





HUMANISM
IS A PROGRESSIVE
PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE
THAT, WITHOUT
THEISM OR OTHER
SUPERNATURAL
BELIEFS, AFFIRMS
OUR ABILITY AND
RESPONSIBILITY TO
LEAD ETHICAL LIVES
OF PERSONAL
FULFILLMENT
THAT ASPIRE TO THE
GREATER GOOD
OF HUMANITY.

THE MISSION OF THE AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION (AHA)

IS TO ADVANCE HUMANISM. AN ETHICAL AND LIFE-AFFIRMING PHILOSOPHY FREE OF BELIEF IN ANY GODS AND OTHER SUPERNATURAL FORCES. ADVOCATING FOR **EQUALITY FOR NONTHEISTS** AND A SOCIETY GUIDED BY REASON, EMPATHY, AND OUR GROWING KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD, THE AHA PROMOTES A WORLDVIEW THAT ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS TO LIVE INFORMED AND MEANINGFUL LIVES THAT ASPIRE TO THE GREATER GOOD.



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AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

WELCOME TO 2016 as we embark on our 75th year as the nation's largest humanist organization! As we move forward, we reflect back on all that we have accomplished together in 2015.

The numbers are proof of our success—the American Humanist Association continues to grow, now reaching over 32,000 members and supporters. And with 525,000 Facebook followers, 38,000 Twitter followers, and 54,000 email subscribers, it's easy to see the impact we are making. Our media coverage continues to climb, and with each mention, we have the opportunity to enlighten people about humanism. Our Humanist Celebrant directory has skyrocketed to 336 individuals who serve as our ambassadors to the public on a daily basis. Each wedding, memorial service, baby naming or invocation that they perform spotlights both humanism and the AHA. Our chapters, all 187 of them, provide our members with the opportunity to develop a strong community and build lasting relationships. These growing

numbers lay the foundation for our continued and new initiatives.

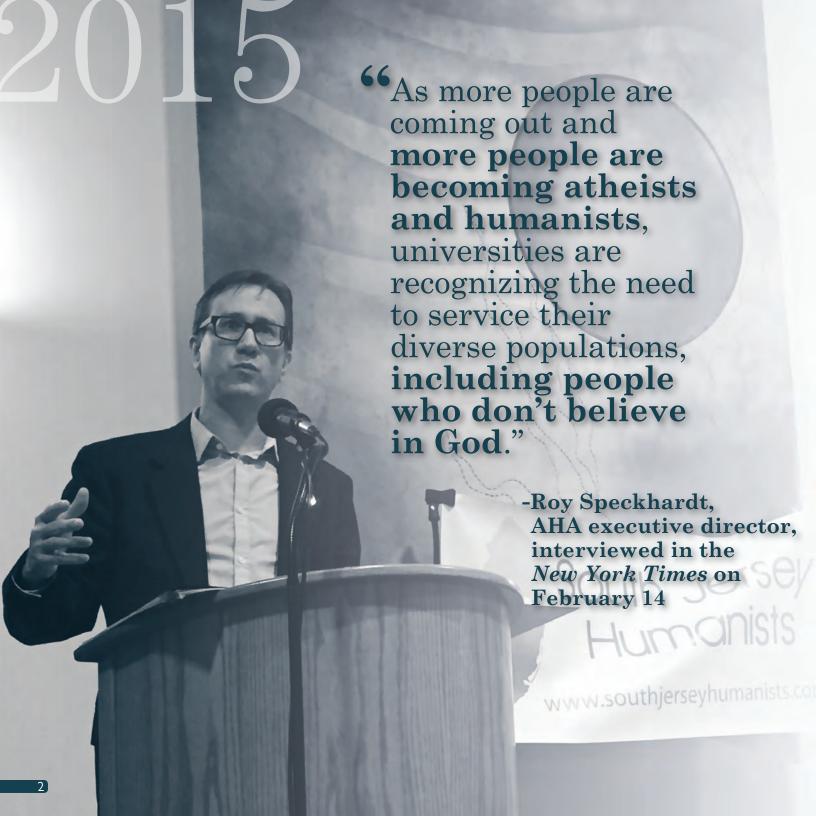
You can be proud as a member to know that the American Humanist Association is one of the strongest voices in the secular community, an institution that many within the secular movement want to associate with. This is a testament to the strength and integrity of the AHA and a vote of confidence in our staff and leaders. This past year the AHA welcomed two new members to the family: the Institute for Humanist Studies (IHS) and the Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers (MAAF), making us stronger than ever.

This past fall the staff, the board of directors, and other interested members worked to develop a new strategic plan. One of the most gratifying objectives to come out of these meetings was a refreshed focus on our humanist values and how they relate to social justice and community involvement. Since the beginning we've continued to expend our energy and resources to educate our fellow Americans about humanism. In the past decade we've entered the legal ring with the objective of protecting First Amendment rights. These initiatives propel us forward as we begin new initiatives that emphasize our values. As the old adage says "put your money where your mouth is," and that is exactly what we are poised to do.

As we move into our 75th year, we can look back proudly on how far we've come. We have succeeded in meeting the needs of our secularizing world in both research and activism that supports humanism. We look forward to our ever expanding opportunities—I am so glad you are along on the journey with us!

Rebucca Have

Rebecca Hale President



American Humanist Association, founded in 1941 and headquartered in Washington, DC, is the oldest and largest humanist organization in the United States working to defend the separation of church and state in the courts, advocate for progressive values in government, and raise public awareness of the millions of Americans who are good without a god.

Humanism by the Numbers

LIKE US ON **FACEBOOK**

38,000 **FOLLOWERS** theHumanist.com

4 MILLION REACHED ON SOCIAL MEDIA WEEKLY

HUMANIST CELEBRANTS, **CHAPLAINS AND** LAY LEADERS

MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

CHAPTERS AND **AFFILIATES**





→) 66,000 €





MEDIA STORIES COVERED THE AHA'S WORK IN 2015, INCLUDING New York Times, CNN, Fox News, TIME Magazine, USA Today, MSNBC

PUBLIC AWARENESS OF HUMANISM

MAJOR MEDIA COVERAGE IN 2015

ABC News The Advocate American Bar Association Journal Associated Press Atlanta Journal Constitution Baltimore Sun Baxter Bulletin The Blaze Boston Globe Bustle CBS News CBS Radio Chicago Tribune Christian Post Chronicle of Philanthropy CNN Columbus Dispatch Cronkite News Crux Daily Caller Examiner Fox and Friends FoxNews.com Spirited Debate Harvard Political Review The Hill **Huffington Post**

Indianapolis Star

The Inquisitr

International Business Times

KBET 790 Talk Now Las Vegas Review-Journal Los Angeles Times Mashable MSNBC MTV News NBC New York New Orleans Times-Picayune Newsmax New York Times People Magazine Portland Press Herald Public Radio Exchange Raw Story Religion News Service Salon San Francisco Chronicle Saturday Evening Post Seattle Times Talk Radio Europe **ThinkProgress** TIME Magazine USA Today Us Weekly Magazine Vox Wall Street Journal Washington Examiner Washington Post

Washington Times

Yahoo! News

to pray. What we don't support is when government gets involved in religion, or endorses one religion over another."



MAGGIE ARDIENTE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

SPEAKING ON FOX NEWS' SPIRITED DEBATE

that same-sex marriage
is a right, and it's
not something that
should be voted on
at the ballot box."



DAVID NIOSE LEGAL DIRECTOR SPEAKING ON NEWSMAX TV

are to be treated with the same respect and dignity as those beliefs, such as Christianity, that hold a belief in a higher power."



MONICA MILLER SENIOR COUNSEL SPEAKING ON FOX NEWS' SPIRITED DEBATE

THE AMERICAN
HUMANIST
ASSOCIATION
GAINED OVER
66,000 MEDIA
HITS IN 2015,
PROVIDING THE
HUMANIST VOICE
ON A VARIETY OF
ISSUES ON
RELIGION AND
BELIEF IN
THE UNITED
STATES.

THROUGH EXTENSIVE MEDIA OUTREACH and public relations work, the American Humanist Association offered a humanist perspective on major current events such as the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the marriage equality case, *Obergefell v. Hodges*; the murders of humanist bloggers in Bangladesh; and public officials' attempts to erect Ten Commandments monuments on public land and display "In God We Trust" bumper stickers on police vehicles.

The American Humanist Association's legal and legislative work has been covered by numerous national and international news outlets. Most notably, the AHA received significant coverage for its continuing efforts to pass the Darwin Day resolution in U.S. Congress, its successful lawsuit to grant federal prisoners the right to form

humanist study groups, its ongoing attempt to have a cross-shaped monument in Bladensburg, Md., removed; and its victory in guaranteeing a member of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster the right to wear a colander in her driver's license photo.

TO ENSURE HUMANISM'S REACH TO younger audiences and remain at the cutting edge of online communication, the American Humanist Association worked to gain a greater following on social media by regularly posting about AHA activities. The AHA is active on nearly every popular social network, including Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Reddit, Tumblr, YouTube, Atheist Nexus, Think Atheist, Ello, and Pinterest. AHA memes featuring humanistic quotes by famous people, such as our popular "Sounds Like Humanism" campaign, have garnered tens of thousands of likes and millions reached.

OVER 525,000

FOLLOWERS

"LIKE" THE

AMERICAN

HUMANIST

ASSOCIATION ON

FACEBOOK,

AND OUR DAILY

POSTS REACH

OVER 4 MILLION

WEEKLY.





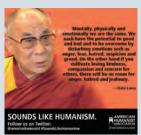
















I appreciate all you have done for my friend and me with your letter. We have been atheists for the longest time and have always questioned the morality and legality of forcing students to stand for the Pledge, but until now have not taken any type of stand about it for fear of repercussion. Thanks to you, I was able to breathe a sigh of relief for the first time in days."

> —Sara H., a high school student participating in the Boycott the Pledge Campaign

DEFENDING THE FIRST AMENDMENT

The American Humanist Association has built a reputation as a premiere church-state watchdog, successfully challenging local governments, public schools, and even the federal government in cases involving unconstitutional activity.

The Appignani Humanist Legal Center, the legal arm of the American Humanist Association, has twelve lawsuits pending in various courts around the country, litigating issues relating to religion in schools, the rights of humanists, legislative prayer, and various other constitutional issues. In 2015 we saw numerous successes in the courts, obtaining favorable judgments or settlements in courts in Georgia, Colorado, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Oregon. The legal center

now get numerous inquiries daily from concerned citizens who know they can rely on us to defend their rights quickly and successfully.

Due to the increasing number of church-state inquiries, the Appignani Humanist Legal Center hired a third staff attorney, Katherine Page, who joins legal director David Niose and senior counsel Monica Miller. The AHLC team works with over 150 cooperating attorneys across the country when violations occur.



THE AHLC SENT <u>76</u>
COMPLAINT LETTERS
TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
FOR CONSTITUTIONAL
VIOLATIONS,
OBTAINING FAVORABLE
OUTCOMES IN <u>63</u>.



THE AHLC OBTAINED FAVORABLE JUDGEMENTS OR SETTLEMENTS IN COURTS IN ARKANSAS, COLORADO, GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI, AND OREGON.



THE AHLC HAS 12
PENDING CASES
CHALLENGING
UNCONSTITUTIONAL
RELIGION IN PUBLIC
SCHOOLS, LEGISLATIVE
PRAYER, AND RELIGIOUS
MONUMENTS ON
PUBLIC LAND.



IN 2015, THE AHLC
SENT 44 LETTERS ON
BEHALF OF STUDENTS
PARTICIPATING IN THE
BOYCOTT THE PLEDGE
CAMPAIGN, UP FROM
21 THE PREVIOUS YEAR.





LOBBYING AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY

REP. JIM HIMES (D-CT) introduced House Resolution 67, a bill recognizing February 12 as Darwin Day and affirms the importance of evolution in public schools. The resolution gained 18 co-sponsors, and a companion resolution is introduced in the Senate by Sen. Richard Blumenthal with the help of the Secular Coalition for America.

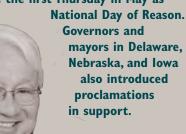
The American Humanist
Association's political
influence on behalf of
humanists, atheists, and the
religiously unaffiliated
increased significantly
through our active lobbying
efforts, both directly on
Capitol Hill and through
our grassroots network
of thousands of humanist
activists across the
United States.

- AHA Legislative Associate Matthew Bulger met with over 90 Senators, Representatives, members of the executive branch, and legislative staffers to advocate for progressive legislation and oppose bills that would attempt to weaken the church-state wall.
- **17** Action Alerts were sent to more than **45,000** AHA members and supporters.
- Over 50 advocacy letters were submitted to Congress, the executive branch, and state and local governments.
- AHA took the lead in encouraging new members of Congress to not join the Congressional Prayer Caucus.
- AHA held a joint Senate-House congressional briefing on international religious freedom for nontheists and religious minorities, attended by religious freedom advocates and representatives from the State Department and the US Commission on International Religious Freedom.

- AHA hosted its first-ever Humanist Congressional Reception honoring members of Congress who advocate for humanist values.
- AHA appointed a new representative to the United Nations, David I. Orenstein, who was active in representing humanism on issues related to freedom of belief and expression.

The American Humanist Association lobbied on a variety of progressive issues, including reproductive access, abortion rights, marriage equality, voting rights, vaccines, climate change, and religious freedom. The AHA actively opposed legislation that would support school vouchers that favor religious schools, take away funding for comprehensive sex education, or make military oaths that include an affirmation to a god mandatory. Working in coalition with other progressive organizations in Washington, DC, the AHA encourages the use of language that includes humanists and the nontheist community.

REP. MIKE HONDA (D-CA) introduces House Resolution 228, the first bill to recognize the first Thursday in May as



PROGRAMS &ADJUNCTS









The Center for Freethought **Equality** and its associated political action committees saw significant growth and completed substantial changes in our organizational structure in 2015 to prepare for increased political activity during the 2016 elections. CFE's membership has grown to almost 15,000 members and supporters with a social media following that has increased by 400%. In 2015, the Freethought Equality Super PAC was finalized and raised over \$47,000 while our original FEF PAC raised over \$18,000 for direct contributions to endorsed candidates. Through the Democracy Engine online portal, \$9,100 was raised in support of Maryland State Senator Jamie Raskin's election. The PAC's overall 2015 political contributions of \$74,100 included a max contribution of \$10,000 to Jamie Raskin from the PAC and \$1,000 was given to Nevada Congressional candidate Lucy Flores.

Chapters and Affiliates The AHA boasts a large network of local humanist groups, with 108 chapters and 79 affiliates across the



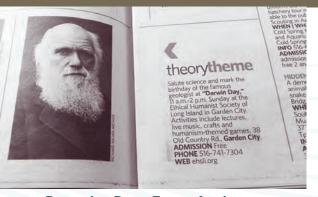
country dedicated to promoting humanism and encouraging community engagement. Chapter leaders make a difference in showing how humanists are good without a god. The AHA released two new resources for local groups: A Manual for Effective Tabling and A Guide for Parades for chapter groups. In addition, the AHA tabled at many regional conferences such as Imagine No Religion 5, TAM (The Amazing Meeting), DragonCon,

Apostacon, the Parliament of the World's Religions, and more to increase humanism's awareness in the secular and religious communities.



Common Ground Conference

The American Humanist Association and the Xaverian Missionaries USA collaborated with Rutgers University to hold the first-ever Common Ground Conference in the United States on October 8, 2015. Students, members, and the general public were invited to hear 17 distinguished panelists of all professional and faith backgrounds (including Arun Gandhi, Anne Klaeysen, Chris Stedman, Anthony Pinn, Bart Worden, and more) talk about finding meaning in life, where we derive values and ethics, and their experience with social activism and interfaith/intersecular collaborations. Attendees also participated in a social action workshop on issues like reproductive rights, Islamophobia and the dangers of stereotyping, church/state separation, climate change, and more. Conference videos, photos, and resources are available online at www.com monground2015.org.



Darwin Day Foundation works to recognize February 12, the anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, as Darwin Day around the world. The International Darwin Day Foundation was founded by Dr. Robert Stephens in 1993 and has been a project of the AHA since 2009. The AHA succeeded in introducing a resolution in Congress to recognize Darwin Day, and over 100 events in 25 countries were held to celebrate Darwin Day through lectures, film screenings, and social discussions on the importance of evolution.

Feminist Caucus has worked toward the advancement of women's rights and equality between the sexes in all aspects of society since 1977. The Caucus is currently focused on passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and actively writes on feminism and women's rights in AHA publications.

The Humanist Society applies humanism to daily life through a unique celebrant program, education, and community involvement. A new Humanist Society website at www.thehumanist society.org and new logo was launched on October I. Through the AHA's education affiliate, the Humanist Institute, the Humanist Society offered



three in-person celebrant trainings in different regions of the country for both experienced and newly endorsed Humanist Celebrants and included information on performing weddings, memorials, baby namings, and coming-of-age ceremonies.

The Kochhar Humanist Education Center offers education and curriculum resources in humanism for children and adults. The "Ten Commitments" was created for public school teachers and administrators to encourage students to develop ethical, personal, social, and citizenship values. The KHEC also created informative brochures geared toward religious believers that provide information on how traditional religions and humanism can find common ground.



The Humanist Institute is an affiliate of the American Humanist Association and educates, develops, and trains leaders in advancing humanism through online courses, training









PROGRAMS &ADJUNCTS







THE HUMANIST FOUNDATION

sessions, and a graduate-level certification program. The Institute provides a 2½ year graduate-level certification program in general humanist principles, critical thinking, leadership, physical and life sciences, social science, contemporary culture, aesthetics, and applied humanism.

The Institute for Humanist Studies

(IHS), a humanist think tank, is committed to information and practices meant to address the socio-political, economic and cultural challenges facing communities within the United States and within a global context. IHS hosts an annual symposium at Rice University in Houston, Texas, which brings together humanist scholars from around the world to address humanism as applied to politics, technology, and social issues.

The Humanist Foundation ensures a lasting future for humanism with the generosity of members who have included the American Humanist Association or the Humanist Foundation in their will or other estate plan. Founded in 1980 and with an endowment of \$5 million, the Foundation provides estate planning advice on wills, life insurance plans, trusts, and gift annuities for members who seek to support humanism for years to come. The Humanist Foundation's Humanist Heritage Project seeks to conserve the life stories of humanist leaders in a perpetual archive for historic preservation.

Humanist Press is the publishing house of the American Humanist Association and has provided material for the humanist/freethought/ atheist market since 1995. Humanist Press books and ebooks are available on Amazon, HumanistPress.com, and other online book retailers, and 100 percent of the proceeds benefit AHA programs. New releases in 2015 include *Belief and Unbelief* by Barbara G. Walker, *Once You Had Hands* by Tasha Golden, *Creating Change*









LGBTQ HUMANIST COUNCIL



Through Humanism by Roy Speckhardt, The Myths That Stole Christmas by David Kyle Johnson, and Godless Grace by David I. Orenstein and Linda Ford Blaikie.

The Humanist Hour Podcast is a weekly one-hour talk show with 4,500 subscribers produced by the American Humanist Association and co-hosted by Kim Ellington and Bo Bennett. In 2015, the Humanist Hour featured notable guests like Dr. Sikivu Hutchinson, comedian Stewart Huff, actor and game show host John Davidson, and Dr. Ginger Campbell.

LGBTQ Humanist Council works to advance equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning people and their families, and strives to build connections and alliances between LGBTQ communities and humanist communities through education and outreach.

Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers (MAAF) became an affiliate of the AHA in December. Its mission is to provide community for atheists, humanists, and other nontheists in the military. MAAF is active in lobbying for a humanist chaplain in the Armed Forces Chaplain Corps (currently no chaplains serve the over 3,000 military members who identify without religion) and providing care packages for active-duty servicemen and women.

National Day of Reason is a project of the AHA that works to recognize the first Thursday of May as National Day of Reason, a counter-event to the Congressionally-mandated National Day of Prayer. For the first time, the AHA succeeded in introducing a resolution in Congress to recognize May 7 as National Day of Reason, and proclamations were issued by governors and mayors in Delaware, Iowa, and Nebraska.



GREAT EXPERIENCE.
So thankful that I
was able to attend.
Met new, exciting,
intelligent people
now have new,
wonderful, caring
friends."

THANK YOU for all the effort put into the conference. I'm glad I attended and will probably attend again in the future."

WHERE ELSE CAN
you go and get to have
actual conversations
with the awardees?
Not just a signature
in a book but a
chance to share
ideas! Attending the
conference is a gift
I give myself."







AHA 74TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN DENVER

The American Humanist Association held its 74th Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado, with over 450 humanist leaders, activists, scientists scholars, and students in attendance. Held in conjunction with the 4th Colorado Secular Conference and hosted by the Humanists of Colorado, Secular Hub, and the Colorado Coalition of Reason, the event featured four days of presentations, award ceremonies, and training for activists.



Our 2015 humanist award winners included physicist and Humanist of the Year Lawrence Krauss, feminist author and Humanist Heroine Jean Kilbourne, church-state expert and Religious Liberty Award winner Marci Hamilton, student activist and Humanist Pioneer Isaiah Thomas, and satirical website and Humanist Media Award winner, The Onion. Actress and writer Kelly Carlin was this year's keynote speaker.

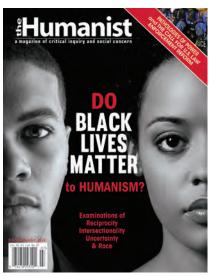
Other speakers included psychologist Will Gervais on anti-atheist prejudice, physician Ginger Campbell on palliative care and medicine, Population Connection CEO John Seager on population growth and the environment, Move to Amend co-founder David Cobb on corporate personhood, Ex-Muslims of North America co-founder Sarah Haider on critiquing Islam, a panel of ex-ministers sponsored by the Clergy

Project, a panel on humanism and race, and many more informative presentations on issues related to humanism. Following the conference, participants enjoyed a tour of Denver which included stops at the headquarters of EvolveFISH, the largest merchandiser of freethought gifts, and the Secular Hub, one of a handful of AHA chapter groups that have its own building and meeting space.





SMART RECOVERY (Self-Management and Recovery Training) Acknowledging a HUMAN POWER to overcome substance abuse & addiction PLUS: The Humanist Interview, with Merchanis of Doubr's NAOMI ORESKES







The

66 Could not put down the July/August 2015 issue. Read it from cover to cover. The magazine keeps getting better and better. I cannot imagine not living my life as a humanist and it is the American Humanist Association that gives me comfort in knowing that

—Bob W., AHA Member

I am not alone."

Humanist Magazine

marked the seventy-fourth year of continuous production of the Humanist magazine, the flagship publication of the American Humanist Association. And in its continuing tradition, the magazine provided humanist perspectives on religious freedom and human rights, scientific exploration and technology, politics, psychology, ethics, and art. The magazine covered death with dignity, Islam and terrorism, secular substance abuse programs, climate change, policing and the Black Lives Matter movement, gay marriage, and the Syrian refugee crisis, among other topics.

Important humanist voices featured in the six issues of 2015, in articles, interviews, and profiles, included: George and Kelly Carlin, Ernie Chambers, Robert Coover, Marci A. Hamilton,

Lorraine Hansberry, Jean Kilbourne, Lawrence Krauss, Brittany Maynard, Anthony Pinn, Lynn Rothschild, Valerie Tarico, Alan Turing, and Seena Vali of *The Onion*.

Well-known secular columnists Greta Christina and Rob Boston continued to anchor the Humanist, along with Michael Werner, Science and Religion Correspondent Clay Farris Naff, and the popular "First Person" accounts of everyday humanists. The book review section also remains very strong, along with the magazine's focus on the arts through the publication of poetry and fiction.

Committed to providing readers with intellectual and ethical adventure, the *Humanist* serves as an entry point into humanism for new AHA members and as a tool for longtime humanists to both hone and challenge their own humanist perspectives.

TheHumanist.com is the daily online news site and weekly e-zine of the American Humanist Association. TheHumanist.com is the online hub for news, politics, science, and culture from a humanist perspective and serves as a general-interest website for humanists, atheists, freethinkers, secularists, religious progressives, and the nonreligious.

Now in its second year, traffic to TheHumanist.com website significantly increased to an average of 157,000 pageviews from 84,000 visitors per month, and received over 1,900,000 pageviews from over one million visitors for all of 2015. TheHumanist.com weekly email is sent to 54,000 subscribers, with 69 percent of our readers coming from social media sites like Facebook.

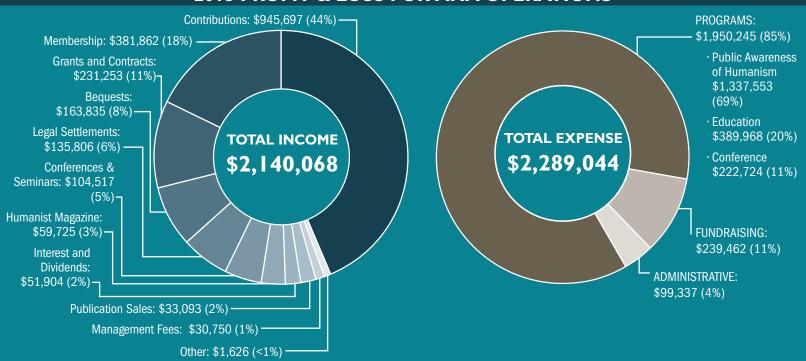






AHA FINANCIAL REPORT

2015 PROFIT & LOSS FOR AHA OPERATIONS



2015 BALANCE SHEET FOR AHA OPERATIONS



Humanism is gaining respect and recognition like never before, and it's all thanks to our dedicated members and supporters.

ALL OF US AT THE AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION thank you for your unwavering support of our important work for humanism. Through your generous financial support, our victories in the courts for church-state separation, progress in Congress for humanist legislation, and growth in public awareness were made possible. As we move forward, your continued support is critical to keeping up our momentum.

WAYS TO SUPPORT HUMANISM

DONATE

The American Humanist Association relies on the support of our members. Donations to the AHA are put directly to work toward protecting the separation of church and state, promoting humanist issues directly to our nation's leading policy makers, supporting local humanist communities, and increasing humanism's visibility to the public.

MONTHLY GIVER

Become a Vonnegut Sustainer, a special group of members who give generously every month to the American Humanist Association and help to sustain our programs.

PLANNED GIVING

Leave a legacy for humanism and the generations ahead with your planned gift. A variety of options are available, including bequests and charitable annuities, and estate planning assistance is free if you become a member of the Honor Roll of the Humanist Foundation and name the American Humanist Association in your will.

OTHER WAYS TO DONATE

There are many ways to donate to the American Humanist Association: employer matching gifts, giving through the Combined Federal Campaign (#19492), gifts of stock, gift subscriptions to the Humanist magazine, eBay's Giving Works program, or AmazonSmile.

IOIN OR START A LOCAL CHAPTER

The AHA has 187 chapters and affiliates across the United States. If there is not yet an AHA chapter or affiliate group near you, start one! The AHA can help find local members in your area and provide helpful resources to start a local chapter.



