

AAIDD-HUMANIST NEWSLETTER

(formerly Awl Weave Ghat)

The Newsletter of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disorders' (AAIDD) Humanist Action Group – August 2009, v.3 issue 3

This newsletter expresses the opinion of members of this subgroup and not necessarily of AAIDD

All data presented are opinions and alternative opinions may be printed in later issues. Send feedback and submissions to

jrmullin@verizon.net

Health care reform is the big issue right now. There really isn't a humanist opinion on this except to note that most humanists think it odd or even tragic that the richest country in the world is the only one among the leading industrialized nations without universal health care.

The Religion Subgroup was nice enough to circulate their newsletter to everyone in AAIDD. They are discussing an issue quite close to what we reviewed in the last two issues. I would send this newsletter to everyone but, unfortunately we are a small group of only 13 members and I'm pretty sure some of you just sign up for all the groups when they renew their membership. I may write to their group's newsletter but we'll see.

There's a push in AAIDD for the subgroups to set up groups on the AAIDD website. I am in the process of setting one up. I will probably enter your very basic data and let you choose if you want to complete your membership

I never made it to New Orleans for the Annual AAIDD meeting. A friend of mine who's big in NADD says he heard there were only about 300 members there. I hope he was wrong and there were a lot more. I've never been to New Orleans and I hear it has a charm all its own. Some of the charm may be associated with drinking and as I noted in earlier issues, I haven't drunk alcohol for many years now (25 in July) so it wouldn't be much of a draw. I would also have to have paid out of my own pocket (as do many, but not all, of us) and the city is expensive. Next year it is in Providence RI which is about a half hour drive from my home. At least for me, I'll be there with bells on. Providence is a nice middle sized city with the usual attractions: dining (great dining) shopping, and local cultural events. June can be warm but Providence is on the ocean which keeps it cool. TF Green is a small airport but services everywhere with perhaps a stop or two in-between. I like its size and use it when I can because it is very easy to drive in and out of and simple to get around in. If you prefer to go to Boston's Logan airport, there are commuter trains that run to Providence or if you rent a car it's about an hour and half drive. TRIVIA: Rhode Island is so small that a healthy person can walk across it in one day. If you get the chance, Providence has one of the best humane zoos in the country (if a zoo can be humane). Also for

you real oldies, remember the Daily Planet building from the old Superman shows? They used the Biltmore Hotel in Providence because they liked how it looked better than the local buildings. Enough trivia. Suffice it to say I'm pumped about this.

Vermont was the first state to approve same sex civil unions. September first they joined the states that honor same sex marriages. Same sex marriage is a humanist issue and we practically universally support it. Marriage is a commitment between people in love, promotes faithfulness, and makes a family easier in most cases. It also has financial benefits and, in states that respect same sex marriage, gives benefits like allowing a spouse to be with a mate in during an acute hospitalization or to share health insurance benefits. When I'm with the same sex married couples I know I can feel their love for each other and it makes me happy

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Jim Mullin

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