

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

BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday February 2, 2022

Approx. 16 members were in attendance in person; virtually.

Andrew opened the meeting at 7:00 with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer, and the guidelines of the committee. Mitch read Treasurer Rpt, Dan (second) took minutes, John - Holyoke Group (Represented): the Tradition of the month; the Concept of the month.

Introductions of the committee members. Chair, Andy, Co-Chair Jim R, Sec. Dan H /Glen, Jax M, Scribe Secretary, Treasurer, Mitch,, Liaison Tyler T, Co-Liaison, Librarian, Chris T.

New Institution Group Reps (IGRs): Institutions Reps. Carolyn K. Holyoke Slip RA, Joe, Not So Young People's Group, John F, Round up Committee, John G. Young Peoples, Westfield, Laura, Friday Night Beginner Group, Haydenville, Laura W, South Hadley Friday Night Meeting, Mark, Friday Night Wilbraham Group, Mike M, Mulberry Group, *Gary W., Clinical Director of the adolescent substance abuse program Goodwin House in Chicopee came to the meeting to find out how to secure commitments through the Committee for his facility. He sent a formal letter, per Committee guidelines.

Secretary's Report: Jax was present to read the minutes of the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Mitch was present to give a report in person.

- Ending Balance from Prev. \$900.00
- Total donations \$1148.68
- Expenses \$130.00
- Ending balance for book purchases \$1018.68
- Ending Balance to Carry (reserve) \$900.00

BTG – Jeff - Please reach out to Jeff either by telephone or email (contact at the end of this report). BTG volunteer forms will be printed and distributed at future Institutions Committee meetings, as well.

Liaison – Tyler F. Contacted Swift, Noble, Sisters House, VA, Phoenix, Springside: Updated. VA Sec 35 Administering in house. Covid drove change opting out of Institutions to control the flow of visitor traffic. This disqualifies them from the Institutions Library of books.

Carlson on Hold, waiting.

Tyler was present to give a report. Contact went out to all institutions. 8-9 new ones. Follow up on VA

Librarian – Chris was present to give a report. Pick up Books at Inter Group. An Institutions Forum for issues of Institutions and Corona at Franklin.

Berkshires – Bronwyn was not present to give a report. ?

Open discussion of meeting issues

Area Delegate – Mike -delegate@area31aa.org ###-###-####

AA World Services available. AA: new PO box for contributions
(PO BOX 2407 JAMES A FARLEY STATION, NY, NY 10116-2407).

Mini Conference Info: No date. Holyoke Mini sessions, Tentative, April 2022. Figures and Facts of Membership:
120,000 Groups World Wide, 1.96 Million members. [1.3 Million Members, 64,341 Groups in the US].
MERASA is still open

CPC - Open but committed to an Institutions program.

ROLL OUTS – None.

ROLL INS – Person or Group who wants to commit to an Institution.

Glen - Sunday Nite - Men's Sec 35, Ludlow

OLD BUSINESS:

Area - John ###-###-#### areachair@area31AA.org: Needs Hybrid zoom, data help - 30 Carew St. So. Hadley,
Mike is our Area Delegate.

Round Up Committee - Needs Support
Service Manual Meeting - 3rd Wed - HYBRID
Concept Meeting - 1st Thur - HYBRID
Area31AA.org - Second Sun - Virtual Only
NEAA Service Assembly - Feb 25-27 - Pittsburg (may be transport)
Tradition Meeting - 2nd Sun - Virtual Only
Laura - Friday Night Beginner Group
Mike - Mulberry
Crocker Bill needs follow up not sure it made it into minutes recently.
Bridging the GAP needs a coordinator. Sonja P said she can design cards.

Money and Spirituality Mix - Institutions Committee

- Groups get meeting space
- Phones get answered
- Alcoholic persons in custody get Big Books
- Professionals get correct information about A.A.
- One thought to keep in mind—Easy Does It! Once you decide to get started with the formation of a committee, it is a good idea to take it easy at first until you know just what the needs are and how many people are available to get the job done.
- We sign agreements with groups or individuals of this volunteer committee who participate in the Institutions Committee by invitation from or election by a home group in AA.

These individuals and Groups may take AA Literature
From the Library. Those who Are not Volunteers through the Institutions do not get free literature for distribution.
Facilities currently administering Services in House during Corona, not currently filled by the Institutions do not receive books.

Committees focus on **Bringing meetings and literature into facilities**

- Raising awareness of the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) among "inside" and "outside" A.A. members
- Helping individuals in custody transition to a local A.A. community through
- Tradition Six: "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or *lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.*" Toward corrections personnel, like those of any other agency, the A.A. policy is "cooperation but not affiliation." We should make it clear that A.A. is available as a resource to sponsor A.A. groups in correctional facilities, but is not affiliated with the facility, or any other fellowship.
- Institutions Committee serves a specific service and those who are volunteers under the Bi Laws and Guidelines receive literature.
- Mira Vista requires transparency. Documents require a paper trail of expenses. Mira Vista (formerly Providence Hospital), who indicated that the facility will not be using the Institutions Committee to fill commitments. She cited a lack of reliability in meeting chairpersons assigned through the Committee and a lack of structure for ensuring commitments remain filled.
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- **NEW BUSINESS:** Sponsors, Co Sponsors, Alternates:
 - Gary W. Adolescent Boys, 4 at a time, 18 months sobriety. Covid. 178 Fairfield Ave. Chicopee.
 - **Joe made a motion** for a temporary February, March 2022 consideration during Covid, to present participants who attended, at the January 22 Meeting, who requested a pass to receive AA Books, Literature.
 - Currently we have open meetings, and this is our best effort to temporary assist this request for the Institutions Committee AA Books. We are bound by AA Traditions, and Participation Guidelines for Institutions facilities and institutions.
 - We review our decision at the March meeting. *Motion seconded, passed to review in each month for two months, only.*
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 - Tyler Explained Facilities now served internally, administering programs do not get books from Institutions during Covid. Motion seconded. Passed.
 - Meeting commitments are supposed to be held by a chairperson and an alternate, both are listed on the Committee's Master List with their correct contact information.
 - Meeting chairpersons, or, when needed, their group's Institutions Group Representative are to attend the monthly Institutions Committee meeting and affirm their participation in specific commitments by initialing the commitment information on the meeting's sign-in list. If a commitment goes without being initiated for more than a meeting or two, the Liaison can reach out and address the issue or declare the commitment "OPEN".
 - The Liaison, and as backup, the Institutions Committee Chairperson, Co-Chairperson, and Secretary, serve as points of contact for all facilities, should they need assistance with a commitment. Each of these representatives has access to the Master List of commitments, chairpersons, and the chairpersons' contact information.

We made a motion to elect Mat as our new Treasurer. Mitch stepped down. Motion was seconded. Passed. Necypaa Chair. Seconded. Motion passed. We made a motion to spend \$1018 money on Books. Seconded. Motion

The next meeting will be on Mar 5, in person at 474 Pleasant Street

Your 2022 Institution Committee

Chair Andy Email: institutions@area31aa.org

Co-Chair Jim R.

Secretary Jax

Treasurer Mitch

BTG

Liaison Tyler F.

Co-Liaison

Librarian Chris T.

Respectfully submitted,
Jax M.
Scribe Pro Tem

Contact information for Bridging the Gap:

Bridging the Gap
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