

SECULAR COLORADO

Hub | HOC | BA | FFRF | SA | SVC | AU

New Hub Board

Last month's Secular Hub elections came off without a hitch. But the real work was done well ahead of time.

A Nominating Committee had brainstormed and enlisted four prospective Board members. This was an outstanding feat. Three of the four were long-standing Hub members who had been asked to join the Board previously, while the fourth was a relatively new member who is doing fine work on a new website for the Hub.

The voting itself was carried out online, turnout was excellent, and all four were overwhelmingly assented to by the membership. Board meetings have changed to a new place and time, a new Chair of the Board has been chosen, and new energy is evident. Look for a fuller article next month

Inside

- 2) Boulder Atheists
- 3) Guest Opinion
- 4) Events
- 6) Contacts

Humanists of Colorado Innovating Again

Despite being the longest-lasting secular organization in Colorado (nearly 40 years!), the Humanists of Colorado is not stuck in an old-school temperament.

The last four years saw the most active people in the HOC help to found the Secular Hub. Three of the original Hub Board members came from the HOC, and until last month, all Hub presidents and half or so of all Hub board members did, too. This huge drain of energy away from the HOC and towards the Hub, while beneficial to Denver's secular community, was hard on the HOC, which saw its membership plummet.

Today more energy and creativity are being directed towards building up the mother organization again. As evidence, consider recent and upcoming innovative HOC events:

A few months ago, the HOC held the Hub's first-ever remote talk, given via Skype on the big screen from the presenter's home in California.

This month (June), the HOC meeting will be a class on Improvisational Comedy offered to the audience at no charge. (Sorry if you receive this newsletter after the June 12 event).

Next month, on July 10, another Skype-based presentation will take place, featuring none other than Tom Flynn, the nationally-known secular firebrand (Ever hear of the War on Christmas? Well, he is the guy.) The title of Flynn's talk will be "Who Are Those Doubters Anyway"

Join us at the newly re-energized Humanists of Colorado.

BOULDER ATHEISTS

Boulder Atheists maintained a booth again this year at the Boulder Creek Festival which was a three day event held over the Memorial Day Weekend from Saturday May 28th through Monday May 30th. This event is one of the most anticipated events of the year for Boulder Atheists and is always a lot of fun for everyone who helps staff the booth.

This year's booth was one of the most elaborate of the last four years. The back wall was covered by a 10 ft. x 3 ft. banner with this year's theme, "Supporting Religious Freedom and the Separation of Church and State". The front was surrounded by dozens of 8" x 11" Facebook memes depicting what we hoped were thought provoking commentaries on religion and a large poster in front of the table which read "Ask an Atheist". That poster seemed to attract a large variety of people to talk with us. While a few were genuinely curious as to why we didn't believe in any gods, the vast majority were very encouraging to our cause and thankful for us being there. It seemed as if so many people were in agreement with us and just wanted to share their story with us.

And then there were the ones who were genuinely entertaining, like the guy who honestly believed the earth was flat and all this stuff about it being round was a government conspiracy, or the guy who wanted to do a Google search to see if it was true that men and women had the same number of ribs after a discussion about Eve being created from Adam's rib. He did come by the next day to let us know that his research did indeed confirm that men and women do have the same number of ribs, 24. A special "Thank You" to all of those helped staff our booth this year.



Plans are currently being made for the Summer Solstice potluck picnic which will be held on Sunday June 19th at Martin Park in Boulder. Keep a look-out on Meetup.com for exact times. Because of the Solstice picnic there will not be a Monthly Membership Meeting in June but we will have our next regular meeting on the 4th Sunday of July at the Boulder Library.

There will be the regular weekly lunch social at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris in Boulder on every Thursday from 12:30 PM until 4:00 PM followed by coffee at Vic's Coffee, 3305 30th St. The monthly Dinner in Lafayette will be held on Friday June 24th at Ting's place, 1265 S. Public Rd. Starting at 7:00 PM.

GUEST OPINION

This section offers an opportunity for readers and members of Colorado's secular community to express their opinion on some topic, as the title indicates. It also allows us to improve this newsletter, enlighten other readers, start up a discussion, show off our writing ability, and generally engage in the intellectual back-and-forth so important to modern society. To submit a piece, contact the editor of this newsletter (Richard), either directly at a Secular Hub or Humanists of Colorado event, or through the leader of another group listed in the masthead of this newsletter.

Sweeping Floors, Not People

by Kathleen Hynes

Sweeping is what we do to floors, not to people, unless you are part of our city's "solution" to homelessness.

Harry Tammen, co-founder of the Denver Post, noted: "The public not only likes to be fooled; it insists upon it." And so our city wants us to believe the recent sweep of "homeless camps", as reported by all of our local news outlets on March 8, 2016, is genuinely helping solve this incredibly complex problem?

Of course we are not fooled. Most of us have swept floors and know you must put what you have swept somewhere. But the city does not put the homeless anywhere because they have yet to sort out a workable, sustainable plan to effectively address how to help one of the most defenseless and marginalized group of citizens in our city.

Instead, the city orders its employees to throw away what meager belongings these poor people have, including their food, while simultaneously forcing them away from a major shelter which actually does provide services. These behaviors do not support the city's official stance. The Denver Post on March 22, 2016 quoted Julie Smith, spokeswoman for the Denver Department of Human Services as saying "The city's goal remains the same to connect people with services, shelter and housing so they are not in an unhealthy, unsafe and unsanitary situation."

Really? How do you connect people with services when you deem them, and their belongings, deserving of being swept? How do you connect people with housing when shelter space and affordable housing is lacking? How do you connect the homeless to mental health services when our city under-resources them?

I doubt many of us were fooled by the city's latest demeaning and cruel attempt "to help" the homeless. But just to make sure the city knows you are not fooled, write or call the Mayor and let him know you were not fooled and want Denver to stop such counterproductive practices, because we know "sweeping" people does nothing to solve this complicated problem.

Mayor Hancock's phone number 720-865-9000

email: <http://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/mayors-office/contact-the-mayor.html>

SECULAR COLORADO

Events

[Details in Online Calendar](#)

Sunday, June 12

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

1:00 PM (Hub) Party Games at the Hub

6:00 PM (HOC) Potluck at 6:00, Improv Comedy Workshop at 7:00.

Monday, June 13

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

Tuesday, June 14

10:30 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

5:30 PM (Hub) Newbie Night

Thursday, June 16

12:30 PM (BA) Lunch at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: "Clerks" at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

Saturday, June 18

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

11:00 AM (Hub) Pridefest Downtown

More Events

[Details in Online Calendar](#)

Sunday, June 19

10:00 AM (Hub) PrideFest Downtown

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

12:00 PM (SA) Sunday Assembly at Swallow Hill Music's "Daniels Hall", 71 East Yale Ave

5:00 PM (BA) Summer Solstice Potluck Party at Martin Park, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Speaker: Dr. James DeGregori on Natural Selection and Your Health

Monday, June 20

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

Tuesday, June 21

10:30 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

Wednesday, June 22

7:00 PM (Hub) Biweekly Meditation Meetup

Thursday, June 23

12:30 PM (BA) Lunch at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: "TBD" at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

SECULAR COLORADO

Yet More Events

Details in [Online Calendar](#)

Friday, June 24

7:00 PM (BA) Dinner in Lafayette Saturday, May 21

Saturday, June 25

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

11:00 AM (Multiple Secular Groups) Summer Solstice Picnic at Cook Park

Sunday, June 26

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

Monday, June 27

5:30 PM (Hub) Social Hour Southeast, at D'arcy's Bistro.

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

Tuesday, June 28

10:30 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

Wednesday, June 29

6:00 PM (BA) Alter of the Brewpub and Distillery, at Avery Brewing Company in Boulder

Yet More Events

Details in [Online Calendar](#)

Thursday, June 30

12:30 PM (BA) Lunch at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: TBD at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

Saturday, July 2

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

Sunday, July 3

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

Monday, July 4

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

Tuesday, July 5

10:30 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

7:00 PM (BA) Monthly Evening Social at Murphy's in Boulder

Wednesday, July 6

7:00 PM (Hub) Biweekly Meditation Meetup

SECULAR CONTACTS

This page contains contact information for the groups collaborating on this newsletter.

Secular Hub

Website: <http://www.secularhub.org>

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/SecularHub/>

Humanists of Colorado

Website: <http://humanistsofcolorado.org>

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/humanism-160>

Boulder Atheists

Website: <http://www.boulderatheists.org>

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/Boulder-Atheists/>

Freedom From Religion Foundation

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/FFRF-Denver/>

Sunday Assembly

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly-Denver/>

Secular Volunteer Corps

(Organized by the Secular Hub)

Americans United

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/Americans-United-for-Separation-of-Church-State-Colorado/>

Newsletter Inquiries: Send articles for consideration, letters to the editor, or inquiries to:

info@humanistsofcolorado.org