

Reflections on Tradition 8

Tradition 8: Emotions Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

Our International Service Center employs a director, an accountant, a person who does the mailing and another who manages the email communications, donor contributions and meeting information on the website. No one works more than two days per week to run the office. The members of the fellowship all serve on a volunteer basis. The trustees are reimbursed for their expenses for travel to St Paul, Minnesota, the location of the ISC, for our annual business meeting. Our fellowship includes people from all walks of life, probably every profession represented, though they do not serve in those respective roles. They are just people who came to Emotions Anonymous looking for a better way to live. And we should remain forever nonprofessional as the Tradition states... — Derita P., *EAI Treasurer*

EA is not a “professional” program because it does not offer trained professionals like counselors or therapists. In-stead, the EA fellowship gathers to listen, share, and provide mutual support. Although professionals may join the EA fellowship, they do so for their own emotional recovery, not to provide their services. As our Helpful Concepts explain, in EA “we are all equal.”

While EA’s fellowship meetings are non-professional, its worldwide efforts to further the message of recovery require more time and effort than volunteers can provide. EA hires “special workers” to keep operations running smoothly through coordination, communication, literature, and outreach… — Steve B., *EAI Trustee*

Tradition 7 reminds us that although we need basic funding to keep the International Service Center staffed and running and pay basic group expenses, we do not take money from outside entities. You may have heard the saying, “He who pays the piper calls the tune.” This means that a person who is paying someone to do something may have too much say in deciding how it should be done. EA wants to avoid inviting this kind of outside influence into a fellowship focused so completely on recovery… — Colleen C., *EAI Secretary*