



THE HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER

October 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, October 13

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

Saturday, October 20

HSNM Topical Discussion 10am – Noon
Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE
Are We as Rational as We Think We Are?

Saturday, October 27

10am – Noon
First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, Memorial Hall
3701 Carlisle Blvd. NE
*General Meeting-
HSNM Governing Board Elections 2018!*

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

Is two years a long time? Well, it depends. If it's the time between seeing an old friend, it can be a long time. If it's the time between getting parking tickets, it's not long enough! How about when the length of time an HSNM officer serves his or her term? Just about right, I'd say.

That's the length of time I've had to serve as your president and along with me, the awesome board. Since this will be my last president's message, I'd like to take this opportunity to say how thankful I am to have such an awesome group of helpers.

Richard, for keeping us on financial track and not running off to Cancun. David, for helping with scheduling our speaker meetings, and Cynthia for being there to do so many things such as scribe, group communicator, newsletter editor and most of all, the one who keeps us all on track with the business at hand.

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.

I'd also like to thank Zelda for all her help and her assistance in composing our announcements and especially her calm and steady guidance.

I'd like to thank Charlene for filling so many of our speaker meetings with our outstanding speakers. And also Charlene and Allen together for serving as hosts for many of our social gatherings. And thank you to all you members and participants who've made our meeting so interesting and worthwhile.

It's been a challenging but wonderful two years and we're just getting started!

HSNM Governing Board Elections 2018

HSNM members in good standing are receiving a Governing Board ballot with this newsletter. Please read the bios and statements from our slate of candidates below and return your ballots by October 15th. Our October Speaker Meeting will be devoted to installing our new board and talking about HSNM and our plans for the future. Please come! The meeting will be held in Memorial Hall at the UU on Carlisle and Comanche; coffee and refreshments will be served!

Allen Robnett, for HSNM President

Born in Brooklyn, I did not cross the Mississippi until my early twenties. With a BSEE from Princeton and an MSEE from UNM, I worked at Sandia for fourteen years, but became

disenchanted with the contract administration work I was doing and with US involvement in Vietnam.

I took the required education night courses at UNM to become a science and math teacher in my mother's hometown (which I considered heaven on Earth) near Nashville, Tennessee. While teaching, I also farmed, became an instrument rated flight instructor, created commercial programs for microcomputers, and thoroughly enjoyed being with my mother's family in Tennessee.

My family was steeped in Church of Christ, Southern Baptist, Presbyterian, and Christian Science churches. My wife Charlene Baker and I recently "graduated" from the Unitarian Church and found our comfortable home and delightful company in the Humanist Society of New Mexico. We would not consider missing a meeting unless we happened to be out of town. From the start, we were interested in doing more than merely participating in discussions. We have expressed to the group a desire to see a focus on discovering what positive, practical steps the group might take in attacking the major problems of the community.

All would agree that crime is Albuquerque's number one problem. Crime and poverty seem inextricably linked. Recognizing that there is no quick cure for either, we have worked toward focusing on literacy and education in general as first steps toward getting all to buy into what we see as a desirable culture.

I would like to see active membership expand, though having a larger group would present problems of its own. I have some procedural ideas about addressing those problems that I will present to the group when necessary.

Charlene Baker for HSNM Vice President and Speaker Meeting Coordinator

Charlene Baker is a long-time Albuquerque resident. She has a BA from Tulane, and after raising four children, went to UNM for training in Nutrition and Dietetics, completing her internship in 1982. After serving as dietitian for long-term care and senior retirees, she became a small business owner, retiring in 1996.

She leads an international folk dance group, sings in a mixed chorus, gardens enthusiastically, and enjoys cross-step waltz with her husband Allen Robnett. Relatively new to organized humanism, she has roots in liberal religion.

Because she enjoys the HSNM community and finds her philosophy closely aligned with its principles, she is willing to accept responsibility for helping the organization survive and thrive.

Richard Grady, for Treasurer

I am a retired accountant and have lived in Albuquerque for 10 years, but I have been a member of AHA quite a bit longer than that. I love music, especially classical, opera and jazz, and sing in a barbershop chorus and quartet. I am a trumpet player who once played in the Tulsa Philharmonic. My other principal hobby is Tournament Bridge. I have three children and 11 grandchildren. I love movies and read voraciously.

Cynthianne Yabut, for Secretary

I'm a retired technical editor, volunteering to do my bit to promote humanism and thus reason and civil rights in New Mexico. Also volunteer with PACA, a dog-and-cat rescue group that works out of PetSmart. Enjoying retirement in New Mexico, with its great climate, scenery, history, and people.

David Stelle, for Member-at-Large

From the Boston area, David came out to San Francisco in 1984 after hitch-hiking through Holland and Germany. Earlier (1978) earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Windham College in Putney VT.

First time in Albuquerque was for 7 years starting in 1998 after earning a Masters in Landscape Architecture from the University of Oregon and spending a summer in Rome Italy. He returned here mid 2016 after living in several locations in SoCal and Bay Area.

He is interested in systems thinking, software development, user interface design, pro ice hockey (Bruins, Sharks, Avs), skiing, hiking, art, music, board games, happiness and generally having fun. Never religious, he sees this group as a valuable source of support and social connection for every one of its members.

Terrence W. Sloan, MD, for Member at Large

I am willing to serve on the Board of the Humanist Society of New Mexico and assist in any way that I can. I live in Gallup, NM, and drive into meetings on Saturday.

I did my undergraduate work at Adams State College in Colorado (BS in Chemistry) Medical School at University of Colorado, and trained in Internal Medicine at UCLA and University of New Mexico.

I served Native Americans for 41 years in the Indian Health Service (a single payer health system) and am retired. I am single and have multiple interests and hobbies.

I am a member of the American Humanist Society and Committee of Skeptical Inquiry. HSNM has been a delight for me.

Randy Wall, Past President (2016-2018)

The HSNM Past President also serves on the Governing Board. This is not an elected position.

Randy was born and raised in Artesia, New Mexico. In 1986, he earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology at New Mexico State University.

He has worked in a healthcare setting since and is currently employed by Presbyterian Healthcare Services as an Health Information Specialist.

His interests include the martial arts, science, popular culture and of course, Humanism.

Humanist Game Night

Four fun-loving humanists went to game night September 28. We played *Code Name* and *Sequence*, and ate cookies. Some even had hot chocolate. (We are a rowdy bunch!) A good time was had by all.

Next game night is October 12. Sign up at <https://www.meetup.com/group-HSNM/>

-Cynthianne