

H.O.S. NEWLETTER

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FEBRUARY HOS MEETING

The second meeting of the Houston Objectivism Society was held on February 26 at the Rice Graduate House on Rice University. Twenty members, plus two guests, attended.

After a brief introduction by HOS President Warren Ross, the videotape "Capitalism or Socialism? Which is the Moral System?" was viewed. The lending library was open for HOS members following the videotape presentation.

Warren summarized the progress of HOS projects (these are discussed below) and then passed out a policy statement regarding membership in HOS and the Executive Committee. These policy statements are also discussed below.

POLICY STATEMENTS

The Executive Committee considers it necessary to issue these policy statements to clarify the exact nature of HOS. A number of Libertarian Party members have tried to join HOS, apparently believing HOS is in some way a political organization. The policy statements make clear HOS's exact position on, and relationship to, the Libertarian Party, and emphasize that HOS is a philosophical/educational, not political, organization.

Those who did not attend the February 26 meeting should find a copy of these two statements enclosed. Those who have not received a copy should contact Brian Phillips, and a copy will be mailed to you.

FOUNTAINHEAD CONTEST

To date, \$1500 has been pledged for The Fountainhead essay contest. A total of \$1310 has been received. We mailed contest information to 75 area high schools, with a potential number of 75,000 students receiving contest information. The Ayn Rand Institute will judge entries, and forward the top Houston area essays to HOS.

Follow-up calls to many teachers are planned. HOS also plans to advertise the essay contest in some high school student newspapers. A press release will be issued to announce the winner and the awards dinner.

HOS would like to acknowledge the many people who have contributed time and money to the essay contest:

Money contributors - Charles Beck, Joe Blackburn, Jeff Crow, Mary Heinking Dixon, Christine Doby, Chuck Earls, Dave French, Steve Mallett, Elbert Marks, Kirk Mashue, J.P. Miller, Carol More, Bob Peterson, Warren Ross, Ron Shoemaker, and John Ward.

Compiling names, addresses, and phone numbers of teachers - Jeff Crow, Carol More, and J. P. Miller.

Mailing labels and printing letters - Joe Blackburn.

LENDING LIBRARY

Those who still have material outstanding from the first HOS meeting are asked to please return the materials to Warren Ross.

PEIKOFF LECTURE COURSES

There are currently 20 people enrolled in The Philosophy of Objectivism lecture course. This offering of the course will conclude at the end of March.

The lecture course, Modern Philosophy: Kant to the Present, will be offered this summer in northwest Houston. The course will begin June 5 and run through the end of August. Those interested in attending should contact Warren Ross at 468-2256 or Brian Phillips at 896-9707.

LETTER WRITING PROJECT

The letter writing project has been quite successful. HOS members have had over 30 letters published in the past four months. Several times, more than one HOS member has had a letter published on the same day. HOS members are encouraged to write letters to either paper, or both. But remember, perseverance does pay off!

CAMPUS CLUBS

University of Houston:

Students of Objectivism (SOO) at U. of H. was formed at the start of the Spring semester. There are currently 23 students on the mailing list. Activities to date include: listening to the audiotape "The Philosophic Basis of Capitalism", viewing The Fountainhead, discussing the novel, and watching the videotape Capitalism vs. Socialism? Which is the Moral System? SOO meets every other Sunday, and HOS members are welcome to attend. For further information of future events, contact Dwyane Hicks at (713) 521-0012.

Rice University:

Though several students are interested in Objectivism, the official club has yet to have its first meeting. The video Can Capitalism Survive? was viewed privately by some students.

STUDY GROUP

A number of HOS members have decided to form a study group to hold discussions on various topics of Objectivism. The group will examine philosophical questions, the application of Objectivist principles to everyday life situations, and other topics of interest. If there is enough interest, the group will study The Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology in depth. Anyone interested in joining the study group should contact Joe Blackburn at 688-0854.

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NEWSLETTER UPDATE

The HOS newsletter will be published bimonthly, approximately one month after HOS meetings. This schedule will replace the quarterly schedule announced in the first newsletter, and will provide HOS members with more timely information.

APRIL H.O.S. MEETING

The next H.O.S meeting will take place on Friday, April 29th, 8pm at the Rice University Graduate House (corner of South Main & University Blvd.) in the conference room (upstairs on the right after you enter the main entrance). The videotape "My 30 Years With Ayn Rand" by Leonard Peikoff will be shown.