

## **Camp Quest NorthWest meeting minutes**

**Keisers' house (755 SE 10th St., North Bend, WA 98045)**

**July 27, 2011 at 7:00pm**

Board Members in attendance:

President – Chuck Wolber

Vice President – Brennon Church

Secretary – Jami Blackann

Treasurer – Jerry Schiffelbein

Members at Large – Mary Keiser, John Keiser, Yuichi Shoda

Other members in attendance:

Baba Kofi Weusijana

### **Action Items:**

- \* Chuck: On the email list, change “organizing committee” to “volunteer”
- \* Chuck: Submit paperwork for background check.
- \* Chuck: Call Amanda about incorporation date and registering the name so we can do background checks, book camps, and other business.
- \* Chuck: Make sure volunteer list is up to date.
- \* Chuck: Work on Socrates Café.
- \* Chuck: Type up notes from CQ Ohio experience and send them to the list. Also, start once-a-week blog entries.
- \* Chuck: Contact Mikki Naught-Gremp about researching camp nurses and being our nurse next year.
- \* Chuck: Investigate why CQNW email addresses aren't working.
- \* Chuck: Contact parenting groups.
- \* Chuck: Confirm photographer contact.
- \* Chuck: Work on monologue about CQ Ohio for August event.
- \* Jerry and John: Talk to Ranjan about Microsoft lists. Advertise August picnic and encourage donations.
- \* John: Contact Dale McGowen about CQNW.

- \* John: Prepare to talk about CQNW at the Greta Christina event.
- \* Jami: Finish 8.5" x 11" flyer.
- \* Jami: Prepare logo for a dark t-shirt and send image to John and Jason.
- \* Jami: Send message to Seattle Atheists/Agnostics Meetup about August 20.
- \* Brennon: Contact volunteer list for activity helpers.
- \* Brennon: Email Sam, cc Becky about Ask an Atheist.
- \* Chuck, Brennon, and John: Stay in contact with Ask an Atheist for the show.
- \* Mary: Schedule North Bend gymnasium rental for November 19 event. November 5 is a backup.
- \* Mary: Contact South Sound Atheist Parenting Meetup.
- \* Yuichi: Contact Parent Map.
- \* Everyone: Blog content.

## **Meeting Minutes:**

**Start time:** 7:15 p.m.

- \* Previous meeting minutes were adopted.

## **Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting:**

- \* Chuck: Type up notes from Camp Quest Ohio experience and send them to the list. **[ongoing]**
- \* Chuck: Start once-a-week blog entries about CQ Ohio experience. **[ongoing]**
- \* Chuck: Contact CQ Inc. to nail down date for the board meeting and incorporation. **[will get back to us about date]**
- \* Chuck & John: Write press release, finish by Friday. **[done]**
- \* Chuck: Create send-kids-to-camp email list. **[done]**
- \* Chuck: Update both email lists with sign-ups from Fremont, Pride, and the Fourth of July Picnic. For those who didn't specify their interests, add them to the volunteer/organizational list. **[almost done]**
- \* Chuck: Set up campquestnorthwest.org email addresses for board members. **[done]**
- \* Chuck: Prepare for potential interview questions. **[not necessary, had a friendly audience]**
- \* Chuck: Continue working on background checks. Goal to have everything done by August 1. **[Chuck found the right service, which is SSN based.]**
- \* Jami: Final edit of press release. **[done]**
- \* Jami: 8.5" x 11" flyer, based on press release. **[ongoing]**

- \* Jami: Send message to Seattle Atheists Meetup members about August Picnic. **[still needs to do that]**
- \* Jami: Finalize logo design. **[done]**
- \* Jami: Gather information about T-shirts for August Picnic. Café Press? **[done]**
- \* Jami: Start putting meeting minutes on website. **[done]**
- \* Chuck, John, Mary, Shirley: Send press release to the public, Sunday night. **[done. Friendly Atheist picked it up, but it didn't get a lot of coverage otherwise]**
- \* John: Set up ChipIn widget. **[done]**
- \* John: Send Twitter account info to Chuck and Jami. **[will send soon]**
- \* Jerry: Count donations from Fourth of July Picnic. **[done. \$137]**
- \* Jerry: Communicate with Ranjan about Microsoft advertising, give him our press release. **[not yet]**
- \* Jerry: Contact Sam and Mike about Ask an Atheist interviews/mentions. **[done. They sent us information about how to proceed]**
- \* Jerry: Contact Rich about Living After Faith. De-conversion interview with Chuck? **[ongoing]**
- \* Brennon: Continue looking into Camp Waskowitz. Call and informally reserve the camp until we can check it out on Sunday. Reserve immediately if the deposit is refundable. **[done – amazing job. Both Kirby and Waskowitz are on hold.]**
- \* Brennon: Continue working on older kids' activities, figure out details. **[ongoing. needs to ask volunteer list for help]**
- \* Brennon: Look into doing a Socrates Café. **[now Chuck's action item]**
- \* Mary: Continue working on young kids' activities, figure out what supplies are needed. **[ongoing. Baggy ice cream went over well]**
- \* Mary: Include CQNW article in Seattle Atheists' next newsletter. Use info from press release. **[done]**
- \* Shirley: Put together material for her presentations. Will use content from the press release. **[not at meeting. Ongoing]**
- \* Everyone: Blog content. **[ongoing]**

### **Financial Report:**

- \* Net income: \$2,326.80
- \* We received \$137 from July Fourth donations.
- \* We've only gotten a few small donations through the website.

### **Board nominations:**

- \* Shirley was not present tonight, so her board finalization is on hold.
- \* Kofi declined.

### **Background Checks:**

- \* Chuck will call everyone to get their Social Security Numbers, then submit necessary paperwork. Destroy SSNs afterward.

\* Probably will cost around \$30 for really good check of board members. We'll have a separate check for volunteers

### **Advertising Update:**

\* Good job on everyone's parts getting the press release out to media and bloggers. The Friendly Atheist picked up our story, but unfortunately we didn't get a lot of press otherwise.

\* Dale McGowen (of Foundation/Parenting Beyond Belief) is another very relevant contact. John will get a hold of him.

\* Several members have gone to atheist parenting groups in the area to talk about CQNW.

\* SSA (Secular Student Alliance) has a lot of high school groups. We should be talking to them. Jen McCreight is a possible liaison.

\* Everyone should be making more cqnw.org updates. Keep an eye out for relevant news that we can link.

\* Ask an Atheist:

\* Who do you want to feature? **Chuck and Brennon, possibly John, too.**

\* Do you want them in the studio or via phone? **Studio show**

\* Do you envision a segment or a whole show? **Ideally a whole show**

\* Consider advertisements – **yes**

\* What's the goal (to inform, to recruit campers, to advertise August picnic, to solicit donations) **all of the above**

\* What would be the content arc of the show/segment? (history, founding, key people, motivation, current progress, etc.) **all of the above**

\* Advertising Strategies: We don't want to be confrontational. Educational, human response; free of dogma, warm and welcoming. Emphasize that we do not encourage people to proselytize, unlike a religious camp. CQ is ultimately an opportunity for kids to mix and mingle in a summer camp setting.

\* How do we make secular parents feel comfortable about sending their kids away for a week? Talk about actual activities.

\* Question that we must always be prepared for: Are you indoctrinating kids to be atheists? Explain the reality of the camp while being sensitive.

\* Memory of Norwegian massacre – be prepared for questions about this.

### **August Picnic:**

\* Meetup now asks question about how many kids are attending and what ages.

\* How can we get more attendees? SSA high schoolers, Microsoft atheist mailing lists. John to talk at Seattle Atheists' Greta Christina event on August 6. Libraries? Community centers?

\* Activities:

- \* Chuck - Icebreaker
- \* Brennon - Older Kids
- \* Mary - Younger Kids

\* Chuck said he has a possible photographer contact.

\* Chuck (and maybe his son, too) will give a monologue about Camp Quest experiences.

\* Will need a dress rehearsal sometime before the event.

### **T-Shirts:**

\* Jami's research: Because of setup costs, screen printing is only economical if we buy in bulk. Looking into prices, if go with a service that provides single shirts instead of bulk, options aren't cheap. Browsing several websites, the prices were in the \$16-\$19 range for a quality printing, plus shipping and handling. Brennon had recommended a process called Plot Printing. He's bought these shirts in the past and they held up well under repeated wearing and washing. [www.spreadshirt.com](http://www.spreadshirt.com) prints with this process, and their price for a single shirt is \$17.40. A place called Custom Ink offers Plot Printing, but their price for one shirt is \$18.75. Café Press does offer different types of printing according to their website, but even after creating a shop, Jami didn't immediately see where you could select a different printing process. They do have cheaper prices, but she just can't guarantee the quality.

\* In terms of quality, Brennon was very satisfied with plot printed shirts, but it would be expensive, especially if staff members wanted two shirts each.

\* In the future, it would be nice to sell the t-shirts to anyone who wants one. Problem: How do we distinguish Staff members from everyone else? Different color t-shirt? The word "STAFF" across the back? For now, Jami will make buttons that say "Staff" on them.

\* Ordering screen-printed t-shirts from Jason: This is feasible if we order around 20 or more. After discussing pros and cons, the board decided to go with Jason. There are 5 colors in the shirt, \$20 per color for the setup charge. T-shirt color: Forest green. Jami will need to alter the color of the text so it works on a dark t-shirt.

\* Sizes: 1 – S, 6 – L, 1 – XL, 1 – XXL. John will fill in the rest of the sizes to account for other potential staff members.

\* Would like to have the shirts by August 10.

### **Campground Selection Status:**

\* Camp Waskowitz:

July 1st through 7th is the only week available. \$100 refundable deposit required to hold it officially. We are currently penciled in for that week until mid-August, when we'd have to make it official.

\* **Camp Niwana**

Lots of dates are currently available, pending approval. \$600+, nonrefundable deposit is required to hold it officially. We are not penciled in or anything, it's first-come, first-served.

\* **Camp Kirby**

We're currently penciled in for August 14th through 21st, and they'll hold that for us until we get a chance to view the site. A 25% deposit + \$250 damage deposit is required to hold it officially. The camp should be available for us to visit sometime between August 16 and 20.

\* Discussion followed about the pros and cons of Waskowitz and Niwana. Camp Niwana would require a lot of work (rebuilding cabins, buying supplies, cleaning, repairing), in addition to finding our own food services (high estimate for catering: \$30/kid for food). Very small sleeping quarters, many of which are a little too open for inclement weather. Only one large space (the dining hall) to gather indoors. On the other hand, it offers a lot of potential for substantial service projects and the possibility to keep coming back year after year. Also, during the tour, Rick knew about Camp Quest and Harold Camping.

\* Waskowitz would be less overhead. Food services provided (big plus) and lots of large, covered areas for rainy weather. Has the outdoorsy camp feel while still being up to date. This camp has gotten a lot of good feedback from other people who know about it. But, again, the biggest problem remains that they're only available to us during the first week of July.

\* Decided to hold off polling parents about the July 4<sup>th</sup> conflict until we get a chance to visit Camp Kirby.

\* Suggested reading: Edwin Kagin on Camp Quest.

**Camp Nurses:**

\* Mikki Naught-Grempp has contacted us with a lot of enthusiasm. She's an RN who is interested in being our nurse next year and would also like to help us research everything that's involved with being a camp nurse.

\* Eilean Cabalo is also another good possibility. While we only need one nurse on staff, it would be nice to have other qualified professionals as counselors.

**November Day Event:**

\* We confirmed that we want November 19 for our fall event, with November 5 as a backup date.

\* Mary will call the North Bend gymnasium to schedule us in.

**Next Meeting:**

Gayatri Salunke's house (15812 NE 90th Way, Redmond, WA 98052)  
Wednesday, August 10, 7pm sharp

**End time:** 9:47pm