

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

**BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, June 6, 2018**

46 members in attendance.

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

Introductions.

New Institution Group Reps (IGRs):

Kristina, Tuesday Woman's Discussion Group, Holyoke
Abby, Tuesday Woman's Discussion Group, Holyoke
Don, Southwick Sunday Solution, Southwick
Matt, A Way Out Group, Greenfield
Welcome!

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

Tradition and concept of the month was read by John.

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

• Total donations	\$1,502.93
• Expenses	\$195.99
• Ending balance for book purchases	\$1,306.94

BTG – Annie was present and gave a report.

Three calls: 2 men, 1 woman, all were contacted.

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.

Not much to report, playing phone tag with Shannon at Swift River, who has some concerns with meetings taking place there. Also, Mike at Highview said the new commitment is going well, but that the facility could use more books.

A fellow named, George called and asked why the Institutions Committee meeting time had changed to 7:30 PM. It hadn't.

Chuck, co-liaison, also gave a report.

Soldier On had a request for a meeting, but that request has been withdrawn. Two groups have offered to put meetings on at Soldier On facilities, independently from Institutions. Institutions only provides meetings at locations where residents could not otherwise make it to outside meetings; residents at Soldier On are able to attend outside meetings.

Anthony Scibelli, Hampden County Sheriff's Department, has agreed that Section 35 facility commitments at Mill Street will be handled by Institutions. (see New Business)

Area Delegate – Mike was present and gave a report.

Mike was at the General Service Conference last month. Through donations to AA.org, we are now 82% self-supporting, which allows us to drive down the cost of literature. As a result, literature is being translated into new languages more quickly and more broadly. The 2019 conference theme is "Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages". At Spring Assembly, we came up with "Clarity of Purpose" as a workshop topic. Sub-topics included The Value of Having an Agenda at a Meeting (it helps give structure and purpose to the gathering) and the Importance of Rotation, as it pertains to service commitments, allowing new ideas and new people to participate in AA's life. The Navajo translation of the Big Book has been completed and delivered to the Navajo Nation.

From the Corrections Desk, male outside volunteers are needed for correspondence with inmates seeking sobriety. For more information, please visit the Corrections Correspondence page at AA.org. There are more than 100 men awaiting correspondence.

There are upcoming elections for two "Class A" (non-alcoholic, "amateur") trustees for the General Service Committee, and one "Class B" (alcoholic, "boozier") trustee from the northeast. If you have suggestions or recommendations for candidates, please contact Mike.

Part of Mike's responsibility is to share General Service information with our area. In return, it is important that Mike has good information about what Institutions is up to. The cooperation between the Area and Institutions ensures that both groups support each other effectively.

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.
- Fall assembly location determination is in process; it will be held in Chicopee or Holyoke.

- Send postings to webpost@area31aa.org
 - 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
- Roundup and the District 5 meetings both went great.
 - Also, a new feature of the area website, CPC and PI broadcasts will soon be available online for download and listening.

Berkshires – Chaula was present and gave a report. Chaula had a meeting at Berkshire Medical Center because some AAs who have participated in commitments at McGee have reported being treated poorly by staff at the facility. There has been criticism by the staff of the quality of speakers brought in to commitments, about the amount of sober time AAs must have before they can participate in facility commitments, etc. Chaula was able to initiate a dialog and hear staff concerns, as well as communicate our committee’s concerns. Also, she was able to discuss BTG with the McGee and Berkshire Medical Center staff. She will be the first woman to go into the Berkshire HoC for a commitment. New chairpersons are actively being CORId on our behalf by our contact at Berkshire HoC. And, participation is up... there are only 6 open commitments in the area this month. 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.

ROLL OUTS –

- Nancy, Way Out Group, rolling out of Franklin Recovery Tuesday and Saturday Night Two Rivers.

ROLL INS –

- Raul, New Horizons Group, Mill St. Monday night, Spanish.
- Matt, A Way Out Group, Franklin Recovery Tuesday night, Saturday night Two Rivers.
- Cheryl, Holyoke Noontime Group, Providence Hospital CSS, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
- Don, Southwick Sunday Solution, Arbor House 3rd Tuesday.

- Denis, East Longmeadow Group, Mill St Sect 35 3rd Thursday.

OLD 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. Election: see New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- Election of a new librarian: Erick read duties and responsibilities of the position. Nancy, Franklin Recovery Ctr., volunteered to finish the current term, and was elected.
- Chuck, motion to put Mill St. Section 35 Facility on the open meeting calendar. Motion approved.
- Chaula sought clarification about the status of the Berkshire’s institutions status with regard to both this committee and area 31. It was affirmed that Berkshire Institutions is represented at the Area 31 meetings by the Institutions Committee, and that Berkshire Institutions has a vote at Area 31 Institutions Committee Meetings.

ADDITIONAL MOTIONS:

- Motion to spend \$1,306.94 on books, all in favor.
- Motion to close the meeting, all in favor.

The meeting was closed with the Responsibility Declaration.

Your 2018 Institution Committee

Chair	Erick	Institutions@area31aa.org
Co-Chair	Jimmy	
Secretary	Dan	
Treasurer	Charlie	
BTG	Annie	
Liaison	John S.	
Co-Liaison	Chuck	
Librarian	Nancy	

Respectfully submitted,

Dan H.
Secretary, Institutions Committee