



American Ethical Union

Inspiring Ethical Communities

2 West 64th Street • New York, NY 10023 • www.aeu.org
Phone 212.873.6500 • Fax 212-624-0203 • office@aeu.org

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Ethical Action Committee (December 9 - April 22, 2019)

Co-Chairs: Carolyn A. Parker, Ph.D. (Austin), Bob Gordon (Bergen)
Members: Marta Guttenberg (Philadelphia), Martina Brunner (Westchester), John McCormick (Philadelphia), Hugh Taft-Morales (Baltimore & Philadelphia)
NLC Representative: Anne Klaeyen (New York)
NES Representative: Jone Johnson Lewis (Riverdale-Yonkers & Brooklyn)
Ex Officio: Bart Worden (Westchester)
Adjunct/Liaison: David Vassar (New York)

Please provide brief updates on the following areas of your Committee that occurred or developed during 2018:

Committee's Mission/Purpose: The AEU Ethical Action Committee provides support to Societies in their Ethical Action work (community strengthening and local change) and leverages the power of the AEU as a national organization with moral authority (systemic change).

Programs/Projects:

- Develop and expand the AEU EAC
 - Established regular meeting schedule (with written agenda, meeting notes for permanent record and follow up)
 - Developed shared calendar for Ethical Action events
 - Recruited representatives from National Leaders Council and National Ethical Service
 - Recruited liaison for New York (still seeking liaisons for St Louis and Washington)
- Develop communication strategies for coordination and cooperative action
 - Assessed participation in the EAC and EAL listserves, updating email addresses and identifying gaps in coverage
 - Developed a plan for weekly posts to the EAL and to the AEU Ethical Action page

on Facebook, including posts related to resources, tools for action, and calls to action

- Develop strategies to “make real” the Assembly theme (Reclaiming Democracy for All)
 - Initiated a plan to create Facebook posts highlighting workshops to be presented at Assembly
 - Assisted Ethical Culture Society of Essex County in acquiring sign ons for its Open Letter on Immigration
- Take advantage of opportunities to sign on to the ethical actions being undertaken by other/partner organizations
 - Called AEU members to participate in Earth Hour, a global initiative to “connect to earth” and protect the environment, led by World Wildlife Fund
 - Called AEU member societies to participate in Secular Week of Action, coordinated by Secular Coalition for America
 - Planning a call to AEU members to participate in #withrefugees in conjunction with World Refugee Day (June 20) and beyond, sponsored by United Nations, in partnership with National Ethical Service

Goals for 2019:

- Continue to foster communication and cooperation among the member societies
- Provide additional resources and action tools to member societies including online training materials and webinars
- Expand focus on refugee/immigration, systemic racism, and climate action as appropriate
- Provide assistance to societies in developing and implementing their ethical action programs, as needed and feasible
- Develop participation in national and global campaigns in partnership with allied organizations
- Continue to develop the AEU EAC with a view to developing new leadership
- Increase visibility of AEU’s local and national ethical actions via Facebook and other media (in partnership with the Communications Team)