

Humanists of Linn County—November board meeting

VISION: We envision a world where being good without a god is an accepted and respected way of life, where science, reason, compassion, and creativity guide both public policy and personal accountability and where contributions to the greater good of humanity and the planet allow all individuals to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment.

MISSION: Our mission is to create a supportive and vibrant non-theist community in Eastern Iowa through secular education, community and political activism and the promotion of reason, compassion and critical thinking.

The November meeting of the Humanists of Linn County was held on 11/15/2018..
The president called the meeting to order at 6:10; a quorum was present.

- I. Minutes of annual members meeting. A motion to approve was made by Beth and the motion passed.
- II. Minutes of the October board meeting. A motion to approve was made by Dennis and the motion passed.
- II. Treasurer's Report: current balance is \$5256.64 with outstanding amount of \$152.93 to be paid for Carl Sagan party. HLC has filed a 990N (nonprofit business)with the IRS. A donor box on HLC website (hlcia.org) will be used for processing donations. The PO BOX key has been obtained from Joe and given to Marcia; recurring payments have been set up for rental. Marcia will now check the PO BOX.
- III. Workgroup/Committee Reports
 - A. **Workplace** (a Facebook productivity product) arranges projects by workgroups. Members are assigned to a workgroup to work on a project and are only able to use Workplace if assigned to a workgroup; i.e. this is not a public forum. The way to use this format is a work in progress with Alan aligning workgroups and members as we get started. Every board member should be on a work group. If you have ideas for a workgroup or interest in forming a workgroup, do so or talk to Alan or a member of the existing work group.
 - B. **HLC 2019 Calendar of Events**
 - ❖ Location of calendar--discussion revealed that the board and the members may need 2 different calendars. The board calendar may be private and on the website or Memberplanet with reminders of annual events and schedules for preparations needed. Event posting on other media sites (FB, MeetUp, etc.) seems to be working well for members. We will try to expand the number and or type of events as we get feedback from members at the annual or other member meetings.
 - C. **Annual Symposium**
 - ❖ Anthony Magnabosco has been chosen as speaker for Annual Symposium. His topic is Street Epistemology-- strategies for examining how people have come to hold their particular beliefs using conversations based on knowledge and reason. Resulting difficult conversations need not be about religion but the same techniques may be applied Expenses: Mr. Magnabosco requires \$250 donation to nonprofit he's forming plus travel, room, venue costs. Format: 45 minutes talk on how to change people's minds; lunch; training session for difficult conversations. Venue: Prairiewoods in Hiawatha is reserved for 10am to 2 pm. An extra room has been reserved in anticipation of child care needs. Total budget with lunch will be about \$2000. The event post will request an RSVP with tickets on members planet to allow for planning. There will be no charge for tickets; donations will be accepted.
 - ❖ Recruited a non board member for Symposium Workgroup - AJ Plummer
 - ❖ Reserved event location and date: Prairiewoods March 30th
 - ❖ Motions related to symposium: A motion to proceed with booking Anthony Magnabosco contingent on his suggested charitable organization was made by Beth and the motion carried.. A motion to cap the symposium budget at \$2000 was made by Hayley and the motion carried. A motion to provide the speaker with a room at Prairiewoods will be put to the board after the accommodations are verified acceptable by a site visit.
 - D. **Social Justice Advocacy Workgroup**

- ❖ Reason on the Hill for 2019 update--Date of the event is March 18, 2019. The entire capitol rotunda has been reserved. Tables will be organized with information regarding issues to discuss with legislators. Liz Bennet will help get invocation organized.
- ❖ Tyler, Rory Moe (IAF and Iowa CoR) and Justin Scott (state director of American Atheists) are members of the Workgroup. Invitations will be sent to atheist organizations in the state. These may be social or political so may or may not be interested. Beth will help with communication with these other groups.
- ❖ Discuss social justice issues identified at Annual Meeting
 - Many issues identified such as LGBTQ advocacy, immigration, hospice, after-school programs, domestic violence, crisis-pregnancy centers, addiction counseling, environment, and criminal justice reform
 - Strategy for Identifying events and organizations to support is needed will be determined by Social Justice Workgroup. The workgroup will then communicate with members.
 - Define support--we provide structure for the community or do we attend events organized by existing groups? Envision choosing top one or two most supported suggestions.
 - More communication with members is needed to determine their idea of support.
 - Survey on Facebook? elsewhere?
 - Discussion at Coffee?
 - Marcia will call a meeting of the Social Justice group. (Beth, Tyler, Marcia) Member planet has survey capacity that may be helpful for this.

G. Tyler: **Website and Social Media**

- ❖ Update on transfer of Joe's administrative duties to Tyler
 - Email addresses: linking a public email address like president@hclia.org to a personal email address of the person holding the office or position at this time has been done.
 - Note that 'replies' will be from the personal email address, not hclia.org email. To maintain privacy, we will need to learn the procedure to respond from the office or position email.
 - There is a 'contact at' address that only goes to a subset of board members to handle general inquiries and email errors.
- ❖ Posting of minutes to website
 - Minutes are currently posted in Meet Up, but several reorganizations of the MeetUp site by their administrators has made this increasingly more difficult and minutes are now located in several places even on the MeetUp site. Difficult to find.
 - Minutes are also posted in Workplace for officers but there is no member access there.
 - Tyler will work with Connie to post minutes on the website
 - Dues paying members with password access will have access to minutes so this will probably use member planet.
 - Dues paying members can be placed on a custom email list in MeetUp.
 - This list is ready to use to mail minutes directly to members, a suggestion made by several members.
 - Custom email lists in Meet Up can also be made to notify whether dues are up to date. Member planet may take over some of these functions. Work in progress.
- ❖ Donation sites for end of year giving. Tyler has built a page asking for donations to cover recurring expenses like PO box, MeetUp subscriptions etc. Other donations could include Science in Schools or projects of choice. The donation progress could be shown as a progress bar for each different donation fund. The goal is to have this ready for 2019 roll out of website.
 - Note memberplanet functionality mostly related to dues: membership 'button', instant dues paying possible, dues tracking, reminders with recurring annual payments possible. There are administrative fees associated with memberplanet.
 - Current donate button on website goes through Donor Box, no fees, 100% of donations to HLC up to a cap per month (\$1000?). PayPal is also linked to this button. This is for fundraising.

H. **Volunteer and Partner Relations Workgroup**

- ❖ Willis Dady--Connie was approached by a member asking if there were opportunities to serve Thanksgiving Dinner to people in need. Connie contacted Willis Dady and learned that plans are being made for such a dinner at the homeless shelter. She proposed posting a sign up for menu items and whatever we can donate we will; we will not be responsible for the entire meal on this short notice. The donate button appears functional so we may be able to get cash donations for this purpose as well. The board approved this approach and Connie will work with Willis Dady to coordinate our help with their plans.
- ❖ IRCLC-tabled

J. Fundraising Committee

- ❖ Science in the Schools Project for 2019.
 - McKinley, Roosevelt, Wilson have received \$1000 each over the last 3 years. These 3 had highest percentage of free and reduced lunches. The award will now be made at the end of the school year rather than in March so that equipment will be selected by schools as they plan the following year's curriculum.
 - Discussion:
 - Resources for information to select recipient school
 - pros and cons of selecting a school vs preparing an application process
 - Should we support STEAM in schools vs Science in Schools?
 - Dennis will be asked to head this project.
 - Conclusion This year do Science in Schools and get application process worked out. In the future, can expand to other STEAM topics. Jen C and Paul P offered to work on this committee. A rough application should be prepared for next board meeting. If donations exceed \$1000 HLC can award multiple schools. Fundraising is usually in February. All donations made to HLC in Feb go to Science in Schools.

K. Membership Committee

- ❖ memberplanet functionality: membership 'button', instant dues paying possible, dues tracking, reminders with recurring annual payments possible. There are administrative fees associated with memberplanet.
- ❖ Post it Note activity from Annual Meeting is under review. Social Justice Workgroup is doing first screening (see above) but social and educational topics were also revealed by Post It activity. Feedback from members very valuable
 - Have more meetings with members such as quarterly meetings in addition to annual meeting; Sunday afternoons or Wednesday nights may provide least conflict with school activities as well as venue options.
 - Explore survey apps such as Survey Monkey to get further opinions from members.

L. Social Events

- ❖ Carl Sagan's birthday party: Event was on budget but would have gone over with better attendance. Weather a factor. Propose changing the date to get better weather (no longer Carl Sagan's birthday because there is better weather for viewing in late spring, early summer). Of note: a, Freethinking Families member is studying astronomy, would give a presentation or whatever we need. The group wants to continue a stargazing event but reschedule/reformat the evening. Ideas are welcome
- ❖ Upcoming social events What do we want? Bowling night? Early morning movie 10 am at Marcus theater daily. Connie and Hayley may try to set up a few spontaneous vents and see who could come (but holiday season likely busy).

Motion by Chris to adjourn was made at 8 pm. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned by Marcia.
Submitted by Connie Clancey, Secretary..