

June/July/August 2025
Volume 35
Number 4

Summer Events

By Chris Matthews

Minnesota Atheists invites you to join us in person at our usual summer events.

We will be hosting freethought summer potluck picnics on Sundays June 15 and August 24. We will donate \$5 per attendee to RECLAIM in June and Camp Quest in August, so show up and support a good cause while you socialize with fellow freethinkers. See pages 9 and 10 for picnic times and locations.

We will have a booth in Loring Park for Twin Cities Pride on Saturday and Sunday June 28 and 29. Stop by the booth to chat or volunteer to staff the booth for available 2-hour time slots. We will also participate in the parade on Sunday June 29. Watch our Meetup event page for additional details on volunteer sign-up as well as festival and march activities.

Finally, we will participate in CONvergence at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Minneapolis on Thursday July 3 through Sunday July 6. We'll showcase our usual children-friendly activities.

Join your community at events of interest all summer long. We will resume our monthly public meetings in September.

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President's Column: Day of Reason

By Heather Hegi

We had a busy April with the American Atheists conference and the Day of Reason. It was so good to see the many new and old faces at the American Atheists conference. There were many great speakers and workshops. They even helped me refine what I wanted to say in my speech at the Day of Reason. We had some terrific speakers at the Day of Reason too. I won't go on here, please take some time and read the speeches from the Day of Reason included in this issue.



Speakers

August Berkshire, Emcee and Associate Chair of Minnesota Atheists

Heather Hegi, President of Minnesota Atheists

Ellie Haylund, President of HumanistsMN

Patrick Elliott, Legal Director of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF)

Mike Freiberg, Minnesota State Representative and House co-chair of the Minnesota Secular Government Caucus

Athena Hollins, Minnesota State Representative and House co-chair of the Minnesota Secular Government Caucus

Matt Lewellyn-Otten, Director of Religious & Community Organizing, OutFront Minnesota

George Kane, Past Chair of the Board and Current Chair of Public Policy Committee of Minnesota Atheists

Sandra Feist, Minnesota State Representative and member of the Minnesota Secular Government Caucus

Brion Curran, Minnesota State Representative and member of the Minnesota Secular Government Caucus

Steve Petersen, Director-at-Large and Founding Member of Minnesota Atheists

Cryptogram

By George Francis Kane

MPEXL, KCVK

IQUEQM GEXLCVX QWEJQKNQ EK GLPX EY XCUJ

ID CKQ GLC YTQPBY GEXLCVX BKCGUQJAQ, CM

XLEKAY GEXLCVX TPZPUUQU.

PRIZCYQ IEQZNNQ, XLQ JQWEU'Y JENXECKPZD



News and Notes Secularists Getting Schooled

By George Francis Kane

This term the Supreme Court will decide on the validity of the decision by the Oklahoma Statewide Charter School Board

to approve a state charter for St. Isidore of Seville, a parochial virtual school. When the court took testimony in this case at the end of April, the majority of the justices seemed to favor the school. In the 2022 case *Carson v. Makin* the Court ruled that a state voucher program may not exclude religious schools. It is expected to make the same ruling in this case with respect to charter schools.

The heart of the question the Supreme Court must decide is whether approving its charter makes St. Isidore a public or private school. Although Oklahoma law defines charter schools as public schools, St. Isidore is a completely religious operation like all others in the parochial school systems of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma

City and the Diocese of Tulsa, which have partnered to create it. Charter schools are required by Oklahoma statute to be non-sectarian, but in its application, the archdiocese declared that it would be a Catholic School and part of the “evangelizing mission of the Church.” Religion will be intrinsic to its instruction in all subjects. St. Isidore also will require religious exemptions to state requirements in employment, student admissions and discipline. Future church schools that apply for state sponsorship as charter schools will surely also demand these exceptions if St. Isidore wins this case.

In *Carson*, the majority held that Maine’s restriction on its voucher program to exclude religious schools violates the rights of the schools and the parents of the students under the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment, by favoring secular schools over religious ones. They are expected to use this same argument to decide this case. I think, however, that this line of reasoning ignores the fact that charter schools are made agents of government by the charter school

program, and therefore subject to the same constitutional restrictions that apply to all other public schools.

Compare the public school system to federal prisons. In the operation of those prisons, the United States is prohibited by the Constitution to engage in cruel and unusual punishment, or to deny its prisoners the right to defend themselves within the due process of law. If the government contracts with a private company or foreign government to maintain the prisons in which our criminals are kept, their contractor will then be acting as an agent of the government. As the government’s agent, the operator of the prisons is subject to the same restraints that apply to the government. The government may not subvert these restrictions simply by transferring its functions to non-governmental organizations.

I realize that the Trump administration is using precisely this dodge to ship immigrants to a prison in El Salvador, where they may be tortured or held for life without trial or even being charged with any crime. I cannot believe that any judge would not rule that *prima facie* the government cannot evade constitutional requirements by contracting out their functions.

The courts have applied this logic to define restrictions on the conduct of teachers in the public school systems. Teachers are entitled to their personal religious beliefs like every other American, but when they are in the classroom they are acting as agents of government. They may not then punish students for their religious beliefs, or require them to participate in religious acts, or exhort students with sermons.

Observers of the Supreme Court predict that they will require the state of Oklahoma to give religious exemptions to St. Isidore to restrictions that the Establishment Clause places on all government agencies in the U.S. Clearly, the government may not grant such an exemption to its own actions, so how could it be that they can bypass those restrictions by hiring a church to run its schools?

When the constitution imposes restrictions on government, those restrictions must apply to all organizations that it contracts with to act as its agent.

[T]he archdiocese declared that [the school] would be a Catholic School

Day of Reason Speeches at the State Capitol

Minnesota Atheists Associate Chair, August Berkshire — Emcee

Introduction:

Good afternoon. My name is August Berkshire and I'm the Associate Chair of Minnesota Atheists. Welcome to the Day of Reason, our alternative to the Day of Prayer. We have been hosting a Day of Reason celebration here at the Capitol almost every year since 2006. This year's theme is: "Rally for Secular Government"



240 years ago, in 1785, James Madison wrote: "What influence, in fact, have ecclesiastical [church] establishments had on Civil Society? In some instances they have been seen to erect a spiritual tyranny on the ruins of the Civil authority; in many instances they have been seen upholding the thrones of political tyranny: in no instance have they been seen the guardians of the liberties of the people.

Today we are "blessed" to have a number of great speakers, who I will introduce one by one. If there are any legislators who are able to break free from session to address us, we will move them to the head of the line, due to their time constraints.

Closing:

I would like to thank all of our speakers and all of you all for coming today. This concludes our Day of Reason event, but it's only the beginning of our "Rally for Secular Government".

President of Minnesota Atheists, Heather Hegi

Thank you for coming out today. It is so easy to be wrapped up in our own individual lives and not worry about things happening at the government. It's hard to follow it all. I tend to gather a little information here and there rather than follow things closely. However, the things that have been occurring lately have



become alarming and require closer following.

I have been alarmed by the measures being taken against the press and public broadcasting. Project 2025 has called for the stripping of government funding from NPR and Public television because they "hate the Lord." The Trump administration has drafted a memo to Congress outlining its intent to end nearly all federal funding for public media, which includes NPR and PBS.

This is a clear case of wanting to suppress the freedom of speech and discriminate against any programming that is critical of the administration and doesn't promote a Christian Nationalist agenda. These programs serve a public good and have earned their federal funding. That funding shouldn't be pulled for illegitimate reasons.

I attended the American Atheists National Convention which was held in Minneapolis a week and a half ago.

The first main speaker was Eddie Tabash, a Constitutional Attorney who has followed separation of church and state issues for years. He spoke about the Supreme Court and began with saying that this is the greatest threat we have ever faced. He mentioned a selection of cases that the Supreme Court is planning to hear, cases which they have no business hearing because the lower courts made the correct judgment call. This is alarming.

I just watched the movie "Bad Faith" which was a great summary and explanation of everything we have been witnessing. One thing I think we tend to lose sight of is that Trumpism isn't necessarily about Trump. They don't think he is infallible. The Christian Nationalists see Trump as a Pagan King who will make way for a Christian government. He is an instrument, a wrecking ball, that will break down our current systems to make way for their theocracy.

This might sound a little far-fetched, but you must look no further than the Department of Government Efficiency he created which is slashing government agencies with no regard to the effects.

While they are cutting programs, they are letting churches continue to be tax exempt despite endorsing candidates. Recently, the IRS has abandoned its investigation into a Christian church that endorsed a candidate for political office in 2022.

They want to outright allow tax-exempt churches to endorse political candidates with the “Free Speech Fairness Act”. This bill would approve electioneering if done through “regular and customary activities in carrying out its exempt purpose.” Endorsements would qualify as too insignificant to go after under the bill.

Minnesota Atheists takes the position that tax laws for churches should be the same as those for secular charitable and educational non-profit corporations. While churches and non-profits may take positions on public policies, we support the Johnson Amendment which forbids 501c3 tax-exempt organizations to engage in electoral campaigns, and prevents them from shielding political donations from taxes.

Another bill in Congress, the “Educational Choice for Children Act”, would expand school vouchers, creating a massive federal tax shelter while funneling taxpayer dollars into religious indoctrination.

Minnesota Atheists opposes voucher programs because they provide government support for church schools which drain public school funding.

So I’ve talked about the Federal Government, but we are here in the halls of the State Capitol. I think we are doing pretty good here in Minnesota. We have an Attorney General, Keith Ellison, who stands up for our rights. He even spoke at the American Atheists convention about Secular Democracy. I am also grateful for our legislators who value secular government, and especially for those who are a part of the Secular Government Caucus.

I was talking to someone from North Carolina at the American Atheists convention about some of the bills in Minnesota that we are for and against. She made a comment that there are actually bills being put forward that we are in favor of! Yes, there are!

Some bills I would like to highlight that we support are:

- HF 2588 / SF 3462 – this is a bill establishing transparency requirements for deceptive religious organizations, that masquerade as health insurers. Health care sharing ministries are tax-exempt religious organizations that pretend to offer products better than real health insurance, with promises of low costs

and caring for the “whole person”. These ministries have zero obligation to reimburse any medical expenses. One enrollee in a health care sharing ministry called about an unpaid \$60,000 bill after he had a stroke. He was told, “we’ll pray for you”.

- HF 2575 / SF 271 – is a bill to require that secular recovery options be made available to those who are mandated to undergo substance abuse treatment. We don’t want people pushed into twelve step programs that refer to religious concepts like a Higher Power or a God. Secular, evidence-based treatment, should be made available, benefiting everyone who needs this help, whether religious or not.
- And there is the End of Life Options Act we would like to see passed, HF 2998 / SF 3215 which would offer people with terminal illnesses, who meet certain qualifications, to have the option to peacefully pass on their own terms.

Of course, there are some bad bills that get put forward too, such as one to mandate the posting of Ten Commandments in every public classroom, SF 2280. I don’t think it will gain much traction, but we must be vigilant and make sure our senators and representatives hear from us. There are indeed people out there who want to make this a Christian Nation. So we must stand up to that and protect our Secular Government.

Secular Government Caucus Co-chair, Representative Athena Hollins (DFL) District 66B

Good Afternoon Friends! And Happy Day of Reason!

As one of the co-chairs of the secular government caucus, I have a critical message for you.

We are standing at a dangerous crossroads in our history. Across the nation—and yes, right here in the heart of the Midwest—we see the rise of movements that threaten the very fabric of our democracy. Fascism whispers through our institutions. Autocracy creeps in under the guise of “order.” And white Christian nationalism—an ideology built not on



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faith, but on exclusion and dominance—marches boldly into our politics, our schools, and our laws.

Let's be clear: this is not about religion. This is about power. This is about a minority trying to seize control—not through persuasion, not through unity, but through fear, through division, and through a toxic blend of theology and nationalism that has no place in a free society.

That is why secular government—true, unapologetic secular government—is not just important. It is urgent.

Here in Minnesota, we pride ourselves on our diversity. From the Somali communities in Minneapolis to the Scandinavian Lutheran traditions of the Iron Range, from the Ojibwe and Dakota nations to the vibrant interfaith coalitions in the Twin Cities—we are many, we are different, and we are stronger for it. That strength only holds when no one religion is given special favor by the state.

Secularism is the common ground that protects all beliefs—Christian, Muslim, Jewish, atheist, Indigenous spirituality—and protects us from those who would hijack religion for political gain.

It is not an attack on religion—it is the firewall that keeps the cross from becoming a cudgel, the Bible from becoming a ballot, and prayer from being twisted into policy.

We know the danger. We've seen politicians weaponize "God and country" to ban books, erase queer identities, demonize immigrants, and strip women of their reproductive rights. We've seen school boards infiltrated by extremist groups who want to rewrite history and science to fit their ideology. And we've seen attempts—even in our own state—to chip away at the wall between church and state.

But Minnesota does not back down. We are not neutral in the face of injustice. We are not silent when liberty is threatened.

Secular government is not just a constitutional principle—it is a moral one. It is the only way to ensure freedom of religion and freedom from religion. It's what lets us all live together in dignity, without fear that someone else's god will become our ruler.

So if they come waving crosses like swords and dressing hatred up as "values," we say this: Not in our state. Not on our watch.

We will fight for a democracy that belongs to

everyone, not just those in the pews of the loudest churches. And we will keep Minnesota a place where freedom isn't just preached—it's practiced and it's protected.

So stand proud today— in this day of reason. Not just in resistance, but in commitment. Stand for your neighbor's right to worship or not worship. Stand for your child's right to learn facts, not dogma. Stand for a government that answers to the people—not to preachers.

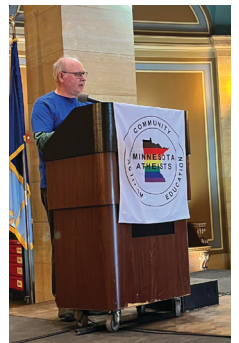
This is not just our fight—it is our duty. Because the moment religion and government become one, freedom dies.

Thank you.

Minnesota Atheists Director-at-Large, Steve Petersen

As we gather here today for our annual Day of Reason, we reflect on lawmakers who all love to talk about freedom and how they are for freedom for the individual. However, not all declarations of freedom are the same. Christian Nationalists want the government to enact their narrow religious perspective as established law of the land and use government to limit the rights of many of us at this rally. We say NO!

We wish to educate lawmakers that freedom and equality under the law are the only way to enable each of us freedom to be ourselves. Timothy Snyder in the book *On Freedom* makes the point that freedom comes from each of us and not the government. "When I see people who are atheists, secular humanists, and all the different religious believers even those I disagree with I see freedom. When I see people of different sexualities freely expressing and embracing their sexuality I see freedom." Snyder goes on to say that if freedom comes from "we the people," what then is the role of government? Well, it is to provide a safe place for individuals to express their freedoms. We want to tell lawmakers not to pick sides by favoring one narrow religious view, making them the government's preferred citizen. All of us are preferred citizens and should be treated with equality, fairness and respect. The role of the secularist is to enable individual free-



doms by not granting privileges for one group over another.

Those of us at this rally disagree with the Christian Nationalist perspective, The ironic part is, while Christian Nationalists want to suppress our views through government decree, we, who support secular governing, and do not want to suppress differing perspectives. All views, even those we disagree with, have a right to be heard. We would like to educate those who do not know us or understand us or who are afraid of us to understand that all of our viewpoints should have equal standing under the law. Discussions about religion, sex and politics are difficult but we need these discussions to find our common ground and find a way to remove narrow minded thinking. Diversity is our country's unique and special power. We need more voices not less, we need more openness not less.

I am a heterosexual male and with my partner we have attended Pride events for years. Why? Because these events are safe places for so many to fully express their sexuality in a safe and protective environment. Pride events are an example of freedom in action. Our atheist booth is mixed in with the religious booths. Attendees can stop and talk with any of us, and guess what? We all get along. At Pride events love is in the air, in our minds and attendees can freely express their love for one another, in a nonjudgmental atmosphere.

With our national political structure in chaos the abyss of the unknown, it is up to each of us, as individuals, to step up and make our voices heard. Legislators separate your personal religious beliefs from your rational governing; and our individual freedoms, as those freedoms are ours and ours alone. And if they are hijacked for political reason we will hold you accountable.

Minnesota Atheists Public Policy Committee Chair, George Francis Kane

Minnesota Atheists normally confines its political expression to opposition to government violations of the religion clauses of the First Amendment. These violations are now more widespread, severe and pervasive throughout govern-



ment than at any time since Minnesota Atheists was founded. There is plenty for us to complain about.

But in the current push to expand the authority and power of the Executive branch of the federal government, religious freedom is not the principal target. All civil rights are under siege, to squelch any opposition to presidential demands.

We are seeing billions of dollars in federal grants being withheld to extort private universities to surrender their rights over curriculum, admissions and the hiring and firing university staff. We are seeing the Department of Justice initiate suits to punish and silence law firms that have opposed the administration in court. We are seeing the government threaten to terminate the tax-exempt status of nonprofit organizations that have criticized federal actions.

The targets of this last threat include the national secularist organizations, such as the Freedom from Religion Foundation, American Atheists, Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the American Humanist Association. These organizations have discussed joining in a mutual defense network, but no one knows if the administration might even initiate legal actions designed to shut down the state level secularist organizations, such as Minnesota Atheists and Humanists MN. We must, therefore, be ready to move the focus of our concern for government abuses away from the religion clauses to threats to our existence based on political positions disfavored by this administration.

The local organizations take care to avoid electoral endorsements, as required by the Johnson Amendment. Ironically, the administration is trying to rescind the Johnson Amendment so that churches will be able to launder campaign donations through their tax-exemptions. But Humanists MN advocates for political issues that conform to their Humanist values, and Minnesota Atheists advocates for strict observation of the Establishment Clause, and so we find ourselves in political opposition to conflicting government policies. We may be required to fight for our rights to constitutionally protected speech. We are confident in this fight in the support of you, our members.

The Frosty Atheist

By Ross Meisner

I'm torn between desperately wanting to change the world, and happily hiding in my corner as the world passes by. As a Pisces (atheists all believe in astrology, right?) this has always been my character: like two fish swimming in opposite directions, I see the benefit of both going out and staying in. Standing up and staying seated. The big picture and the tiniest detail. In other words, forever second-guessing my choices and direction. (Yes, I can comfort myself by saying the best life contains both elements, but that's rationalization for another day.)

As a manifestation of the first urge — to help change the world in some small way — I humbly offer this new column, intended to be a regular installment of atheistic musings. If this column ends abruptly, kindly recognize it as a manifestation of the second urge. (Insert smiley face here.)

My goal for The Frosty Atheist is simple: to inspire. I hope to provide a small reminder of the wonders of life, the universe, and scientific thinking that dwarf any metaphysical belief system I know, and share my awe of the natural world, which can energize us more than any religious sermon ever has.

It's an easy lay-up, but I can think of no better way to kick off this column than to reference Carl Sagan's profound reflections on the Voyager 1 snapshot of the Earth, famously known as "The Pale Blue Dot," taken in 1990 from well beyond Neptune's orbit, 5.5 light-hours away. NASA was reluctant to try take the picture because looking back towards Earth from such a distance meant looking nearly at the Sun, which would blind the camera, but Carl was persuasive about the human impact such a picture would have. Earth's tiny bit of reflected sunshine was at the very limit of the camera's ability to detect, less than a full pixel's width.

Carl Sagan's brief reflection in his 1994 book *The Pale Blue Dot* captures the essence of what it is to be a sentient being living on a dust mote in an unremarkable corner of the infinite universe. It is awe-inspiring, mind-blowing, and incredibly humbling.

[Reflections on a Pale Blue Dot](#), by Carl Sagan



From this distant vantage point, the Earth might not seem of any particular interest. But for us, it's different. Consider again that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar", every "supreme leader", every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there — on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner, how frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds.

Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand.

It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.

And now Voyager 1 is 23 light-hours away — an unimaginable distance for humans, yet barely dipping a toe in the vast cosmic ocean.

Gay Pride Parade

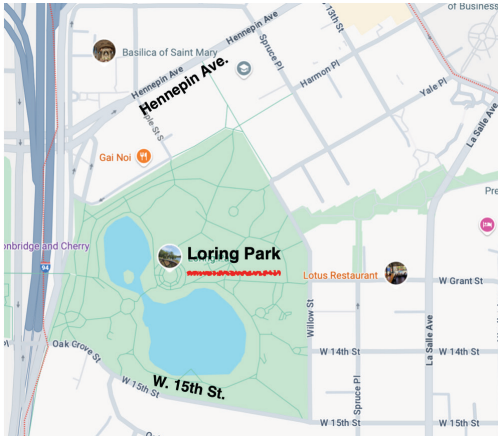
Sunday, June 29, 2025, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Downtown Minneapolis

The parade starts at 3rd St. S. & Hennepin Ave. and proceeds down Hennepin Ave. to Spruce Place.

We will also have a booth at the Twin Cities Gay Pride Festival on Saturday, June 28 and Sunday, June 29 in Loring Park in Minneapolis.

Check our Meetup and Facebook Pages as the time gets closer for more details.



Treasury Report January–March, 2025

By Chris Matthews

Donations

- \$250 Ajay Gupta
- \$250 + employer match
- \$200 Art Kallenbach
- \$200 George Kane
- \$150 Ross Meisner
- \$75 Lawrence Ronning
- \$70 Ben Zvan
- \$70 Michelle Tjernagel
- \$40 Geraldine Jensen
- \$25 Standard Heating
- \$135 cash, 5th Sunday fundraiser
- \$8 PayPal Giving Fund
- \$20 anonymous

\$1,493 Total Donations

Expenses

- \$1,286 Newsletters (printing & mailing)
- \$800 IT
- \$384 Parade / Booth
- \$225 Misc

\$2,695 Total Expenses

Current Building Fund – \$162,910

Summer Freethought Potluck Picnics

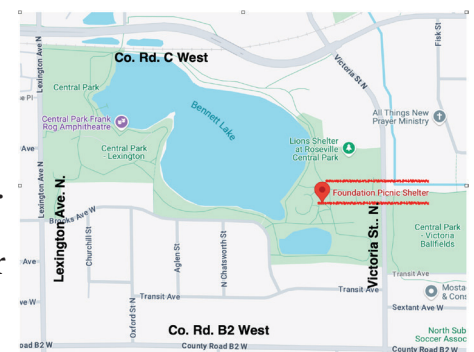
Sundays, June 15, 2025, noon–2:30 p.m.
August 24, 2025, noon–2:30 p.m.

Foundation Shelter
2495 Victoria St. N.
Roseville, MN 55113

This is a typical potluck picnic, so bring some food to share if you can. Or, feel free to bring food just for yourself, or just come for the camaraderie. Also bring your own (non-alcoholic) beverage. We will provide plates, cups, and utensils.

The shelter area has kitchen facilities including a sink, electrical outlets, charcoal grills, and restrooms.

We have the shelter reserved from 9 a.m.–3 p.m., so come early if you wish. The picnic takes place in a shelter so it will occur rain or shine!



Upcoming Special Events

In Person June Summer Freethought Potluck Picnic Sunday, June 15 2025, noon–2:30 p.m.

Foundation Shelter
2495 Victoria St. N.
Roseville, MN 55113

In Person Gay Pride Parade and Festival

Parade: Sunday, June 29, 2025, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., downtown Minneapolis along Hennipen Ave.

Festival: Saturday June 28 and Sunday June 29, 2025, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., in Loring Park.

In Person August Summer Freethought Potluck Picnic Sunday, August 24, 2025, noon–2:30 p.m.

Foundation Shelter
2495 Victoria St. N.
Roseville, MN 55113

Upcoming Monthly Events

In Person Bowling for Deities First Sunday of every month at 11:30 a.m.,
(usually) at Flaherty's Arden Bowl, 1273 West County Road E, Arden Hills

Hybrid Freethought Toastmasters Meeting 1st and 3rd Monday of every month from 6:30–8 p.m.
Larpenteur Estates Party Room, 1280 Larpenteur Ave W, St Paul.
freethought.toastmastersclubs.org.

Online Minnesota Atheists Board Meeting 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Email
chair@mnatheists.org for the meeting link.

Freethinking Females

Online 2nd Monday of every month at 7 p.m.

In Person Last Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m., Sweeney's Saloon, 96 North Dale Street, St. Paul.

Shattering the myth that atheist groups are male dominated with a females-only event.

In Person Blasphemer's Brunch 2nd Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m., Pizza Lucé, 800 W 66th St, Richfield

In Person Trivia Night Every Sunday from 5:30–8 p.m.
Venn Brewing, 3550 E 46th St
Suite 140, Minneapolis

For more events and instructions for connecting to online events, visit:

www.meetup.com/MinnesotaAtheists



The “Nones” That You Know

Morgan Freeman

By *Milo Grika*

Morgan Freeman (born June 1, 1937) is an American actor, producer, and narrator. In a career spanning six decades, he has received numerous accolades, including an Academy Award and a Golden Globe Award, as well as a nomination for a Tony Award. In a 2022 readers' poll by Empire, he was voted one of the 50 greatest actors of all time.

“God is just an imaginary friend for adults.”
— Morgan Freeman

Cryptogram Answer

faith, noun

Belief without evidence in what is told by one who speaks without knowledge, of things without parallel.

Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*

Get Famous (Sort of)

Send submissions to The Minnesota Atheist newsletter. Just email your input to: editor@mnatheists.org and we'll do the rest.

Minnesota Atheists Membership and Donations

Membership Levels

- ☐ Student membership *Free*
- ☐ One-year individual membership \$35
- ☐ Three-year individual membership \$90
- ☐ One-year household membership \$45
- ☐ Three-year household membership \$115
- ☐ One-year sustaining membership \$75
- ☐ Three-year sustaining membership \$200
- ☐ Life membership \$600

Donation Funds

General Fund \$ _____

I would like my donation(s) to be

- ☐ private
- ☐ public
- ☐ attributed by my name only

for reporting in the Minnesota Atheists newsletter and on the website. (By default, each donation will be considered private.)

Donations are tax deductible. Membership fees are deductible for the amount beyond their fair market value.

Student memberships include a subscription to the PDF version of *The Minnesota Atheist* delivered by email. Student memberships do not have voting rights and are not able to run for the board.

All paid memberships include a subscription to the printed version delivered by postal mail. If you would prefer the PDF version delivered by email, please check the box and provide your email address.

Please make checks payable to:

Minnesota Atheists.

Students, please enclose a copy of your fee statement or school identification.

Minnesota Atheists
PO Box 120304
New Brighton, MN 55112

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

☐ Just email newsletter Email address _____
(Required for student memberships and email subscriptions)

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Minnesota Atheists

Positive Atheism in action since 1991

Minnesota Atheists is dedicated to building a positive atheist community that actively promotes secular values through educational programs, social activities, and participation in public affairs.

Minnesota Atheist Board of Directors

Board Email

board@mnatheists.org

President

Heather Hegi

pres@mnatheists.org

Associate President

Alyssa Ehni

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Chair

Michelle Morlan

chair@mnatheists.org

Associate Chair

August Berkshire

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Secretary

Nancy Hertz

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Treasurer

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The Minnesota Atheist Newsletter

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Minnesota Atheists Affiliations

Atheist Alliance
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Atheist Alliance
International

American Atheists

The American

Humanist Association

Council for Secular
Humanism

The International
Humanist and
Ethical Union

Secular Coalition
for America

NOTE: The numbers for
“Regular memberships”
and “Life members”
are based on financial
data. These member-
ship numbers under-
count actual members,
since one household or
sustaining membership
could represent more
than one person.

Minnesota Atheists Membership

(as of Mar. 31, 2025)

Regular memberships:
71

Life members:
54

Meetup subscribers:
4,428

AWE subscribers:
1,187

Minnesota Atheists Goals

Minnesota Atheists practices positive, inclusive, active, friendly, neighborhood atheism in order to provide a community for atheists, educate the public about atheism, and promote separation of state and church.



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