



Humanists & Freethinkers of Cape Fear

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting, January 14, 2016

Members in Attendance: Michael Warren, President; Jane Nelson, Vice President; Anne Rose, Secretary; Nancy Bair, and Susanne Werner.

Incoming Board Members: Doc Hamm, Al Bourbeau.

Mike called the meeting to order at 12:36 P.M. and reviewed the agenda. Ron Cochran, Treasurer, joined the meeting.

Election of Officers: Mike Werner suggested that a slate of officers be proposed, as opposed to voting on each individual office. There was general agreement and discussion ensued. Ron Cochran moved that following officers be elected: Anne Rose, President; Jane Nelson, Vice President; Ron Cochran, Treasurer; Doc Hamm, Secretary. Al Bourbeau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mike Werner turned the meeting over to incoming president, Anne Rose. Anne thanked Mike for his service and for guiding the board through a tumultuous year.

Approval of Minutes: Doc Hamm moved to approve the December meeting minutes. Jane Nelson seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ron Cochran distributed the Treasurer's Report dated Jan 13 2016, reflecting current checking balance of \$5632, capital account balance of \$1490, total credits of \$398 for December, and total debits of \$140 for December. Ron noted that he and Anne will meet to add her signature to the HFCE account at South State Bank. Ron said that he has a new HFCE debit card on hand, and that the associated billing zip code is his home address and the name on the card is his.

Ron and Jane Nelson reported on the switch to Quicken Pro Home & Business instead of Quickbooks. Doc Hamm moved to approve the \$54 purchase price for Quicken, and Nancy Bair seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Anne added that Priscilla and Raoul "Reb" Rebillard have volunteered to help with financial statements, fund accounting and budget. Ron said that he had made a preliminary pass at developing a budget, but would wait for assistance and the Quicken installation.

Membership Report: Susanne Werner reported that HFCE has 52 paid members (6 new in Dec/Jan) and 45 lapsed members. Susanne said that 25 of the lapsed members are possible renewals. She asked board members to review the membership spreadsheet and flag any members who should receive a second renewal letter. Discussion ensued. Doc Hamm encouraged the board to continually invite meeting attendees to engage with and join HFCE. Doc stated that he would personally underwrite membership dues for any young people who cannot afford to join the organization but have expressed an interest in doing so. Mike Werner said that HFCE policy in the past has been to discount membership dues for anyone who is unable to pay, and it was generally agreed that this would continue going forward.

MLK Day Parade: Susanne distributed the parade route map and reviewed parade day logistics. She said that about 10 members are expected to walk with the HFCE banner. She said that HFCE will give attendees t shirts as a thank you for attending, and that she has AHA pens, stickers and bookmarks as giveaways. Susanne said that she is open to lunch and basketball game plans immediately following the parade and that she will coordinate for anyone interested.

Special Program/John Loftus: Mike Werner gave background on the atheist-Christian debates. He reported that he is firming up details for a March 16th 7pm debate featuring John Loftus, an ex-minister, teacher and expert debater, at Lumina Theater. Mike said that there may be a special class/discussion group on March 17th. He said that HFCE will need to help promote the event. He will update as available.

Committee Reports: Anne Rose asked for committee reports.

Publicity – Nancy Bair said that she is still working to set up the WHQR interview with Mike Werner. Anne mentioned that she responded to a SHEFinds.com request for expert quotes on secular meetings, with Mike Werner. Susanne Werner said that she will

coordinate with Nancy to publicize the Day of Reason and Reason Rally, which might include an interview with Rachel Lewis Hilburn of WHQR.

Programs – Nancy Bair reviewed the General Membership meeting schedule, which is updated on Meetup.com as plans are finalized:

February 14 George Felis – Darwin Day Program and Potluck Dinner
March 6 Andy Norman
April 3 TBD (Triangle Freethought Society speaker)
May 1 Open
June 5 Roy Spechhardt

Mike Werner said that the January 25th discussion group topic is Sartre, “Existentialism is a Humanism.”

Nancy suggested that HFCF hold a Q&A to get people involved. Discussion ensued and it was noted that such events are not well attended. Nancy said that she is working on booking a local artist to discuss art and humanism for the May General Membership program.

Anne Rose reminded everyone to work within the committee structure on programs, events and activities so that committee chairs are informed and can report to the board.

Social Action – Susanne Werner reported that FLARES donated items and filled 67 purses to assist homeless women, spearheaded by Page Rutledge. She said that the StarNews Conscience Air is Saturday January 23, 10-2, and that she has already coordinated volunteers and supplies. She invited everyone to participate. Anne and Nancy said that the previous year was a worthwhile effort.

Susanne reviewed the following calendar of Social Action initiatives:

Jan. 18 - MLK Day Parade – Mike
Jan. 23 - Star News Conscience Fair, 10am-2pm, CFCC Schwartz Center - Amber
March 29 – 5th Tues Mother Hubbard - Jane
April TBD - First Lego League (5th grade Freeman Elementary School) - Susanne
April 8-10 – Azalea Festival booth – Ron and Susanne
April 23, Saturday - Wilmington Earth Day Festival - Amber
April 23, Saturday - Work on Wilmington – Susanne
May 5 – Day of Reason day sponsorship on WHQR, paid up and scheduled - Susanne
May 31 – 5th Tues Mother Hubbard - Jane
June tba – SCNC Lobby Day - Susanne
August 30 - 5th Tues Mother Hubbard - Jane
Nov. 29 – 5th Tues Mother Hubbard – Jane

Susanne and Jane Nelson will order ladies logo t shirts and additional sizes in the regular logo t shirts.

Social and Fun – Anne Rose said that the committee will meet on Jan 30 to plan events for the coming months, including a Spring picnic at Empie Park. She said there is a January 27 Happy Hour at Waterline Brewery and a Feb dinner planned at Reggae Hut. She said that the committee will plan events at a slower pace, perhaps alternating breakfast and dinner events, and adding some additional time between functions so as not to burn out members. It was agreed that attendance at events is excellent and continues to improve, with new members at all types of meetings and social activities.

New Business: Susanne Werner discussed the AHA President’s Award for Humanist of the Year. There was much discussion and it was generally agreed that HFCF has a wealth of potential candidates. It was suggested and agreed that everyone would review the material Susanne had previously shared via email, and that nominations would be considered. Anne noted that the deadline for nominations is Feb 1.

Jane Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ron Cochran seconded it. Anne adjourned the meeting at 2:00 P.M.

Submitted by,

Doc Hamm, Secretary