

AREA 31 WESTERN MASS INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 1391
HOLYOKE, MA 01041-1391
BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday September 6, 2023

19 members were in attendance.

Matt opened the meeting at 7:02 with serenity prayer

Introductions of the committee members;

Chair Matt, Secretary Urygen, Librarian JD, Jackie co-chair, John BDG, Liaison Carla, Treasurer Steve.

Institutions Committee Articles of Purpose

In agreement and cooperation with the Responsibility Pledge of Alcoholics Anonymous, the primary purpose of the Institutions Committee is to coordinate the work of the individual AA members and their groups who are interested in carrying the AA message of recovery to all alcoholics who might benefit from a meeting brought into their facility and to facilitate a means of Bridging the Gap from the institution to the larger AA community.

Reports

Secretary's Report- Urygen read September report, accepted

Treasurer's Report- Steve, accepted

Ending Balance from Prev. Month	\$2,300.00
Total donations	\$2,491.39
Expenses	\$77.00
End Balance w/ Reserves and expenses	\$4,714.39
Ending balance for book purchases	\$2,414.39
To Next Month	\$2,300.00

Bridging the Gap (BTG)- John

BTG is a program within this committee which tries to get people to their first meeting as they come out of their institution. You can sign up to volunteer to give someone a ride by scanning the QR code or signing up at the link John has.

Went to BTG Workshop in Houston Texas last month.

16 States, 3 cities in Canada, around 85 attendees

Very worthwhile that we had someone there representing our area.

John gives a lovely recap of the BTG conference

BTG is all over the country, and our area is now in the central database.

Interesting to see how different places do this work differently.

Librarian- JD

Bought and ordered 98 books
Spent \$2617.50

On hand- 1067 books

Prices of some books gone up; Big Book \$9.50 to \$12
Living Sober \$6.50 to \$7.50
Spanish Big Book \$10.50 to \$12.50

Cutting back to 4 Grapevine Books;
Fun in sobriety
AA for the beginner
One on One
No Matter What

Liaison- Carla

Letter of intent from July;
Bay State Franklin Medical Center Mental Health Unit; Tuesday at 6pm.
Accepted

Some confusion about Carlson Recovery Center and Unity South– these are 2 different institutions housed in the same building.

How often do we check if the database is accurate?

Liaison is supposed to check with people holding commitments, as well as with institutions. Asking for help is good! Liaison doesn't have to do this alone.

Attendance sheet at Committee meeting.

Berkshire Institutions suggestion; only 4 institutions– they made a liaison for each institution who reaches out to each commitment on a quarterly basis to confirm that meetings are still happening, and to see how they're going.

Reaching out to Dan to understand the database.

Meeting on Oct 20th 6pm in Northampton to discuss further, connect with Urygen or Carla for details.

If people reach out to liaison saying “contact this institution cuz they can use a

meeting”, that is not the liaisons responsibility. Ask the institution to reach out to the committee with a letter of intent.

Berkshire Institutions: Ilene

Get together with John about BTG.

Really appreciate the conversation about how to organize, we're struggling with that too. We have the same problem, institutions asking us to come and we don't have the people to go in. Difficult to deal with lack of commitments, but when we go... its always magic!

Invited Committee Reports**From the Area**

Fall assembly Oct 14 and 15, Saturday and Sunday
St Catherines Church Parkers St in Springfield
9-4 on Saturday Area Inventory, and Area Elections on Sunday. More info at area31aa.org

End Reports**Issues with Current Commitments**

None

New Institution Group Reps (IGRs)

Gina, Florence Eye Opener, Womens Prison Chicopee Commitment

Roll Outs

None

Roll Ins

Western Mass Regional Women's Correctional on 3rd Wednesday

Bonnie R, Holyoke Sober Sunday 7/14/22

Alternate Mary Pat K, Sober Sunday Holyoke, 7/6/22

Nominated and voted in

2nd and 4th Wednesday 7pm Mill St Springfield

John, 8/26/22, BYOBB and Park Allen Grp

Alternate Chris, 11/11/22 BYOBB

Nominated and voted in

Sunday night Stonybrook/Ludlow 7pm
 Evan B. 06/01/1987, Here and Now Wednesday nights
 Alternate Rudy G. 04/23/2008, Randall in Longmeadow
 Nominated and voted in

Old Business

None

New Business

Gina, new IGR from Florence Eye Opener
 Going to Women’s Correctional in Chicopee every Thursday. Sophie B is the liaison between the meeting and the volunteer coordinator at the jail. The group needs 20 As Bill Sees It’s. [JD says we have 8 available]. Ok! 8!

Steve Treasurer
 Motion to give JD \$2,414.39 for book purchases
 Seconded
 Passes unanimously

\$882 reimbursement to John for his travel expenses for the BTG conference, we’ve already voted on this so just to inform the committee, no action required

Motion to close @ 8:03

Closed with Responsibility Pledge

End minutes

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

Your 2023 Institutions Committee

Chair	Matt F.	phone: [redacted] email: [redacted]
Co-Chair	Jax M.	phone: [redacted] email: [redacted]
Secretary	Urgyen	phone: [redacted] email: instscribe@gmail.com

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]
Berkshire Institutions Chair	Hedley	phone: [redacted] email: berkshireainstitutions@gmail.com

Open Commitments

Institution	Address	Type of Facility	Day	Time
MissionCare at Holyoke	35 Holy Family Rd, Holyoke, MA 01040	Long term care, dual diagnosis, Compassionate Care provider for inmates of MA Dept. of Correction CO-ED	1st & 3rd Wednesdays or Thursdays	2 PM or 4:30 PM

MissionCare at Holyoke	35 Holy Family Rd, Holyoke, MA 01040	Long term care, dual diagnosis, Compassionate Care provider for inmates of MA Dept. of Correction CO-ED	2nd & 4th Wednesdays or Thursdays	2 PM or 4:30 PM
Franklin Recovery Center	298 Federal St, Greenfield	Women's Facility Detox & CSS	Every Monday	7:00 PM
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Franklin Recovery Center	298 Federal St, Greenfield	Women's Facility Detox & CSS	Every Sunday	7:00 PM
Highview of Northampton	Leeds, MA	Co-ED Nursing Home	Tuesday-Thursday	6:00 PM
CT Corrections	335 Bilton Road Somers, CT 06071	Men's prison Background checks required to enter Carla has more info on requirements for entry to the facility	1st & 3rd Thursday	Arrive for 6:15, meeting at 6:30

CT Corrections	335 Bilton Road Somers, CT 06071	Men's prison Background checks required to enter Carla has more info on requirements for entry to the facility	2nd & 4th Thursday	Arrive for 6:15, meeting at 6:30
Hairston House	25 Graves Ave, Northampton	Men's sober house Clients can leave to get to meetings	1st & 3rd Monday	7:00 PM
Hairston House	26 Graves Ave, Northampton	Men's sober house Clients can leave to get to meetings	1st & 3rd Tuesday	7:00 PM
Hairston House	25 Graves Ave, Northampton	Men's sober house Clients can leave to get to meetings	1st & 3rd Wednesday	7:00 PM
Hairston House	25 Graves Ave, Northampton	Men's sober house Clients can leave to get to meetings	1st & 3rd Thursday	7:00 PM
Hairston House	25 Graves Ave, Northampton	Men's sober house Clients can leave to get to meetings	1st & 3rd Friday	7:00 PM
Carlson Recovery Center	471 Chestnut St. Springfield	Co-ed Detox	Every Saturday	6:30 PM

Stonybrook (Ludlow Men's Section 35)		Men's section 35 unit CORI check must be done for every individual entering the building, contact Mike Harrigan at least 3 days before meeting to get speakers checked If bringing literature, leave with guard for Mike Harrigan "The commitment will rotate through all four units so that all of our clients get a meeting at least once a month."	Monda y	7:00 PM	Stonybrook (Ludlow Men's Section 35)		Men's section 35 unit CORI check must be done for every individual entering the building, contact Mike Harrigan at least 3 days before meeting to get speakers checked If bringing literature, leave with guard for Mike Harrigan "The commitment will rotate through all four units so that all of our clients get a meeting at least once a month."	Wedne sday	7:00 PM
Stonybrook (Ludlow Men's Section 35)		Men's section 35 unit CORI check must be done for every individual entering the building, contact Mike Harrigan at least 3 days before meeting to get speakers checked If bringing literature, leave with guard for Mike Harrigan "The commitment will rotate through all four units so that all of our clients get a meeting at least once a month."	Tuesda y	7:00 PM	Stonybrook (Ludlow Men's Section 35)		Men's section 35 unit CORI check must be done for every individual entering the building, contact Mike Harrigan at least 3 days before meeting to get speakers checked If bringing literature, leave with guard for Mike Harrigan "The commitment will rotate through all four units so that all of our clients get a meeting at least once a month."	Thursd ay	7:00 PM

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<p>Stonybrook (Ludlow Men's Section 35)</p>		<p>Men's section 35 unit</p> <p>CORI check must be done for every individual entering the building, contact Mike Harrigan at least 3 days before meeting to get speakers checked</p> <p>If bringing literature, leave with guard for Mike Harrigan</p> <p>"The commitment will rotate through all four units so that all of our clients get a meeting at least once a month."</p>	<p>Saturday</p>	<p>7:00 PM</p>