



American Ethical Union

Inspiring Ethical Communities

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ANNUAL SOCIETY REPORT

Society Report for: **Ethical Humanist Society of the Triangle (EHST), NC**

President(s): **Dorothy Dale**

Please provide brief updates on the following areas of your Society that occurred or developed in 2018:

Ethical Action:

A significant underpinning of Ethical Action is educating ourselves. Our platforms highlight various topics related to the list below, so I've included some data on that. Through platform presentations we hope to educate ourselves on the issues and identify ways to get more involved.

- Climate:

We had one program relating to environmental issues in 2018.

- Racial Justice:

EHST supported the annual HKonJ march ("Historic Thousands on Jones St."). This is an annual march on the State Legislature in Raleigh coordinated by the local NAACP and including various affiliated groups.

Some individual members of EHST have also been attending meetings of BASIC in Roxboro, NC. BASIC is a grassroots initiative – Brothers and Sisters in Conversation - - that began in the faith community when racial tensions were rising in Roxboro. It is just a gathering of primarily black and white people who participate in facilitated conversation.

We had eight programs in 2018 relating to race and/or racial justice.

- Economic Justice:

We had seven programs in 2018 which might broadly be considered relating to Economic or social justice. This include programming on gun violence, access to safe abortions, immigrant rights, empowering for justice work, eliminating the bail bond system, gerrymandering and inmate labor.

- Development and Peace:

EHST is a member of the Orange County Peace Coalition and participates in Memorial Day programming.

- Other:

EHST collects food on the first Sunday of every month of the IFC Food Pantry. We contributed money this year as well to the IFC capital campaign to build a new Community

Kitchen, and EHST volunteers cook and serve free meals once a month at the same IFC Community Kitchen.

EHST signed on to the SAVE for ALL campaign of the Coalition on Human Needs.

EHST is a member organization of the NC Secular Coalition.

Through our Change for Change jar we collected donations for:

- **Orange Country Justice United**
- **Divan Center (supporting Turkish immigrants)**
- **Crayons2Calculators (giving teachers access to free school supplies)**
- **CAN-DO Foundation (supporting families of incarcerated people)**
- **ACLU**
- **League of Women Voters**

Ethical Education (children ages 2-13) **We have no children in our Society**

Youth of Ethical Societies (teens ages 14-18) **We have no youth in our Society**

Future of Ethical Societies (young adults ages 18-35): **We have only one member below age 35**
Communications:

EHST sends a weekly program announcement via MailChimp to 295 Subscribers. We post our meetings to our Meetup group, Friends of EHST which has 385 members, and cross post to the FFAST Meetup group (567 members) and Triangle Atheists (1755 members). We also post to Facebook with 103 members.

Finances:

Our financial position is good. Although not all our members pledge money, most do, and a few pledge in large amounts. We also have a very generous anonymous donor (who is neither a member or attendee) who knows of us and believes in our mission. That donor has given us large contributions for about five years running.

We are attempting to use more funding to support our programming, including paying some travel and honorarium for speakers. We also make donations to local causes, in particular to the Interfaith Council for Social Work.

We keep our funds with two local credit unions, the Self-Help Credit Union in Durham and the Latino Community Credit Union and no longer have any monies with for-profit banks.

Membership:

We ended 2018 with 48 members

New Developments:

Goals for 2019:

- **Grow Membership**
- **Get *Caring Committee* up and running, with a charter and at least 4-5 members**
- **Plan exchange with Asheville Ethical Society**
- **Maintain average weekly attendance at 30 or better**
- **Provide more social action opportunities**
- **Start using Twitter**