

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

**BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, January 3, 2018**

The Committee Chair, Erick opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. reading the Articles of Purpose from The Western Massachusetts Institution Committee Area 31 – Guidelines and Job Descriptions (p.1). followed by a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer.

Tradition and concept of the month was read by John.

New Institution Group Reps (IGRs):

Sally S., The Step Group; Bob C., Chicopee 1-2-3; John H., BYOBB; Kim F, Daily Reflections; Dennis, Sunday Night East Longmeadow; George, Belchertown Saturday Night; Mike, New Freedom; John, Monday Beginners Grapevine; Hope, Making Progress Group, Hadley

Secretary's Report Read by Dan; motion was accepted, seconded, and passed

Treasurer's Report Charlie gave report.

- Total donations \$994.56
- Expenses \$200.20
- Ending Balance for Book Purchase \$556.12

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

BTG - No report. Erick updated those present on the purpose and function of Bridging the Gap.

Liaison Report - John was present and gave report.

Regarding Highview Nursing Center in Leeds, John spoke with director of activities, Mike, who sent a letter to read to the committee requesting weekly closed meetings at the facility. John read the letter, a motion and vote to add the facility to our roster will be made under new business.

INVITED REPORTS

Area Delegate – Alternate Delegate, Paul was present and gave report. Paul's main role is to help the Delegate prepare for the 7-night, 8-day business meeting at AA World Services. Our area is one of 93 areas across the country that will be represented. 45 topics are scheduled for discussion at this year's annual meeting including:

- A pamphlet being devised for the AA being released from long-term incarceration.
- Through an advisory action, AA will acknowledge the presence of agnostics and atheists within the organization, and will include such members in all directories and other guides.

The area will have a mini conference in preparation for the annual event to allow the Delegate to hear from Area 31 groups prior to attending the World Services annual meeting. Date to be announced on the Area 31 website. NERAASA will be in Cromwell, CT, 2/23-2/25, at the Radisson. Massachusetts State Convention planning committee meets monthly prior to the Convention. First planning meeting of the year will be on 1/30 in Framingham. Those wishing to attend are meeting at 6 PM at the Plantation Inn in Chicopee to carpool.

Area Chair - Mike B, was present and gave report.

- January 4 - Concept Meeting at 474 Pleasant Street, 7:30, tomorrow night (1/4)
- Service manual meeting will be held on 3rd Wednesdays of 2018 starting in January 7:30 @ 474 Pleasant Street
- Group inventories can be facilitated by past delegates for interested groups. Lists of available facilitators are available from the Area Chair.
- Roundup (5/11) planning meeting is being held monthly prior to the event.
- The area website has a new e-mailing address, webpost@area31aa.org, for new postings to be added to the site.

Berkshires – Chaula was present and gave a report.

Berkshires are in "transition". 70 meetings are being held each month. There is a meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 152 North Street [in Pittsfield] (above Panchos Restaurant) to coordinate commitments for the region. The commitments are being covered but not sponsored, necessarily. Berkshires is meeting this challenge by maintaining a list of about 80 speakers who are available for filling missing slots in commitments on an as-needed basis.

An AA resident at a nursing home that had been in the meeting rotation but had been dropped has now introduced an accessibility issue for the region; a list similar to the volunteer speakers list may be of value for getting rides for senior AAs who need transport to meetings.

Berkshires also actively encourages meeting sponsors to bring newcomers to institutional commitments to introduce them to service. Contact berkshiresinstitutionscommittee@gmail.com for additional information.

CPC – Steve was present and gave a report.

CPC serves as a conduit between the Area and doctors' offices, tenancy programs, courts, colleges, nursing schools, etc., deaneries. Carol (the past chair) has rolled out of her position, Frank (former co-chair) has rolled in. If you know of any professional who could potentially have a client or patient that might be alcoholic, let CPC know and they will put someone in touch.

Erick 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 - none

ROLL INS - none

Point of clarification: Books purchased for distribution by the Institutions Committee are available to IGRs for distribution to attendees of their institutional commitments at the group's discretion. Limited supply of material made available by contributions and book purchases necessitates limiting the quantity and variety of books available to individual groups, chairpersons, IGRs, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

Commitment at Carlson on fourth Wednesday is finding that they are having more speakers than people in the detox because the patients are not attending the meeting. Discussion about this topic ensued. Many feel that a meeting should be put on regardless of the number of patients; another committee member mentioned that his group limits the group members his group brings to the commitment

Northern Hope and Franklin Recovery are now at 7:00 pm

Curtis is questioning the proper format for putting on an institutions commitment. Holly let him know that there is no particular format for Northern Hope at which his commitment is.

Aaron offers to share a meeting format with the committee he formulated at his BHN job.

Chuck agreed to be co-liaison.

Holly thanks everyone for letting her serve and thanks incoming and outgoing officers!

NEW BUSINESS

John R made a motion to add Highview Nursing Center in Leeds to the meeting list, seconded, and passed.

ADDITIONAL MOTIONS:

- Motion was made and passed to spend the money on books \$556.12

The meeting was closed with the Responsibility Declaration.

Your 2018 Institution Committee

Chair	Erick
Co-Chair	Jimmy
Secretary	Dan
Treasurer	Charlie
BTG	Annie
Liaison	John S.
Co-Liaison	Chuck
Librarian	Nicole

Respectfully submitted,

Dan H.
Secretary, Institutions Committee