

# Board Member Profile

## AEU Board of Directors



**Bill Aul**  
**Ethical Society Mid Rivers**

### **Local Society Experience:**

Member of the Ethical Society Mid Rivers for the past 16 years. Board member from 2008-2014 and 2016-2018, President from 2010-2014. Served on Sunday Programs Committee, Fundraising Committee, Marketing Committee, Program Host, ZOOM Host

### **AEU Experience:**

Society Development Team, Chair 2017-2020  
Personnel Committee, 2020-present  
Membership Committee, 2020-present  
AEU Board, 2020-present

### **Leadership Roles and Expertise:**

St. Charles PFLAG, Board Officer 2005-present  
Pride St. Charles, Board Officer 2015-2017  
Vineyards Garden Club, President 2000-2002

### **Professional Experience:**

Owner and President, Aul Access, LLC

**Term of Office:** First year of three year term

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**Tom Castelnovo**  
**Brooklyn Society for**  
**Ethical Culture**

## Local Society Experience

- BSEC Board and Treasurer 2006-9, 2010-2017, 2020-
- BSEC Investment Fund Monitor

## AEU Experience

- AEU Board Member 2016-2021

## Board Leadership Responsibilities & Expertise

- AEU Board VP, now Treasurer
- AEU Finance Committee, Chair
- Chair Monthly Societies w/ Building Meetings
- Host AEU Board Retreat
- Planning. Computer Systems and Financial Expertise

## Goals for Present Term

- Develop a budget and financial communications that are responsive to Societies' needs during the Pandemic and beyond
- Encourage Ethical Culture's National Presence

## Length of Membership & Locale

- Member BSEC 2005-present

## Life Experience

- Management and design responsibilities for NYC's and Non-Profit agency Child Welfare Computer Systems.
- BS/MCP MIT, MBA Yale
- 1 wife, 2 kids all great.
- Best Halloween display in South Brooklyn

## Term of Office:

- Second Year of Second Term

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**Liz Collier**  
**Riverdale-Yonkers Society**  
**for Ethical Culture**

### **Local Society Experience:**

Member of Ethical Society of Northern Westchester, 1992-2004. Member of Future of Ethical Societies (FES), 2004-2014. Member of Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County, 2014-2017. Staff at Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture, 2015-2020. Member of Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture since 2019.

### **AEU Experience:**

FES Liaison to the AEU Board, 2007-2008. AEU Mossler Fellow, 2013 & 2014. AEU Membership Committee, 2014- 2015. Workshop presenter for several AEU conferences. AEU Leadership Committee, September 2015-present. Chair of AEU Leadership Committee since June 2020. AEU Board member since 2019.

### **Leadership Roles and Expertise:**

Has served as president of 60-musician wind ensemble, conference planner for FES and the AEU membership committee, program coordinator for a large teaching artist program in the public schools. Given talks and led workshops for 5+ years on health and wellness topics.

### **Professional Experience:**

Administrator and program coordinator in major NYC arts organizations. Founded a coaching business. Former Director of Community Outreach and Member Coordinator at the Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture.

### **Goals for Present Candidacy:**

As the national body for Ethical Societies, the AEU can do more to support local Ethical Societies, building on the strengths Societies already possess. I would like to see the AEU develop a stronger, healthier bond with local Societies by supporting them with outreach, membership development, fundraising, and overall growth strategies.

**Length of Membership:** Second year of three year term

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**Dorothy Dale**  
**Ethical Humanist Society**  
**of the Triangle**

### Local Society Experience:

Member, Ethical Humanist Society of the Triangle (EHST), 1994-current

- Member of Caring Committee, Membership Committee and Program Committee
- Board member, 2009 to present

### AEU Experience:

- Participated in AEU's Book Group and Anti-Racism Dialogue fall of 2020
- Attended AEU Assemblies in Washington DC (2014?), Baltimore (2017), Albuquerque (2018), Tampa (2019) and Virtual (2020).
- Completed Lay Leadership Summer School, 2012
- Member of Membership Committee, 2021
- Member of Ethical Action Committee, 2021

### Leadership Roles and Expertise:

- President, EHST, 2019-2017. Since 2009 have also served as VP, Treasurer and Secretary
- Led EHST's participation in AEU's post-carding campaign with Reclaim Our Vote
- Led first joint secular social action event at Rise Against Hunger with participation from members of

EHST, Triangle Freethought Society, Secular Students of UNC-Chapel Hill, and Chapel Hill Sunday Assembly

- During career at GSK selected for two immersive leadership development programs

### Professional Experience:

I worked in information governance at GSK and its legacy companies from 1990 to 2019. From my former work life I bring a variety of skills including strong communication and computer skills and ability to navigate organizational politics. I have had extensive leadership experience including managing my department through two large corporate mergers.

### Goals for Present Candidacy:

My vision for the AEU is for the ethical humanist belief system to become more highly visible as a choice for "nones" who are seeking community and opportunities to actively work for a better nation and world. Ethical Societies offer members empowerment to address social justice issues, however in smaller societies it can be challenging to have an impact. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have shown us that the AEU has an opportunity to greatly strengthen fellowship across all Societies and broaden our impact.

I would like the AEU to continue and strengthen alliances with other like-minded organizations but also emphasize the ways in which we are different, most markedly through our congregational communities. To this end I would like to see the AEU further develop a leadership model that is sustainable for smaller societies that cannot afford a certified Leader.

**Length of Membership:** Appointed to AEU Board in 2021 to fill a vacancy.

**Term of Office:** First year of one year term

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**Casey Gardonio-Foat**  
**Ethical Society of St. Louis**

### **Professional Experience:**

Ph.D. in History of Art from New York University in 2012; front-end web development certificate from LaunchCode St. Louis, 2021. Instructor of record for introductory and intermediate undergraduate art history courses from 2003-2005. Founded and operated design company from 2012-present. Founded and operated e-commerce company from 2018-2021. Artist-in-residence at local maker-space from 2016-2017. Independently-contracted sewing and embroidery instructor from 2016-2020.

### **Goals for Present Candidacy:**

With the increased adoption of online meetings and events over the last year, and the growth in visibility and engagement for the AEU that has resulted, our organization has an opportunity to continue to increase its relevance to our member Societies and our culture at large. I remain committed to strengthening the organizational and governance foundations of the AEU, as well as its communications and public relations strategies, so that it can take advantage of this moment.

**Length of Membership:** 9 years

**Term of Office:** Third year of first three year term.

### **Local Society Experience:**

Board member from 2016-2019: Governance Committee 2016-2019; Employee Handbook task force Chair, 2018-2019; Pledge Campaign planning task force, 2016-2019; Aesthetics Committee member, 2016-2019. Second Leader Search Committee member, 2014-2015. SEEK co-op instructor, 2012-2020.

### **AEU Experience:**

Board member, 2019-present: Board Secretary 10/2019-present; Policy task force and Committee Chair, 2019-present; Ethical Education Committee chair, 2019-2020 (including implementation of Virtual SEEK program, 3/2020-6/2020); Communications Committee member, 2020-present; Ethical Action Committee member, 2020-2021 (partial term).

### **Leadership Roles and Expertise:**

Founder/owner of two small businesses since 2012. In addition to Ethical Society of St. Louis Board service, previous leadership experience includes project management for a small team software development project during LaunchCode St. Louis's Liftoff program, serving as secretary on NYU's Graduate Student Council, co-coordination of IFA/Frick Symposium on the History of Art, and leadership roles in three undergraduate student organizations.

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**Jé Exodus Hooper**  
**National Leaders Council**

### **Local Society Experience:**

Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture (RYES) Director of Family 2015-16; Intern for Brooklyn Ethical Society, 2018; Intern at First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, 2019-Present; Consulting Leader of Susquehanna Valley Ethical Society 2021-Present

### **AEU Experience:**

Summer School Lay Leader, 2016; Mossler Fellowship Recipient, 2017; National Leader Council (NLC), 2020-Present;

### **Leadership Roles and Expertise:**

Founder/owner of FrequencyHouse Production 2015; Executive Producer of Keep Liv'n, 2019; Interfaith Youth Core Leadership, 2015; Identity and Inclusion Taskflow, 2020-present; Affiliated Humanist Minister at First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, 2019-Present

### **Professional Experience:**

Ohio University (Graduate Teaching Assistant), 2017-2021; Public & Private School Teaching within the New York City, Baltimore City, MD; and Washington, DC nearly 14yrs

***For more information: [www.jehooper.com](http://www.jehooper.com)***

### **Goals for Present Candidacy:**

I am interested in a new theological frontier regarding the Ethical Culture in relationality to Humanism. My goal is to bring younger voices forefront and close the intergenerational gap. I want to see the leadership improve on its presence, responsiveness, and it's consistency. My goal is to support Ethical Culture in being a prophetic presence and voice, whereby *it speaks truth to power* to disseminate the values of moral courage in all forms of society.

**Length of Membership:** 6 yrs membership

The Revolutionary Jé Exodus Hooper

IG: @ethicalevangelist

FB: [Keep Liv'n w/ Jé Exodus Hooper](#)

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**Anne Klaeyesen**  
National Leaders Council

### **Local Society Experience:**

Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture – member since 1982. Held variety of lay leadership positions, including Children’s Sunday Assembly director, Board Trustee, treasurer, and office manager. Currently serve on Transitions Task Force.

### **AEU Experience:**

Current NLC representative to AEU Board and member of Training and Leadership Committees

### **Leadership Roles and Expertise:**

President of National Leaders Council, Leader Emerita of NY Society for Ethical Culture, past Leader of Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island, current Columbia University Ethical Humanist Religious Life Adviser and New York University Humanist Spiritual Life Adviser

### **Professional Experience:**

Hold Doctor of Ministry degree in pastoral care and counseling from Hebrew Union College, as well as master’s degrees in business administration from New York University and German from SUNY Albany.  
Co-Chair, Encampment for Citizenship Board  
Board Member, Ethical Culture Fieldston Schools

### **Goals for Present Candidacy:**

Facilitate the realization of Ethical Culture values and aspirations at the board level and within our societies with an emphasis on multi-cultural and multi-faith social justice work

### **Life Experience:**

Married with two grown children and a loving circle of friends and family

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**Sonja Kueppers**  
**Washington Ethical Society**

### Local Society Experience

I have served in a variety of roles at the Washington Ethical Society, including as an Our Whole Lives sexuality educator and as a member of the Children's Education Council. I have served as an Information Technology consultant continuously since joining the Society.

### AEU Experience

I joined the AEU Board of Directors for the first time in June 2017.

### Board Leadership Responsibilities & Expertise

I currently serve as the President of the American Ethical Union. In my time on the AEU Board, I have worked to strengthen the role of member Societies in AEU decision making and improve governance, among other initiatives.

### Goals for Present Term

During the current pandemic, flexibility and responsiveness is essential. At the same time, I believe it is important to continue efforts to improve the American Ethical Union's ability to meet the needs of member Societies.

### Length of Membership & Locale

7 years at the Washington Ethical Society

### Life Experience

I have worked in the Information Technology field for the last 31 years. I previously served on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Library in my town for 18 years. I also homeschool my two children, and am deeply engaged in volunteer work related to their education and interests.

**Term of Office:** First year of my second term

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**Jon Meador**  
**Ethical Society of Austin**

### **Local Society Experience:**

Board member from 2016-2019: Governance Committee 2016-2019; Employee Handbook task force Chair, 2018-2019; Pledge Campaign planning task force, 2016-2019; Aesthetics Committee member, 2016-2019. Second Leader Search Committee member, 2014-2015. SEEK co-op instructor, 2012-2020.

### **AEU Experience:**

Board member, 2019-present: Board Secretary 10/2019-present; Policy task force chair, 2019-present; Ethical Education Committee chair, 2019-present (including implementation of Virtual SEEK program beginning 3/2020); Communications Committee member, 5/2020-present.

### **Leadership Roles and Expertise:**

Founder/owner of two small businesses since 2012. In addition to Ethical Society of St. Louis Board service, previous experience includes serving as secretary on NYU's Graduate Student Council, co-coordination of IFA/Frick Symposium on the History of Art, and leadership roles in three undergraduate student organizations.

### **Professional Experience:**

Ph.D. in History of Art from New York University in 2012. Instructor of record for introductory and intermediate undergraduate art history courses from 2003-2005. Founded and operated design company from 2012-present. Founded and operated e-commerce company from 2018-present. Artist-in-residence at local maker-space from 2016-2017. Independently-contracted sewing instructor from 2016-present.

### **Goals for Present Candidacy:**

Now, more than ever, people seem to need a supportive community that promotes the dignity, worth, and ethical treatment of all individuals. I am committed to strengthening the organizational foundations of the AEU so that it can optimally support its member Societies in pursuing this common goal on a national level.

**Length of Membership:** 8 years

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**Ken Novak**  
**Chicago Ethical Humanist Circle**

**Local Society Experience:** At the Chicago Ethical Humanist Circle (CEHC): President, former Vice-President, founding Board member; Program and Communications committee chair; discussion and Colloquy convener; Ethical Humanist Officer.

Before that, at the Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago (EHSC): board member (including Vice-President, President); chair or co-chair of a number of committees; founder or co-founder of many activities; Coming-of-Age Sunday School teacher; Ethical Humanist Officer.

**AEU Experience:** Board member since 2015, former Treasurer and Vice President. Student, then staff at Ethical Culture Summer Schools; on AEU Communications, Membership, Fundraising, and Board Development committees.

**Leadership Roles and Expertise:** More than 25 years of experience planning and executing for society growth, while managing the budgets, pledge campaigns, and investments that supported those programs.

**Goals for Present Term** – My Board tenure expires when the new Board is elected in August 2021. I will continue to help however I can to make caring committed community a reality for more people.

**Impact of Experience** – My involvement in Ethical Culture changed my life, inspiring my quite flawed but earnest and improving service ethic, widening my perspective in myriad ways, and providing me a bounty of experience, friendship, and love.

**Length of Membership** – 29 years this May.

**Life Experience** - I grew up in a Russian Orthodox congregation in Clifton, NJ. At the University of Rochester, I got a BA (Poli. Sci.) where I met my first wife, Sue, my most important teacher. I have an MBA from the University of Chicago, where I stayed for a while longer in the Ph.D. program before working in retail marketing and planning, web analytics, statistical modeling, data analytics consulting, and, most recently in semi-retirement, math tutoring and website hosting and development. I live in Evanston, Illinois. My daughter, Kira, is my current lead teacher.

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**Elizabeth "Liz" Singer**  
New York Society for  
Ethical Culture

### Local Society Experience

I have been a member of the New York Society for Ethical Culture for 10 years. I have served as President and Chair of the Board since 2016. I also chair the membership development committee and am ex-official of all NYSEC committees.

### AEU Experience

I joined the AEU Board of Directors for the first time in June 2017.

### Board Leadership Responsibilities & Expertise

I serve as Chair of the AEU Personnel Committee  
Member of the AEU Membership Committee  
Member of the AEU Policy Committee

### Goals for Present Term

To establish a more robust AEU. To interface with Societies under the AEU umbrella. Increase national AEU visibility utilizing PR and branding.

### Length of Membership & Locale

10 years

### Life Experience

Professional designer creating my own business.  
31 years in the fashion and design business.  
Second career: 9 years as an independent Geriatric Care Manager and Coordinator.

**Term of Office:** First year of my Second term