Affiliate Report for Future of Ethical Societies

AEU Representative(s): Julia Julstrom-Agoyo

Please provide brief updates on the following areas of the AEU participation in or with the Affiliate that occurred or developed during 2019:

Affiliate’s Description: Future of Ethical Societies (FES) is a community of 18-35-year-olds across the country that connects online, through local gatherings, on various service projects, and during national conferences. Established in 2004 as an affiliate of the AEU, FES maintains and builds ties with the Ethical Culture Movement despite time and geographical constraints. We are excited to get to know people who share interests and values and to learn how we can support each other.

AEU Program(s)/Event(s) in conjunction with the Affiliate, including date, location:

- The 2019 Future of Ethical Societies Conference took place in Baltimore, MD over Memorial Day Weekend. Our intent was to discover a context for understanding the city of Baltimore and embark on a journey of finding its narratives. We learned from local activists about how they connect and work with each other and the challenges they face. We walked the city and listened to what its neighborhoods, energy, and people told us. We stayed at Maya & Max’s house, both members of the original FES group. We participated in the Baltimore Ethical Society’s platform and potluck & conversed with local members. 10 people attended the conference, drawing from both Coasts and the Midwest.

- We voted to hold our 2020 conference in conjunction with World Humanist Congress in August in Miami, FL and submitted an application to present as part of a youth panel.

- We discussed new technology options for keeping in contact throughout the year, like Slack and increasing activity on Facebook.

- In June, FES member (& YHI Communications Officer) Anya Overmann represented FES internationally at the Young Humanists International 2019 General Assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland.

- We prepared to send FES member Emily Newman as representative to the YES 2020 Conference in March in Washington DC.

Goals for 2020:

- FES plans to establish a new system of officer election, training, task distribution, and consistency.

- We intend to foster a supportive and active community, online and in person when possible, that meets the spectrum of needs of young adults who are in the FES age range. This includes a stronger connection to YES teens and younger AEU members.