

# **BCHA AGM minutes 10 May 2015**

Present: 21 members

Presentation by Glenn Hardie on the History of BCHA

Called to order 10:55 am

Adoption of agenda: Colin moved, Gord seconded, carried

Last year's AGM minutes read by Ullrich

Adoption of last year AGM minutes Chloe moved, Conrad seconded, carried

## **President's report by Sue Hughson**

BCHA has seen a year in growth in membership since April 2014.

This has been due to an increased online presence, increased media profile, and off site events, such as the FVASH lectures and debate in Abbotsford, our presentation with Hemant and Armin, the increased effort and success in bringing more speakers to our Sunday meeting and our affiliation with INR. Although this has brought some mixed concerns as well.

We participated in Pride and will do so again this year, we backed DWD and BCCLA in their extraordinary efforts resulting in Section 241b of the Criminal Code being struck down.

We had a terrific picnic with our cohorts from Blaine, and renewed relationships with our fellow Humanists in Victoria. Marty and Joanne have established a working presence as Chaplains at Kwantlen college in Richmond. Kirsten and Goldis graciously host our popular and well attended book club, and we had another fun Solstice Dinner at Brock House where we presented Glenn Hardie with his Honourary Membership.

I worked together with CFI and this effort, building on work Ian had done in 2013, led to a cessation of distribution of Gideon Bibles in their schools. Ullrich sits on the International Coalition to Repeal Blasphemy Laws and they are making good headway. We continue to sponsor a young student in Tanzania, although our student is a now Magdalena Yohana.

All in all, a great year for outreach. On the financial front we did not fare as well. Despite my best efforts, and a great deal of hard work with Colin, we did not receive funds from the Provincial gaming grants. 3 Foundations have been contacted with no results, and I have written personal letters to 4 philanthropists with no return yet on those efforts. A successful mail out campaign helped us as well as the ongoing generosity of our members. There is also an ongoing online campaign for funds.

Please continue your support, and if you are a monthly donor, consider increasing your donation.

The last two years have been times of continuous administrative upheaval. My single most difficult task has been to keep our little boat on top of the water with 3 changes of Executive Directors and the unfortunate timing of losing our very good 2013 President, who needed to step down for personal reasons. I cannot thank Ullrich Fischer enough for his steadfast support, and willingness to take on more work through these upheavals, as well as improving greatly on the newsletter and

membership lists. Colin has been instrumental in improving our bookkeeping, now we just need to fill the bank to continue our work.

New Atheism got the public's attention in the last decade, however New Atheism lacks coherence and a philosophy. We at BCHA have a good core of intelligent thoughtful agents for Humanism and social change. I encourage us to continue to look outside our group and toward broader activism. Projects should be chosen that reflect the capacity and values of the organizations. On a practical level they should fit our scope, and we should also continue to dream big. I will encourage the new board of 2015 to continue vigorous fundraising efforts and to develop a strategic plan and operational plan that will help Ian with his work when he returns. We are fortunate to have him back, let's make the best use of his time. I am dedicating my volunteer time to DWDC for the next 2 years, but will continue to work for BCHA if requested as time allows. It has been my privilege to serve you.

## **Vice President's Report by Joann Robertson**

As Vice President, I took some of the pressure off the President by making up the Agenda for the Board meetings, and Chairing some of them. Along with other Board members, lacking an Executive Director, I helped with the General Meetings.

Under under Marty's (Shoemaker's) leadership, I became a Chaplain at Kwantlin Polytechnic University. We sponsored a World Harmony Day there with some success and look forward to the coming year when we will have time to make it bigger and better under Marty's leadership. We are also expanding to the Surrey Campus with Gord Leslie as a proposed Chaplain.

We continue to work toward more understanding of Secular Humanism with the other faith based Chaplains.

## **Secretary's Report by Ullrich Fischer**

Set up the board up with dropbox access, limited success, copied essential files over to Google Drive. Maintained backup archive of essential files and supplied them as needed whenever any board member found that dropbox not working for them.

Maintained the membership database, kept the BChumanist.ca website as up to date as possible.

Copied all of BCHA's current and past email contacts to a Mailchimp database along with official membership and expired membership lists to get around the problem with our old email system which was inconsistently getting the email out to everyone.

Wrote and distributed the newsletter and occasional special targeted email campaigns for things like membership renewal and announcing special meetings like the AGM.

Kept the Sunday meeting program schedule updated and confirmed for several weeks ahead in response to complaints that the newsletter wasn't always letting members know what the next meeting's program was going to be in a timely manner.

Maintained the Meetup.com pages for our Sunday meetings, Book Club, and special events like the Hemant/Armin meeting.

Maintained minutes of board meetings.

Sourced and purchased a projector. Ensured that the appropriate hardware and cables were available at each Sunday meeting according to the requirements of the meeting.

Sourced and designed, with assistance from Sue Hughson, our new banner, accidentally got 2 copies of the banner for the price of one. 😊

Annoyed almost everyone with my penchant for impatience with those who would rather not be overtly critical of religious doctrines.

## **Executive Director Liason Report by Dr. Martin Shoemaker**

In compliance with the reporting function of various BCHA board member for the AGM the following report is submitted by Marty Shoemaker, Liaison officer.

The major function of this role is to be a go between the board of BCHA and the Executive Director and to be involved with the selection, contract development and appraisal of the ED at the beginning and during their term of office. This liaison position has a term of 2 years paralleling the term of office of the general board so this report covers the second year.

Since the last AGM in April 2014, the following formal activities have been undertaken by the Liaison Officer with the assistance of BCHA board members and volunteers.

- 1) In January of 2014 a new Executive Director was on-boarded, Jakob Liljenwall, therefore several goal setting and priority of task meetings were held with the new ED in 2014, including two appraisal sessions where his performance was reviewed.
- 2) In late Fall of 2014 the BCHA board was deciding whether the financial circumstances of the association necessitated changing the ED's compensation and renewal for 2015. In these discussions Jakob had the opportunity to work for another employer so he resigned.
- 3) A new contract for a successor is now under review so that if and when a new ED is hired the contract terms will take into account current BC employment law and the functions of the board's experience with the ED role and its priorities. This is currently under development with the Board's treasurer, Colin and past ED Ian Bushfield who is returning this Summer.

Besides attendance and support of various initiatives of the Board, several other activities have been undertaken which are not specific to the above outlined duties. These include completing a year as one of the Humanist Chaplain along with Joann Robertson, at Kwantlen University. This includes student orientation, regular office hours for student conversations and initiating the first annual World Interfaith and Harmony Week event

entitled the “KPU Multimedia Festival” the first week of February 2015. This now has some significant momentum and is in its second year of planning.

As my 2-year term of office as a board member terminates at the 2015 AGM, my role as Liaison Officer will also be finished. The opportunity to serve the BCHA community however, will continue in several other activities including Co-facilitator of the Book Club, Humanist Chaplain and working on editing the lectures given to SFU last Winter on Humanism as an alternate community and world view. I look forward to continued service and community involvement with BCHA and my many kindred spirits and friends.

## Treasurer's Report by Colin Crabbe

Figures are in \$Canadian and are as of 31 December 2014. Cash on hand as of 10 May 2015 is approximately \$8600.

### BC Humanist Association Balance Sheet 2014-12-31

#### Assets

##### Assets

##### Current Assets

Total Cash C\$5,036.20

Inventory C\$1,026.24

**Total Assets** **C\$6,062.44**

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#### Liabilities

##### Liabilities

Prepaid Membership C\$25.00

Accounts Payable C\$335.33

**Total Liabilities** **C\$360.33**

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#### Equity

##### Equity

Opening Balances C\$15,246.83

**Retained Losses** **C\$9,544.72**

**Total Equity** **C\$5,702.11**

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**Total Liabilities & Equity** **C\$6,062.44**

# BC Humanist Association Income Statement For Period Covering 2014-01-01 to 2014-12-31

## Revenues

### Net Revenue after Fees

#### Soltice Dinner

-C\$1.21

### Revenue Before Collections Fees

#### BCHA Memebership

C\$2,790.00

#### Donations - Canada Helps

C\$3,896.04

#### Donations - Tax Receipted

C\$2,019.00

#### Other Donation

C\$1,185.00

#### Revenue from Events

C\$1,000.00

#### Collections - Sunday Morning

C\$4,323.16

#### T-Shist Sales

C\$740.00

### Collection Fees

#### Fees Canada Helps

-C\$154.37

#### Fees - Paypal

-C\$137.26

#### Fees - Everbrite

-C\$66.50

### Other Revenue

C\$32.04

### Unallocted Revenue

C\$1,134.09

### Interest Revenue

C\$5.18

## **Total Revenue**

**C\$16,765.17**

<u>Licenses and Permits</u>		C\$25.00
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		C\$105.00
<u>Office Supplies</u>		C\$136.17
<u>Postage and Delivery</u>		C\$552.92
<u>Printing and Reproduction</u>		C\$134.41
<u>Program Costs</u>		
<u>Event Participation</u>	C\$3,168.55	
<u>Sunday Morning Room Rental</u>	C\$2,940.00	
<u>Travel and Entertainment</u>		
<u>Travel</u>	C\$325.00	
<u>Workers Comp</u>		C\$105.36
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>C\$26,309.89</b>
Net loss for Period		C\$9,544.72

Short discussion of whether we need an Executive Director or not. Art Levin protested against that move. Sue defended the board's decision to go ahead with that, arguing that it was within the board's purview to deal with that without putting it to a vote at the AGM. Art wanted his opposition to that idea recorded.

## **Call for nominations or volunteers.**

Nominations closed. Acclaimed to the board were

Joann Robertson  
Colin Crabbe  
Kirsten Brawn  
Gordon Leslie  
Ullrich Fischer

First board meeting will be 12 May 2015 at the Vancity Community room, Commercial and First, Vancouver

Adjourned 12:05 pm