ANNUAL SOCIETY REPORT 2019

Society Report for Ethical Humanist Society of Asheville

Leader(s): Joy McConnell

President(s): James R. Tobin

Administrative Director/Office Contact: Jackie Simms

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

Ethical Action:

**Racial Justice**: Supported the M.L. King, Jr. Association by purchasing a table at their Breakfast and an ad in the souvenir program book. Both organizations in the Economic Justice section are also racial justice initiatives. **Economic Justice**: Financial contribution to YMI Cultural Center, a historical hub of the African American community which is on the Registry of Historic Buildings and provides space for social, cultural, leadership and community development activities. Financial contribution to Green Opportunities (GO), an organization which provides job related skill training and hands on job training in carpentry/green trades and food preparation to at risk and hard to employ populations. Half of our donations at platform meetings alternate between going to this organization and the YMI Cultural Center. **Homelessness**: Continued collaboration with Homeward Bound, a local nonprofit organization that works to eliminate homelessness by participating in their Room in the Inn program, which provides housing, meals, transportation and overnight onsite availability. **Education**: Provided a grant from our endowment fund to the Asheville City Schools Foundation Scholarship Fund. **Food Insufficiency**: Participated in the Crop Walk, providing food locally and internationally. **Good Cheer**: Had a fun game filled Winter Festival in lieu of the December platform meeting. Provided Christmas gifts for five children at Aliada Home.
Ethical Education: Continued program for adults with monthly discussion of humanist/rationalist magazine articles.

- Added bimonthly potluck meals

Communications: We continue to have volunteer members serving as webmaster and PR personnel. We use Meetup, email notification and Facebook, an online Community Calendar, as well as free listings in four area newspapers and a paid ad in the annual M.L. King, Jr. Breakfast booklet (attendance approximately 2,000). Accessed the services of Momentum, the AEU PR firm.

Finances: The Building and Endowment Funds continue to receive respectively transfers from the budget at the end of our fiscal year and contributions from individuals recognizing living or deceased members and friends. EHSA remains financially fit.

Membership: There was a significant membership increase, from 26 in 2018 to 34 this year.

Goals for 2020: Add variety to Adult Ethical Education offerings and social gatherings. Continue to increase membership.