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**<https://humanistswle.org/go/emailblast>**



## **Welcome to September 2026**

September is the start of our new season and we lead off with a banger. AHA Executive Director Fish Stark will be visiting us on 9/13 and we also return to the Old West End for their Autumn Market.

# Meet Fish



Fish Stark, Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, will be visiting with the Secular Humanists of Western Lake Erie on Sunday September 13, 2026 from 2 PM to 4 PM at the Yager Center at Swan Creek Metropark, 4349 Airport Hwy in Toledo.

He will be speaking then having a question and answer session along with meeting with local Humanists and others interested in the group. Light refreshments and beverages will be available.

His visit is **FREE** and **open to the public**. For more info visit [humanistswle.org](http://humanistswle.org)

**Sunday September 13, 2026 2 to 4 PM**

**Yager Center at Swan Creek Metropark, 4349 Airport Hwy**

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## Come out to Swan Creek Metropark to Meet Fish Stark

Fish Stark, Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, will be visiting with us on Sunday September 13, 2026 from 2 PM to 4 PM at the Yager Center at Swan Creek Metropark, [4349 Airport Hwy](#) in Toledo,

Stark was hired in the fall of 2024 to lead one of the oldest Humanist organizations in the United States. He is the son of former US Representative Pete Stark, who was one of the first members of Congress to confirm he was a Humanist.

Fish Stark will be visiting Toledo as part of a speaking tour with stops including Columbus, Ohio and Detroit, Michigan.

"We are thrilled Fish will be visiting with us," Douglas Berger, President of the Secular Humanists of Western Lake Erie said. "I've been part of the Humanist movement since the 1990s and his hiring excited me and I've been pleased with the early results - more energy,

fresh ideas, and renewed enthusiasm for Humanism. Sometimes you have to shake the dust off especially with what is happening in this country today and the constant attacks on real religious freedom."

Mr. Stark will be speaking then having a question and answer session along with meeting with local Humanists and others interested in the group. Light refreshments and beverages will be available.

The event is **FREE** and open to the public.

<https://humanistswle.org/event/an-afternoon-with-fish-stark>

If you have a question you would like us to ask Fish please let us know with the form below. You can also always email us the question.

<https://humanistswle.org/ask-fish-a-question>

If you would like to donate to help offset the costs of the event visit our donation page

<https://bit.ly/showle-donate>



### **Bonfire was a HOT Time**

We picked one of the hot days of August to have our end of the summer bonfire. It did start to cool down enough after the sun went behind the trees we were able to fire up the fire ring. Thanks to all who came out and thanks to Anne for hosting the event.

## News & Notes

### Things to Look Forward To

We will be having our yearly members meeting in October. This is a call for nominations for our Board of Directors, any changes to the bylaws, a reminder that your membership might be due for renewal by the end of September.

The Secular Humanists of Western Lake Erie is a democratic member run group based on a set of Bylaws. Those bylaws, and the state of Ohio, require we have a Board of Directors to handle the day-to-day operation of the group. This includes setting policy, programing for meetings and events, and maintaining the financial health of the group.

There is no previous experience needed to serve on the Board. The only requirement is you have to be a voting member - that is you have paid dues. We meet for no more than hour every other month or more often if needed, usually online using Zoom. And we do ask you to attend at least one meeting or event each month and make a donation or two if you can. (*Donation of time or in-kind goods counts*).

<https://humanistswle.org/showle-board-of-directors-interest-form>

We also consider proposed changes to the SHoWLE Bylaws. If you have a proposed change email it to Doug or use our contact form on the website. For reference here is a link to our current bylaws:

<https://bit.ly/showlebylaws>

Most memberships expire on September 30. We did see several reminder notices go out. If you renew you can vote in Board elections and other matters members can vote on and you can serve on the Board of Directors. We did move to a new payment platform, Zeffy, so please use the following link to join or renew your membership. There is also a discount available for current AHA members

<https://bit.ly/showle-join>

If you are currently a member of the AHA, there is a discount available on a SHoWLE membership. If you go to the Zeffy platform and our membership form, choose the Household membership. In the discount code box type in **AHATOLEDO**. You will get a Household membership for 50% off for the year.

If you have any questions or concerns about your membership, reach out to us by email or call 567-215-2694

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## **Members Stuff**

### **Update Your Profiles**

Members can update their profiles on our website. When you joined the group there were options to choose like if you wanted to be in a future directory, if you wanted to be texted reminders, and if you were in the AHA. There is also a box to add the names of others covered under your Household membership for those who have them.

All of that information can be changed on your profile at anytime.

<https://humanistswle.org/register/edit-your-profile>

A video showing how to use the member page is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCzPyPtgUk0>

### **Photo Waiver**

Just a reminder that by attending our public meetings and events you grant SHoWLE the use of your image or likeness for promotion of the group and our mission. If you think it will be an issue for you please reach out to Douglas or a Board member before a meeting or event so we can be sure to

avoid you and crop you out of published images. We do not use full names in public materials.

## We've joined Walmart Spark for Good

Walmart recently launched Walmart Spark Good Round Up where customers can round up their purchases to the nearest dollar and donate the change to their favorite charity. We would love for you to choose us as your charity to receive these donations every time you shop on Walmart.com or in-store at Walmart.

<https://bit.ly/sparkhumanists>



## Upcoming Events

Complete details can be found on our [Events Page](#). Unless noted, all meetings and events are free and open to the public



## An Afternoon with Fish Stark

**September 13, 2026 from 2 PM until 4 PM**

**Yager Center at Swan Creek Metropark  
4349 Airport Hwy, Toledo**

Come out Sunday afternoon and meet Fish Stark, the Executive Director of the American Humanist Association. He will talk to us about the problem of Christian Nationalism and what we can do to address it in our community. He will also mention some the plans for the organization and projects they are working on. This will be followed by some questions and answers. We will have light refreshments.

[Read more](#)



## **Booth @ The OWE Autumn Market**

**September 19, 2026 from 10 AM until 5 PM**

**Agnes Reynolds Jackson Arboretum  
2501 Robinwood Ave, Toledo**

SHoWLE returns to the Autumn Market to help support the Old West End neighborhood. If you visit, please stop by our booth and say hello.

[Read more](#)



## **Humanist Happy Time: September 2026**

**September 24, 2026 @ 6 PM  
Fortune Inn Restaurant 6725 Central Ave., Toledo**

Our Humanist Happy Time is a quarterly dinner date at the Fortune Inn restaurant. Join us at the big table for great Chinese food and merriment. RSVP below just to let us know you plan to attend.

[Read more](#)

## ***We Have A Podcast - Glass City Humanist***

Our latest episode of the Glass City Humanist podcast:



### **Episode 128: LifeWise: Art Of The Grift with Keith Comer**

Our guest, Keith Comer, founder of Respect Public Schools joins us to give us an update two years since LifeWise forced itself into Ohio school districts through a change in the Release Time law.

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### **Have you donated to SHoWLE lately?**

SHoWLE does operate with membership dues but we also encourage people to donate above and beyond their yearly dues if they can. We use donations to further our mission to educate the public about Humanism and build a Humanist community in the Greater Toledo NW Ohio area.

One use of donations is to pay for our booth space at the Old West End Festival which is about \$150 and we will be using donations for the coming visit of AHA Executive Director Fish Stark in September - for example, the venue cost \$100 to rent.

[If can help out, please donate today](#)

You can also send us a check or money order to SHoWLE [2541 Schroeder Ct Toledo, OH 43613](#)

### **Do you have an idea for an event?**

Do you have an idea for an event or a speaker? Let us know about it. Your idea is more likely to happen if you give us a detailed sketch of what you have in mind. Just reply to this email and gives us the details.

For more information check out this page on our website:

<https://humanistswle.org/event-hosting>

## Are you looking to be an activist as a Humanist?

Here are some helpful links to learn about activism on the national, state, and local level:

American Humanist Association Action HQ

<https://americanhumanist.org/actionhq/>

Americans United Action Network

<https://www.au.org/get-involved/au-action-network/>

American Atheists Activism

<https://www.atheists.org/activism/>

UUA Justice

<https://www.uua.org/action>

Ohioans Against Extremism

<https://ohagainstextremism.org/>

Honesty for Ohio Education

<https://www.honestyforohioeducation.org/>

Volunteer with Equality Toledo

<https://equalitytoledo.org/volunteer/>

Toledo Troublemakers

<https://redwineblue.controlshift.app/groups/toledo-troublemakers>

Toledo Persists

<https://www.facebook.com/ToledoPersists/>

**\*Note\*** *SHoWLE is a 501 3(c) charity and does not endorse candidates for elective office.*

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## Our Mission:

The mission of the Secular Humanists of Western Lake Erie is to provide a supportive local community for humanists and other nontheists, while promoting an ethical, reasonable, and secular approach to life through education, community service, outreach, activism, and social events.

We envision a Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan where secular people are respected and integrated in broader society, live values of reason and compassion, and enjoy a friendly humanist community.

# ***Join or Donate to the Group***

## **Are you a member?**

Joining the Secular Humanists of Western Lake Erie gets you the following benefits:

- A monthly meeting with like minded people
- Ability to guide and vote on the direction of the group
- Serve in leadership positions and on our Board of Directors
- Discounts on sponsored events and group merchandise
- Regular communications about meetings, events, and other topics of interest to the group before the general public
- Most importantly, you will gain the opportunity to make your voice heard and know that you are part of a greater movement working for the values we share.

We have two membership plans:

**\$20 for an Individual**

**\$30 for a Household (two or more people at the same address)**

Visit <https://humanistswle.org/join-our-group> to join online or get information to join by postal mail.

We also have a fixed income level available on our join page if needed.

You can donate to the Secular Humanists of Western Lake Erie

Please help us provide a supportive local community for humanists and other nontheists, while promoting ethical and reasonable secular world views through education, community service, outreach, activism, and social events.

You can use Paypal or a credit card. Donations are tax deductible.

## **Donate Online**

You can always send your check or money order to:

Secular Humanists of Western Lake Erie  
2541 Schroeder Ct  
Toledo, OH 43613