FFRF National Convention 2023 Guide

We look forward to seeing you soon at FFRF’s 46th National Convention, Oct. 13–15, at the Monona Terrace at 1 John Nolen Dr., Madison, Wis. Please look over these materials serving as your guide to the convention. You can also visit the convention website: ffrf.us/convention2023

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING

The Monona Terrace and the three designated convention hotels are about a 15-minute drive from the Dane County Regional Airport. Taxis: Door #7. Uber, Lyft: Door #6. Bus and other ground transportation information can be found on the airport’s website: ffrf.us/3t7lhPq

LOOK FOR FFRF BILLBOARDS COMING FROM & GOING TO AIRPORT!

If you’re flying in, look for FFRF’s two prominent billboards saying “Resist Christian nationalism,” greeting conventioneers at 1701 E. Johnson St., (left side, near Demetral Park) and as you drive back to the airport on E. Johnson St. near the intersection of Fordem Ave.

FREETHOUGHT HALL OPEN HOUSE, THURSDAY, OCT. 12, 4–6 PM

Tour FFRF’s office, Freethought Hall, 10 N. Henry St., near the corner of W. Washington Ave. (two blocks from the Capitol Square), at our preconference open house Thursday, Sept. 12 from 4–6 pm. Early check-in, snacks, Champagne/Mimosas in the auditorium, self-guided tour. If driving, park in the Overture Center parking garage, 318 W. Mifflin St., Madison. Street parking is limited.

CONVENTION CHECK-IN AND REGISTRATION

Early-bird registration will be available at the open house (see above). Starting Friday, registrants who haven’t picked up materials must check-in at the “Pre-Registered” table outside of the Madison Ballroom at Monona Terrace, 1 John Nolen Dr., to pick up:

- Name badge
- Meal Tickets (any meal tickets ordered are tucked inside your badge)
- Convention brochure and Godless Gospel program

Please Note: A security guard will check to ensure everyone is wearing a name badge in order to be admitted to all FFRF events, so keep your name badges on!

IMPORTANT SCHEDULE INFORMATION

Please see the full schedule enclosed for the complete program, subject to minor changes.

SALES AND ‘CLEAN MONEY’ DRAWING

- Sales tables will open Friday morning through Saturday, 5 p.m.
- The Clean Money drawing is an opportunity to win “clean money” (sans the “In God We Trust” motto). The top prize is $100 — lesser prizes include $1, $2, $5, $10, $20 and $50. Tickets are only $3 each, or three for $5. All proceeds benefit FFRF. Look for volunteers Todd and Eric at the table in the ballroom to purchase your tickets by 5 p.m. Saturday. The drawing is after the Saturday dinner. Good luck!

Over, please
SUNDAY MEMBERSHIP/STATE REPS MEETINGS

FFRF members are invited to the **Membership Meeting** at 9 a.m., followed by the annual **State Representatives Meeting** ending by noon in the Hall of Ideas FG.

Hear reports, chapter leaders, and discuss future conventions. Light breakfast pastries, coffee and tea will be served at the start. (State Representatives: Remember to request late checkout.)

**MEALS**

**Convention Meals:** If you have registered for any convention group meals, the tickets will be inserted in your name badge holder. Tickets are required for the Friday dinner buffet and Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner. We offer a cash bar at each evening meal. **See schedule for convention meal and break locations, and for complimentary reception breaks.**

**Local Dining:** Our restaurant guide is online ([ffrf.us/461rYkH](ffrf.us/461rYkH)) and at the registration desk.

**ADA/LISTENING DEVICES & CAPTIONING**

We will be providing captioning under video monitors for most of the conference. Listening devices for those with hearing impairments may be borrowed from the Helpdesk by registration check-in free of charge. We suggest sitting near the front of the room for the best sound. If you have not previously contacted FFRF regarding any special accommodations you need to fully participate in the convention, please immediately email: conventionliaison@ffrf.org

**RECORDING POLICY**

Individuals may not audio record or videotape any speeches, but taking photos is fine unless otherwise specified. FFRF audio and videotapes speeches, if permitted by speakers, to post on the FFRF website. Transcripts of convention speeches, as always, will be published in future issues of Freethought Today. Look for FFRF photo coverage in our newspaper and online.

**COVID POLICY**

**Attendees, speakers and staff should be up-to-date on vaccinations and Covid boosters.**

Masking is not required, although attendees are encouraged to wear them. FFRF will provide one free KN95 mask per attendee (effective for seven days), while they last.

**DRESS**

Come as you are or dress up. A light jacket or sweater and layers are recommended since convention halls can be cold before the room fills up. Some dress up for the Saturday night dinner. Please check the weather forecast and pack an umbrella (just in case).

**MAY I BRING A LAST-MINUTE GUEST?**

Yes! You may register a last-minute guest at the Helpdesk, located outside of the Madison ballroom by registration. Last-minute meal orders will not be available.

**FFRF WELCOMES YOU!**

We want you and all participants to feel comfortable, welcome and safe. Notify an FFRF staffer to contact the directors immediately if you have a problem or concern, and we’ll do our best to help. See you soon!

Also enclosed: Current schedule, downtown Madison map

**Live tweet or post** using #FFRFCon23. Follow us @FFRF or at FFRF_official on Instagram.

FFRF Links
**Thursday, October 12**

4:00–6:00 PM Open House, Freethought Hall
» 10 N Henry St, Madison, Wis.
Early registration, appetizers, self-guided tour

**Friday, October 13**

All events take place in the Madison Ballroom, Level 4, Meeting Rooms, unless otherwise noted

8:00 AM Registration opens
» Monona Terrace, Madison Ballroom Foyer
Complimentary continental breakfast, coffee & tea

8:55 “Die Gedanken Sind Frei”
Dan Barker

9:00 Welcome
Lisa Strand, Director of Operations

Year in Review
Dan Barker & Annie Laurie Gaylor, Co-Presidents

9:30 Nothing Fails Like Prayer Award
Emily Olson, Owosso, Mich., city council member

9:45 Forward Award
Mary Ziegler, professor, University of California–Davis

10:30 Break
Coffee & tea served » Foyer

Book Signing — Mary Ziegler » Ballroom

11:00 Freethought Heroine Award
Kate Cohen

11:45 Book Signing — Kate Cohen » Foyer

Ballroom closes

Noon Lunch Break (on your own)

1:30 PM Ballroom, sales tables re-open

2:00 Legal Highlights
Rebecca Markert, Legal Director, & legal staff

3:30 FFRF Action Fund Reports
Senior Policy Council Ryan Jayne, Director of Governmental Affairs Mark Dann

3:50 Break

4:15 Student Essay Winners
Luci Green, Skylar Blumenauer, Michelle Liao

4:30 Henry Zumach Freedom From Religious Fundamentalism Award
Jen Castle, National Director of Planned Parenthood

5:15 Ballroom closes
Tailgate Party: Buffet Dinner (ticketed)
» William T. Evjue Rooftop Gardens, Level 6
Cash bar and Forward! Marching Band

5:30 Buffet opens

6:30 Ballroom, sales tables reopen

7:00 U.S. Representative Mark Pocan Address

7:15 “The Age of Appeasement”
Jeremiah Camara, Filmmaker

10:40 Champion of the First Amendment “Christians Against Christian Nationalism”
Amanda Tyler, Executive Director, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty

11:00 Moderated Q&A for Seidel, Perry, Tyler

11:30 Book signings — Andrew Seidel, Sam Perry

Noon Lunch » Exhibition Hall A, Level 1, Lakeside (ticketed)
Chapter Leader Lunch » Hall of Ideas (private)

2:00 PM Secular Legislative Panel
Minn. state Rep. Mike Freiberg, Wis. state Sen. Kelda Roys, TBA

3:00 “The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy”
Dr. Robert P. Jones, CEO, PRRI

3:45 Break

4:00 Clarence Darrow Civil Liberties Award
Elie Mystl, author, Justice Correspondent for The Nation

4:45 Q&A for Elie Mystl

5:00 Book Signings — Robert P. Jones & Elie Mystl

5:30 Cash Bar Opens » Exhibition Hall A, Level 1, Lakeside

6:00 Dinner » Exhibition Hall A (ticketed)

8:00 Program Resumes » Madison Ballroom

8:30 Emperor Has No Clothes Award
Lizz Winstead, political commentator, author

**Saturday, October 14**

8:00 AM NonPrayer Breakfast (ticketed)
» Exhibition Hall A, Level 1, Lakeside

Moment of Bedlam
Nothing Fails Like Prayer Award invocation, Gordon Brown

9:00 Sales tables reopen » Madison Ballroom

9:25 “Nothing Fails Like Prayer” song
Dan Barker

9:30 Student Activist Awards
Marcus Stovall, Bear Bright, introduced by local drag queens Bryanna Banx$ & Latina Envy

10:30 Christian Nationalism Experts
“American Crusade”
Andrew Seidel, Americans United for Separation of Church & State

10:20 “The Flag and The Cross”
Samuel L. Perry, professor, University of Oklahoma

10:40 Champion of the First Amendment “Christians Against Christian Nationalism”
Amanda Tyler, Executive Director, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty

11:00 Moderated Q&A for Seidel, Perry, Tyler

11:30 Book signings — Andrew Seidel, Sam Perry

**Sunday, October 15**

8:00 AM Coffee, tea, light pastries
» Hall of Ideas FG, Level 4, Meeting Rooms
For current members attending the business meetings

9:00 Annual Membership Meeting

11:00 State Representatives Meeting
State Representatives will adjourn by noon