

# Humanist Organizations

*Mark Bergemann*

There are many humanist organizations in the US and some are large, multi-million dollar groups with hundreds of local affiliates. They file lawsuits, publish magazines, provide training and resources to school teachers, and advertise on TV and in prominent newspapers and magazines. Here are a few groups that caught my eye.

## American Atheists<sup>1</sup>

American Atheists has 392,000 members/supporters and over 240<sup>2</sup> local affiliates. It publishes *American Atheist* magazine<sup>3</sup> and files court cases to advance its causes.

## American Humanist Association (AHA)<sup>4</sup>

The association claims 153 chapters and 87 affiliates. It has 47,000 email subscribers. The AHA is involved in many legal cases and works to help shape US laws. The AHA has alliances with many racial and LGBTQ+ groups. Its print and online magazine is *The Humanist*.<sup>5</sup> See its 2020 annual report<sup>6</sup> for details.

## Center For Inquiry (CFI)<sup>7</sup>

CFI is active in legal battles and in lobbying the US congress. It publishes *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine. The Richard Dawkins Foundation For Reason and Science (RDF) became a division of CFI in 2016. An RDF program called the Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science (TIES) trains middle school teachers in all 50 (US) states how to answer critics of

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1 <https://www.atheists.org/> (accessed 9-18-21).

2 <https://www.atheists.org/activism/affiliates/> (accessed 9-18-21).

3 <https://www.atheists.org/magazine/> (accessed 9-18-21).

4 <https://americanhumanist.org/> (accessed 9-17-21).

5 <https://thehumanist.com/magazine/summer-2021/> (accessed 9-17-21).

6 <https://americanhumanist.org/about/annualreport/> (accessed 9-17-21).

7 <https://centerforinquiry.org/> (accessed 9-18-21).

evolution. The 2020 CFI annual report states,

As a sign of just how vital TIES has become to educators across the country, Miami-Dade County Public Schools—the fourth-largest school district in the United States with 345,000 students—and Winston-Salem Forsyth Schools, with 52,000 students, have adopted TIES’s virtual units into their core teacher training.<sup>8</sup>

### Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF)<sup>9</sup>

The foundation claims its membership “reached an all-time high” as of fall 2020, with “more than 33,000 dues-paying members.” Its 2020 annual report<sup>10</sup> shows it has 27 full-time and several part-time employees, and that there are 22 local FFRF chapters. “Freethought radio” is in its 15<sup>th</sup> year. The report mentions some of its successful court cases plus so much more, including some of the FFRF advertising for new members,

FFRF continued to place the powerful 30-second TV spot ...during several major Democratic debates on CNN, where once again it trended over social media. ...The ad appeared as finances permitted several times this year on MSNBC’s “Rachel Maddow Show,” attracting many new members. FFRF ran striking ads in *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *The Progressive*, and *Scientific American*—all excellent sources to reach new members and supporters and to educate the public.<sup>11</sup>

### The Skeptics Society<sup>12</sup>

The Skeptics Society has published *Skeptic* magazine since 1992. Michael Shermer, the society’s executive director, is a well-known skeptic. *Junior Skeptic* magazine has been published since 1998 to reach children.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://centerforinquiry.org/progress/> (accessed 9-18-21).

<sup>9</sup> <https://ffrf.org/> (accessed 9-17-21).

<sup>10</sup> <https://ffrf.org/images/annual-reports/2020-FFRF-Year-in-Review.pdf> (accessed 9-17-21).

<sup>11</sup> <https://ffrf.org/images/annual-reports/2020-FFRF-Year-in-Review.pdf> (accessed 9-17-21).

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.skeptic.com/> (accessed 9-17-21).