



The Voice of Reason

May 2012

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May @ a Glance

- National Day of Reason Food and Blood Drive, Thursday May 3rd, 5:00 P.M. @ All Souls Unitarian Church
- Nature Hike, Saturday May 12th, 10:00 A.M. @ Redbud Valley Nature Preserve
- Social Dinner, Wednesday May 18th, 7:00 P.M. @ Te Kei's Asian Restaurant
- Float Trip, Saturday May 19th, 12:00 P.M. @ Arrowhead Resort in Tahlequah

Reason, Take the Wheel!

This Thursday is the National Day of Reason, and we're going to ACT like the upstanding, ethical, and generous people we are! Don't forget about the Food and Blood Drive we are having at All Souls Unitarian Church. (I know – it's weird to think that the most welcoming place for us Atheists is actually a "church"!)

We will have the Oklahoma Blood Institute's mobile donation bus in the parking lot and will start at 5:00, just in time to be seen by Brookside's rush-hour traffic. (For more information about OBI, please see this month's featured Community Outreach article.) Let's show those Tulsans that two hands clasped in prayer is no match for one arm being poked by a needle.... or carrying groceries, for that matter.



Speaking of do-good heathens, I'd like to give thanks to the ACT members who braved the awful Oklahoma sun and participated in our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup last month.

Speaking of the Oklahoma fry-an-egg-on-the-sidewalk season, I hope that all of you heathens and sheathens are ready for summer! We have taken suggestions from many of our members and organized some very creative meet-ups. I am thrilled to announce two new events for our awesome group this month: a Nature Hike at Redbud Valley on May 12, and a Float Trip at the Illinois River on May 19! This MAY be (get it?) our only month of outdoor events with temperatures in the double digits! So stock up on the sunscreen and bug repellent, and we will see you there!

- Bible Babble, Sunday May 20th, 2:00 P.M. @ the Yost Residence in Broken Arrow
- Official Meeting, Sunday May 27th, 1:00 P.M. @ Agora Coffee House
- Post-Meeting Dinner, Sunday May 27th, 3:00 P.M., location to be decided
- Food and Clothing Drive is ongoing through the month of May. Please bring your donations to any event you attend and a representative will make sure your items make it to those in need.
- Donations from the Food Drive will be presented to the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma following the Blood Drive on May 3rd, the National Day of Reason.

Community Outreach - Oklahoma Blood Institute



Our featured community outreach project for the month is the Oklahoma Blood Institute and their mobile donation bus. The Institute is currently the ninth largest not-for-profit blood center in the entire United States, but they still are in constant need of both volunteers and blood donors. According to the OBI website, one blood donation can save up to three people's lives, but less than ten percent of people who are eligible to give actually do it.

Get Connected

- Official ACT Webpage
- Yahoo ACT Meetup Group
- ACT on Facebook

Since OBI is a statewide institute, all of the blood donated stays within Oklahoma and is vital to insuring that our local hospitals have adequate amounts of blood needed during emergency surgeries and in times of crisis. As we all know, disaster can happen very unexpectedly, especially in "tornado alley". It is very important to know that our friends, families, coworkers, and neighbors (yes, even the ones we don't like very much) will not be forced to postpone surgeries – or worse - due to a lack of blood. Even if you are unable to donate in this way, please help us out on the National Day of Reason by showing your support and bringing non-perishable food items for the Community Food Bank. Cookies and snacks for donors are also welcome. You can feel free to check out the Oklahoma Blood Institute's website at www.obl.org. Thank you all in advance.

Last Month's Featured Event - FreeOK Social Dinner Fundraiser

Meeting Minutes

Meeting began at 1:00 P.M.
Welcomed new members
Discussed Food/Blood Drive
Discussed Bartlesville group
FreeOK updates
Celebration of Foxhole Atheists
Recognized ACT's 6th anniversary
Arranged carpooling to Adopt-A-Highway
Meeting Ended at 3:00 P.M.

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I have to admit it was rather difficult to choose only two pictures from such an amazing event and culinary spectacular as the Social Dinner Fundraiser! Tom and Misty opened up their lovely house to our voracious appetites, all for the greater good of raising support for FreeOK 2012. The weather was perfect, the company was amazing, and the food was more than exquisite. They even had a cake celebrating how FSM in His Noodliness has touched our group!

We managed to raise over \$1,625 in a single night, thanks to those who were generous enough to come! I must say the crowd did not disappoint, and let's say a few of our newer members have some rather adorable children. (Unfortunately for us, they have already passed the age where we can eat them.) I definitely hope to see more events like this in the future. And for those of you who could not attend, we would greatly appreciate your support at www.freeok.org. We have less than two months before the big convention, and every little bit helps! While the food at the Tulsa Convention Center may not be as spectacular as Tom and Misty's cooking, FreeOK is bound to be a great event! And hey, maybe we can raffle off one of their desserts. (Call me, Misty. I'll do the taste testing.) Until next time, my heathens and sheathens, stay rational.