

Progressive Atheists Annual General Meeting

Meeting Agenda

Monday, 27 October 2014

Trotters Restaurant

400 Lygon St, Carlton, Victoria, Australia 3053

Chairperson: Alice Carr / newly elected President

Returning Officer: TBA

Minutes: Brian Jones

Attendees: All members attending the meeting must record their name in the attendance book, to be recorded in the minutes of meeting.

1. Confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting: 29 October 2013

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2. Receive & Consider the Annual Report

Please receive and consider the Annual Report of the Committee on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year: 1 July 2013 - 30 June 2014

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3. Receive & Consider the Financial Statements

Please receive and consider the financial statements of the Association for the preceding financial year submitted by the Committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act.

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4. Number of Ordinary Members to hold office Term 2015

It is proposed that there should be ____ positions for Ordinary Members the Term 2015 Committee.

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5. Election of Committee Members

Chairperson of the meeting must declare all positions on the Committee vacant.
Returning Officer to take over proceedings.

Nominations

Prior to the election of each position, the Chairperson of the meeting must call for nominations to fill that position. An eligible member of the Association may: nominate himself or herself; or with the member’s consent, be nominated by another member.

A member who is nominated for a position and fails to be elected to that position may be nominated for any other position for which an election is yet to be held.

If the number of members nominated exceeds the number to be elected, a ballot must be held. If a ballot is required for the election for a position, the Chairperson of the meeting must appoint a member to act as returning officer to conduct the ballot. The returning officer must not be a member nominated for the position. Before the ballot is taken, each candidate may make a short speech in support of his or her election. The election must be by secret ballot. The returning officer must give a blank piece of paper to - each member present in person; and each proxy appointed by a member.

5a. A call for nominations for the position of President

Elected President:_____

The newly elected President may take over as Chairperson of the meeting.

5b. A call for nominations for the position of Vice President

Elected Vice President:_____

5c. A call for nominations for the position of Secretary

Elected Secretary:_____

5d. A call for nominations for the position of Treasurer

Elected Treasurer:_____

5e. A call for nomination for Ordinary Members of the Committee

Elected Ordinary Member 1: _____

Elected Ordinary Member 2: _____

Elected Ordinary Member 3: _____

Elected Ordinary Member 4: _____

Elected Ordinary Member 5: _____

Elected Ordinary Member 6: _____

6. Annual Subscription Fee

The annual subscription fee on joining Progressive Atheists shall continue to be \$20.00 annually, and we shall also offer a concession price of \$10.00 per annum for those on a low income.

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7. Annual Subscription Payment Date

The date of payment for the standard annual subscription of \$20.00 or the concession price of \$10.00 shall be the 1 July and will cover the 12 month period to 30 June.

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8. New Members

New members joining the association between 31 March - 1 July will be awarded membership for the following financial year commencing 1 July.

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9. Progressive Atheists Branches

Following are the proposed additions (**shown in bold**) to be added to the model Rules in order to allow for the creation of Progressive Atheists Branches:

4 Definitions

In these Rules—

Branches, means a subsidiary local group who takes on the name of "Progressive Atheists (name of local area)". For example: "Progressive Atheists Perth" or "Progressive Atheists Ballarat".

5 Powers of Association

(1) Subject to the Act, the Association has power to do all things incidental or conducive to achieve its purposes.

(2) Without limiting subrule (1), the Association may—

- (a) acquire, hold and dispose of real or personal property;
- (b) open and operate accounts with financial institutions;
- (c) invest its money in any security in which trust monies may lawfully be invested;
- (d) raise and borrow money on any terms and in any manner as it thinks fit;
- (e) secure the repayment of money raised or borrowed, or the payment of a debt or liability;
- (f) appoint agents to transact business on its behalf;
- (g) enter into any other contract it considers necessary or desirable.

(h) facilitate the operation of Branches in accordance with a structure determined by the committee.

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10. Purpose Statement

Our current Purpose Statement reads as follows:

Progressive Atheists Incorporated (PA Inc) is an organisation of like-minded individuals who want to affect a progressive social transformation within their local community.

We seek to fulfill the following purposes:

1. To foster functional democracy within PA Inc, its processes, procedures and activities;
 2. To provide effective accountability of those entrusted with PA Inc leadership;
 3. To fight for secular ideals and freedom from religion;
 4. To act in solidarity with other progressive movements, organisations and groups that share our commitment to voicing issues affecting women, minorities, people with disabilities, gays and lesbians, seniors, youth and the environment;
 5. To improve communication among progressive groups and organisations in our community in order to galvanise a united front for promoting secularism.
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In April the committee was approached by a founding member of Progressive Atheists with a request to update our Purpose Statement. This initiated a long discussion within the committee and further consultation with all members.

The initial concerns raised were to clarify our secular aims and distinguish ourselves from hate groups. As the committee continued the discussion additional concerns were raised regarding the freedom to speak out against harmful religious views and the lack of content regarding universal human rights, social justice and ethics.

Our aim as a committee has been to maintain the spirit of the original Purpose Statement, whilst adding improvements that enhance the value and meaning of the original purpose statement.

This has led us to propose the following changes and additions to the Purpose Statement as shown in **bold** on the next page.

Purpose Statement Proposal:

Progressive Atheists Incorporated (PA Inc) is an organisation of like-minded individuals who want to affect a progressive social transformation within their local community.

We seek to fulfill the following purposes:

1. To foster functional democracy within PA Inc, its processes, procedures and activities;
 2. To provide effective accountability of those entrusted with PA Inc leadership;
 3. To act in solidarity with other progressive movements, organisations and groups that share our commitment to voicing issues affecting **atheists**, women, minorities, people with disabilities, **people who identify as LGBTI**, seniors, youth, **other species** and the environment;
 4. To improve communication among progressive groups and organisations in our community in order to galvanise a united front for promoting secularism;
 5. **To strive for a secular society that grants personal and political freedom from religion, whilst retaining personal freedom of religion and personal freedom of conscience;**
 6. **To create a safe and inclusive environment within which people are encouraged to discuss their ideas honestly, debate social and cultural values, develop ethics, promote social justice and contribute to universal human rights;**
 7. **To go beyond divisive racial, religious, tribal, and sectarian constructs, and instead, contribute to a universal humanity.**
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***NOTE:** At least 10% of Progressive Atheists members will need to be present in person or by proxy at the AGM and of those at least 3/4 will need to vote in the affirmative to pass any changes to our Purpose Statement and Rules.*

END OF MEETING

CLOSE: _____ PM

*Thank you for your attendance and participation
Please add your name to the register of attendees before leaving*