



American Ethical Union

Inspiring Ethical Communities

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ANNUAL AFFILIATE REPORT 2019: National Leaders Council

AEU Representative(s): Hugh Taft-Morales; Randy Best; Anne Klaeyesen as alternate. **NLC Officers:** President – Hugh Taft-Morales. Vice President – Randy Best. FSecretary – Kate Lovelady. Dean – Martha Gallahue. Treasurer – Richard Koral.

Affiliate's Description: The certified Leaders of the American Ethical Union, with Leaders-in-Training participating. Our meetings are intended (1) to support the Ethical movement with ideas and projects, (2) to share ideas to bring back to our societies and make our work there more effective, (3) to develop our skills and consider ideas, (4) to build deeper relations within the NLC, and (5) renew our energy to serve.

In 2018-2019, the Leaders will hold three in-person meetings: October 2018 at Murray Grove Retreat Center in New Jersey; March 2019 as part of the Humanist Collaboratory at the Washington Ethical Society, and June 2019 in Tampa in conjunction with the Assembly. We had one virtual business meeting in March 2019.

During the business meeting portion of each NLC gathering, we shared reports from various AEU committees and from the Executive Director, as well as reports about what's happening in various Societies. The NLC is grappling with how to help staff and support AEU Committees given our busy schedules in supporting local societies.

At our **October 2018 NLC meeting**, Leaders met to discussed:

- 1) The AEU Assembly theme, "Democracy for All," and possible workshops regarding voter suppression (especially targeting people of color), criminal justice reform, the political underrepresentation of women, money in politics, gerrymandering, and immigration and treatment of immigrants;
- 2) How to support our national movement, given the Chicago Society disaffiliation and the closing of the Ethical Society in Boston;
- 3) Improvements to the AEU "rapid response team" to create more timely and pointed public statements on current events;
- 4) How the NLC can support New Society Development Team work across the country;
- 5) the role of the NLC Dean;
- 6) AEU Officiant policy;
- 7) NLC support of Leaders-in-Training, including the revamping of an "orientation document;"
- 8) Recent success at membership growth, particularly in Riverdale; and,
- 9) Organizational polarities to understand, such as hierarchical vs. participative models; and,
- 10) Supporting people of color through discussion of *Salsa, Soul, and Spirit: Leadership for a Multicultural Age*.

At our **March 2019 NLC meeting**, Leaders spent two days with the Humanist Collaboratory, a gathering of over 30 humanist clergy and lay leaders to examine how to best help humanism for a new century to flourish, including many issues of diversity and inclusion. Plans are being made for a possible 2020 Humanist Collaboratory in Minneapolis.

After the Humanist Collaboratory, at the NLC meeting of March 27, we officially welcomed two new Leaders-in-Training to our circles, Carolyn Tabak and Sarah Tielemans, brainstormed edits to our "NLC Orientation Document," shared memories of Fritz Williams, an NLC Leader who died last year, discussed ways members of Ethical Societies around the country could gather other than at annual assemblies, and brainstormed ideas for the platform to be offered Sunday morning at the Tampa Assembly.