



Dear James,

A bit of good news to start this August newsletter, as on August 4th, U.S. District Judge Timothy Brooks issued a preliminary injunction against [Arkansas Act 573](#), the law requiring the Ten Commandments poster be made visible in all public places, including public school classrooms. Fortunately, this injunction prevents enforcement in the Northwest Arkansas school districts of Fayetteville, Springdale, Bentonville, and Siloam Springs, but there is still work to be done in the other school districts. For those who want to see the Christian Nationalist argument get shredded, I encourage you to read the judgment...it's brilliant! 🔥🔥🔥 (attached to this email).

A quick programming reminder! We are very excited to have **Mickey Dollens** meeting with our chapter this **Sunday, August 17th at 10:00am at the Cherokee Casino in West Siloam Springs, OK**. Mickey Dollens is a state legislator from Oklahoma and serves as FFRF's Regional Government Affairs Manager. In this visit, he'll introduce FFRF Action Fund's *Students' Secular Bill of Rights* - model legislation written to safeguard students' freedom of conscience and reinforce church-state separation in public schools. Mickey will walk through practical strategies for lobbying elected officials, shaping policy, and building grassroots pressure that lawmakers can't ignore, and he'll share insider tips on crafting persuasive messages, getting policymakers' attention, and turning grassroots lobbying into statewide impact. Mickey will also give a behind-the-scenes recap of the Arkansas legislative session, including his recent undercover experience at a school chaplain strategy meeting, where he uncovered the detailed playbook Christian nationalists are using to infiltrate public education. As he puts it, *"It's a wild story."* The speaking event is only \$10 per person, and is followed by a separate meet & greet BBQ lunch at Natural Falls State Park afterwards. Please make sure to secure your tickets by registering [here](#).

In other news, the Ozarks Chapter of FFRF got together twice in July. Our first gathering was on July 13th with Forrest Valkai, the Renegade Science Teacher, who did not disappoint and gave one of the most dynamic presentations we've seen to date. His delivery, charisma and talking points were all well received, and we look forward to having him visit our community again in the near future. On Saturday, July 26th, our group came together again at the Fayetteville Farmers Market to meet and greet citizens who value separation between church & state.



Forrest Valkai, known as the Renegade Science Teacher, speaks to a room of 60+ guests on July 13th on "Why Science Makes You a Better Person."



Ozarks Chapter of FFRF set up at the Fayetteville Farmers Market on Saturday, July 26th.

## Calendar of Events:

### **August 17th (Sunday) - 10:00am to 3:00pm**

- **2025 Secular Speaker Series with Mickey Dollens** (Democratic House Representative from Oklahoma and FFRF employee) - join us for a full day in West Siloam Springs, OK, starting with a speech at the Cherokee Casino, followed by a BBQ lunch and hike at Natural Falls State Park. Each event is \$10 (or \$20 for both Speech & BBQ) and open to the public, and includes parking at both venues. Please register [here](#) for the speech and/or BBQ.

### **August 23rd (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm**

- **Fayetteville Farmers Market** - come visit the secular crowd on the Fayetteville Square!

### **September 14th (Sunday) - Constitution Day Event**

- Still working through the plan, but details to be announced soon!

### **September 27th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm**

- **Fayetteville Farmers Market** - come visit the secular crowd on the Fayetteville Square!

### **October 12th (Sunday) - 10:00am to 11:00am**

- **2025 Secular Speaker Series with Alessandro Terenzoni** (Americans United for Separation Between Church & State). This event is FREE and open to the public, but seating is limited. Please register [here](#) to secure your seat!

### **October 25th (Saturday) - 7:30am to 1:00pm**

- **Fayetteville Farmers Market** - come visit the secular crowd for our final Farmers Market event of the year!

The **Ozarks Chapter of FFRF** serves to bring together the secular community and advocate for separation between church and state. Your support, be it financial or simply showing up to one of our events, makes a meaningful impact and helps grow our cause. Please consider joining us at one of our events, or becoming a member of FFRF National and/or a member of the local Ozarks Chapter (us). We greatly appreciate our followers and supporters, and thank you for protecting the separation between church & state.

Respectfully,

Chris Sweeny

Chapter Leader - Ozarks Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation

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