

AREA 31 WESTERN MASS INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

**P.O. BOX 1391
HOLYOKE, MA 01041-1391**

BUSINESS MEETING

January 4, 2023

Next meeting will be held at **30 Carew Street, South Hadley, MA on February 1st, 2023 at 7 PM.**

21 members were in attendance in person. Held in person.

Matt opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer

Introductions of the committee members: Chair Matt F.; Co-Chair Jax M.; Secretary Urgyen J.; Treasurer Steve G., Liaison Carla C., Librarian JD; BTG John F.

Reports

Secretary's Report– Urgyen J.

Urgyen read Jax's minutes from last month
Accepted

Treasurer's Report– Steve

Ending balance previous month (reserves) \$886.14 Total

Donations \$1,497.42 Total Expenses \$88.86 Reserves \$900 **Ending Balance**

for Books \$1,408.56 Accepted

Bridging The Gap (BTG)– John

What is BTG?-- People who are getting out of institutions, prisons etc who need a ride, get in touch with John and he puts them in touch with someone willing to give a ride to a meeting. The commitment is to drive someone to one meeting.

A Flier with QR code, sign up to volunteer as a driver

Take a flier and bring it to your home group!

Is there an alternative to scanning the QR code? Yes, use this link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CHzGI4vJ3SfKRKsRYuHUkGiJsUaa81FI09ADVjroelo/viewform?edit_requested=true

The only people who have access to your information when you sign up are Matt, Carla and John

Liaison– Carla C.

- Made a fresh “Open Commitments” list, refer to that instead of Secretary’s Report version which is in the process of being cleaned up.
- Waiting to hear back from a number of institutions
- Getting help from Berkshire Intergroup folks to call institutions there.
- Jax, Urgyen, John and Carla will get together to clean up the database of open commitments

Berkshire Institutions, Hedley filling in for Cave

- Good to hear what’s going on at WeMA Institutions, Berkshire Institutions has been struggling to get back into the habit of picking up and keeping commitments post pandemic
 - 4 liaisons, 1 for each institution– CSS, Jones, McGee and 1 other ○ Contacting those institutions if we can get letters of intent for them, reaching out to groups to see if they want to keep commitments they had prior to covid
 - Feels like starting from step 1
 - Committee is strong, meeting every 2 weeks
 - 1 member really active group liaison and going to meetings, finding out if they had commitments
 - Going in to McGee, good commitment

Librarian JD

- Dispersed 209 books at December meeting
- \$875 of allotted amount
- \$29 in surplus in this month
- Little packets of pamphlets for each commitment to take– “Is AA for

me”, “the newcomer asks”, “sponsorship”, “issues other than alcohol”, “BTG”

- 800 and some odd books on hand
- Prices going up in January– Grapevine up by \$2.50
 - Cutting down on some books, concentrating on BB, 12x12, living sober
 - Working on balancing inventory and prices
- Please sign up in JD’s list with your name, commitment name, and how many times a month you go in... will help to estimate how many books are needed, etc

Invited Committee Reports

Area Chair– John

“Made my night coming here and seeing all these alcoholics being out here working to keep things going”

Institutions is an important committee, and there are many other committees. Something you might wanna bring back to your business meeting– suggest getting reps for other committees; archives, intergroup, etc.

If you feel like your group might not be excited about service, contact John and he’ll get a group of people to come and share their stories about how important service has been.

If there are problems in your group, the area can arrange a past delegate to come do a group inventory.

NERAASA 23rd-26th Feb in Albany NY.

- Conference about service positions; if you have a service position, there will be a meeting there with people in the same position and you’ll learn all about how to do your position etc
- Info on Area31aa.org
- Area providing bus to drive up, again reach out to John with questions

Contact John with questions about any of the above: chair@area31aa.org

END REPORTS

Issues with Current Commitments

Question: “What makes a “legit” commitment?”

Answer: Any place that has a need for an AA meeting qualifies.

New Institutions Reps (IGRS)

Michela S from the Do or Die Group; Deir from the Step Group; Dennis from the East Longmeadow Group; Bill P from the Randall Group; Anthony from the Tuesday Night Big Book Study in Springfield; Matt from the Holyoke Group; Steven from Springfield Young People’s; Megan from Suffield CT Grapevine Beginners; Nicole O from The Solution Group.

Welcome to the committee and thank you for your service!

Roll Outs

Brian from Carlson Detox 1st and 3rd Sundays

Roll In’s

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Motion: Write JD check for \$1408 for books

Second

None Opposed

PASSED

Motion: Provide Matt with \$350 for a room at NERAASA

Second

None opposed
PASSED

Motion: Continue to give books to Mira Vista meetings
Second
None opposed
PASSED

Motion to close
Second
Passes

Meeting closed 7:43pm

The next meeting will be on February 1, 2023 - 7 PM in person at 30 Carew Street, South Hadley MA
Committee Contact Information

Chair Matt F. phone: [redacted] email: [redacted]

Co-Chair Jax M. phone: [redacted] 6 email:[redacted]

Secretary Urgyen phone: [redacted] email: [redacted]

Treasurer Steve phone: [redacted] email: [redacted]

BTG John F. phone: [redacted] email: [redacted]

Liaison Carla phone: [redacted] email: [redacted]

Co-Liaison Jim R phone: [redacted] email: [redacted]

Librarian JD phone: [redacted] email: [redacted]

CPC Charlie M. phone: [redacted] email: cpc@area31aa.org