

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

**BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, April 4, 2018**

48 members in attendance.

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

Tradition and concept of the month was read by John.

Introductions.

New Institution Group Reps (IGRs):

Ben, Haydenville Sunday Night; Joy, Holyoke Daily Reflections; Gabriel, East Springfield Group; Michael, Making Progress Group. Welcome!

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

Treasurer's Report – Charlie was present gave a report.

- Total donations \$1230.75
- Expenses \$289.52
- Ending balance for book purchases \$941.23

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

BTG – Annie was present and gave a report.

There were 11 total calls in the last two months; all but 3 were reached: 3 women and 6 men.

Bridging the Gap is looking for volunteers to participate, please see Annie. It is not a taxi service, just bring those who need help to meetings.

Liaison Report – John was present and gave a report.

The commitment at Highview Nursing Home has been filled. The meeting will be on Tuesday nights from 4:00-5:00 PM and will be chaired by Alecia and John.

There was also a call on Monday from Amy at Providence CSS, the Wednesday night meeting chair can no longer do the commitment, and a new chairperson is needed.

Katrine also reached out with a concern about the number of commitments at the Ludlow Men's Jail. She has been told that more commitments are needed.

Area Delegate – Mike was present and gave a report.

In AA around the world, due to increased contributions, AA is now 84% self-supporting. When contributions are insufficient, the balance of expenses are made up by funds from literature sales. Part of this has been due to people becoming "sustaining" contributors via the AA website.

An app is being developed by the General Service Office, with a full version of the Big Book, a global meeting finder, a pamphlet of the day, and a YouTube daily reflection.

Most efforts at the GSO are focused on General Service Conference starting 4/21. There are 79 agenda items for the meeting, with 650 pages of background information. In preparation for this, there will be an area mini-conference for Area 31 on 4/14 at Holy Family, 29 Sugarloaf St., South Deerfield, at 9:00 AM. Past delegates will facilitate discussion of the various agenda items for area member input.

Mike will offer his report of what happened at the General Service Conference at the Roundup in May (5/11-5/13) at La Quinta in Springfield.

Area Chair - Mike was present and gave a report.

- A monthly Concept Meeting is held the first Thursday of the month at 474 Pleasant Street at 7:30 PM.
- A monthly Service manual meeting is held on 3rd Wednesdays of 2018 at 7:30 PM, also at 474 Pleasant Street.
- Roundup (5/11-13 at La Quinta) planning meeting is being held monthly prior to the event.
- Send postings to webpost@area31aa.org
- The Area 31 Assembly, a business meeting for the area and opportunity to speak with the Delegate in preparation for the annual General Service Meeting, will be held on 4/15 at Holy Family in South Deerfield from 1 to 5 PM.
- The area committee is available for outgoing commitments to interested groups.
- Group inventories can be facilitated by past delegates for interested groups. Lists of available facilitators are available from the Area Chair.
- Contact Mike at Areachair@area31aa.org

Berkshires – Chaula was present and gave a report.

There is not a lot of news from the region, only 8 meetings are open out of 70... and those are mostly at the Psych facility... which is more and more a detox for dual diagnosis patients. We are very fortunate to have an enthusiastic liaison at the Berkshire County House of Corrections, and Chaula has CORI forms with her for those interested in taking commitments there. We are also beginning to have women chair meetings there for COs and other female AAs.

Participation in AA service is still light in the area. The lion's share of the work being done by the Berkshire Institutions Chair is Liaison-type work... actually going out and meeting facility representatives. Perhaps the Berkshire area chair should be called the Berkshire Area Liaison.

Contact berkshiresinstitutionscommittee@gmail.com for additional information.

CPC – no report.

Grapevine – Mike was present and gave a report.

A recent posting on aagrapevine.org was titled “God Didn't Give Me This Gift of Sobriety to Sit in a Rocking Chair”.

This month is “Institutions Month” in the Grapevine, with a special section on BTG titled “What Now”.

Members of the Area 31 Grapevine visited the Area 11 GrapeJam, which was held this past Saturday at Hazardville Barn... it was great fun!

The display boards of Area AA history are available for display at anniversaries and other meeting occasions.

Contact Mike at grapevine@area31aa.org.

A GrapeJam workshop will be held in Area 31 in September, food fellowship, and fun, date TBA.

Grapevine Subscriptions are buy-1-get-1 at half price. Print is \$27/year for two years. There is currently a Subscription challenge... the area that has the most new subscriptions will be highlighted in a future issue.

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 –

- Suzanne, Franklin County Correctional Facility, every other Thursday.
- Daniel, Franklin County Correctional Facility, Sunday Night at 6:00 PM, it's now a women's meeting.

- Curtis (Only Requirement Group), Arbor House, Third Tuesday.

ROLL INS –

- Kyle (BYOBB), Salvation Army, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
- Curtis (Monday Night Group), Franklin Recovery, 2nd Friday.
- Dylan (You Chair It, You Name It), Hampshire County Jail, 2nd Wednesday.
- Alecia (Randall Group), Highview Nursing Home, Tuesday.

OLD BUSINESS

Erick: Attended NERAASA, where he participated in Corrections and Treatment roundtables. One topic of note was How AA Can Live on the Street to transmit a message of hope for those transitioning from incarceration to the community at large. The guards at most institutions get credited for training hours. It may be worthwhile for CPC or institutions to talk to local COs about AA, how the program works and what we do. Also, in AZ, there are six facilities without meetings, and their area AA institutions managed to get meetings into two of them. We are fortunate, here, to have the access to facilities that we do have.

NEW BUSINESS

Larry: Read a letter from Soldier On requesting a meeting at their Gordon H. Mansfield facility in Agawam, 413-770-6013. [Action] An Institutions Liaison (Chuck) will work with the requestor to establish a date and time.

John R.: [Motion] Moved to require new roll-ins to attend a monthly institutions meeting in order to roll-in personally. [Vote] All in favor.

[Action] Draft modification of Institutions guidelines will be reviewed and incorporated by the Chairman and committee.

Chaula: Does anyone have input with regard to changing the Berkshire Institutions Chair position to Berkshires Liaison? Also, Berkshire House of Corrections is scheduling interaction with Area 31 CPC.

Erick: At this year's Roundup, the Institutions Committee will have a time slot from 4:00-4:55 on Saturday. The theme is „Boudaries of Recovery“. The location is the Summit A Meeting Room.

Jim: At the NERAASA roundtable for BTG, there was broad discussion of how disjointed BTG is in other areas, and it highlighted that we in Area 31 are doing a pretty good job. Other AA Areas don't have the coordination that we do to support this important service.

Erick: A regular meeting went very much awry at the Providence CSS facility. We are looking into it. Also, please contact Erick by phone, rather than email.

Tatiana: Western Mass Young Peoples is here to get a copy of the open meeting list, in order to encourage members of YPAA to participate in institutional commitments.

Chuck: Motion to spend \$941.23 on books, all in favor.

Chuck: Motion to close the meeting, all in favor.

ADDITIONAL MOTIONS:

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