

Why is this proposed changed being made?

EAI stands for Eastern Area Intergroup, and it is a larger service body with the purpose of supporting meetings throughout a large geographic area. In order to broaden both the service and participation area of EAI beyond the Boston area, the EAI has proposed remote participation of all its members. Since at least 2018, EAI members have been able to join EAI monthly intergroup meetings remotely through their computer, laptop or cellphone. EAI members have been able to participate in EAI committees by dialing in for more than six years. Now, the Board wishes to offer the opportunity to vote on EAI motions and in elections to all fellows with ninety days of abstinence and an FA sponsor.

Who are voting members of EAI?

The EAI by-laws define who is able to vote at EAI meetings. The EAI by-laws state:

Article II: Section 1

Individual Members: FA members who are committed to a Meeting affiliated with FA-EAI or its Chapters and who have ninety (90) days of continuous abstinence will have a voice and a vote at FA-EAI meetings.

Will the proposed by-law change affect who is eligible to vote at EAI?

This proposed change will not alter who is eligible to vote based on meeting affiliation and abstinence requirements. To vote on EAI motions and officers the requirement is 90 days of abstinence and that will not change. On other issues, such as proposed main motions to submit to WSI, the abstinence requirement is 2 years will not be affected by the proposed change.

The EAI by-laws do not allow FA members who are not committed to a meeting affiliated with FA-EAI or its Chapters to vote. While the by-laws committee recognizes this means some members on the Frontier who do not have a meeting are not eligible to vote, the motion on remote voting does not address or change that provision of the EAI by-laws.

How does this proposed change affect swelling of the vote?

The Traditions Committee has addressed the issue of swelling of the vote at intergroups. (See, Attached document 8: From a Traditions Perspective World

Service Board Approved Revised 15 0928). The proposed change does not alter the perspective explained in Document 8. Only those FA members who regularly attend intergroup are in a position to voice their thoughts and vote. Remote access merely allows members who do not live in the Boston area to “attend” meetings.

How will people vote remotely?

The EAI Technology committee offers online orientation sessions similar to the orientation sessions offered in person. The EAI Technology committee has demonstrated how online voting would work using software called Poll Everywhere that can be used from a computer, laptop or smartphone.