

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

**BUSINESS MEETING
November 2, 2022**

The temporary location is at **United Congregational Church at 300 Appleton St., Holyoke - Next Meeting site 7 PM**

28 members were in attendance in person. Held in person.

Andrew opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer, and the Guidelines of the committee. Bobby read the Tradition 11 of the month, and Eric the Concept 11 of the month.

Introductions of the committee members: Chair, **Andy**, Co-Chair, **Jim R.** has stepped down. Sec. **Jax M**, Scribe Secretary, Treasurer, **Matt F.**, Liaison **Carla C.**, Librarian, **JD**, BTG, **John F.**, CPC, **Charlie M.**

New Institutions Reps (IGRS):

ROLL OUTS – Billy A. spoke of a roll out.

ROLL INS - 5 roll ins. Luke replaced East Long Meadow, Billy A, GSR, East Longmeadow, Nat, Early Bird, Spfld, Donna Sunday Nite, Southwick, Ronda, Westfield, Eddie. Billy R.

Secretary's Report: Jax M. read the minutes, accepted corrections. The Minutes were submitted and read. Group voted to accept the Secretary Pro Temp's report. Bobby seconded and accepted. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: - Matt F. The Treasurer was present to give a report in person. He had two unsigned checks. Matt read the Report, the Group voted to accept the report, the report was seconded, and accepted.

● Ending Balance from Prev.	\$900.00
● Total donations	\$2236.02
● Expenses	\$129.06
● Ending balance for book purchases	\$2107.02
● Ending Balance to Carry (reserve)	\$900.00

Report was read, voted, and accepted.

Liaison Report: – Carla C. (###) ###-####

Librarian – JD present to give a report.. Stocked books. Spanish versions, "AA in Prisons", "Came to Believe", "Living Sober", "Daily Reflections", Educational Pamphlets on Groups of Attention, AA Books, Step Books. "Ind Our Own Words", "Emotional Sobriety", "Voices of Women in AA", "AA in Prison", "AA in the Military". Chris handed in a receipt for books.

Motion was made to spend money on books. **Report was read, voted, and accepted.** Motion second to buy books. Motion passed to buy, and store books.

Joe made a motion to continue Books to Mira Vista. We had a review of the by laws of lending books to agencies not under the Institutions Umbrella. The discussion included both sides of the argument. 1. A strict interpretation that can not favor extending circumstances. 2. Practice book extension on a month by month review provides oversight review books to any outliers such as Jails, Recovery Centers, Private Institutions, Beginners Groups.

A vote to reject was voted down requiring a second vote after the minority gets to argue their case once more. We voted to continue month by month

helping other Alcoholics. Motion passed to buy.

BTG – John F., ###-###-####, ***@***.***** was present to give a report.

Statement of Purpose: The Berkshire Institutions Committee organizes and supports AA meetings held at county hospitals, corrections facilities, and other institutions. – <https://sites.google.com/view/berkshireinstitutions>

- John F reported His Ad Hoc Holyoke Library committee Meeting with Carla and Jeff as Co Chairs with Matt, Victor, RRoy, Andrew, Designed, planned, an easy system from Jail to Meeting Drivers. Names, Addresses with setting clients with Drivers of Compassion, Equals that can be Scanned by barcode.

CPC - Charlie M, CPC, ###-###-####, cpc@area31.org, not present.

Statement of Purpose: Cooperating with professionals, therapists, Institutions, judges, lawyers, Indigenous Americans. They may step in to assist when any institution contacts a facility director, recovery coach, nurse, or corrections officer requesting information about AA.

Area Delegate: –xxx, Area Delegate, ###-###-####, **Area General Service Meeting;** - 7:30 pm 2nd Wednesday of the month. United Methodist Church, 30 Carew St., So. Hadley, MA. Convention Registration update that has now passed: We expect to hear an update of the State Convention Successes tonight. The 2023 Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly will be held in Albany, NY. Registration Deadline: February 15, 2023

Chair, Andy called for: Open discussion of meeting issues: - The Liaison position is filled. Request to the Group to fill the positions of Co Chair and Chair, 2023. Two positions will open up. One for TREASURER, ANOTHER FOR SECRETARY PRO TEMP. Tonight we will take it up. COVID shut Holyoke, Carlton Detox (M), all other commitments may continue to open and close again. East Longmeadow, second Monday canceled; 2nd (M) canceled. Joe asked the meaning of BMC, Baystate - CSS versus the Berkshire

Commitment. Andy asked Jax to call Dan.

OLD BUSINESS: Matt, the Treasurer will bring a check for books purchased. The liaison is a position on the committee. This position is filled. Chair appoints as it is an appointed position. Liaison is a two year position requiring Service w/ recommended sobriety for 2 years. Carla now seeks as much information on contacts that we each may have. She now keeps the coordination (leg Work), between facilities we serve. Just a reminder that Mira Vista was formerly Providence Hospital. Questions on titles to Dan and that response after research: 1.) BMC - Berkshire Medical Center, CSS, McGee; Pittsfield, BMC - Berkshire Medical Center, Psych Unit, 2.) BCC - Berkshire County House of Corrections, 3.) BCC - Berkshire Medical Unit, 4.) BHN - Carlson, Springfield 5.) BMC - Baystate Medical Center Psych, Springfield. 6.) Hope Center - CSS, Springfield. There may have been some confusion over BMC Baystate Medical is now in Springfield. It was also in Greenfield. (Carlson waits on changing Covid; Amy approaches Andy. Her email is amy.grant.bhninc.org; M, W, Th, F Being filled. Follow back on Swift, Noble, Sister's House, VA, Phoenix, SpringSide to come. Carla C. is the new Institutions appointed Liaison. She would like a current list of institutions and contacts. Sec. Pro Temp is emailing one to her after putting into Excel.

New Business: Bobby made a motion to continue sending books to Mira Vista. Motion discussion to review foundational rules of book lending and future accommodations on a case by case basis. Question on the floor, "Will we continue sending books when requested by anyone in need of serving". - Vote is taken month by month. Two views. Donna, Rhonda, Billy. Bill A. wanted clarification if he actually held his commitment at Section 35 or not. He does. The only reason for delay or confusion is the shut downs and turn back on due to Covid. Motion was made to make a progression of positions for 2023. Past practice moves the Treasurer and Secretary 2022 into the positions of Co-Chair, and Chair. Andy made proposals to make a motion that Matt be the Next Chair. Jax the next Co Chair. Motion was made

seconded and accepted to make Matt Chair. Motion was made, seconded and accepted to make Jax Co Chair. Next meeting we will take motions to elect a one year position of secretary. Treasurer is a two year position.

Jax M., Scribe Pro Tem

Contact information for Bridging the Gap: Jeff F - Bridging The Gap coordinator

The next meeting will be on December 7, 2022 - 7 PM in person at 300 Appleton Street. Due to the closing of the Grace United Church at 474 Pleasant St. in Holyoke, the Western Mass Institutions meeting has been relocated Temporarily and may meet in So.Hadley shortly.. There is a free parking lot behind.

Bridging the Gap
C/O Western Mass. Institutions Committee
PO Box 1391
Holyoke, MA 01040
 Bridgethegap31@yahoo.com
 1-###-###-####

Your 2021 Institution Committee.

Chair	Andy	Email: institutions@area31aa.org
Co-Chair	Jim R.	
Secretary	Jax M.	
Treasurer	Matt F.	
BTG	John F.	
Liaison	Carla	
Co-Liaison	Jim R	
Librarian	JD	
CPC	Charlie M.	

OPEN COMMITMENTS		
Institution	Day	Time
BMC CSS	3rd Sunday	7:00 PM
BMC CSS	1st Friday	7:00 PM
BMC CSS	3rd Friday	7:00 PM
Chicopee Hmpdn (W)	Saturday	10:00 AM
Chicopee Hmpdn (W)	Sunday	10:00 AM
Franklin RC / Northern HC	Tuesday	7:00 PM
Franklin RC / Northern HC	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Franklin RC / Northern HC	2nd Friday	7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Franklin RC / Northern HC	1st/2nd/3rd Friday	7:00 PM
Franklin RC / Northern HC	4th/5th Friday	7:00 PM
Gandara House	Friday	1:30 PM
Hampshire Cnty (M)	1st/3rd Wed.	7:00 PM
Hampshire County Corr. LifeSkills (M)	1st/4th/5th Tuesday	7:00 PM
Highview Nursing Home Leeds	Tuesday	5:00 PM
Hillcrest Commons	2nd Wednesday	7:00 PM
Hillcrest Commons	4th Wednesday	7:00 PM
Hmpdn Cnty Lud (M-SPAN)	Mon	7:00 PM
Hmpdn Cnty Ludlow (M)	Tue	7:00 PM
Hmpdn.Cty.PreRelease(M)	1st/4th Wed	7:00 PM
Hmpdn.Cty.PreRelease(M)	Saturday	8:30 AM
Jones 2 (BERK)	3rd Sunday	10:00 AM
Jones 2 (BERK)	1st Saturday	11:00 AM
Jones 2 (BERK)	2nd Saturday	11:00 AM
Liberty Prep Academy	1st/2nd/3rd Thursday	11:15 AM

Ludlow, Section 35	Saturday	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M)-	2&4 Wed	7:00 PM
Mill Street (M)-	Tuesday	6:00 PM
Mill Street (M) Spanish VIRTUAL	Monday	7:00 PM
Mill Street, Section 35	2nd-5th Monday	7:00 PM
Mill Street, Section 35	2nd/3rd/4th Tuesday	7:00 PM
Mill Street, Section 35	3rd/5th Wednesday	7:00 PM
Mill Street, Section 35	1st Thursday	7:00 PM
Opportunity House	Tuesday	5:00 PM