




Minutes: Board of Trustees  
**September 15, 2022**  
11:30 CT

1. Call to order/Serenity Prayer - Paul  
Present: Paul N, Colleen C, Elaine D, Fred F., Kathleen E, Behzad A,  
Absent: Steve B., Kelsey W, Carolina
2. Approval of past meeting minutes - Paul  
[July Minutes](#)  
*Motion made by Colleen, seconded by Fred. Unanimous approval.*
3. Self-harm language - Colleen/Kathleen  
*Elaine will send an email out to all groups with a suggestion to share the information we have on the homepage of the website. Also will add this in the NGIP and starter kit.*
4. Literature Committee/Approval of new materials - Colleen
  - i. Update on new book
  - ii. Communication pamphlet  
*Elaine will look for the last version and send it to all the Trustees for approval*
  - iii. New German pamphlet describing EA - *This will not be added to the English list of materials.*  
[Rough English translation](#)
5. By-law ratification update - Elaine  
*9 group responses*  
*Elaine will upload the new bylaws to the website.*
6. [Finance review](#) - Paul  
*Need for focus here. Discussion on finances to be held at the end of the upcoming membership meeting.*
7. Annual Business Meeting plans - Paul  
 Annual Business Meeting agenda
8. Member Q & A session plans during Annual Meeting - Steve
9. EAI annual budget approval - Paul  
[FY23 proposed budget](#)  
*We need to address our financial situation in greater depth soon. Colleen suggested creating an ad hoc committee to address it. Kathleen offered to be part of the effort. Colleen suggested we consider reaching out to other Anonymous groups.*

10. EA meeting locator improvement ideas? - Elaine  
*Concerns come in to the office over the ease of use - suggestions for improvements? Perhaps it is not so much the website as much as it is the members who are frustrated over the lack of meetings. Elaine will delete options #2 & #3 to make simplify the options.*

11. Stronger meeting guidelines? - Elaine  
Do we need new materials/video explanation of what it means to manage a group or what is acceptable/not during a meeting? *Elaine will start sending out quarterly emails on ideas around how to be a healthy group. Colleen suggested creating a pamphlet on recovery and EA unity to create more clarification about what is and isn't appropriate behavior - a topic for the next Lit Cmt meeting.*

Comments from one member:

Well intentioned people aren't following the guidelines and are giving advice to other members. I've started saying "I'm respectfully asking that you don't comment on my share" because people are doing that even though the cross talk guidelines are being read. One person knew about crosstalk and even said "I'm going to crosstalk for a moment" and offered unsolicited advice to a man who shared. I spent many years in CODA and was taught to ask "is it alright with you if I comment about something you shared in a meeting?" That's a way to demonstrate respect for someone's boundaries. But never during a meeting.

When I was in CODA we first read the preamble explaining what it is then we always read the 12 steps first. For whatever reason EA doesn't read the 12 steps first and it makes no sense to me.

Also when people start a group it needs to be made very clear that they are not "in charge" of the group per say. I've been to meetings where the leader engages in cross talk and it almost seems like they have forgotten that one person isn't in charge, we all are in charge.

And another:

I am suffering from abusive behaviour of a UK EA group. The officer loses temper and vent her temper towards me and I feel very traumatised and hurt, and I feel so frightened that I am in tears. Isn't that there is safety guideline? Isn't everyone respecting everyone? Isn't the officer should control, and in fact everyone should control, his/her temper and not throwing their bad temper towards others and make others as victims?

12. Managing group (Loop) issues- moderators - Elaine  
*Elaine had an email from someone offering to become a moderator and she forwarded them on to Scott J.*

13. POI: J EA/Japan intergroup issues - Elaine  
*A new intergroup has formed after some upheaval from an existing intergroup.*

14. National Suicide lifeline # changed to 988 - Elaine

Do we need a policy/information for groups regarding suicidal/homicidal comments in a group meeting?

**Currently on EA website:**

***If you or someone you know is experiencing a life-threatening mental health crisis, consider dialing 911 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). EA International is not a healthcare or religious organization. EAI is not a crisis hotline or warmline; staff are not counselors and do not have the training to handle emergencies. EAI does not provide psychiatric, therapeutic, medical services, or referrals to those services.***

**Revisions by Colleen 9/14:**

***If you or someone you know is experiencing a life-threatening mental health crisis, consider dialing or texting 988 or chatting at [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org). This U.S. nationwide hotline number debuted in August 2022 and offers 24/7 access to trained crisis counselors who can help. EA International is not a healthcare or religious organization. EAI is not a crisis hotline or warmline; staff are not counselors and do not have the training to handle emergencies. EAI does not provide psychiatric, therapeutic or medical services, or referrals to those services.***

*Elaine will change the wording on the website to reflect the additional sentence.*