

29 May 2014

British Humanist Association
39 Moreland Street
London EC1V 8BB
020 7324 3060
chiefexec@humanism.org.uk

To all members of the British Humanist Association

Dear Member,

British Humanist Association Annual General Meeting
Saturday 19 July 2014 10.30-17.00
Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH

These papers contain the agenda for this year's AGM, the formal notice of the AGM, and the minutes of last year's AGM. Please bring them with you to the AGM. Our current Articles of Association and Byelaws will be available on arrival and can be downloaded from the BHA website at www.humanism.org.uk/members.

Registration for the formal AGM will begin at 13.00. Members are asked to be in their seats by 13.40 for a performance by the BHA choir. Tea and coffee will be available from 13.00, but lunch is not provided.

There will be three forums in the morning, where staff will report to members on recent activities and members will have an opportunity to discuss that work in greater detail than is possible in the AGM proper. We are also pleased to announce that writer and broadcaster **Natalie Haynes** will address members after the AGM, and the Trustees invite members attending the AGM to stay on for a glass of wine or a soft drink.

So, the full programme for the day will be as follows:

10.30 – 11.15	Ceremonies Forum led by Isabel Russo, Head of Ceremonies
11.20 – 12.05	Public Affairs Forum led by Pavan Dhaliwal, Head of Public Affairs
12.05 – 13.00	Education and Promotion Forum led by Sara Passmore, Head of Education and Promotion
13.40 – 14.00	BHA Choir entertains
14.00 – 14.30	Report and Questions with Andrew Copson, Chief Executive
14.30 – 16.00	AGM (registration from 13.00)
16.00 – 16.30	Address by novelist and broadcaster Natalie Haynes
16.30 – 17.00	A glass of wine (or soft drink) with the Trustees

2013 Report and Accounts

The 2013 Report and Accounts are available online at www.humanism.org.uk/members. A copy is also available for inspection at the BHA office and copies will be available at the AGM. You can request a paper copy in advance of the AGM by emailing, telephoning or writing to us.

In order to ensure that members who have questions concerning the accounts can have them answered without taking up too much time at the AGM, the Trustees will take written questions on the accounts in advance of the AGM and provide written answers to members attending the

meeting. If you have any questions on the accounts, please submit them by email or post by **17.00 on 27 June 2014**.

Resolutions and Motions

As part of the formal business of the AGM, the members will be asked to consider and pass the resolutions which are set out in the notice of the AGM. The resolutions are: to receive the BHA's report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013; the re-appointment of the auditor; and to authorise the trustees to determine their remuneration.

The following motion has also been received and will be discussed at the AGM:

The British Humanist Association believes that society has a moral responsibility to look after the welfare of those who, through no fault of their own, find themselves disadvantaged and in need of the assistance of the state. It further believes that the current programme of financial austerity, with its cuts to welfare spending, is having a disproportionate effect on the nation's poor, who are now bearing the main burden of the attempt to reduce the economic deficit. It, therefore, encourages all humanists to support campaigns that oppose policies and practices which make the poorest, and least physically and psychologically able, pay to solve an economic problem which is not of their making.

Proposed by the North East Humanists and seconded by Leslie Milne

The Trustees have proposed the following amendment to the motion:

Replace 'The British Humanist Association' with 'This meeting'.

This is because the procedure for making BHA policy includes consultation with partner groups and full discussion at the Trustees' annual policy meeting. The Trustees point out, for information, that the BHA supports End Child Poverty and the Jubilee Debt Campaign. If the meeting adopts the amended resolution, the Trustees will take it into account at their next policy meeting.

If you wish to submit any amendments to this motion, you must do so by email or post by **17.00 on 27 June 2014**.

Any **Emergency Motions** (i.e. motions relating to matters of importance to the BHA that have arisen after the closing date for ordinary resolutions of **1 May 2014**) must be submitted to me or to the Chair before the start of the AGM. Emergency Motions may be proposed by Partner groups of the BHA or individual members and must also be seconded. It should be noted that any motions proposed are not resolutions of the BHA in law but only express the opinion of the meeting.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible of you at the AGM. **Apologies for absence** can be made by email, post or telephone.

Best wishes,



Andrew Copson
Company Secretary, British Humanist Association

British Humanist Association
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 19 July 2014 14.30 (registration from 13.00)
Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH

AGENDA

1. Adoption of Standing Orders
which are given in the BHA's Byelaws
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations of interest
4. Election of one Timekeeper and two Tellers
5. Minutes of the 2013 AGM
which are attached to this agenda
6. Matters arising from those minutes
which are not covered separately on this agenda
7. Chair's address
8. Announcement of the results of the elections to the Board of Trustees
9. Formal part of the Business of the AGM as set out in the attached Notice
10. Motion and amendment received:

The British Humanist Association believes that society has a moral responsibility to look after the welfare of those who, through no fault of their own, find themselves disadvantaged and in need of the assistance of the state. It further believes that the current programme of financial austerity, with its cuts to welfare spending, is having a disproportionate effect on the nation's poor, who are now bearing the main burden of the attempt to reduce the economic deficit. It, therefore, encourages all humanists to support campaigns that oppose policies and practices which make the poorest, and least physically and psychologically able, pay to solve an economic problem which is not of their making.

Proposed by the North East Humanists and seconded by Leslie Milne

In the first line of the motion above, replace 'The British Humanist Association' with 'This meeting'

Proposed by the Board

11. Emergency Motions
12. Any other business
which must be notified to the Company Secretary in advance of the AGM

Company Secretary
29 May 2014

British Humanist Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on Saturday 13 July 2013, 14.30 – 16.00 at Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH

Present: Asad Abbas, Mike Adams, Deborah Ainger, Brendan Armstrong, Hilary Ash, Robert Ashby, Zelda Bailey, Charles Baily, Tom Beaton, David Bernstein, John Blakey, Rhian Blakey, David Bothwell, David Brewin, Alan Brownjohn, Angela Burns, John Catt, John Chadwick, John Chalmers, Tony Charlesworth, Steve Clapman, Denis Cobell, Pamela Cole, Thomas Collier, Les Collins, Tom Copley, Jim Craig-Gray, Clare Delderfield, Keith Denby, Stella Dessoy, R Dourmashkin, Sydnee Dourmashkin, Christine Duffin, Harry Duffin, Cedric Duncan, Blaise Egan, Lucy Ferman-Moore, Cathryn Fraser, Anna Gray, Bernard Halter, Martin Hamilton, Alan Henness, Paul Hoggart, Willemien Hoogendoorn, Rob Hughes, Jill Hughes, Ruth Hunter, Nigel Jordan, Paul Kaufman, Benjamin Kerr, Toby Keynes, Audrey King, Lenka Klementova, Adam Knowles, Joshua Kutchinsky, Maureen Kvebekk, Christopher Lynch, Derek Marcus, Louisa McGeehan, Trevor Moore, Warren Newman, L Newton, Richard Norman, Ian Oakins, Marie Oatham, Ronald Oatham, Mr O'Kelly, Chris Paddock, Alan Palmer, Paula Palmer, Rafael Pepiol, Naomi Phillips, Mike Pictor, Maggie Platts, David Pollock, Boris Pomerantz, Mary Porter, Matthew Power, William Quinn, Dave Ramm, Martin Ricketts, Gulraj Rijhwani, Christine Riley Moger, Anne Rindl, Jeremy Rodell, Patricia Rogers, Seoirse Ropaigealach, Kenneth Rudd, Kevin Saldanha, David Savage, Wafaa Schiefler, Christine Seymour, Alom Shaha, Barbara Smoker, Bill Stephenson, Anna Tagliaferro, Ariadne Tampion, Darrell Thomas, Brian Tolman, Richard Unwin, Philip Vince, Ray Ward, Mark Wardrop, Deborah Waters, Raymond White, Simon Whitlock, Nicholas Winkfield, Royston Woodward, John Woolhouse, Carol Woolley, Jane Wynne-Willson.

Staff in attendance: Andrew Copson, Pavan Dhaliwal, Catriona McLellan, Blakeley Nixon, Iyabo Ojo, Sara Passmore, Isabel Russo, Richy Thompson, Tamsin Van Dyken, Andrew West.

Apologies for Absence: John Allen, Abe Alpren, Susan Antrobus, Peter Bagshaw, Barrie Berkley, Jean Berkley, Paul Blanchard, Hilary Blumer, George Broadhead, John Brown, Raymond Carlisle, Barbara Chandler, Roger Chapman, Amal Chaudhuri, Graham Cooper, Julia Copson, Julie Crow, Gordon J Davies, John Davies, Diana Eldaly-Rookledge, Mike Flood, Maxine Formaggi, Stephen Frankiss, Alice Fuller, Lesley Geach, Stephen Goldby, John Gregory, Marion Gregory, Christine Hacklett, Gerda Hanko, Felicity Harvest, Baroness Hayter, Ramon Henson, Pamela Hinett, Irene Jackson, Bob Jelley, Billy Jenkins, Michael Jenkins, Linda Karlsen, Elisabeth Kean, Kay Kirkham, Gordon Lever, David Light, Vince Maple, Marilyn Mason, Ian McLaughlin, Raymond Mellor, Christopher Moore, Elizabeth Morton, Sandra Norburn, Guy Otten, David Pack, Patsy Paine, Richard Paterson, Simon Pears, Colin Pearson, Elio Pennisi, Susan Rankin, Liz Reason, Alison Redcastle, Delyth Rennie, Dave Root, Martin Rowson, Joan Ruddock MP, Mike Savage, Dr John Sellers, Don Sharpe, Chris Smith, Keith Steadman, Alison Stein, Richard Stein, Shaun Steiner-Goldberg, Colin Stevenson, Carolyn Sugden, Brenda Swindells, Robert Swindells, Neil The-Hippy, Polly Toynbee, D K Watson, Michael Whincup, Barbara White, Richard White, Tony Wilson, James Wolsey.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM, mentioning in particular staff, trustees, Vice Presidents and the President.

Adoption of Standing Orders: On the proposal of Robert Ashby (Chair of the Board of Trustees and the AGM), the Standing Orders were adopted by the meeting.

Declarations of Interest: The Chair reminded those present that members speaking should declare any potential conflict of interest in relation to any item.

Minutes of the AGM of Saturday 23 July 2012: On the proposal of the Board, the minutes were approved *nem con*.

Matters arising from the previous minutes: There were no matters arising.

Chair's address: The chair reported on the past year's activities, highlighting the BHA's many successes and the hard work ahead. In relation to the Board's responsibilities for governance, he emphasized that new governance procedures were in place following an excellent review led by Vice Chair Tricia Rogers; that the term of the President had been extended from two years to three years; that members of the HSS could now join UKAFHA; that work was beginning to link up Distinguished Supporters in a way that would bring them together more as BHA supporters. He drew attention to the huge growth in the number of volunteers working for the BHA.

Election to the Board of Trustees: An election of trustees was reported. In a postal ballot in which 2081 valid votes were cast, the following candidates were elected (in order of election): ASHBY, Robert; COPLEY, Tom; SHAHA, Alom; PORTER, Mary; POLLOCK, David. Thanks were expressed by all present to Alice Fuller and Allan Hayes, both of whom were leaving the Board this year.

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2012: John Woolhouse (Treasurer) presented key figures from the annual accounts. He drew attention to the revised reserves policy, which introduced greater financial flexibility for the BHA; and the need for fundraising was heavily underlined. The Report and Accounts for 2012 were accepted *nem con*.

Re-appointment of Auditor: The firm of Knox Cropper was reappointed as auditor *nem con*.

Remuneration of Auditor: The trustees were authorized to determine the remuneration of the auditor *nem con*.

Emergency Motions: No motions had been received.

Any other Business: There was none.

BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
(the 'BHA')
Company Number: 228781

Notice of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the BHA will be held at Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH on 19 July 2014 at 14.30 to consider and, if deemed fit, to approve the following resolutions:

As Ordinary Resolutions:

1. To receive the BHA's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013.
2. To re-appoint Knox Cropper as auditor to the BHA to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting of the BHA where accounts are laid before the members.
3. To authorise the trustees to determine the remuneration of the auditor.

Date: 29 May 2014

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Registered Office:
39 Moreland Street
London
EC1V 8BB



COMPANY SECRETARY

Notes:

1. A member entitled to attend, speak and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy, to exercise all or any of his or her rights to attend, speak and vote in his or her place on a show of hands or on a poll provided. Such proxy need not be a member of the BHA.
2. To be valid, the completed and signed form of proxy must be returned to the BHA's registered office no later than 14.30 on 17 July 2014. Lodging a form of proxy does not preclude a member from attending and voting at the meeting.
3. To be eligible to vote, you must be on the register of members of the BHA at 17.00 on 18 July 2014 and have no monies owing to the BHA.

BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
(the 'BHA')
Form of Proxy

I, _____ of _____ being a member
of the BHA hereby appoint the Chairman of the meeting or _____ of _____
as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf, as
indicated below, at the Annual General Meeting of the BHA to be held on 19 July 2014 and at any
adjournment thereof.

Resolution	Resolution Summary	For	Against	Discretionary	Vote Withheld
1	Receive annual report and accounts for 31 December 2013				
2	Re-appointment of Knox Cropper as auditor				
3	Authorise the trustees to determine the auditor's remuneration				

Please indicate with an 'X' in the space above how you wish your votes to be cast.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2014

.....
Signature

Explanatory Notes:

1. Every member has the right to appoint some other person of his or her choice, who need not be a member, as his or her proxy, to exercise all or any of his or her rights, to attend, speak and vote on his or her behalf at the meeting. To appoint a person other than the Chairman please insert the name and address of your chosen proxy in the space provided.
2. To be valid this form of proxy must be signed by the member or his or her attorney and be sent to the BHA's registered office (39 Moreland Street, London EC1V 8BB) no later than 14.30 on 17 July 2014. Any Power of Attorney or any other authority under which the proxy form is signed (or a duly certified copy of such power or authority) must be included with the proxy form.
3. The 'Vote Withheld' box is provided to enable you to abstain on the resolution. However, it should be noted that a vote withheld is not a vote in law and will not be counted in the calculation of the proportion of votes 'for' and 'against' a resolution.
4. If you do not indicate as to how your proxy should vote or you tick the discretion box, your proxy will have discretion to vote on the resolution as they see fit. Your proxy will also have the discretion to vote as they see fit on any other business which may properly come before the meeting, including amendments to the resolution, and at any adjournment of the meeting.
5. The completion and return of this form will not preclude a member from attending the meeting and voting in person.
6. To be eligible to vote, you must be on the register of members of the BHA at 17.00 on 18 July 2014 and have no monies owing to the BHA.