



# NWA HUMANISTS

NEWSLETTER

October, 2016

## Letter From the Editor

You may have noticed that there is no shortage of religious organizations in Arkansas, and no shortage of people willing to push their views on others. That's the sea we swim in, and if you were OK with that I have a feeling you wouldn't be reading this.

NWAHA is a break from all that, a place where reason and civility are prized over dogmatism and obedience; a place where you can openly share your lack of belief without fear of admonishment or repercussions.

But it doesn't work if you don't get involved. Join us to clean a road, staff a booth at one of our events, march in a parade, attend a seminar, or have a beer at one of our social gatherings. Come out and say hi. We'd love to meet you.

And as always, feel free to send feedback, story tips, photos, rants, recipes, quotes, praise or abuse to your newsletter editor. Heap it on at [rpwhitby@gmail.com](mailto:rpwhitby@gmail.com). You won't hurt my feelings.

— Bob Whitby



**Got trash?** NWAHA newsletter editor Bob Whitby, left, and vice president Just Bauer spent a sunny Sunday morning recently picking up up trash on the organization's designated stretch of I-49. Though short handed, the dynamic duo managed to fill 12 bags in under two hours. The next trash pickup is scheduled for the fall. Why not join in the fun and do something useful with a Sunday morning?

## October Happenings

### Board of Directors Meeting

6 p.m. Oct. 6, Onyx Coffee Lab,  
7058 W. Sunset Ave., Springdale  
72762

### TRANSform Health Legal Name and Gender Change Clinic

Noon-4 p.m. Oct. 8,  
Arkansas Support Network  
6836 Isaacs Orchard Road,  
Springdale, AR 72762

### Humanists in the Pub

7 p.m. Oct. 12,  
Club Frisco, 105 W. Poplar St.,  
Rogers, 72756

### Humanists to the CORE

7 p.m. Oct. 28,  
Core Public House, 3775 Mall Ave.,  
Fayetteville, 72704

## Quote of the Month

***“Imagine what our country  
could accomplish if we  
started working together  
as one people, under one  
God, saluting one flag.”***

**— Donald Trump**

# NWA Humanists Headed to Little Rock for Pride Festival

**As regular readers** of this august publication will recall, we had our very own Pride Parade right here in Fayetteville in June. It was a great show of support for equality and acceptance, and a huge success despite being a touch soggy.

Well, as wonderful as it was, our parade is tiny compared to the Little Rock Pride Fest, which happens 1-6 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock. What started off as a small parade drawing about 700 people in 2013 has blossomed into a major event featuring bands, entertainment for the kids, corporate sponsors such as Burger King and the Little Rock Marriott, and more than 3,000 people attending.

It's big, it's fun, and your friends from the NWA Humanists are making the trip east to attend. We'd like to have a big show of support for our Central Arkansas friends, so if you want to tag along and carpool down with us, contact NWA Humanists secretary Kelly Beaudry-Smothers for info.

## Graven Image Update!

**Last month we** wrote about the Arkansas State Legislature's hotline to take public comments on the plan to allow a new monument inscribed with the 10 commandments on state grounds, and the proposal by the Satanic Temple for equal time (and space) for a statue of Baphomet, which is really cool by the way. (The [BBC did a great backgrounder](#) on the statute and the group who created it.)

The *Arkansas Times* followed up on the story and found that Secretary of State Mark Martin's office received 231 calls, 111 of which were anti-Satan and 36 of which were pro-10 commandments. Thirty-five callers opposed any religious monuments, 26 were against the commandments, while 12 were pro-Satan. Democracy in action.

Meanwhile, the idea to litter state grounds with monuments drew another proposal: a brick wall between the 10 commandments thing and the actual state capitol, thereby separating church and state. That one's not bad.

As of right now it looks like the 10 commandments monument is a go, while the capitol grounds committee has to decide the fate of the others. We'll keep you posted.

# \*Job Opening\*

## Director of Fundraising

**Do you love the NWA Humanists?** Do you want to see the organization grow so that it can more effectively spread the idea of being good without god? If so, we've got a spot for you on the board of directors. Due to a recent resignation, the director of fundraising position is open. Like all board positions, the job is voluntary. Your reward is in helping shape and nurture our organization. The fundraising director:

1. Creates projects throughout the year to raise funds.
2. Appoints a committee chair for each project, and supervises and guides the process.
3. Meets and greets new members, welcomes them to the NWA Humanists and presents the group in a positive and welcoming way.
4. Stays in contact with group members and board members as needed. Acts as ambassador for the NWA Humanists by presenting the group in a positive way and in accordance with humanist principles, connecting them with groups who share similar interests, acting as a bridge between the NWA Humanists and the community. **Interested?** Contact NWA Humanists president Tara Vaughn, or vice president Justin Bauer, for more info.

### NWAHA OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote secularism in government and equality in America.
2. Organize for humanitarian efforts – we regularly participate in local soup kitchens, shelters, disaster relief efforts, etc.
3. Provide a space where like-minded people can share ideas, stay informed, network and socialize.

### LOCAL SECULAR GROUPS

NWA Humanists

*[NWAHumanists.com](http://NWAHumanists.com)*

Freethought NW

*[Meetup.com/FreeThoughtNWA](https://www.meetup.com/FreeThoughtNWA)*

Fayetteville Freethinkers

*[FayFreeThinkers.com](http://FayFreeThinkers.com)*

Occam's Razor

*[UARKOccams.wordpress.com](http://UARKOccams.wordpress.com)*

Secular Families of Northwest Arkansas

*[Check their Facebook page](#)*

### hu·man·ism

An outlook or system of thought attaching prime importance to human rather than divine or supernatural matters. Humanist beliefs stress the potential value and goodness of human beings, emphasize common human needs, and seek solely rational ways of solving human problems.