

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

**BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, May 2, 2018**

42 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):

Randy, East Mountain Group. Farris, Holyoke Noontime 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 \$1380.07
- Expenses \$304.63
- Ending balance for book purchases \$1075.44

The convention reserve, used to support our delegate and other representative at NERAASA, has been doing better than anticipated, and so we are ahead of plan at this time. A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

BTG – Annie was present and gave a report.

4 calls were received: 3 women and 1 man, all were reached. One call was from as far away as Providence, RI. Another counselor from Albany contacted the service looking to connect a resident from our area with a ride to a meeting.

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 – Chuck was present and gave a report. Chuck was unavailable to the world for the last month, but will be getting back up to speed this month. John S. was not present at this meeting.

Area Delegate – Paul, the Area 31 Alternate Delegate, was present and gave a report. Mike, the Area Delegate, was at the General Service Conference last week. He 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. His report will be from 1:00 to 2:30. Among the highlights from the Conference: the GSO has taken in more in contributions this year than anticipated, \$8,409,000 up from \$7,675,000 in the previous year. In general, AA world services is financially healthy, and we should see the benefits of this most noticeably in literature costs.

Mass State Convention: If you're interested in participating in planning for the event, a carpool leaves from Mass Pike Exit 6 on 5/29 at 6:00 PM.

Area Chair - Mike was present and gave a report.

District 5 will hold a workshop on June 2 at Divine Mercy Church in Three Rivers, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Roundup (see above).

- 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.
- Mike will have a session at Roundup this year on Fears.
- 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.

As per usual, there are eight or 10 open meetings this month. The region has seen a slight increase in committee participation. Frank M. brought a CPC meeting into Berkshire County House of Corrections. The 30-minute presentation was quite well done, and well attended.

Contact berkshiresinstitutionscommittee@gmail.com for additional information.

CPC – no report.

Grapevine – no report.

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.

Anthony, from the Hampden County Sheriffs Department: The department will be opening new unit at the facility on Mill St. for Section 35 men. The facility is looking for a meeting every night of the week some time between 5:30 and 8:00 PM. Literature will be allowed at the meeting. The first arrival will be May 14th.

Clinton, Hampden County Sheriff's Dept., coordinator for AA and NA: Clinton will handle clearing commitment chairpersons, arranging times, locations, and formats for all Hampden County corrections commitments. Please reach out to him, if interested in working in County facilities.



Nicholas Cocchi
Sheriff

**Hampden County
Sheriff's Department**



Clinton R. Harris
AA/NA Coordinations

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ROLL OUTS –

- John, rolling out of Springfield Phoenix House, 2nd Saturday.

ROLL INS –

- John, rolling into 1/3 Thursday at CCC Phoenix House.
- Charlie, Suffield Mens' Group, rolling into alternate for each Saturday at Hope Center.

- Chris B, rolling into Willard Corr. Inst. at 6:00 PM every Monday, Sam, alternate.

OLD 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.

NEW BUSINESS

- Larry: Read a letter from Soldier On's Mike McMahon requesting a site visit at 40 meadow st. Chicopee. Chuck (co-liaison) will address it.
- Nicole, our librarian, will be stepping down for pregnancy. We are seeking a replacement. Erick read the requirements for the position. We will hold a vote at next meeting.
- Motion to spend \$1075.44 on books, all in favor.
- 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