

AMERICAN ETHICAL UNION

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Anna Garlin Spencer Volunteer Award

Foreword

The American Ethical Union (AEU) and its congregations function in large part on the volunteer time and monetary commitment of its members. Many times, members work “behind the scenes” on programs and events, often providing supplies and materials at their own expense. These members have ideas and proposals which not only make their congregation a success, but which would translate to other ethical congregations or even to AEU programs.

Anna Garlin Spencer (1851-1931) was a social activist and feminist icon. She was the first woman ordained in Rhode Island, became a founder of the NAACP, promoted child labor laws, and worked for equal rights for women. She was also the first woman Ethical Culture leader and her life-long work embodies the spirit intended by this award.

Description

The Anna Garlin Spencer Volunteer Award recognizes a lay member of any AEU-affiliated ethical congregation in good standing for his or her significant, volunteer contributions to the success of that ethical congregation and, therefore, the success of the AEU, or volunteer contributions on behalf of the AEU itself. The AEU Board presents the award on behalf of the AEU and the nominating congregation.

Definitions and Criteria

AEU-affiliated ethical congregation: an Ethical Society, the Future of Ethical Societies (FES), and the National Ethical Service (NES).

Lay member: A pledging member of an ethical congregation who—

- Is not the Leader, Assistant Leader, Leader-intern, or Board Member,
- Is not in arrears in his or her monetary pledge to the ethical congregation, and
- Has been a consistently active member of the nominating ethical congregation for at least three full fiscal years.

Significant, volunteer contributions: knowledge or skills provided by the lay member on a consistent basis over a significant period of time, the contribution of which allows the ethical congregation to promote or present programs, events, or publicity without hiring outside experts to accomplish the same function. Examples include, but are not limited to: assisting communications, ethical education, ethical action, festivals, platforms, publicity, or Society management.

The ethical congregation's board of directors may forward one nomination per fiscal year to the AEU Board. Any congregation member or the congregation's board of trustees may generate the nomination.

A person may only receive the Anna Garlin Spencer Volunteer Award once every five years.

Nomination Procedures

1. Download the Anna Garlin Spencer Volunteer Award Nomination form from <http://aeu.org/what-we-do/awards/> or find the form in the accompanying attachment.
2. Complete all portions of the nomination form and present it to the ethical congregation's board of trustees.
3. The ethical congregation's board of trustees reviews the nomination and can:
 - a. Vote to endorse the nomination – and have the president sign the form.
 - b. Reject the nomination – and return the nomination to the nominator with an explanation.
4. The ethical congregation's board of trustees forwards the endorsed nomination to the AEU office at least 14 days before the next AEU Board meeting for inclusion on the agenda for that meeting.
Note: Any nomination received fewer than 14 days before the next AEU Board meeting will not be considered until the following meeting. The AEU office will inform the ethical congregation if the review needs to be postponed.
5. The AEU Board reviews all nominations received within the appropriate time frame and notes the selections in the meeting minutes.
6. The AEU office will notify the ethical congregation who nominated the selectee and make arrangements for the presentation of the award certificate at the next AEU Assembly during a ceremony held in honor of the nominees. The AEU Board President will read the Justifications for the nominees submitted by the congregations and present them with this award.
7. All nomination forms and requested material should be sent to the American Ethical Union, 2 West 64th Street, Suite 406, New York, NY 10023.