

Board Officer Candidate Profile

AEU Board of Directors



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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**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 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

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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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Casey Gardonio-Foat
Ethical Society of St. Louis

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.

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