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# The Voice of Reason

## Re-Member to Join

This month we are continuing our membership and dues drive, and we encourage each and every one of you to show your support in helping us grow our own local Freethought community. While becoming a dues-paying member is not mandatory, it is highly encouraged, and dues are only \$20 per calendar year.

While your wonderful Board of Directors continues to discuss and decide on incentives for dues-paying members, we are also keeping a very accurate record of all those who have paid so far this year. Here we would like to give much thanks to our new Treasurer, West, who has undoubtedly spent an enormous amount of time to reviewing, organizing, and providing us with an incredible overview of our group finances.

Also to be thanked for his extremely hard work is Steven, our ACT Tech Chair and website extraordinaire. He has donated countless hours to designing our new ACTOK website, making it more user-friendly and accessible. Feel free to give him a big, awkward hug the next time you see him!

## How You Can Contribute

There are currently a few ways for our members to pay dues. Of course, the easiest for us would be if you visited our awesome new website and clicked the "Join" button. If you're anything like I am and constantly get sidetracked while on the computer, you can always catch one of our Board Members at any

ACT event. We will have these cool new Squares so we can swipe your credit/debit card and send you a receipt. Of course, cash always works; so no excuses, heathens!

## New and Improved ACTOK Website

If you haven't already had a chance to check out our actok.org website, you've been missing out on a lot. The revamped site is now more user-friendly, informative, and totally awesome. It's everything you need to know about our wonderful Atheist Community of Tulsa all neatly organized in a fancy new package, thanks to some of our more technologically advanced members.

I've already spent a great amount of time clicking on all the new links, like "Frequently Asked Questions" and the incredible list of events under the "Community" section. I highly suggest you do the same.

Most importantly, if you refer someone to our new ACTOK website, they can easily find our group on Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, and elsewhere. It's a one-stop-shop for Atheists in our area, as well as believers who are interested to find out more about us. Give the new site a look; you will NOT be disappointed in what you find!!

Oh, and don't forget to click on the "Join" button and pay your dues for the 2013 calendar year!!

# The ACTing Atheist

This month we are very proud to announce a couple events featuring one of our members who just so happens to be a globally-recognized figure in the Freethought movement. (Okay, so we can't really take the credit for his amazing success, but we did give him an outlet to reveal his secret identity.) Seth Andrews, the host of "The Thinking Atheist", has recently come out with his book "De-Converted – A Journey from Religion to Reason" and will be a prominent feature in this month's list of events.

Seth began his journey in most of our (previously religious) lives as a popular Christian radio DJ. A believer for over 30 years, he ultimately found himself "dissatisfied with the explanations and doctrines of scripture and the church." Through his research into Christianity,

Seth came to reject his former belief system as well as all other religions. He is now the host of one of the largest online Atheist communities in the world, "The Thinking Atheist".

Through his fantastic website, extraordinary videos, and wonderful weekly podcasts (No, I'm not biased at all – why do you ask?), Seth Andrews has constantly encouraged both theists and non-believers alike to question their world, embrace doubt, challenge ideas, and to always be "thinking".

He has also spent countless hours helping our local Atheist Community of Tulsa in various ways, from producing our promotional videos (which we have on our new, fancy website) to being a headline speaker at both our first and second Freethought Oklahoma conferences (yeah, that would be FreeOK.org). He even used our first

FreeOK as a platform to reveal his actual identity, and blew us away as a refreshing and engaging speaker.

If you are able to come to either of these events, I very much encourage you to do so. You will absolutely not be disappointed. And please remember to bring some cash and buy a copy (or five, because Christmas is only 10 months away) of his book. He was even kind enough to mention both ACT and FreeOK in what will surely be a best-seller.

## Book Signing and Meet-and-Greet Event

To kick off our celebration of Seth's journey, we will be hosting a book signing and meet-and-greet on Saturday, February 16, at McNellie's Public House downtown. We have somehow (through the grace of god, I'm sure) been fortunate enough to acquire the use of the entire upstairs section from 1:00pm until 4:00pm.

We will have plenty of room to mingle, read, eat and drink (yeah, we'll have our own bartender), and play games in the back room. Kids are definitely welcome at this event; the back room has pool and shuffleboard tables for our amusement. We hope to see each and every one of you there!

## Seth Andrews at the University of Tulsa

On Friday, February 22, our wonderful Freethinkers at TU group will be hosting a speaking engagement for Seth (and our former president, William Poire). The event starts at 6:00pm and will feature speeches, question-and-answer time, a reception and book signing, so please allow for a few hours. If you have never seen Seth speak in person before, you will not want to miss this! The event is free (but please donate; proceeds go to Camp Quest) and open to the public. Write it down!

## ACT Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2013, 11:15am

Present: Leah, Steven, Justin, Stephanie, Misty, Tom, Sam, Eric, Amanda, Sandy, West

- ACT has been accepted for OK non-profit status, Motion carried by unanimous vote to postpone discussions of 501c3 until 2014
- Motions carried by unanimous vote to use Square instead of Paypal for ACT membership dues, to accept dues payment via Square, cash, and website
- Motion seconded and carried by unanimous vote to have Leah start an ACT Goodreads account
- Motion unanimously passed to provide receipts and attain emails for every membership dues payment
- Motion seconded and carried by unanimous vote to have Amanda create formal welcome message for all new members, to be approved by BoD

### Online BoD decisions:

- ACT will cover 1/2 the entry fees for two teams in the "Dodging for Disasters" charity event, motion passed with unanimous vote

# Let's Try This Book Club Again

Due to some very unfortunate miscommunication, none of the ACT representatives had actually posted the event for Bible Babble/Book Club on Meetup or Facebook. Apparently our members are a forgetful bunch, and must be reminded of events more than once a month. Needless to say, we had a very poor turnout for January's Book Club event. (Okay, by "poor turnout" I mean to say only one person actually came, but we had a great time anyway and you should be jealous.) Don't worry; we didn't actually review the book anyway.

This month we will be making very sure to post all of our events to both Meetup and Facebook, and will be having the ACT Book Club meeting we were supposed to have last month. We will still be reviewing "Letter to a Christian Nation" by Sam Harris. Again, it is a very short book with fewer than 100 pages of actual text. It's also written in a very easily-accessible way, unlike the more prosaic books by such intellectuals as Dawkins or Hitchens. (To continue a quite lively discussion from last month's failed attempt, I will also add that it's about two steps ahead of a pop-up book, because Eric can't argue with a newsletter and I win.)

During this event, we will also be taking suggestions for books to review in the future. If you have any questions about the book club or want to suggest we continue reading the Bible again, feel free to contact any of the Board Members. All of our fancy new ACT email addresses are on the last page of this newsletter, and we are happy to use them.

# ACT Community Updates

"Dodgeball." That word has instilled fear in my heart since the great PE incident of the Third Grade. It's truly a sport for the very brave, and somewhat coordinated. I am neither. That being said, I will nevertheless be cheering our ACT dodgeball team to (god-willing) victory as we play in a charity tournament on March 9.

The event is called "Dodging for Disasters" and is hosted by the Red Cross. All proceeds will go to helping those in need, and we'd like to have as many teams as possible! The cost is \$60 per team of six brave heathens. And if it makes you any more willing, there are bound to be a number of church teams involved as well!

The event is currently listed on our Facebook events page, and we would greatly appreciate your help! If you would (like me) simply want to donate to the cause, please let us know. Every little bit helps. (Matching t-shirts may be accepted in lieu of financial donations.)

We will be attempting to organize a few practice sessions before the tournament, and are currently looking for a place to use for that purpose. If you have any ideas or suggestions, they will be greatly appreciated. If you have some awesome ideas for team names or have friends who would like to join us for a good-without-a-god cause, we would be happy to hear your thoughts!

So remember, heathens: Saturday, March 9, Muskogee High School Gymnasium, at a ridiculously early 10:00am. Leave a message on the event page if you can come, play, or just give members a ride to Muskogee. Dodgeball!

# This Month's Events

**Friday, February 8**  
**7:30pm, Kilkenny's Irish Pub**  
***DWA***

It may be chilly outside, but you won't notice after a few drinks with your fellow Atheists!

**Sunday, February 10**  
**12:00pm, Biscuit Acres at Hunter Park**  
***ACT Fleas and Trees***

Bring your doggy (or doggies) to socialize at one of the coolest dog parks in T-town!

**Tuesday, February 12**  
**7:00pm, Café Ole**  
***Darwin Day Social Dinner***

Celebrate the genius of Darwin at one of our favorite restaurants on Brookside!

**Saturday, February 16**  
**1:00pm, McNellie's Public House**  
***Seth Andrews' Book Signing/Meet-and-Greet***

Join the host of "The Thinking Atheist" and get your own copy of his new book autographed!

**Sunday, February 17**  
**2:00pm, The Yost Residence in Broken Arrow**  
***Book Club/Bible Babble***

Again this month we will be discussing "Letter to a Christian Nation" by Sam Harris and choosing a book for next month!

**Friday, February 22**  
**6:00pm, University of Tulsa**  
***Seth Andrews feat. William Poire***

Come listen to the cool kids talk! There will be a reception to follow, and you don't want to miss it!

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**Saturday, February 23  
7:30pm, Location TBA  
DWA**

I'm not sure where we will be Drinking With Atheists, but you'd better be ready and willing to join us!

**Sunday, February 24  
7:00pm, Sheridan Lanes  
Bowling Alley  
Unholy Rollers Bowling**

We need some heathens with talent as well as cheerleaders for our monthly bowling night!

**Our next Official Monthly Meeting will be Sunday, March 3, at 1:00pm in the Maple Room at Hardesty Library.**

## ACT Kids' Corner

### The Origin of Species

February 12 will be the anniversary of Charles Darwin's birthday. Over 150 years ago, in late 1859, Darwin published one of the most revolutionary science books of our time: "The Origin of Species". This book and the accounts of his travels helped us understand the world in a wonderful new way: through the science of evolution.

Evolution is a very simple idea: the animals that can survive better in their environment will have more offspring; and eventually, some of those offspring will be a little different from the others. If the differences make it easier for them to survive, the population will be filled up with the new and different kind of animals. (Okay, so it's kind of a simple idea. It took scientists a very long time to figure this out for a reason.)

Depending on your age, there are many different ways you can learn about

Charles Darwin and the science of evolution. You can ask your parents to show you some of the videos in this article, or you can go get a book from your library, like "Evolution Revolution" or "The Origin of Species".

Take some time with your family and watch these cool videos: [Revealing the Origins of Life](#), [What Darwin Never Knew](#), and [What Makes us Human](#). (Parents: the first video is only 10 minutes long, while the last two are about an hour each.) They are great videos and will teach you a lot, even if you already know about evolution!

Don't forget to tell your parents "Happy Darwin Day" on February 12, and remember how important it is to find things out for yourself. Always ask questions, and maybe one day you will change the future and our understanding like Charles Darwin did in 1859.



### Contacts and Links:

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Please visit the Atheist Community of Tulsa on:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Meetup](#)

Our Website, [www.actok.org](http://www.actok.org)



