Minutes: Board of Trustees
January 24, 2022
11:30 CT

1. Call to order/Serenity Prayer - Paul
   Present: Paul, Kelsey, Steve, Colleen, Behzad, Elaine
   Absent: Derita, John
2. Approval of Nov meeting minutes - Paul
   Minutes
   Motion to approve by Steve, seconded by Behzad. Unanimous vote to accept.
3. Literature Committee/Approval of new materials - Colleen
   i. #40 Control
   ii. #58 Patience
   iii. Possible new book

   Committee met Jan 23.
   Voted to pass #40 to the Board for approval. Colleen called for a vote on #40, motion made by Paul, seconded by Kelsey. Unanimous vote to approve.
   #58 was discussed by the committee but needs more time. Discussion around how to get approval between board meetings and this will be done by email in the future.
   Other issues addressed with the committee: A tagline and a standarized style guide is being developed for EAI.
   A new book idea is being considered that would incorporate some previous materials and introduce new materials. Colleen will take it back to her committee.
   Potential to narrate some of our materials into audio format was also discussed. Colleen will take this back to the committee as well.
4. Italian meeting guideline request addition* - Elaine
   The board requests that the word “best” be replaced with the word “ideally” and eliminate the reference between mother and child. Motion by Kelsey to accept the proposal. Seconded by Colleen. Unanimous vote to approve the following: *Effective communication is ideally accomplished when we can look into each other's eyes and reflect on each other's needs. This establishes a capacity to feel the same feelings as another individual (empathy) through the "mirroring" that is a way to create a relationship with our interlocutor based on trust and emotional harmony*. Elaine will email Paola with this decision.
5. Psych Conference update* - Paul/Steve
   Electronic ‘booth’ that allowed Paul/Steve to respond to people. Many interested, never heard of EA before. A lot of time invested in it but not a lot of responses. 82 total booth visitors, 17 asked for more information. 134 people viewed the available video Paul had put together. We’ll put the video on the website.
   a. follow up activities - Elaine
6. Outside materials at EA meetings* - Paul/Elaine

a. Email chain

General discussion about group responsibilities vs. what EAI stands for/finds acceptable to include in meetings. EAI can direct what individual groups do if it affects EA as a whole. EAI has created the EA program allowing individuals to express themselves. However, there is a line that is crossed when materials are introduced that are not EA material (for example, religious texts) as part of the meeting - if individuals want to share something personally, that is different than representing the EA program. What are the measures that we need to take? We agree we don't want outside materials promoted in groups. Do we just not list groups like this on the website or do we reach out to them? A first step would be to communicate that we have become aware of certain issues that are not within the EAI guidelines and ask that they stop. Could we communicate with all groups about this subject - provide what EA is for clarity to all.

7. By-law Committee update - Steve
   The committee's work is completed and the new document will be presented to the board for review in February. The bylaws would be brought to the membership at the fall meeting. An agenda item for this will be added to a special meeting on Tuesday Feb 22 at 11:30 a.m. Steve will send the ByLaw committee this information. Elaine will create an agenda.
8. Communications Committee update - Colleen
   No meetings have been organized yet.
9. FY end financial revisions/final - Elaine
   a. Final financial statement FY 21

   EAI ended the last fiscal year in the black after accounting adjustments were made.
10. EIDL grant funding - Elaine
    Received $10,000 in funding in December.
11. Sponsorship effort update - Kelsey
    Working off a spreadsheet to communicate among the volunteers working on this effort. 80 people have requested sponsors so far, with 18 matches made. Regular follow-up is being done by Camille and Kelsey after a month generally.
12. Sustaining donor effort results - Elaine/Paul
    a. ongoing merchandise sales
       Interest in developing water bottles with slogans and maybe blankets.

Additional information from agenda:

#4 Meeting Guideline request:
Sorry if I come back to the guidelines for online meetings, but we would like you to submit to the Board of Trustees a sentence that is very important to us and that speaks of "mirroring" psychological concept that further deepens the empathy that must be established even in online meetings and not only in presence. And this "mirroring" is best represented when a mother looks at her child: this image is, in our opinion, very evocative of the mutual trust in our meetings.Thank you.
Paola

Here following the sentence to be authorized:

Effective communication is best accomplished when we can look into each other's eyes and reflect on each other's needs. *This establishes a capacity to feel the same feelings as another individual (empathy) through the "mirroring" that is a way to create a relationship with our interlocutor based on trust and emotional harmony, just as a mother does with her child*.

#5 Psych Conf

- December email to those who expressed interest at the booth/online
- 11 email inquiries after conference - responded via email with literature

#6 Outside materials

Dec 13 email to Elaine: Thanks Kathleen - the emails from Michael are troubling - mainly because of the outside readings. The down side of 'allowing' groups to be autonomous is that they can focus wherever/however they choose - ie just focusing on the first few Steps - even if that technically doesn't follow our guidelines. I agree that your group should not share these meetings with others. We can't control what happens around us, but we can control our systems of communication. I would agree that these should not be included on the 'official' EA meeting listing. This makes me think that we need some sort of agreement with those who start meetings - that could be a can of worms though - but it might provide clarity around what is/isn't an EA meeting...though anyone can start one and call it as such and we might not even know it exists! I guess that's where we leave it at the idea that if it is a 'real' EA meeting it survives, if not, it doesn't. The Board doesn't have strict guidelines for when we list a meeting and when we don't - we probably need to develop some. I'm cc'ing the board President Paul on this. Thanks for bringing it to my attention - let me know if this helps/answers your question or not.