

Area 31 Meeting Minutes December 11, 2024
Called to order at 7:30 PM

Position	NAME	Jan	Feb	S/A	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	F/A	Nov	Dec
Area Delegate	Steve M.	Y	Y	Y	Y/Y	Y	Y/O	Y	Y	Y ₁	Y	Y ₁	Y ₁
Alt. Delegate	Ray M.	Y	Y	Y	Y/Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y ₂	YY	Y ₂	Y ₂
Area Chair ***	Bob M.	Y	Y	Y	Y/Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ₃	Y	Y ₃	Y ₃
Area Treasurer	Justin C.	Y	Y	Y	Y/Y	Y	Y/O	Y	Y	Y ₄	Y	Y ₄	Y ₄
Area Secretary	Kate V.	Y	Y	Y	Y/Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ₅	Y	Y ₅	Y ₅
Area Registrar	Sally	Y	Y	Y	Y/Y	Y	Y/O	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Area Archivist	Carl G.	Y	Y	Y	Y/3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
ACCESSIBILITIES CHAIR	Judy H.	Y	Y	Y	Y/O	Y/Y	Y/O	Y/O	Y/O	Y ₆	Y	Y ₆	Y ₆
CO - CHAIR	Jarrold L.	N	Y	Y	NO	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y ₇
ARCHIVES CHAIR	Chris K.	Y	Y	N	Y/Y	Y	Y/O	N	N	Y/O ₇	Y	N	Y ₈
CO - CHAIR	Joe L.	NONE	NON	Joe	N/y	N	N	N	N	N	?	N	N
Coop Pro Comm CHAIR	Bruce V.	Y	Y		Y/Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y/O ₈	Y	Y ₇	Y ₉
CO - CHAIR	Caren	Y	N		Y/Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y ₉	Y	N	Y ₁₀
GRAPEVINE CHAIR	Joe T.	NONE	N		N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ₁₀	Y	Y ₈	Y ₁₁
CO-CHAIR	Anisa	NONE	N		N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ₁₁	Y	N	Y ₁₂
PUBLIC INFO CHAIR	. Andrew-	Y	Y		N	N	Y	N	Y	ADAM Y/O ₁ 2	Y	Y ₉	Y ₁₃
CO-CHAIR	Adam B.	Y	Y		N	Y	Y	Y	Y/O	Non e	john?	N	N
WEBMASTER	Tom H.	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Assistant WebMaster	Jenn	N	Y		N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
W.Mass IGP CHAIR	Yolanda	Y	Y		Y/Y	Y	Y	N	Y/O	Y/O ₁ 3	Y	Y ₁₀	Y ₁₄
BERK IGP CHAIR	Courtney	N	Y		Y/O	Y	Y/O	Y/O	Y/O	Y ₁₄	Y	Y ₁₁	Y ₁₅
INSTITUTIONS CHAIR	Matt F.	Y	Y		Y/Y	Y	Y	Y	Y/O	Y ₁₅	Y	Y ₁₂	Y ₁₆

CO-CHAIR	Lena	N	N		N	N	N	N	N	N	?	N	N
ROUND UP CHAIR	Tom H.	N	Y		N	Y	Y	N	N	N	jackY	Y13	Y17
CO-CHAIR (Apr)	Sean D.	AS OF	APR		N	N	N	N	N	N	N	jILL14	Y18
WM YOUNG PEOPLE AA	Kaitlyn	Y	Y	Y	Y/Y	N	Y	Y	N	bRIAN Y16	JILLY	Y15	N
CO-CHAIR	NONE	N	N	S/A	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	F/A	Nov	Dec
District 1 DCM	Nick/Tony	N	Y	Y	N/T	Tony	Y	Y	Y	Y17	Y	Y16	Y19
District 1 Co - DCM	/Nick	Y	Y	Y	Y/Y	N	N	N	N	N	?	N	N
District 2 DCM	Janet	Y	Y	Y	Y/Y	Y	Y	Y	Y/O	Y18	Y	Y17	Y20
District 2 Co - DCM	Elaine	Y	Y	Y	Y/Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y19	Y	Y18	Y21
District 3 DCM	Brian W.	Y	Y	Y	Y/Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y19	Y22
District 3 Co - DCM		NONE									N	N	N
District 4 DCM	Dan	Y	Y	Y	Y/O	Y	Y	Y	Y/O	Y/O ₂ ₁		Y20	Y23
District 4 Co - DCM	Nancy	Y	Y	Y	Y/O	N	N	N	Y	Y22	Y	Y21	Y24
District 5 DCM	Lara	Y	Y	Y	Y/Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y23	Y	Y22	Y25
District 5 Co- DCM	Sharla	Y	Y	Y	Y/Y	Son N	N	N	N	N	Sonn y Y	N	N
District 6 DCM	Paula	N	Y	Y	Y/Y	Y	Y	Y/O	Y	Y/O ₂ ₄	Y	Y23	N
District 6 Co- DCM	Greg	Y	Y	Y	Y/O	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y24	Y26
QUORUM = 18	voting	25	26		22	23	25	21	24	24	38=6=4 44	24	26
**Chair only votes to break a tie													
Shaded folks do not vote.													

Secretary's Report

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

The Area's Committees made requests for the 2025 Operating expense amounts. (District 3 DCM Brian W. corrected my notes as his request was for \$750, not \$600).

Treasurer's Report (Dec. 11, 2024):

Beginning December Balance	\$ 9,187.30
Group Contributions	\$ 2,837.22
Total Area Expenses	\$ 2,363.43
Closing December Balance	\$ 9,661.09
Plus – Prudent Reserve	\$ 8,501.00
Total Funds Available	\$ 41,457.61 ,

Further Comments:

*Contributions in December 2024 increased by \$7.19 from contributions in December 2023

*There was a total of 35 donations made in December 2024 totaling \$2,837.22

*will be working from new budget worksheet in January

*expenses in December 2024 rose by 268.59 from expenses in December 2023

Expenses for December 2024

District 1 workshop	557.93(100 for rent balance for food) *
Grapevine workshop	213.21 (100 for rent balance for food)
NERD	132.00
Rent Area	800.00
Comcast	114.37
Delegate	98.70
Printing	15.45
NERASSA	35.00
Rents (districts)	150.00
Insurance	202.00

Thank you for supporting AREA 31 Western Mass General Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin C.Area Treasurer

Registrar's Report (Dec. 11, 2024).

NUMBERS: Holding steady at 300 registered active groups, plus 2 groups that are categorized as “pending active,” and 2 other groups in process.

DCMs and Co-DCMs: Send contact info to me, please. Forms are on the table and on the website. Remember that DCMs have read-only access to Fellowship Connection.

FROM GSO: GSO scheduled a “quarterly sharing session” for Registrars for early December, but the date didn’t work out, so it will be rescheduled for spring. A new project: registrars are receiving lists of GSRs, mail contacts, and other trusted servants whose terms are expiring. I have a list of 18 groups with GSRs expiring on January 1—will give lists to the DCMs.

Sally R.

Registrar Area 31

Archivist's Report: (12/11/24)

Webmaster: (12/11/24) There have been no major changes to the website in the last two months. I continue to receive event flyers, and I have been getting those posted as quickly as I can, and taken down shortly after the event date has passed. Thank you for continuing to use the website to communicate your events.

Before the end of the year, it is my intention to get our domain transferred over to Bluehost. There will be a small cost to doing this – almost certainly under \$50.

If you are rolling out, please check the area website's collection of minutes for your committee to see if any are missing. We have very few or no collected minutes for Districts 1 & 5, for Accessibilities, CPC, PI, Western MA Intergroup, Berkshire Intergroup. The other committees may be missing only one or two.

Tom H Webmaster

Accessibilities: (Dec 10, 2024)

Third Wednesday 5:30-6:30 in home meeting

Third Wednesday 7:30-8:30 incoming group at Care One in Holyoke

Third Thursday 6-7 at Linda Manor in Leeds

Last Sunday 1:30-2:30 at Chestnut Hill in East Longmeadow

Adding Friday night meeting at Cedar Hill in Ware, Accessibility chair visiting 12/13 to schedule with their Activities Director (who is one of us!)

Thank you's:

- Area 30 Accessibility Committee (Teresa, Marc, Bobby)
- Speakers at Convention 'Overcoming Obstacles' (Alice, Dian, Bobby)
- Area 31 Committees, Chairs, Delegates, Secretaries

New Business:

Current Accessibility Chair/Co-Chair accepted suggestion in continuing service through March (as this would be the end of chair commitment year)

Plan to purchase BB & 12&12 books for meetings in Leeds & Ware

Looking to find area members who are available to provide rides to & from meetings (we've gotten 3 requests)

Welcome to members who are interested in attending the monthly Accessibility Committee the FOURTH Wednesday at 7pm 30 Carew St. South Hadley or online at area31aa.org

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in Area 31 Service!!!

Judy Hubeny, Chair Accessibilities

Archives (Dec. 8, 2024)

Welcomed new members and talked about our meetings to help out the new Chair and co-chair. We had a discussion about the Listening Party.

CPC (Dec 10, 2024)

There were 8 members in attendance. We had a workshop at the Elms Nursing School

There is a national Zoom meeting with Springfield college

This year we had 15 commitments. Next year there should be more. I announce the need for help (groups should send a rep) at all the meetings I go to. It was a lot of fun being chair of such a vital committee.

Bruce V. Chair

GrapeVine/LaVina (Nov. 2024)

Grapevine boards requested for the Haydenville group anniversary. Podcast listening party discussed. Committee members will listen to the podcast and select episodes to be voted on at our next meeting.

We need to find locations for future events in District 1, 2, 3, and 5, for our next event.

Reminder that our committee is still small and we could use support from groups throughout the area. As we grow we will be able to form subcommittees pertaining to all the wonderful events we hold, and further develop the expressive ways the Grapevine enables us to carry our message! There are many wonderful ideas that can be gleaned from attending Grapevine related events at conferences, and from reaching out to other areas or past committee members.

Joe I Chair

PI (Dec 10, 2024) Adam chaired our meeting 10 people in person 5 online. New Reps.

Talked about getting some of our commitments back from Institutions .

Adam Chair

Round-Up: (Dec. 11, 2024) This years theme Working together Building Trust June 6,7,8 Holiday Inn Pittsfield MA there will be a banquet and a dance. Every Committee, District will have a job to do or a workshop to run.

Registration is to open in January. Next meeting is Jan 8. Right before this meeting.

Anyone that has been involved in previous round Ups we need anything

Berkshire Intergroup: (Dec 10,2024)

Alkathon Dec24 5pm through 4pm Christmas Day at St Charles Church.on Briggs Ave in Pittsfield.Next committee meeting for the Alkathon will be Dec. 20 at 5pm.where we will fill the last few slots.

There were two bookies exchanges.It was voted that these bookie meetings will start at 6:30, right before the business meeting as most groups show up around that time. Elections resulted in our new Secretary. We are still seeking volunteers for Co Chair and Treasurer.

Institutions: (Dec 4, 2024)

There were 19 people in attendance. Elections rolled over to Dec so the new officers are Chair Lena, Co-Chair JD, Secretary Scott. Still NEED: Librarian, Bridging the Gap, and Liaison. Old Business: above positions still open. New Business \$1091.10 for books (passed) If your group is not donating according to the pie chart, please go back and find out why..Please donate according to the pie chart. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Institutions Chair.

Matt

West. MA Intergroup :(Dec. 12, 2024)

Alkathon St. Paul's church 6pm Christmas Eve through 6pm Christmas Day. all slots were filled.

Yolanda, Lindsey, Jim K., Pete

Secretary's Report (Lindsey):Kerry took notes during last meeting, but is ABSENT

Office report (Joy): ABSENT

Events (Yolanda for Kerry):

Christmas alkathon was a great success, rarely empty. Springfield Food Pantry donated pot roast dinner for the event.

Treasurer (Mike):ABSENT

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Need to vote for a new treasurer, Mike has to step down--he is willing to help train someone.
- Need a new bookie coordinator as well
Yolanda will reach out to Bob M/Joy to find term requirements
- In the New Year, Duane (Berkshire intergroup) will be new chair, and wants to put on an intergroup fellowship workshop with bookie and intergroup reps--will probably be in Westfield, to help Berkshire build up their intergroup participation.
- Possibly--Valentines' Day Dance--sober event for the community
- We need to have more participation by the reps/steering committee at our events.

The next WMIG meeting will be on Thursday 1/9/25 at 7:00 pm

The next Bookie Meeting will be on Thursday 1/9/25 at 6:00 pm

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be on Thursday 1/30/25

Yolanda, Chair

West MA Young People AA (WMYPAA)

We are hosting MSCYPAA (Mass State Convention for Young People in AA) It is August 15-17 2025 at The Marriott (Downtown Springfield) You can pre register now for \$20 until December 15 then it will go up to \$25. You can register at MSCYPAA.com Our biz meeting is the first Sunday of the month at the Serenity Club in Springfield. At 4pm we were holding a Traditions meeting using Grapevine material. However, that is not conference approved literature so ***we will now be holding an AA Comes of Age meeting at 4pm and our biz meeting to follow at 5PM. We are hybrid.*** You can find all our info at area31aa.org. The link is under the calendar. Come check us out!! You don't have to be young to be a part of this. Just young at heart and have room to grow spiritually and emotionally.

We will be holding events throughout the year and we have some good ones coming up. December 21st at 6PM (meeting) is our ugly sweater party. There will be karaoke, a contest for the ugliest sweater, and raffles for last minute gift ideas(Pizza).Being held at OmniPoint Internet Cafe in downtown Springfield.

In January come learn your YPAA games! January 19th at 2PM (meeting) Pasta meatballs garlic bread. There will be a rotation of games like..Secret Hitler, Mafia, Love thy Neighbor, Therapist , and Paranoia. We will kick off a raffle for a room and 2 pre registrations for MSCYPAA. Tickets are 5\$ each. Being held at The Alano Club in Agawam. * flyers are on the back table for both.

WMYPAA is in the middle of coming up with a new image for merch but in the interim we have a limited number of Strangely Insane t shirts (with Bill W) and a new limited edition shirt coming out for a limited time. Get them while they last. \$20 each. Again, you can find all our information on area31aa.org
Jill F. Co-Chair

District 1 (Dec. 11, 2024)

Tony is rolling out and Carol L will roll in as the new DCM for District 1. We are holding a Workshop. Dec. 14, 2-5pm at the Holy Name Social Center. Several types of grinders will be served with sodas, for dessert, we will have candy, cookies and cake along with coffee. Thank you for allowing me to serve as DCM. In my tenure we have focused primarily on getting groups to send their GSR to the District meeting. We have had limited success in that endeavor, but I have learned a great deal just being a member of the Area committee.
Respectfully Submitted,
Tony

District 2: (Dec 9, 2024)

District 2 met at 7:30 p.m. on Monday December 9, 2024. There were 16 total in attendance including one guest. Alan read Concept 12. All groups are doing well and contributing to the pie chart. Most groups report steady or increasing attendance.

Joy of Living celebrated a 40+ year anniversary in November. Feeding Hills Step group celebrated their anniversary in November. Sober Sunday has had to take out occupancy insurance. Scrambled Eggs - the elevator still isn't working at Miravista, the meeting is on the 3rd floor. A New Freedom group will hold their weekly meeting on Christmas day at 6:00 pm directly following the Alcathon and in the same location. Effectively offering a 25 hour Alcathon.

We had a summary of the November Area Meeting. We reviewed upcoming events including Christmas Alcathon. NERASSA, NERF and the Concepts meeting. Our Area Delegate Steve attended. He clarified the nomination process for the Trustee at Large US. He announced the availability of the Area to do group incoming service commitments. We closed at 8:45 p.m. Elaine has obtained a district church key for the Agawam Congregational.
Elaine H. DCM

District 3: (Dec. 11, 2024)

District 3 met for its monthly meeting on Friday, November 15, 2024 at 7pm: 17 present, 7 in person, 10 on Zoom. One new GSR from the Sober at Sunrise In-Person meeting attended;. Elections were held for DCM, co-DCM, Secretary, and chair of the **monthly virtual tradition meeting**; Kathy M was elected Secretary; no one stood for DCM, co-DCM.

The DCM will roll out into the chair role with past DCM as a co-Chair for next year, the day and time of the meeting will be changing for 2025.

Yours in Service, Brian W (he/him)

District 4: (Nov. 13, 2024) Election results: Nancy P. will be DCM There is no Co DCM as yet stepping up.

Next meeting ?

District 5: (Dec 2, 2024)

District 5 met on Monday, December 2nd, at 7pm at 30 Carew St. in South Hadley and online. There were 12 GSRs and 2 Alternate GSRs in attendance in person, and 5 GSRs online.

Ray M., Area 31 Alternate Delegate was our invited guest from the Area, and Yolanda, the Western Mass Intergroup Chairperson visited us and discussed what they do and how they carry the message.

Belchertown Saturday Night will celebrate their anniversary on December 14th. Lost and Found in Chicopee will celebrate their anniversary on January 23rd. They are interested in having the Grapevine and/or Archives boards there.

District 5 held elections this month. Chris K. from Belchertown Saturday Night was elected DCM, Darcy from Friday Night Wilbraham was elected Co-DCM, and Justine from South Hadley Friday Night was elected Secretary. Justine is the webhost for District 5 though, so Chris B. volunteered to be the Alternate Secretary if needed.

I want to thank Area 31 and District 5 for allowing me to serve as DCM this year.

Lara A., District 5 DCM

District 6: (Nov. 13, 2024)

3 zoom attendees, 7 in person attendees

Motion to start next month's meeting electing a secretary so that the notes can be taken for the meeting.

GSR Reports:

Dan-Path to Recovery Wednesday big book meeting. Approx 20 ppl a week. No problems. Best meeting around.

Pat-East Mtn Group-meetings going well. Good crowds 50-65 people. Some group members are going through some serious personal problems. Struggling a bit filling service positions but keeping our heads above water.

Brendan-Southwick Sunday Big Book group. It is going well. Attendance good, steady flow. No issues or problems.

Cody-Tuesday Night Suffield Men's Group-The group is healthy and no concerns 20 regular attendance and 35 group members..

Pat-East Mtn Group-meetings going well. Good crowds 50-65 people. Some group members are going through some serious personal problems. Struggling a bit filling service positions but keeping our heads above water

Judy-Hand of Hope meets at 10:00 Saturday at United Methodist Church in Enfield, CT. Good attendance. Attracting new people. All is going well.

Jarod-Enfield Young Peoples meeting at the Methodist Church in Enfield, CT.

Attendance is good. All is well. On New Year's Eve they are hosting a dance. The alcathon meeting and potluck starts about 5 until midnight.

Jeannette-Enfield Women's Group on Tuesday nights. Going well 25-30 women every week. Solid meeting. They have 2 speakers twice a month then traditions and a step meeting. Speaker meetings seem to be better attended.

Paula-DCM rolled out, turned DCM over to Greg. Intergroup is now open Tuesday's. Mon-Fri 9-1. Alanooner meeting in Agawam is looking for support. Ugly sweater party Dec 21st 6-10 at Omni Point Internet Café in Springfield.

Alkathon Dec 24th 6:00 pm-Dec 25th 6:00pm at 30 Carew St South Hadley, MA.

Paula thanks everyone for letting her serve as DCM.

Delegate's Remarks: (Dec.. 11, 2024)

The General Service Conference has already begun preliminary meetings online.

On the 2nd wed of the month, there is a national service meeting online

NERASSA (online only) registration is open.

The International Convention is being held July 4-6th in BrCol. Anybody who is going Steve can turn their name into Patrick as potential speakers. There are 800 meetings.

NERF GSO Road show. 2025 Omni in Providence RI Dec 2025 Every two years a different area hosts it. There is no fee to attend. It's a fun time.

Alternate Delegate's Remarks:(12/11/24)

Greetings fellow Trudgers! The month of November has been action packed with visiting various committee and district meetings. As we get ready to move into 2025, I am preparing to start providing the GSR Presentations at the Districts. Also, possible planning of a separate get-together for current, past & incoming GSR's to share ideas to help strengthen the link between GSO & The Home Group.

It won't be long before the agenda items are released, so we can start planning the next Spring Assembly/Mini-Conference. I will make sure to provide the information as soon as Steve has it available. The Mass State convention will begin its planning next month, January 28th, 2025, as we meet on the last Tuesday of every odd month up to the October stuffing party. Next Convention November 14, 15 & 16, 2024. I am your humble carpool provider. If you would like a ride up, I will be leaving the parking lot of the BOWLERO (end of Rt. 291) at 5:30pm.

As usual, Contact Bob, our hard-working Area Chair for group inventories & area committee outgoing speaking commitments. Also, don't forget to join us for the Concept meeting on the first Thursday of each month.. Thank you for keeping me sober and allowing me to serve as your Alt. Delegate...Ray Meunier

Area Chair's Remarks: (Dec 11, 2024)

Bob just wants to congratulate all the committees for all the great work they have done in 2024 and looks forward to helping out committees more in his second year as Area chair.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS Budget Business

Justin will describe the options with estimated \$30,000 income

Budget #1 Level funding except people asked for more. (Brian W. has requested \$750 for District 3.)

Budget #2 more Frugal only Steve Ray and Bob will be covered for NERASSA, NERF, and INT

Conv. Ray wanted to refuse his International Convention Money. Steve disagreed he should take the money as it is mentioned in our Area Handbook that our area will pay for it. No vote required.

1. Budget #3 10% increase 12,000 in the red. 42000 !8 Y 1 N Kate spoke to the minority opinion. Did not sway anyone's vote.
2. Grapevine Chair brought a motion to purchase 2 subscriptions of Grapevine. This has been going on for years. It doesn't require a vote. The area committee pays for it and Joe withdraws the motion.
3. Anisa is asking for better communication for the GSR to explain our financials to their groups. Brian said as a DCM, it is his responsibility to explain it to their GSR.
4. Carl has Margaret C stuff and has come up with a great deal of things that belong in the GSO. It is from when she was a Trustee, not in our area. He has made the decision to send it on to the GSO. We all agree with Carl.
5. Steve made a motion to have all the Secretary and Treasurer reports sent out ahead of time to all members of the committee, including the Webmaster who can post them, so that if we are all voting on things at the meeting, we will all have had time to read them. yes 3 10 N Greg R. asked to Table the motion 10 No 7 Y
Discussion ensued about the issue and finally a vote unanimously approved Steve's motion.

Next Area meeting will be on December 11th at 730pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate V.

Area 31 Secretary, Western Mass General Service