

Secular Humanists Of Rochester NY SHOR Annual Report 2025

This is the 2025 Annual Report for Secular Humanists of Rochester NY, Inc.



Secular Humanists of Rochester (SHOR) is incorporated in the State of New York as a non-profit organization.

As an affiliated Chapter of the American Humanists Association we fall under their 501(c)(3) designation.

SHOR can be found online at multiple web presences.

- **Meetup** <https://www.meetup.com/rochester-secular-humanism-meetup/>
- **Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/Rochester.Humanists>
- **Website** <https://www.secularhumanistsofrochester.org/>

Secular Humanists Of Rochester NY

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SHOR Business

We have had a busy year in 2025. We have been a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization related to our affiliation with the American Humanist Association, however, we were not incorporated. In 2025 we came to understand that incorporating SHOR would create a corporate veil between the organization and its leaders. We took the steps to incorporate, thereby making SHOR a legal entity. This provides a layer of separation that can protect the organizations leaders from being held personally liable for the actions of the organization. This means personal assets (like homes or bank accounts) are protected if the nonprofit faces lawsuits or debts. It does not protect the leaders from acts of malfeasance, misconduct, and illegal actions.

Being incorporated requires that SHOR maintain bylaws and a board of directors. SHOR's Bylaws and Code of Contact Policy documents may be found online at our website. The current board of directors consists of Dick Killian, Scott Ehrlinger, and Gary Kaminska.

We purchased general liability insurance. This is the most recommended insurance for a non-profit organization. General liability insurance covers costs from lawsuits related to bodily injury, property damage, etc.

Members have given checks and cash to support SHOR expenses. We have added a new option for giving by utilizing the services of Give Butter to handle online donations and have provided a 'Donate' link on Meetup and on our website.

We made some changes to our website www.secularhumanistsofrochester.org. On the main page we added a 'Donate' button. On navigation, a 'Legal' button for our Bylaws and Code of Conduct documents was added. Additionally, there is a 'Humanism 101' button that contains links to 12 short videos provided by the AHA as a brief introduction to humanism.

Upstate NY Free Thinkers helped start a new FFRF organization, Western NY Free Thinkers, in Buffalo. They requested we add them as a separate group to our Meetup account. (Meetup allows up to three groups on one account.) We agreed and created a Western NY Free Thinkers group under our account. We have not asked them to share the Meetup costs at this time.

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SHOR Activities

Combing through our 2025 Meetup event history showed that we held many social and volunteer engagements throughout the year.

1) SHOR Hosted Over 70 Social Events:

- Annual summer picnic.
- Annual holiday celebration/dinner.
- Social hours
- Biweekly coffee gatherings
- Blossom Rd highway cleanup
- Lunches
- Discussions
- Hikes
- Trivia nights
- Pride parade
- Zoo Brew

2) We collected and donated items to Willow Domestic Violence Center. Contributions have decreased significantly. We would like to hear suggestions for organizations that would benefit from our support and that members would be interested in backing.

3) We Volunteered with and Contributed Services for other agencies:

- a) Rochester Clean Sweep
- b) Robert Green Ingersoll Museum cleanup
- c) Peoples Pantry
- d) Flower City Pickers
- e) Hope Dealers
- f) Mt Hope Cemetery Cradle Grave adoption

4) Community Involvement and Activism:

- a) Hands Off rallies
- b) No Kings rallies

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Final Financial Report for Year 2025

Secular Humanists of Rochester NY 2025 Account/Banking Activity	
Jan 1 Beginning Bank Balance	582.45
<i>Income</i>	
General Donations	717.17
Expense Specific Donations*	456.00
Total Income	1,173.17
<i>Expenses</i>	
Pride Parade	(104.37)
Meetup	(384.82)
Summer Picnic	(103.51)
Liability Insurance	(753.00)
Total Expenses	(1,345.70)
Total Net Bank Activity	(172.53)
Dec 31 Ending Bank Balance	409.92

* donated by Carol Hope specifically to pay for Meetup and the Pride Parade

Sponsorships

In the non-profit arena a Sponsorship is when someone pays directly for an expense without reimbursement. These members stepped up in 2025 to cover some SHOR costs. There may be others and we intend to track these better going forward.

- Pride Parade Wristbands \$300 Carolyn Hiebert
- Web Domains and Hosting \$165 Eric Knaak
- Genesee Valley Picnic Shelter \$115 Gary Kaminska
- Appetizers at Holiday Event \$150 Scott Ehrlinger
- Incorporation Fees \$100 Dick Killian

Gratitude

Thank you to our members who make SHOR successful through their attendance, planning, hosting, coordinating, activism, ideas, camaraderie, wallet, etc. It was a very good year!