

Board Member Candidate Profile

AEU Board of Directors



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

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE PROFILE

American Ethical Union

Zia Durrani



Bio and Statement of Interest

I was born and raised in Kashmir, India. Although I was raised in a Muslim culture which does not encourage girls to be educated, my father was very forward-thinking and wanted his daughters to be educated. My sister even became a doctor. I went to a University in India to study English Literature. I then taught in a Women's College in Kashmir for eight years. I continued my studies in English Literature at Leeds University in England. I came to live in the United States in 1976 and raised three children on Long Island. When my youngest child was in High School I went to Queens College to get a Master's Degree in the Teaching of English as a Second Language, which I taught in various Community Colleges in New York, Oregon and New Jersey, and at the local Adult School.

I got acquainted with the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County when I came to live in South Orange in 2003. I was drawn to it because of its humanist philosophy. I have been a member for more than a decade, and President for the past three years. My term just ended.

My vision for the AEU is to see more diversity in the membership. The community is not well represented within the membership. The humanist philosophy leads me to feel that the more diverse membership will lead to greater community connection and broader ideas for our collective good. I am interested in being part of the collective brainstorming toward this end.

[Board Application](#)

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE PROFILE

American Ethical Union

Dwight Panozzo



Bio and Statement of Interest

I am an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Social Work at New York University and a clinician in private practice. I live in suburban New Jersey and have been a member of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County for more than seven years. At my Society, I serve on the Social Action Committee, the Leadership Advisory Committee, and provide adult education through my “Mindfulness at Midday” group which transitioned to Zoom during the Pandemic and meets weekly to support members of the Society as well as those in the general community. I am also a divorced gay dad with a son of 22 who is in his senior year of college. My son shares his time between me and my ex-husband who is also a dear friend at this point in our lives.

My social justice work began with gun violence prevention (GVP) protesting after the Sandy Hook massacre. It included work with the Brady campaign and Gays Against Guns. As a therapist, I am a problem solver by nature. Once I recognized that nothing was being achieved at the federal level to stem gun violence, the US Senate being the primary stumbling block, I stepped back from my GVP work. Eventually I conceptualized the New State Formation and Amalgamation Process which lies at the heart of the “Hack the Senate” movement—a social justice initiative to create a more representative US Senate. You can learn more about that process at hackthesenate.org

I am hoping to share my time and abilities with the AEU to do my part to help our organization become more diverse, larger in size, and to help us direct our focus to helping our fellow citizens to develop a wider culture rooted in evidence, social justice, and that which is known to be true.

[AEU Board Application](#)
[Dwight Panozzo Resume](#)

BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE PROFILE

American Ethical Union

Melissa Sinclair



Bio and Statement of Interest

My name is Melissa Sinclair and I have been a member of the Northern Virginia Ethical Society for over 15 years. I have served NoVES in many areas as a volunteer and as an employee, I was the Director of Ethical Education for four years at NoVES. As a volunteer, I have run the auction, been on several committees over the years, and currently, I am serving my second year on the NoVES board.

I also worked as the Director of Lifelong Learning at WES for four years and I served a short time as the Director of Ethical Education for the AEU.

Ethical Culture has been an important part of my life for many years. I discovered the existence of Ethical Culture when I was looking to get married, and when we moved to an area that had a society, we became members almost immediately and I have been active in the movement as a volunteer and employee the entire time. What I am most proud of is that I helped two societies grow in membership, especially the Sunday Schools.

What draws me to ethical culture is that it fits a niche I feel is missing in society. I love that it forms a community around doing good things for the world and its people without using god messages. I love that our children can grow up in a nurturing, and safe environment that teaches them to question the world around them while taking care of its people and environment.

I have been an employee for two societies and it would be an honor to serve on the board of the AEU. I would love to contribute to its growth as a movement.

My Vision for the AEU: is to see it grow, to see it become more known outside of the current membership. I look forward to hearing other people's visions too. I don't feel I can detail more than that without knowing more about the work already being done with the board.

[Resume](#)

[Board Application](#)

Board Member Candidate Profile

AEU Board of Directors



Elizabeth "Liz" Singer
New York Society for
Ethical Culture

[Statement of Interest](#)

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 an 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