

Humanists MN
Board of Directors Meeting
January 13, 2021

Attendees:

Harlan Garbell (President), Suzanne Perry (Vice President), Dave Guell (Secretary), Jerry Smith, Marcy Woodruff, Christine Retkwa, John Walker, Seth Engman.

Not Present: Mitch Thompson, Nick Haylund (Treasurer), Ellie Haylund

Location: Zoom online meeting

Minutes

The December minutes were approved without objection.

Jerry described the new accounting treatment recommended by the finance committee (and which will be adopted) for pass-through income based on FASB-endorsed accounting principles which does not treat them as income.

Marcy reported for the social action committee various topics discussed at the January 11 meeting. These included: ACLU-MN priorities, Medical Aid in Dying, environmental/climate crisis issues, Ranked Choice Voting, Secular State of America Scorecard for MN, how to best communicate with our members about social action events and opportunities, and how to engage voters to contact legislators to express the importance and power of secular and humanist values. Christine discussed holding a MeetUp for ranked choice voting and environmental causes. Harlan discussed making Humanists a voice for anti-facism.

Suzanne reported for the communications team that they purged about 2000 MeetUp members, anyone not active since January 2018. She reported that the Marketing team will meet soon to consider various marketing approaches.

Harlan discussed how to expand beyond our natural boundaries. Suzanne expressed a belief that we are limited by “people power”, time and energy of volunteer members to carryout key work needed to achieve our strategic goals. Jerry advocated spending money on specific events and efforts and with partners that align with organizational values and promote Humanists, and not on general marketing efforts directed only at increasing brand awareness. Seth suggested sponsoring an educational scholarship. Harlan proposed and there was significant discussion of the idea of bringing more prominent speakers in to our community gatherings and beefing up the program/speakers committee. The idea of sponsoring a Humanist conference was also discussed extensively, as was participating in the Day of Reason at the Minnesota legislature.

Jerry described a change to the by-laws that he recommends that would require the treasurer conduct an audit of current assets at the beginning of each two year term as Treasurer. Harlan also suggested having the secretary be responsible for maintaining a single repository of documents

Adjourned at 8:50pm.