

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

**BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, August 1, 2018**

36 members in attendance.

The Committee Chair, Erick opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the serenity prayer.

Randy read the tradition and concept of the month.

Erick read the Articles of Purpose from The Western Massachusetts Institution Committee Area 31 – Guidelines and Job Descriptions (p.1).

Introductions.

New Institution Group Reps (IGRs):

- Mike L., Singleness of Purpose 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 \$554.44
- Expenses \$197.14
- Ending balance for book purchases \$357.30

BTG – Annie was present and gave a report.

Two male and two female callers, all four reached, all from Springfield. 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 – No report.

Librarian – Nancy was present and gave a report.

WE HAVE BOOKS! Also, everyone, please take a box with your books tonight.

Area Delegate – Mike was present and gave a report.

- The date for the General Service Conference has been approved. This follows the use of an ad hoc polling effort. Next year's conference will be 5/19 - 5/25. Roundup will follow in June.
- Erick chaired a workshop recently on Rotation, and did an excellent job... he even used props!
- Last night the Mass State Convention committee met, and registration forms are now available at the convention website, AAMASTATECONVENTION.ORG. The convention will be 11/9 - 11/11 in Framingham.
- Contributions to the area are down significantly (almost \$2000), and there is concern that, with donations down this far at the half, it could significantly affect area services in the coming year. Accessibility, CPC, PI, all of these programs depend on contributions from groups when they pie out contributions.

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 5th Wednesdays of 2018 at 7:30 PM, also at 474 Pleasant Street.

Send postings to webpost@area31aa.org

The area committee is available for outgoing commitments to interested groups. Two service commitments are scheduled for August: I-Opener 8/3 at 7:00 PM and Here and Now 8/8 @8:30.

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

The Grape Jam will be held 9/22 at Intergroup in Holyoke.

District 4 is planning a meeting a district meeting 9/29.

There will be an area conference 10/13-14 at St. Catherine's which will include a seminar in online contributions through the area website.

Berkshires – Chaula submitted a report to Erick.

District 3 will hold a workshop September 8th at the Lenox Community Ctr., the topic is Carrying the Message Inside Institutions, 9:00 AM until 1:00PM ending with pizza!

The next Berkshires Institutions meeting will be 8/15 at 7:00, meeting for dinner before downstairs at Pancho's at 5:30.

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 –

No roll outs.

ROLL INS –

- Sam S., Haydenville Group, with Sean, Swift River CSS Tuesdays at 6:30, replacing Gary.

OLD BUSINESS -

Sally – A concern from her homegroup: a member of the group was encouraged by the meeting chair at an institutions commitment to specifically speak on her experience with drugs. Should we have a suggested format for institutions commitments, in order to ensure that our meeting chairs remain cognizant of AA’s primary purpose? Motion: Chaula – to form a subcommittee for developing a recommended meeting format. Discussion: perhaps a more appropriate method would be for new chairpersons to meet with the Institutions Committee Chairperson or other suitable Committee member after taking the commitment. Motion amended accordingly, and voted upon. Motion does not pass.

George – At the Hamden County Jail, there is a substantial lack of literature available for inmates and meeting chairpersons. Chuck, our liaison, will investigate and rectify as he is able.

Aaron – Presented a letter from BHN’s Hope Center regarding a commitment chairperson that has repeatedly failed to appear for commitments on the first and third Saturdays of the month. The letter will be passed to the liaison for investigation, and the meetings have been added to the open meeting list.

NEW BUSINESS

Ed – Mixed Nuts – should money be pulled from the prudent reserve to make up for the substantial lack of donations this month? Discussion: the shortfall was probably due to the late date of the monthly meeting in July, in addition to the seasonal nature of the large donations we receive. Book supplies are strong, there is probably no need to supplement expenditures at this time.

Curtis – How do we publicize changes to the date of Institutions Committee meetings? Discussion: we will make postings to Webpost@area31aa.org

Mike – Scheduling of Mill St. Section 35 commitments need to be hashed between those scheduled through Institutions and commitments previously

filled by Karen Dean at the facility. Erick will refer this to the Liaison for remediation.

Nancy – Contact person for Franklin Recovery – there are multiple openings on the roster, and commitments are badly needed for the facility.

Charlie – A group sent a donation to Institutions requesting a return receipt, but the address was illegible. We can accommodate these requests, if we can read them.

Erick does a commitment at Cybulski Prison, has rolled in a partner for the commitment, also learned that there is great interest in developing Spanish speaking meetings at the facility.

ADDITIONAL MOTIONS:

- Motion to spend \$357.30 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