Humanists International Affiliate Report for 2019
It was my privilege to attend both the conference prepared by Iceland Humanists and the Humanists International General Assembly (Humanists International is the new name for the International Humanist and Ethical Union [IHEU]). I find presentations on the challenges and successes of Humanist Groups around the world to be informative and inspirational.

Why Participate in the Humanists International?
What does the AEU gain from participating in this international organization? This question is frequently asked by the AEU Board. From my perspective, the AEU gains much from its participation and association with Humanists International.

Humanists International membership connects the AEU to a larger world-wide Humanist organization and to Humanist groups across the globe. This organizational connection to others is very important. This connection demonstrates that we are not alone. The AEU’s approach to Humanism is unique, but we act in consort with others to support the Humanists Internationals mission to:

- Act as a representative body of the Humanist Movement by uniting a diversity of non-religious organizations and individuals
- Help or rescue dozens of humanists and atheists at risk, who were risking their lives for leaving religion and for not believing in God
- Stand up for universal human rights at the United Nations and other international institutions, highlighting discrimination against ‘apostates’, children, women, and other minorities
- Released a seventh edition of the Freedom of Thought Report, which gained significant media coverage and attention from international institutions, raising awareness of the rights and legal status of humanists and freethinkers globally
- Welcomed into our international family 25 new Member Organizations and 55 new Individual supporters. We now have 168 Member Organizations in more than 75 countries
- Distribute $16,000 in grants for humanist projects and international meetings in our three priority regions - Africa, Asia, and Latin America

As a founding member who has contributed much to Humanists International over the years, the AEU is highly respected in the IHEU. As the AEU representative, my opinion has been sought out on proposals and resolutions.

I have had conversations with AEU members who have participated in the IHEU in the past about the involvement of the AEU in international organization. In the 1950’s during the McCarthy era, the AEU received important support from the IHEU. This helped the AEU feel less isolated. While the AEU is in a different position today, I feel that we are in a position to “pay it forward” by continued participation in the IHEU to assist emerging humanist groups and help humanists who are being persecuted for their views.

- Randy Best, AEU Representative to Humanists International for 2019