



THE HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER

September 2018

A Chapter of the American Humanist Association

hs-nm.org

president@humanistsocietyofnm.org

www.meetup.com/group-HSNM/

HSNM Meetings in Albuquerque

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

Saturday, September 8

HSNM Informal Meeting 10am to Noon
Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, September 15

HSNM Topical Discussion 10am – Noon
Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE
Social Media: Blessing or Curse?

Saturday, September 22

HSNM Speaker Meeting 10am – Noon
Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Early Childhood Education Matters

Judith Lavender, Michelle Croasdell, and Mimi Stewart

Meetings by HSNM Affiliates are held throughout the month.
For more information please visit their websites.

Albuquerque Skeptics

(www.meetup.com/ABQSkeptics)

Freedom From Religion, Albuquerque

(www.meetup.com/FFRABQ)

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

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

Santa Fe Atheist Community

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

President's Message

by Randall Wall

Summer is just about over, I can't believe where the time has gone! We've had some invigorating discussions this month and we're just getting started!

Our election cycle is about at an end and the search committee is in full swing! See the announcement later in the newsletter. It looks like some exciting developments are on their way for us! Stay tuned.

Also, you'll want to take a look at the speaker meeting this month. It's going to be a great one! Please invite your friends and everyone you know so we can have the largest attendance of the year for this one!

Next Speaker Meeting:

“Early Childhood Education Matters”

In our quest to find practical, long-term solutions to the problems of poverty and crime in our community, we first looked at adult literacy and the local program, Reading Works.

This month, we look at early childhood programs that aim to prepare kids to succeed in school: What is New Mexico doing in this area? Is it working? If so, how well is it working?

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

Randall Wall: President

David Stelle: Vice President/Speaker Programs

Cynthianne Yabut: Secretary

Richard Grady: Treasurer

Cheryl Gatner: Member-at-Large

Jeanette Smith: Member-at-Large

A subscription to the 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). Youth/student membership (24 years or under) is \$5.00 per year.

Send subscription or membership requests to: Humanist Society of New Mexico, P.O. Box 27293, Albuquerque, NM 87125-7293.

To join or renew membership on line, go to the website at <http://humanistic/join.html>.

HSNM dues are now paid separately from AHA dues. Visit www.americanhumanist.org for more information about the American Humanist Association.

Send Newsletter submissions to: Editor, Randall Wall, Paragon2012@comcast.net. Send Website submissions to president@humanistsocietyofnm.org. The deadline for Newsletter submissions is the third Friday of each month.

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 humanity responsible for its own affairs.

If not, what would it take to assure better results? And what can we citizens do to contribute to successful programs?

On September 22, a trio of distinguished professionals will share their experiences and insights in pre-K education. Judith K. Lavender, M.Ed., and Michelle Croasdell, PhD., Co-Community Outreach Coordinators of the New Mexico Association for Early Childhood Education (NMAEYC) work full time to advocate for early programs and for the professional development of people staffing these programs.

They will be joined by State Senator Mimi Stewart, Senate Majority Whip and Chair of the interim Legislative Education Study Committee.

Speaker Bios

Judith Lavender is a graduate of the Erikson Institute in Chicago, IL. During her 40 years in the field, she has taught preschool and kindergarten, mentored teachers, started educational financial groups for women, started an early childhood and family center, and always promotes a child's point of view.

Michelle Croasdell completed three degrees from UNM and has taught for the last 15 years in UNM's Early Childhood program. She has worked as an Education Policy Analyst for the NM State Senate and currently works on a federal grant at the Pueblo of Laguna, consulting with Early Head Start, Head Start, and kindergarten teachers.

State Senator *Mimi Stewart* earned a BA in Sociology and History from Boston University and an MS in Education from Wheelock College. She is a retired public school teacher with expertise in teaching reading.

She has served in the Legislature for 24 years. In her work with the Legislative Education Study Committee, she is developing a plan to coordinate the best practices from several

incomplete plans into a comprehensive pathway to improve the entire scope of public education in New Mexico. She recommends that we read a report titled "No Time to Lose," available at the National Conference of State Legislatures website, NCSL.org, and will have copies available at the presentation.

If there are ways we can help her promote quality education in New Mexico, she is sure to let us know!

HSNM Governing Board Elections

by the HSNM Search Committee

Randy Wall (505-379-5791)
Paragon2012@comcast.net

Carolyn Glen (505-503-6463)

Zelda Gatuskin (505-344-6102)
zelda@amadorbooks.com

Those of you who are on our membership list have recently received a brief announcement about the nominations process for the HSNM Governing Board (thank you, Cynthiaanne!)

Here is some additional information about the schedule, along with the descriptions of the positions, as taken from our bylaws. If you have not yet joined HSNM, or have not paid your 2018 dues, this would be a great time to catch up. You will be eligible to participate in our elections, and you will be counted as paid up through 2019.

Schedule

August 2018: Nominations open

September 10: Deadline for nominations

September 15: Deadline to receive dues from those wishing to participate in elections

September 15: Deadline for candidate bios to be submitted to the Search Committee

In your October Newsletter: Nominee bios, and for members in good standing, election ballots

October 15: Completed ballots due

October 27 Speaker Meeting: Results announced

November 1, 2018: New Governing Board takes office

Elected Governing Board Positions

President: The President, when present, will preside at all meetings. The President will present a proposed agenda to the Board at least three days in advance of each Board meeting [required to hold four per year]. 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.

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

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.

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.

Members-at-Large: Members-at-Large (MaL) will perform duties assigned by the President with Board approval. [Note: We will elect two Members-at-Large; additional MaL positions may be appointed by the HSNM President.]

Process

Please give serious thought to submitting your name or another's for nomination, along with your reason(s), to the HSNM Search Committee. Contact any of us for more information about HSNM governance and the open positions.

Our Bylaws state: "The Committee may conduct a formal interview of any candidate and may recommend one or more candidates for each position.... Each Member in good standing... will be entitled to one vote for each elected position.... Tie votes will be settled by a coin toss."

Other Ways to Participate

Did you notice that none of the positions above mention our Newsletter and Website? Our current board members have been doing double duty keeping up with these essential lines of communication.

Randy has been our Newsletter Editor for the better part of 12 years; Cynthia has done all of the Newsletter distribution and assisted Richard with membership records on top of her duties as Secretary. David was good enough to take on the HSNM website, and then he also stepped up to serve as VP and meeting scheduler. We continue to maintain our ambitious schedule for three meetings per month, and the meetings have been well attended and lively.

We have an ongoing need for publicity and outreach. Would you like to join a team to support these efforts? This would be a good time to jump in. Your willingness to assist will make a difference to those considering board positions.

Please contact any current board member or search committee member to inquire or comment about our organization and leadership, or to join or renew your membership. Your participation is important to us; we keep dues low so that we can have meaningful elections and operate as a democratic organization.

Summary of Minutes of Governing Board Meeting, August 25, 2018

Financial Report – Richard gave a verbal report; Formal figures as follows:

\$8,224 general fund and \$2,495 scholarship fund, for a total balance of \$10,710.
\$71.69 in the shares account.

Report from Search Committee for board elections–

Committee has assembled a slate of candidates. However, nominations for all positions are open until September 10. See information in this newsletter.

Scheduling Holiday Party – Decision deferred until we can get more information on the best date/time/place to hold the party.

HSNM on Meetup

In addition to our website, HSNM has a site on **Meetup.com** where we post our events. If you have not already joined the group, go to: <https://www.meetup.com/group-HSNM>. Below the picture there is a menu bar with a “Request to Join” option at the far right. Click on that and follow the prompts. It’s easy, and it’s FREE! You will receive notifications in your email when an event is posted. (You can turn off notifications if you find them annoying.)

Game Night at David’s

David Stelle, our HSNM VP, is hosting game nights at his place twice a month, on Fridays, from 7pm to around 10pm. He has lots and lots of board and card games – Monopoly, Code Name, Sequence – you name it – or you can bring your favorite. It’s a chance to relax, meet, and socialize with like-minded people. Events posted on Meetup as scheduled.