ANNUAL SOCIETY REPORT

Society Report for Ethical Society Mid Rivers

Leader(s): N/A

President(s): Sarah Vehige

Administrative Director/Office Contact: Jill Aul, Society Administrator

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

Ethical Action:

● Climate: We hosted 4 guest speakers for climate-related Platforms. These included author Suzie Boss, “The Power of a Plant,” Jim Ruedin, who spoke about the ethics of caving in Missouri, Mary Wallace, an employee in Bayer’s Round-up division, and a local expert who spoke about solar panels. We continued to maintain a stretch of roadway in Missouri’s Adopt-a-Highway program.


● Economic Justice: Dr. Ed Weisbart presented, “Physicians for a National Health Care Program,” Our Adult Learning Forum hosted a session on Medicare for All, and we hosted a guest speaker who presented on Medicare Expansion in Missouri.

● Development and Peace: Platforms were presented about gun control, growing up in the foster care system, local native and women’s history, a local Care Service, the YUWA girls’ soccer program in India, and Ethics in Media.

● Other: We celebrated both the Chinese New Year and hosted local guests to perform a Japanese tea ceremony, we had a local counselor present a Platform about teen girls and eating disorders, as well as 3 visiting Ethical Culture Leaders (Anne Klaeysen, Randy Best, Kate Lovelady)
Ethical Education (children ages 2-13) & Youth of Ethical Societies (teens ages 14-18) & Future of Ethical Societies (young adults ages 18-35): We continued running a multi-age Ethical Education program on Sundays. In addition, we held a family campout weekend at a local state park, sent 4 teenagers to the YES conference, sent 5 youth to Camp Quest for a week, and enjoyed several field trips to local educational attractions.

Communications: Our Marketing Committee continued to work closely with our Society Administrator to maintain social media platforms along with our web site. We send out a weekly e-newsletter to approximately 300 people and participate in the AEU’s Communication network.

Finances: Because we neither pay a Leader nor own a building, we have very few financial responsibilities. We have a sizable investment portfolio and stay within our budget every year.

Membership: For the 4th year in a row, we enjoyed a growth rate of more than 30%. In 2019, we welcomed 14 new adult members, bringing our total roster to 62 adults and 20 children.

New Developments: We are working with our landlord to remodel the building in order to provide an additional classroom for our ever-expanding children’s program.

Goals for 2020: To continue providing high quality programs and maintain relationships among our members throughout the COVID 19 pandemic. We anticipate meeting virtually until at least the beginning of September 2020.