

Freethought Society of the Midlands

Business Meeting

February 19, 2014

Location: Grecian Gardens Restaurant

Number of attendees: 20

Dean Smith opened the meeting by announcing that Seth Andrews, “The Thinking Atheist”, would be speaking in Columbia on June 14, 2014. Mr. Andrews is a well-known speaker and advocate of freethinking. Elaine confirmed that we would need to support his expenses by providing approximately \$250 toward his lodging and travel. He also was asking for an audience of 40 members to support sales of his books.

Based on the ease in which we raised money for the tenth anniversary party, Dean said he did not anticipate any difficulty in getting the funds together.

Next on the agenda was the news that the “Critical Doers” group will be deciding a new name. This is our activist group that Victoria and Heath Grant had co-chaired. Dean said that nothing had been decided yet but the new name would probably include the terms “humanist” and/or “atheist”.

Victoria had also created a forum site for discussions. Now that they and their new baby are moving out of state, Nick G. has agreed to host the site. According to Dean, the cost of this is relatively low and the FSM would probably need to pay only \$20 or so per year to support it.

During the conversation following the business portion, Amber mentioned she had been removed from the Upstate Humanist group since she had not attended 4 meetings or paid dues to that group. That led to a discussion of the dues collected by various groups. It was suggested by Andrea Maloney that, if FSM ever sets up dues, that we use the system followed by the Lions' Club. Apparently it is a two-tiered system in which active members pay one amount and inactive or honorary members pay another. Dean thanked Andrea for the information and said he would keep that suggestion in mind.