

Board Officer Profile - President

AEU Board of Directors



Sonja Kueppers
Washington Ethical Society

Local Society Experience

I have served on the Lay Leadership Development Committee and the Children's Education Council at the Washington Ethical Society. I have also served WES as an Our Whole Lives sexuality educator and as lead teacher for our Sunday School class on contemporary religions.

AEU Experience

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

Board Leadership Responsibilities & Expertise

I serve as the Board liaison with the Ethical Education Committee. I have also worked extensively on communication and branding issues during my first year on the board.

Goals for Present Term

I would like to see the American Ethical Union better serve its Member Societies, recognizing that this takes different forms because of the diversity of our membership. I believe that the AEU should focus its energy on areas where the national organization can have the greatest impact.

Length of Membership & Locale

4 years at the Washington Ethical Society

Life Experience

I have worked in the Information Technology field for the last 30 years. I previously served on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Library in my town for 17 years. I also homeschool my two children, and am deeply engaged in volunteer work related to their education and interests.

Term of Office: Third year of my first term

Board Officer Profile – Vice President

AEU Board of Directors



Ken Novak
Chicago Ethical Humanist Circle

Local Society Experience: At the Chicago Ethical Humanist Circle (CEHC): founding Board member, Program and Communications committees, and discussion and Colloquy convener.

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; and Ethical Humanist Officiant.

AEU Experience: Board member since 2015, Treasurer since 2016. Student, then staff member at Summer Schools; on AEU Communications, Finance, Fundraising teams.

Leadership Roles and Expertise: More than 20 years of experience planning and executing for society growth, while also managing the budgets, pledge campaigns, and investments that supported those programs.

Impact of Experience - So much of who I am grew from what I learned about living the good life from my Ethical friends, ways in which they asked me to step outside my comfort zone, and the love they have given. I learned from so many teachers how to be a humbler, more conscious, and more effective servant to my local community and beyond.

Among other things, I've learned that (1) the old saw, "When the student is ready, the teacher appears" means that teachers and lessons are always all around me, (2) nearly every good Parenting Rule I've ever read applies to my interactions with everyone, and (3) all of those good Interacting Rules are basically corollaries of the Supreme Ethical Rule.

Goals for Present Term – Continue to oversee our finances and plan for their preservation, growth, and visibility; find and build consensus for programs for a stronger, more inclusive, and more effective AEU, and then help launch them successfully.

Length of Membership - I have been a member of the CEHC for the first two years of its existence and a member of the EHSC for 25 years.

Life Experience - I grew up in a Russian Orthodox congregation in Clifton, NJ. At the University of Rochester, I got a BA (Poli. Sci.) and gained an important teacher, my first wife, Sue. 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, and, most recently, data analytics consulting. My daughter, Kira, 28 and awesome, and "awesome" is a term I use sparingly.

Board Officer Profile – Secretary

AEU Board of Directors



Sharon Stanley
Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island

Local Society Experience

My husband and I joined the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island in 1995. We were married by an ethical humanist officiant and our son was born three years later and welcomed by our congregation. I have served in many capacities at my society; children's program director, teacher in the children's program, community song director, board member for two terms, fundraising committee, social action committee and most recently I started an American Humanist Association affiliate group called "Humanists of Long Island" that meets monthly at my ethical society.

AEU Experience

I joined the AEU Board of Directors for the first time in June 2017. On five occasions, I was a designated delegate at the AEU assembly.

Board Leadership Responsibilities & Expertise

Previously, I was involved in the Membership committee, and I've recently joined the New Society Development Committee. It has been exciting to reach out to others or would like information about starting an ethical society, fellowship or circle.

Goals for Present Term

It is my goal to help new societies form and increase the visibility of the American Ethical Union and Ethical Humanism/Ethical Culture.

.Length of Membership & Locale

I have been a member of the Ethical Humanist Society of Long Island for 24 years.

Life Experience

I am a proud New York City special education teacher, who retired after 33 years in service. After retirement I worked for two years as a children's librarian at the East Meadow Library.

Term of Office: Third year of my first term

Board Officer Profile - Treasurer

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:

- Third year of first Term