



Board of Directors Meeting

Teleconference — February 23, 2017

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to order (by chair: Becky)** *The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm Eastern Time.*

- a. Roll call and introductions

Board members Rebecca Hale, John Hooper, July Simpson, Rob Boston, Susan Sackett, Sunil Panikkath, Kristin Wintermute, Jenny Kalmanson, Jason Torpy, Ian Dodd, Debbie Allen, and Kris Shellska were in attendance. Howard Katz was absent.

- b. Jenny nominated Jason to serve as parliamentarian, and Jason accepted.

- c. Maggie Ardiente was appointed recording secretary.

- d. Suggestions for new business to be considered

Roy gave a brief update on the AHA since the last board meeting, which included information about the move to the new building on 1821 Jefferson Place; the implementation of staff changes that were discussed at the November 2016 Board Meeting in Las Vegas; and the potential unionization of staff which began in December when management was notified, and concluded in early February with a majority vote against unionizing. Sunil asked to get more details about the union process at the end of the meeting. No other new business added.

2. **Acceptance/amendment of November meeting minutes**

Sunil moved to accept the November meeting minutes. Jenny seconded. Approved by consensus.

3. **Between meetings actions: Vote to approve officer voting order: unanimous.**

John moved to ratify the officer voting order for AHA officer elections, which will be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer. Sunil seconded. Approved by consensus. The vote is ratified.

4. **Financial update**

- a. 2016 Results

John referred to the written report he submitted to the board and the 2016 Profit and Loss report in the board packet. He invited board members to ask questions and discuss. Roy clarified that though the AHA only met 71 percent of its income budget goal, it was a result of not receiving cash for the capital campaign in 2016 due to the early stage of the campaign. Donations are expected in 2017 and future years. If the capital campaign line item was removed, the income budget met expectations.

b. 2017 Initial financials

Roy reported that AHA raised about \$100,000 so far in 2017 but spent \$200,000, though we are essentially still on track for early year expectations. Sunil asked about the status of the capital campaign, and Roy said that though some pledges and donations have been made, the campaign still has a long way to go. Roy and Maggie will be meeting with donors in the next three months.

c. The Humanist Foundation

Jenny reported that the Humanist Foundation trustees have not met since their annual meeting in July in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, but they have since purchased the new building at 1821 Jefferson Place. A discussion about potential conflict of interest was raised since Sunil serves on both the AHA board and the Humanist Foundation trustee board, but July clarified the definition of potential conflicts of interest, pointing out there isn't yet an actual conflict. Jason noted that communicating any potential conflicts of interest is necessary but votes can still be made based on the best interest of the board one is serving.

Becky pointed out that she raised concerns and changes for the lease in progress between the AHA and the Foundation for the building. Roy mentioned that Luis Granados, Humanist Press Director, is also an AHA in-house corporate attorney who helped look over documents and all highlight are now addressed.

d. Finance Committee Charter

John did research on other charters and put together a draft document for the board to review and discuss for the purpose of establishing the finance committee. He suggested that there should be a minimum of three members on the committee, and four is ideal.

Board members discussed whether "meeting dates and times should be specified a year in advance" was feasible. It was concluded that this language would be removed from the charter. Dates for committee meetings would be determined as soon as possible, allowing time to get the most up-to-date financials and have preparations for the AHA board meetings. John also suggested adding "other related reports" as a bullet point under "Reports."

John moved to accept the finance committee charter as amended. Kris seconded. Approved by consensus.

5. Resolutions Committee

Jason reported that some new members have been added to the Resolutions Committee, and that AHA staff are working on language for the climate change and environment resolutions. Three draft resolutions (voting rights, climate change, environment) were sent to board members at the last meeting but he hasn't yet received feedback. Carl Coon, former AHA vice president, has been added to the list of volunteers who can help with language, along with Sincere Kirabo on the AHA staff.

Jason will resend information to the board about new resolutions but encourages board members to see what AHA has already issued as resolutions before starting something from scratch. Roy said the AHA staff would like the resolutions committee to create something more specific about immigration policy, and Jason agreed.

6. Conferences and Events

a. Charleston 2017 plans

Maggie gave an update on plans for the Charleston conference. Most of the plenary speakers are booked, and all the awardees are finalized, including Adam Savage for Humanist of the Year. Becky asked if an email will be sent out promoting this, and Maggie said next week.

Debbie suggested that any of the speaker proposals that were rejected from speaking at the AHA Annual Conference could be provided to local leaders to consider for their group meetings. Maggie agreed this was a good idea and will work to create a process to get this information to local leaders.

b. Conference committee

Becky mentioned that a conference committee was formed and has already begun discussion selection of hotels for the 2018 conference in Las Vegas.

c. 2018 Las Vegas

Maggie reported that we've received bids from Strip and off-Strip hotels with good rates and will send a document to the conference committee with details.

d. 2020 plans

Maggie reported that the agreement between IHEU and AHA to host the World Humanist Congress in 2020 worked well, and a contract was signed with the Hyatt Regency Miami to host the event. Becky mentioned that Trump's administration may make it difficult for the visa process for certain countries, so we will have to anticipate that.

e. Humanist CampyCon proposal

Maggie reported that Becky and Debbie suggested exploring alternative ways to conduct the AHA annual conference, including one that was more camp-like or retreat-like. AHA Events Coordinator Meghan Hamilton did some initial research and Maggie submitted it to the board for consideration, addressing some potential concerns such as most locations being far from a major airport and most properties being available in the off-season for groups. Becky will review the information and discuss with the conference committee.

f. Awards Committee (Susan)

Susan referred to the new committee members and will begin exploring suggestions for 2018 awardees. Susan requested to be kept in the loop regarding award acceptances and outreach, which staff will endeavor to do.

7. Programs, adjuncts and coalitions; action items

a. Development

Debbie asked if the AHA's plans to raise money will change due to the capital campaign. Maggie clarified that plans will remain unchanged since the AHA will still need to raise annual funds in addition to capital campaign funds.

b. Communications

Debbie commented that she was impressed with recent AHA press releases.

c. Advocacy

Roy mentioned that good relations with Rep. Jamie Raskin are being established with AHA legislative director Matthew Bulger, and that Raskin will introduce a blasphemy bill in the House with our help.

d. The *Humanist Magazine* and theHumanist.com

Roy took this opportunity to provide more details about how the union process happened since Jennifer Bardi included a comment about staff issues in her report. Board members provided no further comment.

e. Web Development Report

Debbie complimented the look of the new website, but said she now can't get easy access to AHA's adjunct groups. Jason suggested making the AHA bubble chart more interactive and available on the website. Roy agreed.

f. Humanist Society

i. Confirming new board members

Debbie moved to confirm the new Humanist Society board officers: Steven Bechtel, vice president; Joshua Berg, treasurer, and Kathy Deidrich, secretary; with Debbie remaining as president. Jenny seconded. Approved by consensus.

ii. Debbie Update

Debbie reported that a date for the first quarterly meeting of the Humanist Society will take place March 22 at 8pm Eastern via teleconference. They will discuss ways to provide more professional development for celebrants.

g. Chapters and Affiliates

i. New groups to approve

Debbie moved to accept new chapters: First Coast Freethought Society (Jacksonville, FL); Flathead Area Secular Humanist Association (Whitefish, MT); and Morgantown Humanists (Morgantown, WV); and new affiliate Philadelphia Unitarian Society of Humanists (PUSH) (Philadelphia, PA). Kris seconded. Approved by consensus.

h. MAAF

Jason mentioned that details between AHA and MAAF have been worked out with a new process and will continue through 2017.

i. Institute for Humanist Studies

Jenny provided a brief update on IHS books that will soon be published through Palgrave, with one coming out in June that includes papers that were presented at the 2015 IHS Symposium at Rice University. Individuals who would like to get involved with the 2017 symposium can get in touch with Jenny and she will put them in touch with Anthony Pinn.

j. Secular Coalition for America

Roy reported that SCA is doing well and will be taking the lead on the March for Science in April.

k. International Humanist Ethical Union

Susan reported that the 2017 World Humanist Congress in Sao Paulo, Brazil, had to be cancelled due to the local group's lack of funds, but the British Humanist Association will be holding a replacement day-long congress. Susan's last meeting as an IHEU board member will be in London in August, and she is not running for re-election and invited other AHA board members to consider joining. She is attending a board meeting in Brussels next week, and the IHEU executive committee will be meeting in Washington DC this Memorial Day weekend and holding their meeting at the AHA office.

8. Schedule board meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Wednesday evening June 7 and Thursday morning June 8 in Charleston.

The next in-person AHA board meeting will take place on June 7 (closed meeting) and June 8 (open meeting) in conjunction with the 2017 Annual Conference in Charleston, South Carolina. Dinner will likely take place at 6:00pm on June 7, with the closed session of the board meeting occurring immediately after. Board members asked questions about timing and logistics.

9. New business

Sunil was satisfied with the discussion about the staff union. No further new business.

Sunil moved to adjourn the board meeting. Ian seconded. Approved by consensus.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09pm.