kristin) - No updates.
8. Resolutions Committee update (Rob)
 - 8.1. Rob reported that the staff is interested in updating current resolution on LGBTQIA issues to strengthen stance on trans issues and rescind certain past ones.
9. Chapters and Affiliates Committee update (Candace)
 - 9.1. Candace is excited to report that approximately \$12,000 is available for grants and about \$13,700 has been requested so far.
10. Awards Committee update (John)
 - 10.1. John reported that many different names are beginning to come through as suggested awardees and emphasizes that the award committee comes up with a recommended list of awardees that the committee endorses for approval by the full board.
11. Strategic Plan implementation update (Sunil/Nicole)
 - 11.1. Sunil explained to the process that AHA Directors and the Executive Committee of the Board go through to track progress on the strategic plan. Plan was implemented four months ago and good progress is being made.
12. Next board meeting - To be decided - tentatively in September.
13. New business - No new business.
14. Adjournment of Session
 - Motion to adjourn by Jill and seconded by Vanessa. Approved unanimously.
15. Q&A for Attending AHA Members - none