

Freedom From Religion Foundation

2012 Year in Review

It's been a productive and exciting year for the Freedom From Religion Foundation. University of Chicago Professor **Jerry Coyne**, author of *Evolution is True*, recently called FFRF "the most effective secular organization in the U.S. That's largely because . . . FFRF actually does something: through scrupulous monitoring of the government and judiciously filing lawsuits, the FFRF fights an endless battle against the brushfires of religious enthusiasm that threaten to incinerate our Constitution." Jerry was responding in particular to FFRF's gutsy latest federal lawsuit, filed in November, suing the Internal Revenue Service over its failure to enforce electioneering restrictions against churches. (See litigation below.) Thank you, Jerry!

Below is our report on 2012 activism and activities through late November.

FFRF tops 19,400 Members!

The Freedom From Religion Foundation, which began with 3 original members in 1976 and was incorporated nationally in 1978, added 2,000 members in the past year, topping more than 19,000 members nationwide and in Canada. (We'd love your help in spreading the word so FFRF can reach 20,000 soon.)



FFRF has long been the nation's largest explicitly freethought (atheist, agnostic) membership group. Pew this fall reported that one in five adult citizens in the United States is nonreligious, making "Nones" the nation's second largest "denomination" (after Catholics). Let's flex our collective muscle to inject reason into the religion debate, and to get religion out of government.

FFRF Makes News

FFRF lawsuits, state/church complaints and victories, PR and billboard campaigns and other events generated more than over 1,000 original news stories about FFRF in daily newspapers, plus 181 TV segments generated from January – late November 2012. We expect to generate even more coverage at year's end, given the annual December "war on the Constitution." Convention to convention (mid-October 2011 to mid-October 2012) there were 1,384 news stories about FFRF including 212 TV segments. Many newspaper stories went out "on the wire." TV coverage usually involved local news coverage about FFRF actions and state/church complaints, but also included Dan Barker's second appearance on "Sixty Minutes Australia," a short "Good Morning America" interview and some (reluctant) national Fox appearances.

Check out that media coverage or sign up to get coverage delivered to your inbox at ffrf.org/news/media/. View the PR presentation given at FFRF's 2012 convention at: <http://ffrf.org/about/year-in-review>

Litigation

FFRF v. IRS. FFRF is taking the IRS to court over its failure to enforce electioneering restrictions against churches and religious organizations. The suit was filed in federal court on Nov. 14, 2012, and has been one of the most popular challenges FFRF has taken to date, based on public comment. This case is brought on FFRF's behalf by attorney **Richard L. Bolton**, as are several other suits below.

Ten Commandments at Pennsylvania schools. FFRF with parents and students filed suit in the fall against two school districts in Pennsylvania which have refused to move large Eagles' Ten Commandment monuments by entrances of public high schools. It's dismaying that the community has rallied behind these bible edicts, so clearly inappropriate in a public school setting.



FFRF, students challenge graduation prayer in South Carolina. Thanks to **Matthew (Max) Nielson**, a graduating senior, and two currently enrolled students, **Jacob Zupon** and **Dakota McMillan**, FFRF has been able to sue School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties for sanctioning graduation prayers. The federal lawsuit was filed this summer.



FFRF sues over Pennsylvania Year of the Bible. On behalf of hundreds of Pennsylvania members, including 41 named state members, FFRF filed suit in March against the Pennsylvania House for declaring 2012 to be "the Year of the Bible." The resolution enjoined citizens "to study and apply the teachings of the Holy Scriptures." U.S. District Judge Christopher Conner on Oct. 1, 2012, dismissed the case, ruling House officials had legislative immunity, but chastened House officials for "premeditated pandering." Conner wrote: "The court is compelled to shine a clear, bright light on this resolution because it pushes the Establishment Clause envelope behind the safety glass of legislative immunity."

FFRF challenges Catholic Shrine on Big Mountain. FFRF filed suit in U.S. District Court in Montana in February, challenging the Forest Service's decision to renew a special permit for a "shrine to our Lord Jesus Christ" on federal property in the Rockies. The Knights of Columbus, a conservative Roman Catholic men's club, has placed a devotional shrine on Big Mountain near Whitefish Mountain's Resort Chair Two in Flathead National Forest, in violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution. A Nov. 28 ruling allows our case to proceed.



Colorado Day of Prayer Win. The Colorado State Court of Appeals agreed with FFRF that a Colorado Day of Prayer proclaimed by the governor is a violation of the Colorado Constitution's protection of freedom of conscience. A unanimous 3-judge panel ruled on May 10, 2012: "A reasonable observer would conclude that these proclamations send the message that those who pray are favored members of Colorado's political community, and that those who do not pray do not enjoy that favored status."

Settled: Giles Co., Va. Ten Commandments. FFRF with the ACLU of West Virginia successfully settled a federal lawsuit on behalf of a high school student and parent, challenging the Ten Commandments being posted in public schools, ending in July 2012.

Settled: FFRF v. Whiteville. On Aug. 8, 2012, Judge Daniel Breen approved a settlement between FFRF and the Town of Whiteville, Tenn., enjoining the town and mayor from installing crosses on city hall property. The defendants also agreed not to replace the cross arm on the remaining structure of the water tower and to pay \$20,000 of FFRF's costs in attorney fees.

Parish exemption "standing" win. Our federal challenge of the "parish exemption" — preferential tax treatment set up by Congress in

1954 giving clergy significant benefits if paid through a "housing allowance," got a significant ruling granting FFRF Co-Presidents Dan Barker and Annie Laurie Gaylor, as well as President Emerita Anne Gaylor, standing to continue the suit. They all receive a "housing allowance" from FFRF but are not allowed to claim it. U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb, Western District of Wisconsin, issued a strong 20-page opinion and order on Aug. 29, 2012. The case proceeds to the merits.



FFRF appeals Warren crèche case. With wonderful pro bono help from FFRF member and attorney **Danielle J. Hessell**, of the firm of Butzel Long in Bloomfield, Mich., FFRF and local plaintiff **Douglas J. Marshall** have appealed a federal court decision to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. On May 31, U.S. District Judge Larence Zatzoff ruled against the challenge by FFRF and Douglas, allowing the mayor to continue to allow "public displays of only religious symbols" at the city's atrium in December. FFRF is suing over censorship, establishment of Christianity and denial of equal protection under the law.



Release-time abuse. Pro bono attorney **George Daly** exhausted our remedies in this lawsuit challenging academic credits for "release-time" instruction in a South Carolina public school. The complicated case involved a bible class transferring credits to the high school through the shell of an accredited religious school — neither the religious school nor the accrediting agency had reviewed the bible class for its alleged secular content. Thanks to the local plaintiffs **Eilen Tillet** and **Robert Moss**, and to George for his diligence. A ruling by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals permitting this practice was issued in June.

Arizona Day of Prayer. FFRF members and pro bono attorneys **Richard Morris** and **Marc Victor** are appealing a state lawsuit against Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer and the Arizona Day of Prayer.

FFRF legal staff also submitted an amicus brief on behalf of the **Kountze School District, Texas**, which ordered cheerleaders to stop holding Christian prayer banners for football players to run through at games, after an FFRF complaint. The cheerleaders, with a religious-right group, are suing the school now. This bizarre case and FFRF's involvement have had major media coverage.



140+ Legal Victories in 2012!

From January through Nov. 21 2012, FFRF has won more than 140 significant legal victories without having to go to court, using education and persuasion. From January to late November, FFRF has received more than 2,100 requests (whew!) for help from members, or members of the public, to help counter entanglements between state and church. FFRF officially doubled its staff attorneys this year, going from two to four, to handle this caseload. To date they sent more than 900 formal letters objecting to state/church violations so far in 2012. It often may take many follow-up letters to get results.

Legal victories include:

- Removal of a large Latin cross from the city seal of Buhler, Kan.
- Ending prayers at 5 school boards in Pennsylvania, and at the school board in Pellston, Mich.
- Getting removed a cross from Indian Caves State Park, Neb., and from behind a customer desk at a post office in Huntersville, N.C.
- Ending prayers before football games at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, a longtime abuse
- Downing a large, lighted cross placed every December by the village of Alsip, Ill., on its water tower
- Ending a 25-year violation of opening meetings with prayer by Henrico County Board of Supervisors, and Christian prayers at the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (!)

- Removing a nativity display in front of Ellwood City's municipal building in Pennsylvania (a longtime December violation that got major coverage)



- Halting mayoral sponsorship and coordination of monthly prayer breakfasts in Augusta, Ga.

- Getting rescinded a \$1.1 million grant by the City of Tucson, Ariz., to the Catholic Church to renovate a place of worship

- Getting rescinded a \$1,300 grant to a local church by the city of West Linn., Ore.

- Halting free lawn maintenance by the U.S. military for Catholic Social Services of Augusta, Ga.

- Halting distribution of contact information for students at Bret Harte Union High School, Calif., to the local Catholic diocese

- Halting prayers and bible reading at meals at Peach County, Ga. senior center

- Discontinuing the display of "God Bless America" messages on electronic tickets by COLT bus system in Scranton, Pa.

- Halting cheerleader banners with bible quotes (Stone High School, Miss.)

- Removing a large Ten Commandments display from the Brandon Police Department, Miss.

- Halting prayers broadcast over the loudspeaker at public school football games, including high schools in Ellisville, Miss., Madison, Ky., Lake Charles, La.

- Halting pre-game prayers led by coaches and sometimes clergy, including at schools in Alexandria, Ind., Dougherty Co. School, Ga., Castlewood School District, S.D., Hoover, Ala., Auburn, Wash., El Paso, Texas, Walker Co. Schools, Ga., and Inez, Ky., and ending a "team chaplain" at a high school in Tallapoosa, Ga.

- Ending illegal church bulletin discounts including at restaurants in Wiggins, Miss., Valdosta, Ga., Blue Ridge, Ga., Asheville, N.C., Euless, Texas, Jacksonville, Fla. (Chick-fil-A), and at Irish Fest, Milwaukee. Member **John Wolff** just agreed to settle a discrimination case over a church bulletin at a restaurant in Columbia, Pa., with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.



- Ending invocations at graduation ceremonies in public high schools in Mogadore, Ohio, Plaquemine, La., Athens, Ala., Frankfort, Ky., Hastings Area School District, Mich., and at senior assemblies in Fort Worth, Texas and Cumming, Ga.

- Stopping a public school summer program in Haywood County, N.C., from busing students to Vacation Bible School as part of class

- Stopping required display of a sticker in Granite City, Ill., celebrating a Christian church

- Removing a large "guardian angel" statue from a public park (a 7-year battle!) in Genesee County Park, N.Y.

- Being part of a coalition put together by FFRF member **Damon Vix**, that placed many freethinking displays in Palisades Park, Calif., which encouraged Santa Monica to discontinue having displays in parks, thus ending 58 years of domination of the park in December by enormous nativity displays.

Public school violations too numerous to list were halted, including Gideon distribution of bibles, religious songs, and daily recitation of prayers at an elementary school in luka, Miss., kindergarten prayers in a Manchester, Tenn. public school, and devotional bible lessons for first-grade students in Minford, Ohio, (including having children color in a manger scene). FFRF stopped violations including having children as young as three pray at a public preschool in Kentucky.

There is no end to creative ways to sneak religion into public schools. FFRF stopped distribution of ribbons saying "God answers prayers, drugs don't" (Canton, Ga.), and even an electronic sign saying "Attend church this Sunday" at a local elementary school (Martin County, Ky.). FFRF stopped a judge in Georgia from using county



supplies to collect new and used bibles to distribute to “persons around the globe who do not have the resources to get bibles.”

Congratulations to FFRF’s diligent and committed Staff Attorneys Rebecca Markert, Patrick Elliott, Andrew Seidel and Stephanie Schmitt!



Student Activist Scholarships Recognize Young Activists

FFRF designates three annual student/youth activist scholarship of \$1,000 each. In 2012 to date, we’ve recognized SEVEN activist youths with scholarship awards, going to:

- **Jessica Ahlquist**, high school junior, after winning her federal court ruling in January against a prayer banner at her Rhode Island high school. (FFRF doubled the award after a Rhode Island legislator called Jessica “an evil little thing.”)

- **Krystal Myers**, a Tennessee honors student and editor of her high school newspaper whose column, “No Rights: The Life of an Atheist” was censored, by school officials. Her article got better play in the Knoxville News Sentinel, which covered the controversy and published her piece.

- **Jeff Shott**, 17, for protesting state/church violations at Summit High School in Spring Hill, Tenn., and for dressing up like Jesus on “Fictional Character Day.”

- **Matthew Nielson**, 18, who is serving as principal plaintiff in FFRF’s federal lawsuit challenging the practice of forcing seniors to “vote” on whether to hold (illegal) prayers at the graduation ceremony at Irmo High School in Columbia, S.C.

- **Maia Disbrow**, 12, from Hixson, Tenn., who spoke publicly before the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners to ask them to drop government prayer.

- **Mayan**, 15, a sophomore, and **Balen Essak**, 14, a freshman, who successfully protested crosses on football helmets at their public high school and persuaded the Shorewood School Board (Wis.) this fall to drop them.



Jessica Ahlquist also received an additional \$10,000 scholarship as the first recipient of FFRF’s “Atheists in Foxholes Support Fund,” to provide scholarships and assistance to persons who exhibit bravery in furthering the cause, and experience hardship because of that stand. As a victorious litigant, Jessica also received FFRF’s **Freethinker of the Year Award**, which she accepted at FFRF’s 35th annual national convention in Portland in October.



\$28,150 Awarded Freethinking Student Essayists

FFRF gave a total of \$28,150 in scholarships in its three essay competitions for students. FFRF thanks **Herbert (“Harry”) Bushong**, a nonagenarian, for sponsoring the current high school competition. FFRF distributed \$11,250 in scholarships to 13 college-bound high school seniors. The college competition is a memorial to **Michael Ha-keem** funded by his bequest. There were 10 winners receiving a total of \$7,800 in scholarships. **Professor Brian Bolton**, a Lifetime Member, is sponsor of the graduate student essay competition with \$9,100 total awarded to 13 winners. Retired teacher John Moe provides the \$200 scholarships to high school honorable mention winners, and Dean and Dorea Schramm kindly provide \$50 bonuses. These essays are reprinted or excerpted in Freethought Today.

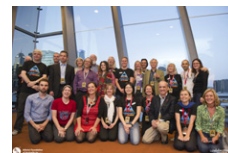
Outreach, Campus Events and other Events

Freethought is on the march, nationally and globally. Countries visited by one or both of the co-presidents included Australia, Canada,

Germany, Mexico, United Kingdom. FFRF was a co-sponsor of the largest U.S. freethought open-air rally to date, the **March Reason Rally** on the Mall in Washington, D.C. Dan and Annie Laurie spoke, along with many other freethought activists and entertainers. FFRF set up a popular booth, and held two dinner parties, one featuring Supreme Court victor **Ellery Schempp**, with cameos by **Jessica Ahlquist** and winsome Australian singer **Shelley Segal**, the other recognizing freethinking author **Barbara Ehrenreich** with an Emperor Has No Clothes Award.



Dan and Annie Laurie spoke at the largest atheist conference in history, “**Celebration of Reason**,” at the **Global Atheist Conference in Melbourne, Australia**, put on by Atheists of Australia (with some help from the government’s tourism fund!). The exciting event attracted major talents such as Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Sam Harris, diverse Australian speakers and more than 4,000 attendees at Melbourne’s wonderful new convention center. Kudos to **David Nicholls**, president of **Atheist Foundation of Australia**, and his all-volunteer Australian crew. Dan went on from that conference to the first atheist conference in the **Philippines**. In June, Dan and Annie Laurie spoke at the Atheist Alliance International conference in Cologne, Germany.



Dan visited 18 college campuses, participating in four debates, the most memorable of which was a Nov. 8 formal debate at **Oxford** (tuxedos required), in part debating Christopher Hitchens’ religious brother, Peter, with Professor Dawkins in the audience. **Dan** and a team made up of **Michael Shermer** and **Peter Millican** officially won. Dan spoke at universities or colleges in Iowa, Toronto, Canada, Pennsylvania, California, Ohio, North Carolina, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Dan also performed freethought music at the **Rock Beyond Belief, Fort Bragg, N.C.** on March 31, spoke at the Midwest Freethought Conference in Omaha, before a freethought group in Memphis, an atheist conference in Denver, Ethical Culture in Chicago, and at a freethought conference in Harrisburg, Pa. Dan will be entertaining at Minnesota Atheists’ Winter Solstice party and at **FFRF’s Winter Solstice Party** at the **Wisconsin State Capitol** in Madison on Dec. 21.



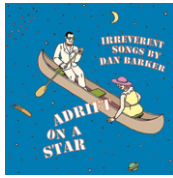
Annie Laurie’s additional engagements included speaking at the spring Freethought Festival put on by University of Wisconsin-Madison students, the first **Women in Secularism Conference** in D.C. in May, inspired by the anthology she edited, *Women Without Superstition*, and at the **second Mexican colloquium on atheism** in Mexico City Nov. 2-3. She received the “2012 Freethought Backbone Award” from the **Secular Student Alliance** at their annual summer conference.

Senior Staff Attorney **Rebecca Markert** joined a Continuing Legal Education Course on Suing and Defending Government Entities in a panel, “Religious Liberty” put on by the **Texas State Bar**. Staff Attorney **Andrew Seidel** gave a presentation debunking the “America is a Christian nation” myth before the Freethought Festival in Madison, at the Chicago Ethical Society and at FFRF’s convention. He spoke at Indiana State University’s **Human Rights Day** on the parish exemption and FFRF generally. He also gave a talk before the Secular Student Alliance and on the separation of church and state at the University Law School, Nevada. Staff Attorney **Stephanie Schmitt** took part in a public forum, “**A Civil Discourse**,” on religion and government at the Greenfield Public Library, Wis.

FFRF Issues Bright New Music CD

FFRF at year’s end is issuing its third musical CD, “**Adrift on a Star**,” featuring Dan Barker and others. The CD debuts a winning collaboration, “**Poor Little Me**,” words by **Dan Barker** and music by Broadway’s icon, **Charles (“Annie”) Strouse**, who accepted FFRF’s

Emperor Has No Clothes Award last year. The CD features new songs or arrangements by Dan Barker, a professional musician and songwriter. The CD includes cameos by singer **Susan Hofer**. Australian talent **Shelley Segal's** beautiful song "I Don't Believe in Fairies" is included, and former Christian rocker **Joe Taylor's** first freethought song, "**Be Still My Child.**" Several of lyricist **Yip** ("Somewhere Over the Rainbow") **Harburg's** irreverent rhymes are set to music by Dan.



Office Updates

(See enclosed sheet for FFRF's expansion plans, and why we need to expand!)

Volunteers. FFRF thanks regular volunteers and officers **Phyllis Rose** (3 afternoons a week since 2000) and **Wendy Goldberg** (2 full days a week). Wendy has donated weeks of time indexing FFRF lawsuits and legal letters, poring over insurance contracts and many other tasks requiring extreme patience and expertise! Our new volunteer **Steve Salemsen**, a retired publisher, volunteers 2 afternoons a week. College student **Ryan Hettinger** worked nearly fulltime for most of this spring, including a 6-hour roundtrip trip to Streater, Ill., accompanying Staff Attorney Patrick Elliott to replace a defaced FFRF banner FFRF had placed to counter a Christian banner in a park ("Christ died for your sins"). Our sign said: "Nobody died for our sins." The replacement sign added: "P.S. Thou Shalt Not Steal."



Staff. FFRF retains 12 full-time staffers. Former intern and legal clerk **Stephanie Schmitt** joining as official staff attorney in February. Industrious **Julie Solberg** does part-time office work this semester and will go full-time for the spring semester as she waits to get into a Master's program.

Officers. FFRF thanks outgoing officer **Ted Utchen, III.**, a retired attorney, for his service and welcomes new vice president **Michael Cermak, Pa.**

Legal Interns. Spring legal interns from the University of Wisconsin Law School were **Ken Earl, Susan Lund, and Dustin Clark**. Two unpaid undergrad interns, **Svein Hoexter** and **Brendan Moriarty**, both from UW, assisted with research and tasks. FFRF's three volunteer fulltime legal clerks this summer were UW Law School students **JJ Rowling, Maddy Ziegler** and **Ben Zich** (Wake Forest University, N.C.). JJ and Maddy both stayed on as interns for the fall 2012 term. Undergraduate intern **Calli Miller** is working productively as an unpaid intern this fall to help the legal staff. **Sarah Eucalano** just started working as FFRF's first (and unpaid) journalism intern. **Susan Lund** and **Liz Cavell** both filled temporary legal assistant positions in 2012.

New Honorary Director joins distinguished roster

FFRF welcomes biologist **Jerry Coyne** to its roster of honorary directors. He joins: **Richard Dawkins, Daniel C. Dennett, Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, Ernie Harburg, Jennifer Michael Hecht, the late Christopher Hitchens, Susan Jacoby, Mike Newdow, Steven Pinker, Katha Pollitt, Ron Reagan, Oliver Sacks, M.D., Robert Sapolsky, Edward Sorel** and **Julia Sweeney**.

Public Relations/Advertising Campaigns

FFRF made several exciting forays into **national TV advertising** in 2012. In response to Rick Santorum's public statements that the historic speech by John F. Kennedy in 1960 "makes me want to throw up," FFRF produced a 30-second ad that ran on "**CBS Sunday Morning**" March 25 and on the "**CBS Evening News**" March 26. The dramatic 30-second spot, with Dan's beautiful rendering of "America (My Country Tis of Thee)", aired JFK making his statement, "**I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute. . . where no religious body seeks to impose its will directly or indirectly upon the general populace.**" Narrator **Buzz Kemper**

concluded: "Let's restore respect for America's secular roots. Help the Freedom From Religion Foundation defend the wall of separation between state and church. Join us at FFRF.ORG. Freedom depends on freethinkers." The ad also played on "Meet the Press" April 1 and all week long on MSNBC's "Rachel Maddow Show."

FFRF's major PR campaign was a reaction to the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops' war on reproductive liberty, and attempt to revoke the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive mandate (ensuring employers — except churches — cannot deny women workers prescription contraceptive benefits based on religious objections). FFRF took its splashy full-page ad, "**It's Time to Quit the Catholic Church,**" to the **New York Times** in February, with the help of many generous FFRF donors, then to the **Washington Post** in May, **USA Today** in May and the **Los Angeles Times** on July 4.

FFRF, also thanks to donors, aired a **30-second spot** going after the Bishops' attempt to force its dogma on civil law, featuring one of America's favorite former Catholics — **actress Julia Sweeney** of "Letting Go of God" — which ran close to 1,000 times, reaching 42 million homes in a mix of national and cable shows airing in region-markets and through Dish and DirecTV for two weeks through July 4. FFRF also placed a billboard, "QUIT THE CHURCH Put Women's Rights over Bishops' Wrongs" in **Time Square** (at a good remnant rate!), in **Dallas-Forth Worth**, and in **St. Louis**, where dioceses are suing the Administration over the contraceptive mandate.



FFRF's billboard campaigns included placing FFRF's red-white-and-blue "**Keep Religion OUT of Politics**" message in **Warwick, R.I.** for New Year's, debuting its new "**This is what an atheist looks like**" campaign in Nashville in March, featuring beautiful **Grace Quiroz**, who came up with the slogan. FFRF's new Uncle Sam image saying "**God Fixation Won't Fix This Nation,**" designed by Steve Benson, went up in **Denver** and **Colorado Springs** in time for the National Day of Prayer, to emphasize FFRF's lawsuit against the Colorado Day of Prayer. FFRF's election-year caveat, "**God & Government A Dangerous Mix**" went up in rural Oregon in July. FFRF's **Spokane chapter** organized an appealing "Out of the Closet" campaign with 7 FFRF individuals, couples or families in late summer, featuring their images and own statements. FFRF's "God Fixation Won't Fix This Nation" billboard caveat was placed in Tampa timed with the RNC and in Charlotte for the DNC. FFRF marked its 35th annual convention in Portland in mid-October with a campaign featuring 15 billboards with Portland FFRF members, couples or families. Half proclaimed "**This is what an atheist looks like**" and half said "**I'm Secular and I Vote**" (with a red-white-and-blue theme). Thanks to all the participants and to photographer and FFRF Life Member Steve Eltinge.

Look for a new advertising **campaign in magazines** in 2013, suggested by Board Member Lester Goldstein, who gave a \$25,000 grant matched by donors to cover the ads.

Chapters

FFRF welcomes new chapters in the Chicago area and Central Florida, joining chapters in Alabama, Albuquerque, Colorado Springs, Petoskey, Mich., Spokane, Duluth, State College, Pa., Triangle cities, N.C., Tulsa, and Phoenix area. Contact details can be found at: <http://ffrf.org/about/ffrf-chapters>.

Memorable 35th Convention on East Coast

FFRF's 35th annual national convention in Portland Oct. 12-13, was our largest to date, with 880 registrants (it would have been 1,000 except for the fire code) and great excitement over **Richard Dawkins'** appearance to accept an Emperor Has No Clothes Award.



Mark your calendar now for the 36th annual FFRF convention in **Madison, Wis.**, at the Concourse Hotel, on the weekend of **Sept. 27-28, 2013**. See you next year!