CFSA Meeting Notes: April 15, 2012

1. Welcome
2. Group Overview
   1. Mission Statement
      1. **Promote and educate others about secular ideas such as the separation of church and state and the 1st Amendment rights to free speech and freedom of/from religion.-** Awareness and defense of legal and constitutional rights, educating the public on various secular issues.
      2. **Raise awareness of the importance of science education by encouraging critical thinking, logic, reason, and use of the scientific method in order to explain our world and universe.-** Become familiar with basic scientific principles and methods, supporting legislation favoring science in schools
      3. **Provide support and education for atheists, agnostics, and secular humanists in need of assistance adjusting to secular life by offering advice about “coming out” to family and friends, tips for adjusting to “godless” life, and providing information to use to support secular arguments.-** Being the support base for those having trouble “coming out”, being open and honest about one’s own atheist experience.
      4. **To provide charitable services and hold benefit events to aid the citizens of central Florida.-** Show believers that secular Americans are morally good by doing good works.
   2. Membership Responsibilities
      1. Meetings- Not mandatory, but highly encouraged to show up. Bring some sort of refreshment for the group (no alcohol, please).
      2. Fundraisers- Monthly fundraisers to fund bigger projects. Members contribute money and/or equipment for fundraiser to cover costs. Participation is mandatory, pending an emergency.
      3. Events- ALL members expected to attend, pending an emergency.
      4. Rallies, Protests, and Demonstrations- Participation is voluntary, but highly encouraged. Confrontational or violent behavior at these events will result in **permanent expulsion** from the group.
      5. Group support- Lending an ear or some helping hands for a fellow member going through hard times. Active participation on the website’s forums is highly encouraged.
   3. Goals for the CFSA
      1. To become a 501c3 non-profit organization that has branches and members from Citrus County to Daytona, from Ocala to Orlando.
      2. To be able to earn enough income to hire members as paid workers, committee chairs, and directors of the board.
      3. To have a significant presence on the Internet, networking with other secular groups in Florida and the country.
      4. To garner enough influence to persuade Florida voters into favoring more secular legislation and the preservation of the separation of church and state.
3. Our First Cause
   1. Amendment 8- Section 3 of the Florida Constitution
      1. There shall be no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting or penalizing the free exercise thereof. Religious freedom shall not justify practices inconsistent with public morals, peace or safety. No revenue of the state or any political subdivision or agency thereof shall ever be taken from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.
   2. Amendment 8’s Goal
      1. Add the clause “No individual or entity may be discriminated against or barred from receiving funding on the basis of religious identity or belief.”
      2. Delete the “No revenue of the state…” clause.
   3. Why this needs to be voted down
      1. Allows religious organizations to receive state tax dollars in aid
      2. Allows religious private schools to receive state funds
      3. Does not mention if secular groups will receive same rights
4. Closing Statements