

Board Candidate Profile

AEU Board of Directors



Tom Castelnovo
Brooklyn Society for
Ethical Culture

Local Society Experience

- BSEC Board and Treasurer 2006-9, 2010-2017
- BSEC Investment Fund Monitor
- BSEC Audit Committee Chair
- BSEC Building and Accessibility Committee

AEU Experience

- AEU Board Member 2016-9

Board Leadership Responsibilities & Expertise

- AEU Board VP
- Fund Raising Committee
- Host AEU Board Retreat
- Planning. Computer Systems and Financial Expertise

Goals for Present Term

- Implement Fund Raising Presentations and Planned Giving.
- Strengthen Public Relations Initiatives
- Support Management Accountability

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:

- First year of second term

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Liz Collier

A member of Ethical Culture since the age of 7, I attended the Ethical Society of Northern Westchester Sunday School. I was a founding member of the Future of Ethical Societies, a national group for young adults to stay connected to Ethical Culture. I was also the AEU Mossler Fellow recipient in 2013 and 2014. I researched the growing population of nonreligious young adults and I explored how to engage more young adults into Ethical Culture. In college I studied music, and afterward worked in Arts Administration for several major music institutions in New York City. I am also a graduate of the Institute for Integrative Nutrition, which helped me launch a small private health coaching practice. From my time at college to my facilitation of group classes in health and nutrition, I discovered a love for public speaking.

For the past four years, I have been working for the Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture as Director of Community Outreach. Together with Leader Jone Johnson Lewis, I have helped to revitalize a Society that had faced closing its doors due to dwindling population and lack of outreach and PR. I publicize the Society and its events in the wider community, help to create programs and plan Platform topics, invite Platform speakers and preside for two Platforms per month. I also built a brand new Ethics for Children program, which has attracted many families and is now being supported by several parent volunteers. My job plus my family with two young children keeps me busy.

My life-long commitment to the Ethical Culture movement, plus my strong belief in the values and ideals that Ethical Culture offers us, make me energized to join the Board of the American Ethical Union. My formative years in Ethical Culture, together with my time on the AEU Membership Committee and now the Leadership Committee, and invaluable learning about the inner workings of an Ethical Society these past four years, have geared me up to take on a national leadership role. 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 bond with local Societies by supporting them with outreach, membership development, fundraising, and overall growth strategies. I would also be excited to work with the Board to think about and tweak our national strategy for building awareness of Ethical Culture and humanism nationally. I deeply enjoy organizing and coordinating people to reach shared goals, so I look forward to lending a hand with the AEU teams and helping to recruit anyone who would be an asset to our teams and committees. I look forward to working hard with others to meet our collective goals, the most important of which is to build a strong and supportive national body for Ethical Culture.

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Casey Gardonio-Foat

After earning my Ph.D. in art history from NYU's Institute of Fine Arts, I launched my first business, Casey York Design, in the home-sewing industry in 2012. In early 2018, I started my second company, Wink & Rise, an online retailer devoted to encouraging and celebrating healthy sleep, and I continue to actively maintain both businesses. In addition to my work with the Ethical Society of St. Louis, I also volunteer with the International Institute of St. Louis, the BALSAs Foundation, and the Opera Theater of St. Louis.

As a Trustee of the Ethical Society of St. Louis, I have served for three years on the Governance Committee, which oversees the ongoing revision of and adherence to our Bylaws and Policy Manual. In addition, I have served for three years on the task force that oversees our annual Pledge Campaign, and have been in charge of the visual aspects of this Campaign and its associated luncheon for two of these. In 2018, I spearheaded the move to revise our Employee Handbook, and have served on the associated task force for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Previous to this, I served from 2014-2015 on the Second Leader Search Committee, and I have also been active as a parent teacher in the SEEK program for the duration of my membership.

My experience on the Board of the Ethical Society of St. Louis has strengthened my commitment to spreading and supporting the Ethical Humanism movement. As a business owner and designer, I have first-hand understanding of the importance consistent communication, vision, and branding for nurturing and maintaining a strong community, and I would love to put my talents in these areas in the service of the AEU. Additionally, my work in the processes of hiring, governance, and employee wellbeing at the Ethical Society of St. Louis has taught me the importance of clear policies and procedures for the smooth functioning of an organization. I would love to work toward developing, implementing, and managing a clear and consistent mission and vision for the AEU, so that our movement can continue to grow.