

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

**BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, December 5, 2018**

51 members in attendance.

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

Jay read the tradition and Freddy, the concept of the month.

Introductions.

New Institution Group Reps (IGRs):

- Jack, Morning Light Group
- Lenny, Cold Spring Group
- Michelle, Belchertown Saturday Night
- David, Holyoke Group

Welcome!

Erick read the articles of purpose.

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

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

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|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Total donations | \$1629.25 |
| • Expenses | \$197.06 |
| • Ending balance for book purchases | \$1432.19 |

Almost \$16,002 has been spent on books by this committee in 2018!
Also, BONUS!!, we “found” \$311.95 in deposits on hand... above and beyond the deposits and withdrawals logged over the past year.

Report accepted, seconded, and passed.

BTG – Annie was present and gave a report.
Three calls this month, all men. All were reached.

Bridging the gap is always looking for volunteers to help with the service.
Please see Annie.

Liaison – John was present and gave a report.
There was no activity this past month... no report from either Chuck or John.

Librarian – Nancy was present and gave a report.
Come get some books!

Area Chair – Mike was here 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.
Send postings to webpost@area31aa.org
The area committee is available for outgoing commitments to interested groups. There is an outgoing commitment to the Northern Berkshire Group this weekend.
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

Alternate Area Delegate – Paul was here and gave a report.
The Impact Collaborative did a communications audit with the General Service Office (on pamphlets, website, literature). The audit report is available at the Area website, if you are interested.
Box 459 “Myths and Misconceptions”: A 2014 survey showed 12% of AAs were introduced through the Judicial System. Healthcare, addiction, and the law are the primary conduits to AA for new members.
“Sharing from behind the walls”: Testimony from an incarcerated alcoholic relays his story of gratitude for AA from within prison.
Alcoholics are not the only ones who carry the message. Both accounts highlight the importance of professionals and other non-alcoholic friends of AA who have helped AA grow. Also included is the story of Dr. Clinton Duffy of San Quentin and his impact on AA.

Berkshires – Chaula was here and gave a report.
This will be her final meeting with us, as another chairperson has stepped up to lead the Berkshires Institutions committee. She is grateful for everyone's support! All but four meetings in the region are covered at this point. The substitutes list has still been a huge asset in covering commitments. There have been many new requests from skilled nursing facilities... in Berkshire County, detox and CSS facilities are so overwhelmed (five facilities have closed) that skilled nursing facilities are now taking detox patients. Social workers are becoming certified to cover the need. Four new requests have

come in this month from nursing homes... they are challenging because attendance at the commitments can be low or spotty. As a result, the Berkshires is offering a once a month three-speaker meeting at one facility (Hillcrest Commons) that is being used as a training ground for new speakers. Also, Chaula has found a replacement! Connell! Welcome!

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 –

- Bruce and Bobby S., Thursday, CSS at Providence
- Brian, Jim K., Hampshire County Jail 1st and 3rd Wednesdays
- Freddy 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays Franklin Recovery Center

ROLL INS –

- Alicia, After Work Group – Thursday, CSS Providence
- Julio C, A New Horizon – Carlson Detox, Friday at 7:00, Spanish
- Corey, You Gotta Wanna - Second Sunday at Mill Street, Downstairs

OLD BUSINESS

Nancy, Franklin Recovery Center, Greenfield - Two new programs are being created in Greenfield, a jail divergence program and a dual diagnosis program. Both are scheduled to open soon.

Ron R. – There will be a gratitude dinner for all escorts 11/8 at WMCAC, contact Karen Dean, flyer attached.

Elections for Institutions Committee Officers for 2019

Co-Chair: Charlie
Secretary: Nicole
Treasurer: Cathy
Librarian: Kristina

NEW BUSINESS

Charlie – Has been elected chair of Intergroup. Two things coming up: 12/15 Christmas party with Santa, kids 12 and under will get a gift, there will be food. Christmas Alcahthon 6:00 PM on the 24th to 6:00 PM on the 25th. Food, hourly meetings lots of fun. A workshop for GSRs is planned for Feb. NERAASA in Hunt Valley, MD, 2/22, 2/23 and 24th. The Area will rent a 15 Person van.

Chris – Runs a meeting at Soldier On using AA In the Military as one of the texts. Looking to request Institutions support for the literature. Institutions will support the purchase and use of this text for verteran-oriented commitments.

Chaula – Berkshires CPC participation is low to non-existent. Suggests that the committee support the purchase and distribtion of the pamphlet directed toward professionals. The committee will do so.

ADDITIONAL MOTIONS:

- Motion to spend \$1432.19 (\$1,744.14) 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