

Not Goodbye Yet
-- Richard Kiniry

Well, as most of you know, I will be retiring in July of this year. What you may not know is that there is plenty of work to be done before I fade into the sunset. When the new Leader arrives you must be waiting at the door of a well-organized, financially healthy Ethical Humanist Society.

Every religious organization (except for those mega-churches with thousands of members and the resulting income) depends on volunteers willing to take on responsibility well beyond what is usually necessary with other member organizations. We may be a small group but there are functions that are required if we are to be a legitimate Ethical Society. All those functions need people not just to perform tasks but to take responsibilities for areas of the life of the Society.

Given the opportunity most of you pitch in when asked, but the more difficult day-to-day organizational work is too often going begging for an enthusiastic leader. It's normal for people not to want to go out on the limb of responsibility, especially in our judgmental society, but we in the Society are looking for abnormal people who are committed to the success of the Society and will lead with enthusiasm.

This gives me the opportunity to again encourage you all to make the Society work for you. For over twenty years I have been claiming that Ethical Humanism is not just a liberal religious alternative but a world view and life stance, a way of living that if honestly accepted can change your life or at least give you a boost toward better living. In a world of ritualistic religion, Ethical Societies are trying to get to the essential function of religion. And for me that means being a place where you take your life seriously from the perspective of a particular worldview.

We don't want to be just another normal religious group. Almost everything can be changed in the name of relevance to your and my life journey. Therefore I'm always hoping you will bring your needs into the Society and turn them into programs, workshops, events, discussions, speakers, etc. I hope if your needs are not being met you will come forward and find partners to create an activity to satisfy those needs.

Actually this is about me being worried about looking bad. If the new Leader, whose time with the Society will be more limited than mine has been, arrives to find important activities unattended he or she might start gossiping among other Leaders about how I left the Society in bad shape. So, do it for me. Join one of our committees and give it your best.