

# AAIDD-HUMANIST NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the  
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disorders (AAIDD) Humanist Action Group  
July 2011 , v5 issue 2

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

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*All data presented are opinions and alternative opinions may be printed in later issues. Send feedback and submissions to [jrmullin@verizon.net](mailto:jrmullin@verizon.net)*

## AAIDD Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting was great. Still no one came to our Group's meeting but several people came up to me later so there was some gain. I had never been to the Minneapolis-St, Paul area before. Nor had I ever seen the Mississippi River. It was interesting to hear that the Amtrak to Seattle could go no further than Minneapolis because of the weather. It was sad when one person from Alabama said they might as well have come because their house was flooded.

As always there were a number of religious organizations offering support if wanted. I took some of their pamphlets and was impressed with the degree of effort and thought they had put into what they did. A good goal for the group would be to achieve that level of professionalism.

I also ran into Jeff McNair who chairs the Religion and Spirituality Division. We talked a bit about our discussion last year about swapping newsletter articles and he said I should send it to him personally and he'd make sure it was considered.

I found out that I can also lower the dues for next year and I anticipate lowering it from \$10 to \$5. I was threatening to lower it to 9.99 to make it look like a bargain. Part of the rationale for allowing groups to do this is that the original dues structure included monies for postage for the newsletters. With electronic distribution, that money is no longer needed. Cheaper dues might result in additional members.

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## Verizon is changing its website policy

There won't be much content this issue. With the time I have available I'll be lucky to find a new no-cost website host before the next issue. I was using my extra space on my Verizon website. However Verizon is making some changes as of mid-August. I can no longer use FTP to move files onto the Verizon server. I have to use these templates if I enter anything. These templates are best used for pictures and short descriptions. I

wouldn't be able to load items that aren't on these templates. For example, I wouldn't even be able to load these newsletters. This is unsatisfactory to me.

I am looking for a free web-hosting service, of which there are many. However none of their services are perfect which is probably intended to encourage people to sign up for their premium services. If we had more members, we could probably afford the premium services but we don't have the membership.

I can apparently leave this site on Verizon while I investigate others and just won't be able to add to it. You should be able to access the current assortment of materials without interruption. In the new site I will probably erase all the HTML versions of the newsletter and only leave the PDF files since most everyone has Adobe Reader loaded on their computer and they look better anyway.

I am also probably going to pick up an extra site address. In addition to AAIDD-Humanists.org, I want to pick up a name which combines Humanism and IDD. What do you think about Humidd.org? Much easier to remember.

Anyone have any recommendations in these areas?

Stay cool, wherever you are. Most of the US has been in a heat wave lately (FYI for you people who view this site from foreign countries. There are a few of you)

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Jim Mullin

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