

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

**BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, September 5, 2018**

40 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.

Chuck M. read the tradition and Michael read the 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):

- Freddy, Forest Park Group
- Brian, Here and Now
- Brian, Chicopee 1-2-3
- James, Tuesday Night Big Book Step Study

Welcome!

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

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

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|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Total donations | \$1867.93 |
| • Expenses | \$92.84 |
| • Ending balance for book purchases | \$1775.09 |

Crocker communications will be raising our fees by \$2.00 per month.

BTG – Annie was present and gave a report.

Two calls were received, one male and one female. The gentleman caller was reached.

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.

Alicia from the Hope Center was contacted regarding her letter about the absent chair for commitments on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. The commitments have been returned to the open meeting list.

Karen, manager of the Section 35 facilities in our area (32 beds in Springfield, 48 beds in Ludlow), was contacted for clarification on the assignment and availability of commitments at these locations. Openings have been added to open meeting list, and a handbook for commitments has been provided.

Chuck spoke with officials at the Ludlow Jail regarding bringing AA literature into the facility. Material may not be carried in, but we can supply literature to the facility, and they will make it available to the commitment. He also found out about a loss of the 12 and 12s that had been at the facility; he will work on a resolution.

Librarian – Nancy was present and gave a report.

Books have been purchased and are available.

Clarification was requested on lost books at Ludlow... is prison literature the responsibility of Institutions?

Everyone, please take a box with your books tonight.

Alternate Delegate – Paul was present and gave a report.

There is a northeast regional trustee vacancy (one of 21 trustees for AA World Services, 14 are alcoholics, 7 are non-alcoholic). If you know anyone who'd be a good fit, please contact Paul or Mike before 10/14.

A new pamphlet for female Spanish-speaking alcoholics needs contributions of stories; please encourage women to contribute. Topics for upcoming efforts include Safety in AA and Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.

For the Massachusetts State Convention, two two-hour meetings have been held. The final planning meetings are on 9/15 and 11/25, with carpools leaving from the Plantation Inn off 291 on each day. The theme for the convention is "The 36 Principles of AA, 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts".

A monthly Service manual meeting is held on 5th Wednesdays of 2018 at 7:30 PM, also at 474 Pleasant Street.

A monthly Concept Meeting is held the first Thursday of the month at 474 Pleasant Street at 7:30 PM.

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.

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 Intergoup in Holyoke. 5:30 PM – 11:00 PM (see attachment).

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

There will be an area assembly 10/13-14 at St. Catherine's at 1083 Parker St. in Springfield, which will include a seminar in online contributions through the area website. Each committee will speak about their activities and why they need participation from area membership. The Grapevine and General Service Conference will be consolidated in the business meeting on Sunday.

The area has changed its meeting date second Wednesday.... no matter what. Donations are down in the area.

Berkshires – Chaula was present and gave a report.

The GSRs of District 3 will hold a workshop September 8th at the Lenox Community Ctr., walker st in Lenox the topic is Carrying the Message Inside Institutions, 9:00 AM until 1:00PM ending with pizza! There will be a 3 speaker meeting, with topics led by GSRs in breakout rooms afterward.

Open meeting list – Hillcrest commons has been filled; it is now a training group for new speakers. Several openings remain in the area: CSS Berkshire Medical on the 3rd Friday at 7, McGee Detox on the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays of even months only, Jones 2 Behavioral Health on 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays at 11:00 AM, and Timberland Heights is open to any and all commitments.

The next Berkshires Institutions meeting will be 9/19 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 –

Ken, Chicopee 1-2-3, 2nd Saturday at Phoenix House, Springfield. Alt. Brian Abigail, Women's Discussion Holyoke, 5th Monday at Carlson Detox
Freddy, Forest Park, 1/3/5 Sunday at Franklin Recovery

James, Tuesday Big Book Step Study, 3rd Sunday at Mill St. Section 35

OLD 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Jimmy – Delivering literature to institutions is against Institutions policy. Institutions materials are for individuals, and it is policy for the Ludlow Jail to keep books locked up, only available during the time of the meeting... so the books in question are prison property, not individual property. Charlie will investigate.

Chaula – Healthcare facilities are asking for meetings and literature. Where applicable, facilities should purchase their own materials.

ADDITIONAL MOTIONS:

- Motion to spend \$1775.09 on books, all in favor.
- Motion to close the meeting, all in favor.

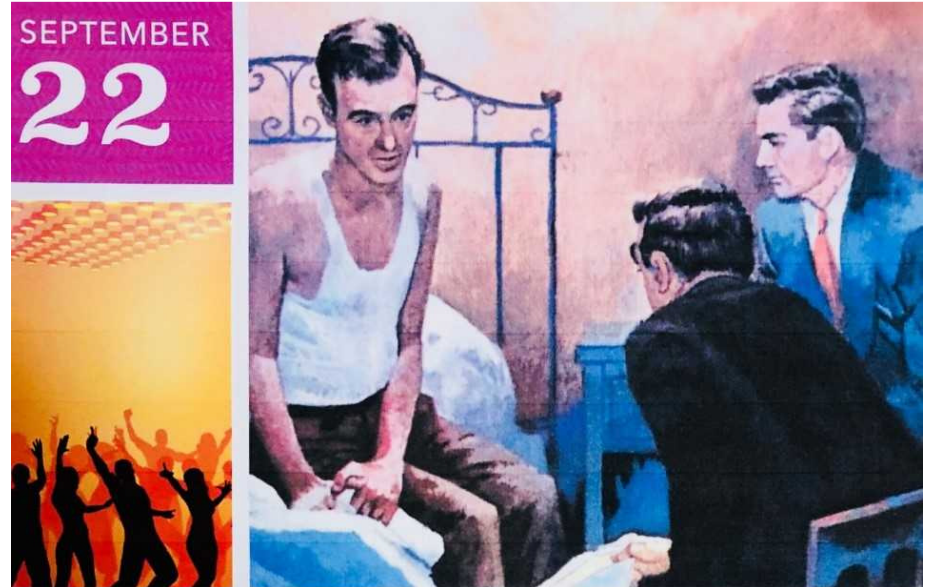
The meeting was closed with the Responsibility Declaration.

Your 2018 Institution Committee
institutions@area31aa.org

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dan H.
Secretary, Institutions Committee



2018 AREA 31 GRAPE JAM



Sponsored by **WMYPAA** and
Area 31 Grapevine/La Viña Committee
5:30pm - 11pm

Come out for our first Annual Grape Jam. There will be a meeting with guest speakers, followed by food and DJ Yukon capping off the evening by spinning your favorite hits. \$5 suggested donation for dance.

Suggested donation: Buy a grapevine book or subscription OR donate an AA book in condition to be donated to area corrections committee.

474 PLEASANT STREET, HOLYOKE, MA.



AA Service Workshop

District 3

Saturday September 8, 2018

Lenox Community Center
65 Walker St. Lenox, Ma

**“CARRYING AA’S MESSAGE INTO INSTITUTIONS,
GETTING BACK TO THE ROOTS OF OUR SERVICE”**

9:00-10:00 Registration

Hedley S. Chairperson

10:00 - 3 Speakers

11:00 – Round Table Discussion, followed by a brief summary of topic

12:00-1:00 Pizza Lunch

Please join us. All are welcome