ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report for: Ethical Education Committee

Chair: Casey Gardonio-Foat

Please provide brief updates on the following areas of your Committee that occurred or developed during 2019:

Committee’s Mission/Purpose:

The Ethical Education Committee exists to support the creation and implementation of Ethical Education programming for use by the AEU and its member Societies.

Programs/Projects:

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 saw increased activity for the Ethical Education Committee, which had been relatively dormant. A small subcommittee worked intensively during the late summer and fall of 2019 to draft a comprehensive Youth Protection and Safety Policy that could be used for 2020’s YES conference and for other AEU-organized events involving youth participants in the future. In March, 2020, when social distancing forced member Societies to stop meeting in person, the Committee developed and launched a ZOOM-based Virtual SEEK program (Sunday Ethical Education for Kids) with the help of Ethical Education Directors from AEU member Societies. Virtual SEEK will continue to hold events during the summer months and may continue to do so in the fall. As part of this project, the Ethical Education Committee Google group/email list has been reinvigorated, providing a place for members to share news and ideas. I am excited about the increased level of communication that this has engendered between member Societies and the growing sense of community that is resulting.

Goals for 2020:
Moving into Fiscal Year 2020-2021, I hope the Ethical Education Committee will continue to see increasing participation from member Society families and Ethical Education staff. Our Ethical Education Directors are incredibly creative, hard-working, and resourceful, and one service the Committee can provide is to foster a community in which various Societies can share their materials and ideas for the benefit of all. We would like to continue to provide opportunities for kids from various Societies to connect with one another, whether this is through Virtual SEEK or a different model. We will also continue to build relationships with other organizations that support humanist programming for kids, such as Camp Quest. To support all of these initiatives, it is crucial that we build an enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer membership for the Committee. We welcome anyone who would be interested in joining to contact chair Casey Gardonio-Foat (cgardonio-foat@aeu.org).