

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 (via zoom)

ATTENDEES

Jerry Smith, Mitch Thompson (Secretary), Harlan Garbell (President), John Walker (Treasurer), Christine Retkwa, David Guell, Marcy Woodruff, Suzanne Perry, Seth Engman, Ellie Haylund,

Absent: Nick Haylund

Routine Business

Called to order @ 7:10 PM

April minutes approved by acclimation

Old Business

Reports from Committees/Team

*** Financial Report (John)**

- More money is coming in from Stripe than usual, probably drive by the membership drive.
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Action: John is going to check with organizations similar to ours about where they invest to get a better return on our money.

Action: John is going to check in on using I-Bonds. (We may not qualify)

*** Marketing Team (Suzanne/Ellie)**

- Membership Drive
 - A lot of engagement on social media during the campaign.
 - Thirty-two members were added by the drive.
 - Some new and some rejoining
 - A lot of members came from Meet Up and were already aware of us but by creating more awareness people were prompted to join it.
 - Posts on billboards on social media got a very high response.

Action: Plan an event for new members.

- **Day of Reason**

- Low lights
 - COVID cost us some speakers
- Highlights
 - New legislators spoke
 - Discussion followed on creating a Secular Caucus in the legislature. Rep. Bierman said he would be interested.
 - Representatives of nonmetro freethought groups attended.
- We had too much food
 - Donuts were a hit
- Sarah Levin discussed doing an event earlier in the legislative session to rally support versus waiting until the Day of Reason May timeline.
- Gender Justice and Out Front want us to help with a survey on religion.

Humanists In Action (Christine/Marcy)

- Numerous events are scheduled and have happened
- Committee had a meeting in May
 - QR codes for registering to vote
 - Friends of the Mississippi has been a strong connection that is helping get our name out in a positive way.
 - Hygiene kits for unsheltered people
- T-shirt update - inventory is getting low
 - Gave away many as part of the member drive
 - Policy before was to give anyone a free t-shirt to anyone volunteering
 - The proposal now is to only give out to dues-paying members

Media/Tech (Dave) -

- **Stripe card readers**
 - Start at \$60 and go up to \$250
 - 2.7 % plus 5 cents
 - Would need to pay for a POS service
 - Connect via blue tooth
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New Business

Note; storms knocked out power stopping the meeting during the discussion of Just Members. Topics were pushed or discussed via e-mail.

Annual Meeting Saturday, May 21 - Harlan

- Board covered logistics.

Just Members - Harlan

Action: Determine if keeping a Members Only Meet Up Group is helpful or counterproductive.

Camp Quest -

Action: Determine how much matching the board will do for Camp Quest.

- **Summer and Beyond**

Action: Determine a date for a summer retreat

Notes from Harlan

Farewell to Marcy and Christine

As you know, Christine and Marcy are not seeking another term on the board. Although they have indicated they will still stay active with Humanists In Action activities, they will be greatly missed as board members. They have added so much to our organization. There would hardly be any HMN social action or community service projects without their efforts. Plus, they are two of the finest people I know.

If we maintain our past customs, there should be a board retreat this summer. However, I will not be leading it. Although I have one year left in my current term as president, I have decided to resign my position as president of HumanistsMN. The effective date of this resignation shall be 5/21/22 at the end of the Annual Meeting. This is my notice to the board as required by the bylaws.

I have discussed this with Ellie, and she will assume the office of president of the organization at that time. Because of her other commitments she will look to the board for support. Please help her in this new endeavor. I will also be available to assist if I can.

The reason for my resigning at this time is that I have had health issues that I will need to deal with and I don't think I will have the energy and stamina to lead the organization with the vigor it requires going forward. Thankfully, these are not life-threatening issues but they have limited my physical and mental abilities significantly.

I have enjoyed working with the board over the last seven years, the last three as president. It has been a privilege to work with such dedicated people who give their time and energy so freely. You folks are the best!

Thanks much!

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Next Meeting: TBD