

Your UnitedCoR Team

May 26 marked the last day on the job for Jende Huang, who had served as UnitedCoR coordinator since billboard activities began in March 2009. He was the one who first communicated with interested local leaders and who then handled their billboard and bus ad details. That work has shifted to National Director Fred Edwords, aided by Shaun Barbeau, the outside media broker who now handles the details of billboard and bus ads. Edwords also travels around the country, meeting with local leaders to form CoRs and then giving PR-media training seminars. Meanwhile, Jende has moved on to the National Institutes of Health in Washington DC where he works as a safety technician. We wish him the best in this exciting job opportunity that came his way.



Jende Huang



Fred Edwords



Joseph Stewart

Also serving local coalitions is Joseph McDaniel Stewart, the UnitedCoR webmaster. He's the one who helps local CoRs secure and set up their websites. Joseph is also coordinating with the new Web designers who are working up a redesign of both the national and local UnitedCoR websites. These will be unveiled soon. Watch for details.

On the Road and Off, Building More Coalitions

In mid May a new local coalition was organized in Rochester, New York. Then in early June coalitions were organized in the central San Joaquin Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area of California. This same trip also featured PR-media training seminars at the national conference of the American Humanist Association in San Jose as well as to members of CoRs in Los Angeles and Orange County.

Meanwhile, two CoRs are in the process of being formed long distance (via phone and e-mail). These are in Springfield, Missouri, and Fargo, North Dakota. The goal is to get these coalitions

organized in time to have billboards up for major freethought and skeptic conferences already slated to be held this fall in each city. And the PR-media training seminars will then be connected with each of these conferences. It's all part of the way that UnitedCoR expands its effectiveness by seizing opportunities as they arise.

UnitedCoR's Broader Reach

A look at YouTube is one way to learn how the work of UnitedCoR is impacting the broader culture. Just log onto www.YouTube.com and key in the search term "coalition of reason," "godless billboard," or "atheist billboard." Of particular interest is the following video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUDhbg2ZO8&feature=youtube_gdata

It seems to sum up the whole billboard phenomenon. Though the first half is one person's talk and opinion, other things happen in the second half, and it has a most interesting close that will no doubt resonate with many who have run billboard and bus ad campaigns already.

For a handy summary giving the history of the billboard and bus campaigns of various organizations, especially UnitedCoR, watch this video lecture and PowerPoint presentation posted by the Atheist Community of Austin (Texas) as part of the *Atheist Experience TV Show*:

<http://blip.tv/file/3059356>

But beyond the initial, high-profile campaigns that launch local CoRs there is the continuing influence our CoRs and their leaders enjoy afterwards. For example, Carrie Renwick of Northeast Florida CoR writes, "Though the following wasn't publicity for the CoR itself, it shows how the CoR, once established, can act to make sure our viewpoint gets aired when it otherwise wouldn't." She is referring to how a local TV news station, CBS 47 Fox 30, contacted the CoR when a reporter needed a local voice to give a dissenting view. They got two: Earl Coggins and Shawn Liu, who appeared on the show May 17, 2010, giving their opinions of claims recently made by Frank Tipler, a professor of mathematics at Tulane University, that he had developed an equation to prove the existence of God. The video is still available online at:

<http://www.actionnewsjax.com/mediacenter/local.aspx?videoId=38020@wtev.web.entriq.net&nAvCatId=5>

Clearly, then, UnitedCoR's work has not only created a phenomenon in itself, it is making resources more widely known that will serve into the future to make the voice of reason heard and the face of reason seen.

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