

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

**BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday February 1st, 2023**

34 members were in attendance.

Matt opened the meeting at 7:00. John read the tradition of the month, and Chris the concept of the month.

Introductions of the committee members; Chair Matt, Secretary Urygen, Librarian JD, Co-chair Jax, Liaison Carla, Treasurer Steve.

Reports

Treasurer's Report- Steve

● Ending Balance from Prev.	\$900.00
● Total donations	\$2750.00
● Expenses	\$425.00
● Ending balance for book purchases	\$2,575.48
● To Next Month	\$650.00

Bridging the Gap (BTG)- John

The list of volunteers has more than doubled since last month. Scan the QR code to be put on the list (flier attached). Pamphlets describing the program are available. Take a flier for your home group!

Librarian- JD

Dispersed a total of 154 assorted books last month. \$1,390 spent on book orders. 913 books on hand. As mentioned last month, Grapevine prices going up by \$2.50, but we got lucky this month because there was still some old stock available at the previous price, which means a couple extra books for us.

Liaison- Carla

Working on cleaning up the open commitment list, calling institutions and calling people who currently hold commitments to confirm if they are active. Read letter of intent from Franklin Recovery Center/Northern Hope Center which was voted on and accepted as a commitment.

Issues with Current Commitments

Patsy; We have a section 35 commitment at Ludlow Stonybrook where the guards are saying we can't bring literature in. They said you have to talk to someone higher up. Is there anything we can do about that on our end?

- Betty holds a commitment at a women's prison, and needs to send an email in advance with the number of books she's bringing in. All the books get checked upon entry.

- Bruce holds a section 35 commitment and had to get permission from a supervisor to bring in books. This particular institution had a budget and actually bought and brought in books themselves.
- Phyllis; Weekly commitment at a women's prison and has never had an issue, takes books and pamphlets in all the time.

Invited Committee Reports

Area 31 Alternate Delegate- Steve

All Area meetings are hybrid, held at 30 Carew Street in South Hadley and on zoom. Zoom info can be found on the area website (area31aa.org).
 Concept meeting 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30pm (2nd Feb)
 Area meeting 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm (8th Feb)

NERASAA 23rd to 26th Feb in Albany. Registration still open online. More info including hotel reservations at nerasaa.org

NERF- "GSO roadshow"; various chairs from GSO in New York come out and talk about their roles + AA structure. June 2nd + 3rd in Boston, website not yet live.

MA State Convention Planning Committee is meeting at 7pm on the last Tuesday of odd numbered months at Sturbridge Host Hotel. Carpool available at 6:15 from South Hadley with Steve.

Area committee is willing to come to your home group as an incoming commitment to talk about recovery and more specifically about service. Reach out to areachair@area31.org. Can also set you up with a past delegate to do a group inventory. Reach out to the same email.

Area 31 Accessibility Chair- Bruce

Accessibility falls very close to institutions, they go into nursing homes, homes where people can't get out, and personal homes where someone can't leave. Basically places where people can't get out to go to meetings. The past year has been very successful, but before that due to COVID many places had closed off. If anybody has a place like that where people can't get out, Intergroup has Bruce's number. Reach out and get in touch.

Bruce is also the accessibility chair of MA State Convention, could use some help on that. Currently figuring out how to make Sturbridge Host Hotel more handicap accessible.

There is a survey going out to groups to gauge accessibility of different meetings. Going to DCM's who are giving them to GSR's. Please check with your group GSR and follow-up.

Only 2 meetings in the valley have ASL interpretation.

CPC- Charlie has rotated out

Berkshires- Cave

"Almost have a fully functioning Berkshires institutions committee". Meeting every two weeks. Taking meetings into Jones, McGee, Berkshire House of Corrections and CSS. Almost completely mapped out who's going where and when. Have some open slots we want to add to your [Western MA] commitment lists and sheets. Representative who attends this meeting might change once we have a permanent chairperson.
 Have a request to ask for money for a zoom subscription for the group to meet. Paying personally at the moment.
 Commitments are the same as last month.

End Reports

Roll Outs

Glen; Sunday 7pm section 35 in Ludlow

Roll Ins

Sam and Glen; Monday BHN Unity South 1st and 3rd Monday.
 Dan; Tuesday Night Swift River. Haydenville has some nights.
 John and John; Carlson Detox 1st and 3rd Sunday
 Bruce, every other Wednesday; Ludlow Stoneybrook

New Institution Group Reps (IGRs)

Carla from the After Work Group; Diane from Wilbraham Friday Night; Andrew from Sunday Night Southwick Big Book Meeting; Sam from Haydenville Sunday Night Life.

Old Business

None

New Business

Accessibility Committee
 The accessibility committee goes into 2 nursing homes, and should be doing this through the Institutions Committee so they may have access to books, and have the infrastructure and support of the Institutions Committee should issues arise.

Motion: Accessibility Committee commitments at Linda Manor and Vantage in South Hadley are taken under the Institutions Committee commitments, and the accessibility committee will continue to sponsor those meeting

Discussion:

- Accessibility has never in the past taken on institutional commitments like this, they should come under institutions
- We should just get a letter of intent from these nursing homes like we do at every other institution
- Bruce; we want to stock their library
- Phyllis; so would we be giving the books to an institution or to individuals?

Vote; 4 opposed

PASSES

Motion; \$2575 check to JD for books

none opposed

PASSES

Motion: Consider Cave’s request for Berkshires Intergroup to pay for zoom

none opposed

PASSES

Bridging the Gap Conference

John; September 8-10 BTG workshop in Houston Texas. National Workshop where people from all over the country come to talk about BTG. Would be a good way for us to find out what’s happening in other parts of the country, and for other parts of the country to find out what we’re doing. Going to make motion on the high end; done some research, flight, hotel, transport and food;

Motion: Committee pays for BTG coordinator up to \$1200 for expenses to go to BTG workshop, setting aside money every month until Sept.

Discussion

- Steve; It is traditional for committees to pay for their representatives to go to national gathering of their people

Motion: send BTG coordinator to conference

20 in favor

None opposed

PASSES

Motion: \$150 a month until September to reimburse BTG coordinator in October 20 in favor

None opposed

PASSES

Motion: Continue giving books to Mira Vista groups

PASSES

Steve (treasurer): “Do we want to start saving a little more for NERASAA next year, etc?”

Discussion: The treasurer is a trusted servant, has autonomy to decide the best way forward by considering past trends and estimation of future needs. Does not need committee approval to set money aside as they see fit.

End minutes

The next meeting will be at 7pm on March 1st at 30 Carew Street, South Hadley.

Open Commitments

Please note, this list may not be 100% accurate. Please contact Urygen at [redacted] or Carla at [redacted] to confirm.

OPEN COMMITMENTS		
Institution	Day	Time
BHN- Unity South	2nd & 4th Monday	6:30 PM
BMC CSS	3rd Sunday	7:00 PM
BMC CSS	1st Friday	7:00 PM
BMC CSS	3rd Friday	7:00 PM
CHD Aster House	1st & 3rd Monday	

CHD Aster House	2nd & 4th Monday	
CHD Aster House	1st & 3rd Tuesday	
CHD Aster House	2nd & 4th Tuesday	
Chicopee Hmpdn (W)	Saturday	10:00 AM
Chicopee Hmpdn (W)	Sunday	10:00 AM
Franklin RC / Northern HC	Monday	7:00 PM
Franklin RC / Northern HC	Tuesday	7:00 PM
Franklin RC / Northern HC	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Franklin RC / Northern HC	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
Ludlow Jail	1/3/5th Sunday	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	3rd/5th Wednesday	7:00 PM
Mill Street, Section 35	1st Thursday	7:00 PM
Mission Care, Holyoke	1st & 3rd wed or thurs	2:00 PM
Mission Care, Holyoke	1st & 3rd wed or thurs	4:00 PM
Opportunity House	Tuesday	5:00 PM
Phoenix House	Saturday	7:00 PM

Your 2023 Institutions Committee

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