



American Ethical Union

Inspiring Ethical Communities

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ANNUAL SOCIETY REPORT Fiscal year 2019- 2020

Society Report for: Northern Virginia Ethical Society (NOVES)

Leader(s): _Randy Best

President(s): Iris Woodard

Administrative Director/Office Contact: contat_us@noves.org

Please provide brief updates on the following areas of your Society that occurred or developed in 2020:

Ethical Action:

- Climate: joined a local non-profit for advocacy (Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions). Wrote state legislators about state bills.
- Racial Justice: A few members participated in some of the AEU classes
- Economic Justice: no action
- Development and Peace: no action
- Other: Several members & friends participated in the Reclaim Our Vote postcard initiative. NOVES submitted a resolution which was adopted at the 2020 Assembly concerning Physician Assisted Aid in Dying.

Ethical Education (children ages 2-13) & Youth of Ethical Societies (teens ages 14-18) & Future of Ethical Societies (young adults ages 18-35): We stopped meeting in person in March 2020. At that time we had about 30 children on the roster but many did not attend regularly. We ran two classes - pre-school to 4th grade and 5th - 8th grade. We had no teens for a youth group. In 2019 - 2020 the lower class studied environmental protection, and the older class alternated between Media Matters and Ethical Dilemmas for Teens.

Communications: We continued to work on our social media presence - updating our Facebook page (about 450 following), posting social activities on MeetUp, and improving our website with regular blogs from the President of Board and Leader.

Finances: Received pledges left a deficit for the fiscal year, which was somewhat mitigated by the school we rent space from, waiving our rent during pandemic.

Membership: **NOVES has 71 listed members with seven being members of two societies. The members of two societies are Gassner, Karro, 2 Stantons, Rachel Hartig, Judy Meyers (former Judy O), and Randy Best. On this basis we would have 71 - 3.5 or 67.5 members.**

New Developments: Once pandemic started, the Board and Leader tried to think of several ways we could maintain connections among the membership. Randy began weekly virtual “Coffee at a Distance” and “Saturday Night at the Movies”. We continued platforms virtually. Most of the Sunday School families have not joined the virtual platforms. They cite zoom fatigue as part of the issue. We tried to make sure that each weekly e-newsletter had tidbits about ethical action and virtual social opportunities such as a virtual filmfest. We also had a very successful farewell party for two long time members who moved to Canada.

Goals for 2021:

1. Open for regular meetings starting after Labor Day.
2. Add capacity to offer virtual participation in the Platform meetings.
3. Create ways to draw families with children back to meetings. We are offering OWL to 12 older children
4. Focus on social media promotions to attract new members
5. DEE has announced that 2021 - 2022 will be her last year. We will start a search for a new part-time DEE