

**AREA 31 WESTERN MASS INSTITUTIONS
COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 1391
HOLYOKE, MA 01041-1391**

**BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, March 1, 2017**

The Committee Chair, Holly opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, and read the Articles of Purpose from The Western Massachusetts Institution Committee Area 31 – Guidelines and Job Descriptions (p.1) as well as guidelines for Institution Group Reps.

Tradition of the month and Concept of the month were read by Rich.

New Institution Group Reps (IGRs): Mark - Amherst Friday Night Group; Ron - Not So Young People's Group; Susan - Tuesday Night Promises Group; Chris - Serenity Club Hang in There; Nick - After Dinner Group

Secretary's Report Read by Melissa; motion to accept seconded and passed

Treasurer's Report Lauren was present and gave report. No paper report because there was a glitch with our PO Box. All checks that all groups sent in were mailed back to the group.

- Total donations
- Expenses
- Ending Balance for Book Purchase

A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

BTG Report - Annie was present and gave report
3 Calls; 2 got rides/phone numbers. 1 from a BHN rep who did not know what BTG was. Annie explained the purpose of BTG.

Liaison Report - Rachel is our new and grateful Liaison!

INVITED REPORTS

Area Delegate – Alternate Delegate Mike was present and gave report.

- NERAASA went great!
- Saturday April 1 at Second Congressional Church in Holyoke 10am-4pm (straw votes to get a sense of how area feels)
- 1 agenda item on institutions regarding the armed services and reaching veterans
- Mass State Convention Planning Committee looking for people to assist and join committees. March 27th (Last Tuesday of ever odd month) meet up by bowling alley in Chicopee. Leave at 6:30 and head to Framingham
- altdelegate@area31.org

Area Chair – Sue was ticketed to be present and gave report.

- February 23, 2018 - NERAASA
- Monthly concept (1st Thursday) and traditions meetings held at Intergroup.
- Contact Areachair@area31aa.org to have area put on meeting at your home group or do a group inventory. Past delegates are available.
- Area meeting Sunday April 2nd, 1-5pm at Second Congressional Church in Holyoke
- Area available for service commitment to your home group

CPC – Rich was present and gave report

- Upcoming meeting with social workers
- 2nd Tuesday of the month at Intergroup
- cpc@area31aa.org
- upcoming meeting with social worker
- second Tuesday of the month at Intergroup
- cdc@area31aa.org

Berkshires Institutions – Kate was present and gave report.

- Issue at CSS unit. Client was uncomfortable with Institution Rep putting on meeting. Liaison (Brett B.) to speak to person in charge of unit and CPC may do meeting with staff
- Workshop on April 29. On March 8, venue will be known

Holly gave definitions of “Roll Ins” and “Roll Outs”; it is suggested sponsors have one year of sobriety, and alternates have 6 months of sobriety.

ROLL OUTS

- Nelson (liaison for Phoenix House) - Thursday night Austin is rolling out and Phoenix House asking it to be removed
- Belchertown 1st Wednesday of the month at Phoenix House

ROLL INS

- Jose - Alternate for Carlson Spanish Speaker Friday Meeting
- Chris - Leeds VA Building 26

Holly made clear who are voting members of the group. Did count off around room of voting members (Sponsors and co-sponsors of meetings, IGRs, Secretary, BTG, Liaison, and Treasurer). 44 voting members were in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Meetings at Northern Hope Center straightened out.

NEW BUSINESS

We received a check from Berkshire Intergroup which was sent back. The check was about \$1300.

Erick wants to let us know that the facilities in CT (prisons), as of March 8th, will allow furlough. Erick will sponsor the first two. Looking for other alcoholics (men) to bring inmates to outside meetings (men's meetings in CT). Also asking for men to come in and do Step Work with the inmates. Liability of 4th step while men are in prison (figuring that out).

Nancy of Franklin Recovery Center - looking for more commitments to be filled

Chaula suggests some people getting together before the meeting next month to suggest this. Chuck does not think the detoxes will have their own library. He says it is our responsibility to give the book to an individual - not the facility. John says the Big Book is the most important piece of literature we have and its none of his business what they do with it - it's his business to give it to someone. By spending money on books we give money to AA as a whole.

Kate made a motion to talk about how we distribute books and how they are given out.

Discussion: Berkshires needs more books. We need to know where the books are going. This is service work and we need to carry the message and be armed with literature. This is what we receive money for from groups. The books should only be given to meetings where the people are not able to leave. What % of money is donated by Berkshires?

Motion made for an ad-hoc committee to determine how books should be distributed. Vote - yes, an ad-hoc committee is being formed.

Victoria - Librarian: Issues with the checks. We are out of Where & When's. Please try to work with us and take this into consideration. These books are for the commitment you signed up for and no one else. This is very important!

ADDITIONAL MOTIONS:

- Motion was made and passed to spend the money on books (when we figure that out).

The meeting was closed with the Responsibility Declaration.

Your 2017 Institution Committee

Chair	Holly W	institutions@area31aa.org
Co-Chair	Erick	
Secretary	Melissa G	
Treasurer	Lauren W	
BTG	Annie	
Librarian	Victoria	
Liaison	Jerry	
Berkshires	Kate L.	
Co-Chair	Chaula H.	

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa G.
Secretary Institutions Committee