

**Annual Report of the EAI Intergroup**  
**Prepared by George M., Chair**  
**April 1, 2012**

**Background:**

There were 3 Chapters affiliated with EAI: Southern Florida, Maine, and Michigan. Southern Florida Chapter closed on February 2012. Within EAI, there are approximately 280 meetings registered. As of June 2009, there are approximately 1750 members spread across the United States in 22 states (DC, DE, FL, GA, IL, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, VA, VT, and WI) and the United Kingdom, Eastern Canada, Israel, and Germany.

**Theme of 2012:**

The overriding goal of 2012 for EAI is:

To strengthen our Fellows and meetings through improved communications using phone, internet, email and face to face events, so that we can better support each other as we strive to reach the suffering food addict.

EAI continues to focus on outreaches and looking at ways to serve the meetings in our defined area from Chicago to Frankfurt. Our Committees and Executive Board strive to offer programs that benefit: (a) our meetings, chapters, and Local Service Committees (b) WSI (c) our existing Fellows so that they will be able to continue in their abstinence and (d) the sick and suffering Food Addict who has not yet found FA.

**The Purpose of EAI** remains:

- a. To further the FA program in accordance with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of FA;
- b. To maintain a communication center for all FA Meeting Groups and Chapters affiliated with FA-EAI;
- c. To provide unity for all FA Meeting Groups and Chapters affiliated with FA-EAI;
- d. To educate the public about the FA program.

**EAI Committees:**

**The Bylaw Committee** updated the By-law Committee Chair service position and dates that service began. 2012 Goals and Objectives are also being collected from the other EAI Committees and compiled by the Bylaw Chair. The Bylaw committee was not presented with any new motions to draft during this time period. The Bylaw Committee will also support the 2012 election process.

**The Chapter Support Committee** hosted the annual Chapter Day at the VA hospital in West Roxbury, MA on November 5 and 6. Approximately 60 FA members attended from Dallas, TX, Georgia, Florida, N. Carolina, Ohio, Penn., Maryland, Washington DC, New York, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Vermont, Maine, Michigan, and Maine. Another 90 local members attended. Saturday included a chapter's meeting followed by the pre-chapters meeting. A plated dinner was served at the Holiday Inn in Dedham. Then a FA sharing meeting completed the night back at the VA hospital. Sunday included the EAI board meeting to which all fellows were invited. The Board meeting was followed by an introduction of the Executive Board and Committee Chairs at the general EAI assembly quickly followed by committee meetings. Upon completion Committee Chairs gave a brief report to the general assembly followed by lunch. The day ended with break-out sessions focusing on two topics related to service. Facilitators reported back to the whole group. Closing remarks were made by the Chair of EAI. One outcome of the CPCMSW is the strengthening of the liaison program with all members of the CSC being assigned a counterpart in a chapter, local service committee, or out lying area. Another direct result is a planned reach-out for the Michigan Chapter on April 15, 2012. Members of the EAI Connection Committee will be presenting a workshop as well as there being a panel of speakers followed by discussion. The CSC is partnering on the planning of the event. Members of the CSC are currently planning next years CPCMSW by locating a facility where all our activities can be under one roof.

**The Connection Committee** has refined a format for a Writing Session that they introduced at the Boston Chapter Weekend in October, 2011. Committee members are participating in similar Writing Sessions to be held in Michigan and Maine in April. Naples, Florida will be using this format in its own meeting in March, and committee members continue to seek out other venues for these sessions. The focus of the Writing Session is to encourage members throughout EAI to develop stories that reflect the diversity of the membership and can speak to the newcomer. Committee members are also serving as writing coaches, interviewers, and collaborators, to support FA members in completing their stories. In addition to this, the Connection Committee is encouraging meetings to use the magazine in their meetings, to increase the Connection's role in the recovery of FA members, and, hopefully, increase its readership.

**The Convention Resource Committee** has awarded financial aid to 9 applicants for the 2012 Business Convention. The committee will be assisting the World Service Convention Committee by organizing greeters, organizing the registration table. We will also be updating and maintaining the Ride and Lodging list. The Committee will be assisting the Chapter Support Committee with financial aid for the Michigan Reach Out as they did for Chapter, PreChapter and Meeting Support Weekend.

**The Office Committee** has taken on the task of reviewing the 'Secretary Kit' for local FA EAI meetings' secretary service position. We will be reviewing this kit for any suggestions or changes or additions before moving it on to the formatting and editing process. Continuing responsibilities are: (a) update MA meeting tri-folds monthly, (b) register new meetings, (c) make meeting changes, (d) respond to all telephone and email requests for service or information requested from the public or fellow FA members, (e) support the Treasurer in the achievement of the Treasurer's objectives, (f) continue to offer support to Chapters in helping them serve our Fellowship. The EAI Office has also been actively involved with ongoing development of the new upcoming FA web site for the EAI web section.

**Public Outreach Committee** was formed after the Public Information Chair stepped down. With discussion it was decided to form this committee to bridge the activities of Teens and Twenties and Public Information Committees. This committee is responsible for the Teens and Twenties and Public Information Committees. Over the past few months the Public Outreach Chair was utilized to fill in for the absent T&T chair during the February EAI meeting, assisted in co-organizing some T&T outreaches, and assist in training a new T&T member to organize outreaches. I have been consulted with, for the Public Information Committee launching of the Waiting Room Booklet and am formulating relationships with 2 PI committee members to initiate attendance at a Health Fair for the MEDA (Multi Eating Disorder Association) and begin Weblinks research.

The **Public Information Committee** staffed a Weblinks researcher. Re-staffing positions within Committee including: (a) the Coordinator for Media Contact Announcements for EAI Public Information. (note – this Fellow is the point person to research radio and or newspapers in **any** requested area), (b) an Internet researcher for Health Fairs and Conferences; also (c) a Health Fair and Conference Contact for establishing contact persons and obtaining enrollment and cost information

Specific PI Outreaches that the Committee conducted this year include:

- Partners Healthcare Channel 7 Health & Fitness Conference - June 25 & 26, 2011  
Harvard Pilgrim Fitness Expo at Patriot Place July, 2011
- NPACE Conference (Nurse Practitioners Associates for Continuing Education)
- Women's Health and Elder Care
- IDAA International Doctors in AA
- December 9 Mass Conference for Women at the Boston Convention Center

Finalized the Waiting room booklet and established a network of 35 coordinators and utilizing 80 meetings as distribution points to help them cover every region in EAI with reach to all 280 meetings so that anyone able to distribute the booklet to

a waiting room (and willing to provide contact info for that location) could participate in a year long pilot to determine effectiveness of and best practices around the booklet.

Utilized EAI's first Speaker Phone to establish a Conference Call with anyone w/in 2 hrs of IG. Twice we hosted Maine PI Committee on the call and often had a dozen or so WRB coordinators in the meeting including committee members. Average attendance including those on the call grew to near 20.

**The Teens and Twenties Committee** had a very productive year. A total of 13 outreaches done, and 11 more in the works to be completed by June 5<sup>th</sup>. We have attended by invitation, Quincy college health fair, Holy Cross College health fair, North Shore Community College health fair and requests for quarterly "table time" (setting up a table with literature and 2 FA members outside cafeteria at Lynn/Danvers locations), Boston College faculty health fair, and Stonehill College health fair. We no longer pursue new college health fairs. Andover High School invited us back for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, both semesters to speak to their 9<sup>th</sup> grade Health classes, resulting in a student attending a local FA meeting. We were able to speak at a Health Psychology class at Emmanuel College and were invited back the following semester. Our new endeavors include attendance at the ROCA (Reaching out to Chelsea Adolescents) health fair in Chelsea, and an outreach for RAD (residence assistance directors) at Clark University. We hope to be invited back next year. Our Information session for the Walden Behavioral Center was not successful in that they were not interested in providing FA information to their clients due to a difference in philosophy. We had 2 other schoolteachers turn down our services. We created the Teens and Twenties Starter kit and it is currently available on the FA website. We created a telephone list of FA members who came into program prior to age 30. This list is also available on the website and is currently being updated to include emails. We are excited about the new members that have joined our committee and we average about 6-9 people a month. We have instituted conference calling into our monthly meetings and have 2 consistent people calling in. Our plans for the future include researching Weblinks and creating an modified user friendly FA stats sheet to give to potential professionals interested in learning more about FA. The re-organization of the Chair for Teens and Twenties has brought back a long time member and previous chair back into our ranks. Jennifer is an incredible asset to our committee and we are happy to have her.

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Step Committee** supported the Maine Chapter Meeting Support day on April 3, 2011. Our Committee chair spoke to a break out session on the subject of Intergroup and also to the whole conference on what the EAI 12<sup>th</sup> step committee does. Maine Chapter has created a 12<sup>th</sup> step committee. Our Committee chair sent them all of the documents pertaining to the EAI 12<sup>th</sup> step committee and participated in a monthly call for support with the new Maine Chapter 12<sup>th</sup> Step

Committee. We also supported the Chapter, Pre-Chapter Day in November on the Cape. We also helped two members that could not get to an FA meeting. One woman from Chicago needed help finding AA meetings that are handicapped accessible, and we brought 3 Home Meetings with 16 people to a fellow from Randolph that was physically unable to attend her committed meetings.

We approved two out of three Travel Fund applications, including two speakers to travel to Ontario Canada. We discussed and approved a miscellaneous Travel Fund to Panama City Beach Florida, but they withdrew their application. We supported meetings that requested it by organizing commitments to Worcester, MA, Rhode Island, and Nashua New Hampshire. We made changes to the FA/EAI 12th Step Support Phone Call Criteria (formerly called "Outreach Conference Call" Criteria). We continued our tradition by organizing a Thank-a-thon in Boston, and collected a list of all Thank-a-thons in the Eastern Area and sent them to WSI. We created a new document called a "List Summary" which describes the Procedures and Purpose of all the lists that we manage and distribute. We created a temporary sub-committee that helped Diana R. from Canada call all of the members on the 12th step list that did not respond via email to update contact information. Dianna from Ontario announced that she is stepping down from her position of updating and distributing the 12th Step List. Debra F. volunteered to help Dianna find a new person to train for this job. We voted to do away with "Member Partnerships" because our fellowship has lost interest in them.

### **The Executive Board:** **Vice-Chair**

**The Vice-Chair's** focus remains on two main projects—the EAI Report and the EAI Contact Conference Calls. The Vice-Chair continues to work on streamlining the monthly EAI Report for increased readability, and tapping the fellowship for Healthy Meeting Question suggestions. The EAI Contact conference call celebrated its 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary in December 2012 by incorporating a new element. Since then, each call has included an EAI Committee Chair as a guest on the call, providing concrete information for all participants about his or her particular area of focus. The calls, now held every other month, are well attended and are a forum for vibrant exchange of perspectives on doing service in FA. Finally, the Vice-Chair has been attempting to make personal contact with individuals involved in any new FA Meetings, which register with EAI, to welcome them and encourage them to see EAI as a resource in their efforts to spread the FA message in their local area.

**The Treasurer** continued the compliance and corporate governance improvement initiatives begun last year. We successfully filed EAI's first ever combined tax returns in November that included the Chapters' financial data. This move substantially improves our tax compliance, reducing tax risk for our Chapters. We

worked closely with the Chapter Treasurers to collect the appropriate tax return data and provided templates to put the information in tax return format. Our Treasurer also worked closely with a new CPA, Laurie Mollica, to familiarize her with EAI's business and financial and tax records. (Our former outside accountant, Andy Silverman, a 26 year old father of two young children, died tragically over a year ago.) This past year we saw a substantial increase in the number of EAI affiliated meetings whose landlords required proof of liability insurance. We were happy to accommodate all these meetings with Certificates of Insurance on a timely basis. As a reminder, all EAI affiliated FA meetings are covered automatically under our liability insurance policy with the Philadelphia Insurance Company wherever they meet in the US, Canada and certain US Possessions. Contact our Treasurer to obtain proof of coverage if necessary. We also assisted several meetings in applying for and receiving reduced rent as a qualifying nonprofit and continued to give guidance to chapters and meetings on record keeping, use of bank accounts and general duties of the treasurer function.

**Financial Report:**

For the 12 months ended 3/31/12, total revenue was \$30,225.08, total expenses were \$29,748.04, and net income was \$477.04. As of 3/31/11, our cash balance was \$16,768.79 which approximates a 6.5 month prudent reserve. Our target is a one-year prudent reserve.

The breadth of the work of our committees and Executive Board continues to amaze and inspire me. It has been a privilege and blessing to Chair this Intergroup for this past year and I look forward to chairing it next year.

Respectfully submitted,  
George M.  
Chair