



THE HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

June 2016

A Chapter of the American Humanist Association

<http://humanistsocietyofnm.org/>

<http://hsnm.wordpress.com>

president@humanistsocietyofnm.org

HSNM Meetings in Albuquerque

HSNM meetings are free and open to the public (unless otherwise noted.)

Saturday, June 11th

HSNM Informal Meeting

The informal meeting usually held on the second Saturday of each month is being suspended until further notice. Topical and Speaker meetings will continue as usual.

Saturday, June 18th

HSNM Topical Discussion 10:00AM – Noon

Can we develop an ethical framework that could apply to humanity?

Ethics? Whose ethics?

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, June 25th

HSNM Speaker Meeting 10:00AM – Noon

A Humanist Charter School Proposal

Ananda Parnell

Botts Hall, Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Meetings by HSNM Affiliates are held throughout the month.

For more information please visit their websites.

Atheist Skeptical Kingdom of Albuquerque (www.meetup.com/ASK-Atheist-Skeptical-Kingdom-of-Albuquerque)

New Mexicans for Science and Reason (www.nmsr.org)

Santa Fe Atheist Community (<http://www.meetup.com/Santa-Fe-Atheist-Community>)

Roswatheists (<http://www.meetup.com/Roswatheists>)

Next Speaker Meeting by Ananda Parnell, HSNM President

One of the greatest contributions to the community to which HSNM is dedicated, is education. For several years, we have been involved in scholarship opportunities and actively engaging the school board through discussions and questions regarding the policies and procedures that govern public education. Now we have an opportunity to take on an incredibly ambitious project that will provide a legacy for generations to come: start our own public charter school. We know that quality global leaders are not born; they are taught. And to that end, the members of HSNM have come together to spark initial discussion of establishing a Summerhill model of education to meet the needs of secular education focused on environmental, social, and

The Humanist Society of New Mexico
A Nonprofit Corporation

A Chapter of the American Humanist Association
Member of The New Mexico Coalition of Reason

The purpose of HSNM is to promote ethical, naturalistic,
democratic Humanism among its members and within its
community.

Officer/Committees

Ananda Parnell: President

Randall Wall: Vice President/Speaker Programs

Cynthianne Yabut: Secretary

Zelda Gatuskin: Past President

Richard Grady: Treasurer

Cheryl Gatner: Member-at-Large

Tara McCaughin: Member-at-Large

Subscription to HSNM Newsletter, published monthly, accompanies HSNM Membership or can be obtained by nonmembers for \$20 annually, HSNM membership is \$20/year (\$30 for two adults in the same household. Send subscription or membership request to: Humanist Society of New Mexico, P.O. Box 27293, Albuquerque, NM 87125-7293

Send Newsletter submission to: Editor, Randall Wall, Paragon2012@comcast.net. The deadline for Newsletter submission is the third Friday of each month. Website submission may be send to president@humanistsocietyofnm.org. HSNM dues are now paid separately from AHA dues, visit www.americanhumanist.org for more information about the American Humanist Association.

Humanism is an ethical philosophy that derives its principles from science and reason rather than theology. It asserts the worth and dignity of every person, advocates personal liberty tempered by social and environmental responsibility, and promotes democracy, compassion, and justice. It sees human beings as natural organisms, whose values arise from culture and experience and holds humanist responsible for its own affairs.

political ethics and understanding. Our goal is to create a platform in which humanism is at the forefront of driving global leadership for the responsibility of nurturing a changing world through quality education. It will be a long journey, and we can't face all obstacles alone. But with the support of our whole community, we can best serve the humanist ideals and create a legacy that will serve us long after our existence on this earth ceases.

On the Horizon

July Speaker Meeting: Babs Mondschein reports on the 2016 AHA Conference In Chicago.

August Speaker Meeting: Kristina Whitney from UNM Anthropology Dept.

Please provide speaker suggestions to Randy Wall - Paragon2012@comcast.net

Report on HSNM May Speaker Meeting with Gwyneth Doland
by Zelda Gatuskin

Local journalist Gwyneth Doland regaled us with tales of the Roundhouse - the good the bad and the ugly concerning our state legislature. She went to extra effort to bring updates on matters of concern to our members, education and church-state separation, although there has been little movement in those areas during this year's short 30-day session.

Gwyneth showed us how we

can stay on top of all the actions of the NM legislature through their website: nmlegis.gov. Look for the "Highlights" tab for any year's session to find summaries by subject. There are brief, well written, understandable synopses explaining each relevant bill and what happened with it.

Gwyneth explained that we have a divided legislature in which the House has a Republican majority while the Senate has a Democratic majority, but positions are not the extreme we see in national politics. We still have those "endangered species," as Gwyneth called them: conservative Democrats and liberal Republicans. This makes it harder to do anything rash. Our lawmakers do not do anything lightly, and Gwyneth has found them to be "pretty reasonable people [who] don't insult each other or pick mean fights." While the balance of power in our state government puts the brakes on the kind of reactionary policies we have seen being pushed through in other states, Gwyneth was quick to point out, it also slows the pace of passing progressive legislation. NM's relatively liberal position on social issues like gender equality came about over the course of many years of a Democrat-controlled congress.

Gwyneth also pointed us to the website for the Center for Public Integrity. There you will find report cards for ethics and ethics oversight in state governments. NM ranks 45th in the nation in Ethics Enforcement Agencies. Specifically, we don't have a single one! We have laws about campaign finance requiring reports to be submitted - but no one is checking them. The NM legislature has an "ethics committee" (for which Gwyneth mimed and stated that there are 'not air quotes big enough'), which is composed entirely of the legislative leadership, doesn't meet regularly, doesn't meet publicly, and doesn't issue reports on their meetings. Hmmm....

Every member of the NM legislature is up for election this year, so even if you're hanging up on the robo calls and tossing all the shiny postcards in the trash, make sure to do your due diligence and read about the issues, candidates and their positions online or pick up one on the helpful

pamphlets from the nonpartisan League of Women Voters so you can cast an informed vote.

Gwyneth's reports can be found on KUNM, PBS and other outlets. She really knows her stuff and is a vivacious speaker. Once again we had a terrific presentation (thank you, Randy) but not a very impressive turn-out. Please help us expand the audience for our 4th Saturday Speaker Meetings - education is our mission!

Reminder about AUSCS

Just a reminder that an exploratory meeting seeking to start a chapter for Americans United for Separation of Church and State in Albuquerque will be held on Monday June 6th.

Place: Erna Fergusson Library ((505) 888-8100)

Address: 3700 San Mateo NE

Date: Monday, June 6th

Time: 6:00 – 7:30pm

ByLaws Excerpt: Board Members and Responsibilities and Elections

F. Duties and Responsibilities of Board Members:

Compliance with Applicable Laws: The HSNM Board is responsible for assuring compliance with the Federal and State laws regarding 501(c)(3) organizations.

1. President: The President, when present, will preside at all meetings. All meetings will be conducted according to accepted parliamentary procedures. The President will present a proposed agenda to the Board at least three (3) days in advance of each Board meeting. The President will appoint chairpersons of all committees, subject to Board approval, who will serve at the pleasure of the President. The President may act as an ex-officio member of any HSNM committee. The President may speak publicly on behalf of HSNM in accordance with established humanist principles and may designate others to do so on specific topics. The President, with Board approval, shall

choose a knowledgeable HSNM member to conduct a biannual review of the Society's financial records. The President will be responsible for handling all correspondence but may designate the Secretary, or others, to share responsibility. The President will set the time and place of all meetings of the Board and of the Membership, and will give notice in accordance with these Bylaws.

2. Vice-President: The Vice President will arrange for speakers and meeting places, and will preside at meetings in the absence of the President.

3. Treasurer: The Treasurer will keep a record of all income, disbursements and account balances of HSNM, and will report on these at each meeting of the Board, and to the Membership when requested to do so. The Treasurer will submit periodic financial reports and an annual report suitable for distribution to the Membership. The Treasurer will deposit all HSNM receipts in bank accounts under the name of HSNM. All disbursement of HSNM funds will be signed by either the Treasurer or the President. The Treasurer will ensure that HSNM is in full compliance with all IRS regulations, and will retain all pertinent financial records for the time required by the IRS. The Treasurer will also register HSNM annually with the New Mexico Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Organizations. The Treasurer will promptly transfer all HSNM funds, records and account information to his/her successor.

4. Secretary: The Secretary will take minutes of all meetings where official business is conducted, which will include details of formal motions as well as the essence of oral or written reports made by the Treasurer, committee chairpersons, or anyone else providing relevant information to the Board. The Secretary will provide copies of minutes of meetings within seven (7) days for review by the Board. The Secretary will retain all records of minutes. Members wishing to see minutes of previous meetings may do so upon

their request. The Secretary will assist the President in initiating and responding to correspondence. The Secretary will promptly transfer all records to his/her successor.

5. Past President: The outgoing President will continue as a Board member for the two year term or terms of the next serving president.

6. Members-at-Large: Members-at-Large (MaL) will perform duties assigned by the President with Board approval.

G. Elections: Election of Board members by the Membership will take place each even-numbered year. The President will appoint a chairperson to form a Search Committee of at least two other members, all of whom have the approval of the Board, by July 4 of the election year to seek candidates to stand for election. The Committee will announce, in the August Newsletter and through other appropriate means, that nominations (including self-nominations) are being accepted for Board positions including four (4) officers and two (2) MaL. Candidates will submit proof of membership in good standing and a short biography to the Committee by September 15. The Committee may conduct a formal interview of any candidate and may recommend one or more candidates for each position. The Committee will arrange for the names and biographies of each candidate, indicating the position they seek, to be published in the October Newsletter. Sealed ballots, approved by the Board, will be distributed with the October Newsletter to all Members in good standing by September 15. Ballots must be returned by October 15 to be counted. Each Member in good standing by September 15 will be entitled to one vote for each elected position.

Votes will be tallied and recorded by the Board and those elected by a simple majority will be entitled to take office on November 1. Tie votes will be settled by a coin toss.