

January 14, 2026  
Area 31 Business Meeting Minutes  
Call to order at 7:30 PM



District 3 DCM	Michael K.	Y											
District 3 Co - DCM	Kate A.	N											
District 4 DCM	James C.	Y											
District 4 Co - DCM	Patrick O.	Y											
District 5 DCM	Jim K.	Y											
District 5 Co- DCM	Sean C.	Y											
District 6 DCM	Pat L.	Y											
District 6 Co- DCM	Brendan M	Y											
QUORUM = 18	voting	26											
*Area Chair only votes to break a tie													

**Secretary's Report**

**Old Business:** Budget was approved in December.

**New Business:** Change Assistant Webmaster position to include Tech Host.

**Treasurer's Report**

Beginning December 2025 Balance	\$1,318.24
Group Contributions	\$ 2,969.36
Total Area Expenses	\$ 3,009.12
Closing December 2025 Balance	\$ 1,278.48
Plus – Prudent Reserve	\$ 8,501.00
Total Funds Available	\$ 9,779.48

Further Comments:

\*See Treasurer's spreadsheet for more detail

Thank you for supporting Area 31 Western Mass General Services.

Respectfully submitted,  
Justin C./Kate V.  
Area 31 Treasurer

**Registrar's Report**

The Registrar maintains and updates records of groups, GSRs, and DCMs and Co-DCMs. These records are based at the General Service Office in New York, in a Netsuite database called Fellowship Connection. DCMs and the Area Delegate have read-only access to Fellowship Connection.

DCMs: There are packets for you on the table with:

- 2 copies of the list of groups in your district
- A list of GSRs and Alt GSRs (in all districts) whose terms expired on January 1, 2026. I'll say more about expired terms in future reports, but the main thing for now is that GSO is

trying to keep active groups from becoming inactive simply because they don't have a current GSR.

- And a bunch of Group Change Forms for updating GSR information. That form is also on the Area website, down at the bottom of the home page under Registrar. An email or note is fine too, with the GSR's name and contact info. Email to [registrar@area31aa.org](mailto:registrar@area31aa.org)

I'm happy to visit District Meetings. Reminder that meetings and groups are two different things. Meeting time and location changes go to Intergroup. Group changes go to the Registrar. Bob and I trade information to help keep our records accurate, but we are still two different operations.

And last, your monthly update on numbers:

Area 31 has 302 registered active groups (290 regular and 12 virtual). Plus one pending: Full and Open Hearts, in Sheffield (District 3).

The 302 number includes 4 Spanish language groups (3 in District 1, and 1 in District 2)

Our 6 districts range in size from 29 groups in D1 to 69 groups in D4, with an average of 50.

Thank you for letting me serve.

Sally R.

Registrar

### **Archivist's Report**

Welcome new Area Committee members. I received a group history from the Wilbraham Group. Please provide paper copies of your committee or district minutes for the Archives. You can hand them to me on a monthly basis or collect them in the folders I've provided and give them to me at the end of the year. Remember to send them to the Webmaster also – there has been much improvement in the last couple of years! Please put full dates on documents.

Carl G.

Area 31 Archivist

### **Webmaster**

Password Resets – If you are new and don't have access to your email, please email me at [webmaster@area31aa.org](mailto:webmaster@area31aa.org). I can provide you with a temporary password. Please include a cell phone number I can text the password to, so that all the information isn't in a single email.

Mail Clients – Area email can also be accessed via a mail client apps like Outlook, Gmail, or iPhone's Mail App. If you'd like information or assistance in setting that up, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Please get familiar with your committee's page on the area website. Please review everything for accuracy and, above all, share your ideas on how the website can better serve your committee.

Welcome Eric, as the Assistant Webmaster!

Thank you for letting me serve!

Tom H.

Webmaster

## **Accessibility**

The purpose of this committee is to diminish or eliminate barriers that prevent anyone from participating in any aspect of A.A. in Area 31. The committee provides information and coordinates services for alcoholics who otherwise would be unable to participate in meetings, groups, or service work because of a disability, difficulty accessing A.A. meeting places, or because of a need for special assistance with communication.

Standing Commitments: 17 meetings every month

Mark D.

Accessibility Chair

## **Archives**

Collects and stores items of significance to the history of A.A. The committee arranges to record the stories of 'old-timers' to preserve the oral history of A.A. The Archives boards are a visual presentation of A.A.'s early history, as well as the history of A.A. in Area 31, Western Massachusetts. The Archives display boards are available for A.A. functions such as, Group Anniversaries, Area Assemblies, or various conventions, etc. If you would like to schedule the Archives Boards for an A.A. event, please email [archives@area31aa.org](mailto:archives@area31aa.org)

The committee met on 1/6/26 at 7:30pm. There were 10 groups represented. The Archives Chair handed out Archives Rep. kits to committee members. Area 31 Archivist, Carl, explained to the committee the function of the Archivist, and he offered to give members a tour of the boards and archived materials. He explained that the materials (including recordings) can be used by any A.A. member to research and document group histories. He suggested that committee members review the presentation boards' contents and history. He also continues to catalog existing material and hopes to have it categorized on the area website in the future. Ray M., Area Delegate, discussed upcoming events and said expenses have risen while contributions have declined.

**Old Business:** The committee budget was approved but slightly lower than last year.

**New Business:** There are approx. 300 groups in Area 31, but many don't have their history archived. Discuss how to collect new group histories this year to help preserve area A.A. group history and set a specific targeted goal. There are currently 80 group histories in the Area 31 Archives. Group history forms are available in paper form and a fillable form on the Area 31 website. Anonymity, as it pertains to the use of the Archives boards and other material: should we place a statement on the boards that the use of photography is prohibited and recording is not permitted? A suggestion was made that the promotion of archive recordings be used at group meetings to share A.A. area history and collection of area history.

Request for Archive Boards: I Opener Group (Florence), for their 36th anniversary celebration on Sunday January 18th @ 7am. Judy H. will supply the boards.

Rick W.

Archives Chair

## **CPC**

CPC met on Jan. 13, 2026 at 6:30pm at 30 Carew St., S. Hadley and virtually. We had 12 persons in attendance, 8 virtually and 4 in person. Some members were new or returning members. CPC had no commitments in December 2025, and we did not receive any new contacts or student requests to attend an open meeting, but colleges were on break and therefore it was no surprise. CPC assessed the damage that Caren had reported about the boards. She found them damaged when she took them to the MA. State Convention in

November. They may only need repair and not replacement. Caren helped Greg facilitate the meeting since the Chair, Sam, was absent due to illness. She tried to get everyone new, or just coming back, caught up with what CPC accomplished last year and where we still have work to continue. Last month, the committee requested a presentation from Tania, the CPC Liaison, on what she learned and experienced at the International Convention and NERF. She gave the report which highlighted some functions that the CPC desk at GSO performs that many of us were unaware of before. She also mentioned the CPC meetings at the International Convention and the many professionals who were there to give presentations on their experience with CPC. The presentation was detailed and very informative. CPC has not yet filled the secretary role, Janet has agreed to cover next month if necessary. Anyone interested in being of service in this capacity may attend CPC's next meeting at 6:30pm on Feb. 10, 2026 or contact the CPC Chair at [cpc@area31aa.org](mailto:cpc@area31aa.org).

Greg R.  
CPC Co-Chair

### **Grapevine/LaViña**

The committee met on January 6, 2026 at 6:30pm. There were 7 groups represented. New Grapevine reps were encouraged to check GV/LV website at [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org) or the app for the following information: Editorial Calendar; submit jokes, stories, photos, cartoons, captions; and Rep Resources with lots of helpful informational materials about what to do in GV/LV Rep service position.

Old Business- None

Budget: Joe requested \$600 in light of decreased contributions and increased cost to the area. The breakdown to \$150 earmarked for events every 3 months. Or \$200 every 4 months. Committee may pass a basket at events to offset cost of food.

We need your sober networks! We are always looking for local A.A. members who have contributed to the Grapevine to share for 20 minutes at our Creators Retreats. Please send any suggestions to the chair and co-chair.

The Committee can always request positions at local and state conventions, MSCYPAA, Round Up, State Convention) to put on events. Individual reps may stand to be a liaison to help coordinate GV/LV Committee events at conventions.

Carl H.  
Grapevine/LaViña Chair

### **PI**

Works closely with A.A. volunteers to instruct them how to effectively carry the message to the general public. Using the A.A. guidelines on P.I., and training gained from attending monthly PI meetings, the A.A. member may then be scheduled to speak to the public. This includes schools/students, senior citizens, church groups, alcohol education programs, parent groups, health fairs, radio shows. Scout troops, DWI schools, or anywhere we are asked to come to explain what A.A. is, does, and doesn't do. The PI Committee also helps provide literature and pamphlets to libraries and visitor's centers and public service announcements to local TV and radio stations. Like all of A.A., the primary purpose of members involved with public information service is to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Working together, members of local PI committees convey A.A. information to the general public, including the media.

The committee met on 1/13/26 at 7:30pm at 30 Carew St., South Hadley and online. There were 10 committee members and Justin, the Area Chair, was present. Contact information was provided by all new group representatives. Natalie volunteered to be secretary. Last year's accomplishments were discussed: radio show and business cards, and how they can be included in this year's agenda. PI Committee Chair doesn't have information on the radio station that was used by the committee last year - will reach out to WARE instead. Discussed creating a script to use on commitments and using *Speaking at non-A.A. Meetings* pamphlet. Committee members were asked to each seek one new contact to come back to next month's meeting with. Focus on getting commitments at schools, contacting principals and guidance counsellors. Some PI literature is obsolete – Adam will be going through and updating. Possible workshop by September.

Bruce V.  
Public Information Chair

### **Round-Up**

Round Up committee met on 1/14/26 at 6pm, right before the Area meeting, at 30 Carew St., South Hadley and online. Round Up will be a 2-day event, on May 29 & 30, at Wesley United Methodist Church at 98 North Maple St., Hadley. Friday night will be a potluck, with Buy 1 Get 1 Free registration with each food contribution. The districts will be asked to provide Hospitality. Hours will be: Friday 5:30pm - 9:30pm and Saturday 8am – 9:30pm. Lunch and dinner on Saturday will be catered with finger foods.

Jill F.  
Round-Up Chair

### **Berkshire Intergroup**

There was one bookie exchange this month. We are averaging around 9 reps who attend. We are financially doing well. The office is always looking for volunteers. We had a steering committee meeting last week. The Alcatraz was a good turnout, well attended with an average around 75 people. We voted on three events to be brought back to groups, and we will form an ad hoc committee next month.

Dwayne M.  
Berkshire Intergroup Chair

### **Institutions**

The purpose of the Institutions committee is to bring a meeting into Institutions where otherwise the message of A.A. would not be available. We are able to do this by group reps either coming in and taking a group commitment or “rolling in” as a personal commitment as long as they have a cosponsor. Then we supply them with literature to bring into their commitment. We purchase the literature through Intergroup with contributions from groups in Area 31.

- 14 groups were represented at the December meeting
- 148 books were distributed
- 18 commitments received books in December

- 31 groups made contributions to Institutions in January
- 92 books more than last month.

Bridging the gap has new business cards that have a QR code on the back. One is for the A.A. member to sign up to volunteer to bring someone to a meeting after they exit an institution, and the other one is for the client to sign up.

Jason S.  
Institutions Librarian

### **Western Mass Intergroup**

Western Mass Intergroup is a body made up of representatives from all A.A. groups in Area 31. It has met on a monthly basis since it was established in 1953. Each A.A. group elects, annually, one of its members (one year of sobriety recommended) to serve as its representative on this important committee, and an alternate to regularly attend its meetings (one year of sobriety recommended). Its main responsibilities are to: Coordinate A.A. activities among its various groups and help weaker groups in anyway possible, Maintain 24-hour A.A. telephone coverage, Publish regularly updated schedules of group meetings in the area, Provide a program which will promote regular visits between groups, Provide an inventory of A.A. Literature for the convenience of local groups and committees in an office which also serves as a communication and information center, And, to act upon any suggestions by any group, through its representatives, that would be of potential benefit to our area, At no time is Western Mass Intergroup interested in running the affairs of any A.A. member groups.

We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7pm. We have a Bookie meeting at 6:30pm, prior to the Intergroup meeting. Intergroup reps take weekly time slots for phone coverage. Meeting attendance this month was about 25 people, in person and virtual. There was no Treasurer's report this month, but we have a Treasurer now after the position was vacant for a number of months.

Intergroup Office new hours: Monday & Tuesday 9am – 3pm and Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9am – 1pm. New When & Wheres are out but don't have the new hours on them. The Steering Committee meets the last Thursday of the month. The GSO bus trip is Friday, April 10, leaving MiraVista parking lot at 5am, \$75 per person. Our next meeting will be February 2, 2026.

Matt F.  
Western Mass. Intergroup Chair

### **Western Mass Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (WMYPAA)**

Western Massachusetts Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous is an A.A. committee comprised of individuals who combine their experience, strength and hope in order to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. All alcoholics are welcome and encouraged to participate, enhance their sobriety, and to be of service to Area 31. WMYPAA's primary goals are derived from A.A.'s three legacies.

We strive to:

- a. Support young alcoholics in their recovery.
- b. Promote unity among alcoholics of all ages.
- c. Encourage young members of A.A. to participate in A.A.'s General Service Structure.

WMYPAA business meeting is the first Sunday of the month at 5pm at the Serenity Club in Springfield and online. We serve a hot meal at our business meeting. We have a meeting at 4pm before the business meeting, where we read *A.A. Comes of Age*.

We have open positions available.

We will have a Pancake Brunch on Sunday 3/15 at the Alano Club in Agawam from 11:30am – 3pm. Cost is \$5.

John S.  
WMYPAA Chair

### **District 1**

District 1 meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at Sacred Heart Church, 35 Everett St., Springfield MA and online. Previous DCM Hard Act to follow. The past year I polished the seats with my Butt. (I hope I get laughs). But I don't do windows!

Carol L. rolled out of DCM and was elected Co-DCM. A secretary was elected but had to step down, so we are looking for a new secretary.

In Attendance: Bob M. Alternate Delegate, 3 GSRs in person Plus one on Zoom.

Groups have reported contributions to the Pie. Air of anticipation and enthusiasm of the coming year.

As of last District meeting, many group elections were not held.

Karen K., District 1 DCM

### **District 2**

District 2 met on 1/12/26 at 7:30pm at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam, MA and online. There were 13 GSRs present - 2 new, and 1 new Alternate GSR.

We had to build from the ground up with technology for the zoom portion of the meeting. We got a new microphone. We were missing one cord but Ray M., the Delegate, provided us with one. We're all set now.

Bob M., the Alternate Delegate, visited and gave the GSR presentation.

We discussed NERAASA.

Most groups are doing well. Hand In Hand Group ended their two speaker meeting and are hosting their beginners meeting only from 6-7pm on Sundays at Grace Lutheran Church, 1552 Westfield St. in West Springfield MA.

Workshop ideas: Traditions

Thank you!

Tamara R.

District 2 DCM

### **District 3**

Meets Friday 1/16 at 7pm in the Old Lee Court House, 32 Main St., Lee MA, and online. Kate is the co-DCM and Madison is the Secretary. Our strong hope is to focus the work of the District on meeting the needs of groups, and on boosting efforts to reach the newcomer and effectively carry out our primary purpose. We also would like to set up a WhatsApp group for easy communication, group support and event reminders.

New *Plain Language Big Book* meeting pending: Full and Open Hearts in Sheffield.

Michael K., District 3 DCM

#### **District 4**

District 4 meets on the third Tuesday of the month, virtually. There were 8 GSRs present on 12/16/25. Nancy P. rolled out as DCM. James C. rolled in as DCM. Patrick O. rolled in as Co-DCM. Richard W. from the Sunderland Security Group was elected Secretary. At the next District 4 meeting, we will discuss whether or not to elect an LCM.

2 GSRs brought up issues that had occurred at their respective homegroups. Positive discussion and helpful feedback were provided by those in attendance.

GSRs were reminded that they can request a group inventory for their groups.

James C.  
District 4 DCM

#### **District 5**

District 5 met on Monday 1/5/26 at 7pm at 30 Carew St., South Hadley MA, and online. There were 8 GSRs in attendance, 2 rolling out and 3 rolling in. Sean C. from Cold Spring Group was elected Co-DCM, Alicia from Lost and Found Group was elected Secretary, and Jen S. from South Hadley Sunday Night Women's Group was elected Webhost. Justin C., Area Chair, was present and gave a report from the Area. Bob M., Alternate Delegate, gave the GSR presentation. Lara A., Area Secretary, webhosted and will attend next month's meeting to train Jen S. Several groups reported that they contributed to the pie and that they held elections for new service positions. One group brought up a concern from their group about an individual they were having an issue with. They referred to the Yellow Card for direction on going forward to handle the situation. They reported that they haven't had an issue with the individual since. Came to Believe Group in Thorndike will celebrate their 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Monday, 2/2/26 with a potluck and 50/50 raffle at 6:30pm and 2 speakers at 7:30pm.

Jim K.  
District 5 DCM

#### **District 6**

District 6 meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at the Daily Grind at 568 College Hwy. in Southwick MA and online at 7pm. We last met on 12/15/25. 6 GSRs attended along with the Secretary Bonnie and incoming Area Chair Justin, who shared upcoming events. The 3 Area budgets were discussed. District 6 will host the Spring Assembly. Our next district meeting is 1/19/26. Our Co-DCM is Brendan M. Thank you to the outgoing DCM Greg R.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat L.  
District 6 DCM

#### **Delegate's Remarks**

Greetings, As a recent incoming delegate, the information flood feels like drinking from a fire hose. But I love the flavor of the drink. Thank You for your confidence in electing me to this position. I am excited to represent the area at the next two conferences. Over the past few months, I have continued to visit the committees and districts as the area visitor. It is very cool and exciting to see the new chairs and co-chairs roll into their roles. My best advice is to serve with your heart open and the willingness to learn and grow spiritually. I recently attended NECYPAA in Manchester NH, it was an amazing experience. Next up for me is NERAASA in February, NERD in March, Spring Assembly in April & Then the big week in NYC at the General

Service conference April 26th to May 2nd. Then after that the Great Area 31 Round up at the end of May. Please join us on the first Thursday every month for the very informative "What A Concept" meeting. It will absolutely help you in your journey in service. The committee I was assigned to is the Grapevine committee. I have learned more in 1 month than I have the past 10 and see Love and Service come to life through these great people I have met at the world service level. If anyone, anywhere has ANY questions or comments for me, please reach out, I am here to serve, and absolutely will get back to you ASAP.

Workshop ideas: Robert's Rules of Order; How to form a Proposed Agenda Item

Service Gladly Rendered,  
Ray M.  
Area 31 Panel 76 Delegate

### **Alternate Delegate's Remarks**

Hello Committee, I'm Bob and I'm an alcoholic. I'd like to say thank you for putting your trust in me. I won't let you down. I've been progressing with the GSR presentation. As of today, Districts 2 and 5 are done. I have scheduled District 1 this Thursday, tomorrow 1/15. District 3 this Friday 1/16. District 6 on Monday 1/19, and District 4 on Tuesday 1/20. If these dates aren't good for you, just let me know. I would like to get as many GSRs as possible, so if you're in those districts, can you bring back those dates to your group and maybe give your GSR a little nudge?

**NERAASA:** February 19-22, 2026 at Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine  
The Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly is for any/all members, including GSRs, DCMs, Area Committee Members and Intergroup/Central Office Representatives of the Northeast Region to discuss General Service Conference related issues and concerns affecting A.A., as well as pertinent aspects of recovery, unity and service common to the Areas of the Northeast Region. [www.neraasa.com](http://www.neraasa.com) for information, registration, hotel links, and updates.

**Host hotel:** [www.innbythebay.com](http://www.innbythebay.com) 88 Spring St., Portland, ME (207) 775-2311  
Reservations with Holiday Inn By the Bay must be made before 1/19/26 but are basically sold out with limited rooms available at \$189 per night, plus tax.

**Overflow hotel:** The Westin Portland Harborview, 157 High St., Portland ME (207) 775-5411  
About a 4-minute walk to the Holiday Inn By the Bay. Reservations with The Westin must be made before 1/29/26. \$189 per night plus tax.

**Mass. State Convention:** November 6-8, 2026 at Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road W, Marlboro MA.

Planning committee meets hybrid the last Tuesday of every odd month and October, at 7pm, starting 1/27/26. There is a carpool leaving at 5:30pm from the Bowlero/Mercedes dealership on Burnett Rd. in Chicopee, at the end of Route 291. I have 2 seats available. There are other carpools available if you're interested in attending in person. Please reach out to me or any Area officer.

**Bus Trip to GSO:** 19 tickets left as of 1/11. For tickets: Jeff (413) 695-5442 or Cheryl (413) 213-2317 – they both belong to the East Mountain Group.

Round-Up is looking for volunteers. Their next meeting is Wednesday 2/11/26 at 6pm, right before the Area meeting, at 30 Carew St., South Hadley MA and online. There are group history

forms available in paper form and a fillable form on the Area 31 website. Group Inventories help groups recall and evaluate their performance of our primary purpose. The Area is available to bring an Area Service Commitment to your group. AAWS has new literature prices. Books will increase by \$3 and all other literature will increase by 15%, effective 2/1/26.

Bob M.  
Area 31 Alternate Delegate

### **Area Chair's Remarks**

The Area has a commitment to Wildcats Group, 459 Mill St., Agawam, on Monday 2/23/26 at 7pm.

Both Ray M., Delegate, and Justin C., Area Chair, will have carpools to NERAASA.

There are 2 keys to the church missing. Please ask previous committee chairs if they have one. Please give copies of your minutes to Carl G., Area Archivist; Tom H., Area Webmaster; and Lara A., Area Secretary.

We have an Area 31 WhatsApp now for the Area Committee. Let me know if you'd like to be added.

Justin C.  
Area 31 Chair

### **Old Business** – None

### **New Business**

1) James C., District 4 DCM, made a motion to remove the town of Orange from the District 4 map, the Area 31 Handbook, and the Meeting Guide app. This was investigated at length last year by the previous District 4 DCM, Nancy P. Sally S., Area 31 Registrar, is aware of the situation as well. Clarification was given by Carl G., Area 31 Archivist, that the groups in Orange feel they are part of Area 30. His research of the Area 31 Archives revealed the last reference to meetings in Orange in the 1960's. Discussion ensued regarding the recent situation with CT meetings in Area 31 that were erroneously listed as Area 11. Kate V., Area Treasurer, called the question. The vote was taken, with one opposed. Joe I., Round-Up Co-Chair, stated that it has already been determined that Orange is not part of Area 31, so the Area 31 Handbook Editor has the right and duty as a trusted servant, to remove it without the need for further discussion. Motion passed. Janet B., Area 31 Handbook Editor, will remove Orange from the Area 31 Handbook.

2) Lara A., Area Secretary, made a motion to add Tech Host to the Assistant Webmaster duties, change the position description in the Area 31 Handbook to reflect the change, and add contact information for the Assistant Webmaster/Tech Host to the Area 31 confidential Directory. Motion passed.

Motion to close at 9:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lara A., Area 31 Secretary  
Western Mass. General Service