

February 11, 2026  
Area 31 Business Meeting Minutes  
Call to order at 7:30 PM



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

**Secretary's Report**

**Old Business:** Motion passed in January to change Assistant Webmaster position to include Tech Host.

**New Business:** None

**Treasurer's Report**

Beginning January 2026 Balance	\$1,278.48
January Group Contributions	\$ 2,392.57
Total Area Expenses	\$ 1,677.48
Closing January Balance	\$ 1,993.57
Plus – Prudent Reserve	\$ 8,501.00
Total Funds Available	\$ 10,494.57

\*See Treasurer's spreadsheet for more detail

Further Comments:

Please continue to announce that our treasury is not what it should be and encourage people to ask their groups to contribute more regularly. Thank you for supporting Area 31 Western Mass General Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate V., Area 31 Treasurer

**Registrar's Report**

After January's long report, this one will be short. The number of active registered groups still holds around 300—301 to be exact. There's always movement behind that number though. Each month there are new groups, or groups that have come back after the pandemic, or groups that came back to active status because they registered a GSR. And each month there are groups that report they are no longer meeting. Thank you for letting me serve.

Sally S., Registrar

**Archivist's Report**

I haven't spent a whole lot of time in the Archives this month, as the temperatures have been very cold and there is no insulation in the Archives room.

Carl G., Area 31 Archivist

### **Webmaster**

It's been a busy month for website updates, and I'm encouraged by the number of committees reaching out. Please continue reviewing your committee's page to ensure all content remains relevant. Also, please share ideas for anything you'd like to see added or rearranged on your committee's page.

Email – Please contact me if you are having any trouble getting into your email account. I can reset passwords to restore your access. [webmaster@area31aa.org](mailto:webmaster@area31aa.org)

Photo submissions. Last year, the area voted to rotate the image on our site's landing page. [Submit a photo for the home page](#)

Thank you for letting me serve!

Tom H., Webmaster

### **Accessibility**

The Accessibility committee met on 1/28/26. We had 2 people in person, 3 people online, and our Alternate Delegate Bob joined us. We have 19 standing commitments every month now, and we will be adding 1-2 more in-home meetings. There is one person on the committee who is taking a lot of the commitments, but we have more commitments than the number of people on our committee can handle. If your group has an Accessibility rep who doesn't attend the monthly meeting, please encourage them to do so, as we really need the help.

Tom, our Webmaster is going to add a "How to Navigate Zoom" link to the Accessibility page.

Mark D., Accessibility Chair

### **Archives**

The committee met on 2/3/26 at 7:30pm. There were 13 attendees. The Archives Chair Rick explained what the purpose of the committee is to the new members. He asked if there were any comments based on discussions from last month's meeting pertaining to the anonymity of archive boards. Also how to collect additional group histories for the archives that aren't documented as well as updates for existing groups. Area 31 Archivist, Carl, continues to catalog existing material and hopes to have it categorized on the area website in the future and displayed a pamphlet on The A.A. Archives and display board which summarized the beginning of A.A. history. He circulated a letter to Helena from Bill congratulating her on over 20 years of sobriety and a donation letter from Catherine sent to Intergroup.

Justin - Area Chair: Upcoming events on Area and Intergroup websites. Orange is no longer listed in area 31, since they were never in the area.

Old Business: Rick read the part of the A.A. guidelines pertaining to anonymity and the group held a discussion and agreed that a sign should be posted next to the boards when they are displayed, stating that photography of the boards is prohibited.

New Business: Judy and Rick will attend future district meetings and announce that the Archives Committee is actively seeking new and updated group histories from the district. Judy will review the existing books which contain group histories and record which groups are missing. Discussions during the meeting included anonymity of archive boards and material, how to collect new and update existing group histories.

Request for Archive Boards: Accessibility meeting @ Pioneer Valley Rehab in South Hadley on 2/9 @ 7PM, Judy will be attending and will bring the mini boards.

Rick W., Archives Chair

### **CPC**

CPC met on 02/10/26. Just before the meeting opened, Sam, the Chair stepped down which prompted the Co-Chair to do the same. The committee had no one step up to fill those positions so it was led by our immediate past Chair, Caren. All supplies and format for the committee meeting are in Sam's possession and we will have to retrieve them from him. Since last month we have garnered some new leads through the colleges, especially now that they are back in session. CPC also scheduled an event, during the meeting, with Springfield College. It is set for 04/09/26 from 7-9pm. Bay Path's Physician's Assistant program has reached out to CPC for another presentation, through the CPC webmail. With the

Chair having stepped down, we have no access to it. In the meantime, we have voted that Tania, our Liaison, have access to the CPC webmail, since she is the one who keeps the records and contacts list for the committee. Other possible leads were discussed and are going to be followed up upon. One interesting note is a Prosecutor's Conference that is occurring in Boston. This would require collaboration with Area 30. Tania is going to NERF and is going to try to speak with the Area 30 CPC people there, and if that doesn't pan out, she will contact GSO's CPC Desk to seek recommendation on what our next move should be. Tania reported that we currently have 16 contacts from previous commitments and the like. The contacts range from the fields of psychology, corrections, recovery, and from colleges. Grateful to be of service,  
Janet B.

### **Grapevine/LaViña**

Call to order 6:30 pm. Moment of Silence and Serenity prayer. Quote of the day: Sharon (March volunteer Beth). Statement of purpose: Susan (March volunteer Kevin).

**Attendees:** Breana R: Do or Die-new, Carl H: Ludlow Eye opener, Beth : Southwick Big Book, Sharon G: Shelburne Falls Big Book study group, Jill: Clear cut Directions, Drew: After Work group-new, Scott : Cold Spring, Susan B : Sober Sunday

Most groups shared their groups purchase one or more Grapevine subscriptions per year.

Area Chair: Carl, Area Co-Chair: Kevin, Area Chair: Justin

New Grapevine Reps are encouraged to check GV/LV website or the app for information. Contains lots of helpful informational materials about what to do in GV/LV Rep service position.

**Budget:** Correction - Justin mentioned budget is 500.00, not 600.00 that was mentioned in January.

Committee may pass a basket at events to offset cost of food.

**New Business:** Possible workshop in May.

**Chairperson report:** Grapevine boards were brought to Thorndike Anniversary Monday 2/3. Any group wanting Grapevine boards for anniversaries contact [grapevine@area31aa.org](mailto:grapevine@area31aa.org) or [golfmann314@hotmail.com](mailto:golfmann314@hotmail.com)

We are always looking for local AA 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 Chair

### **PI**

The committee met on 2/10/26 at 7:30pm at 30 Carew St., South Hadley and online. There were 9 group reps and Ray, Area Delegate, was present. Statement of Purpose was read.

**New business goals:** introduce new members and committee officers; define the purpose of the committee and what should be expected for the upcoming year and how members can participate; Discuss last year's accomplishments and how they can be included in this year's agenda - make a decision on the existing radio program in the Berkshires. Still looking for business cards from Brian W. and will reprint them for future distribution at appropriate locations; Write letters to media outlets, radio stations for brief program spots. Bruce will bring sample letters for next meeting to read over – members will decide which are best to use; Contact GSO for information for new media material. Discuss literature available to read. Go through obsolete literature and order new literature for racks to be distributed. Read *Speaking at non-A.A. Meetings* pamphlet and discuss PI presentation and practice at meeting in March; Ask members to seek new outgoing commitments: schools, community fairs, public gatherings, and pursue media opportunities. Identify other areas that we can carry the message and bring back ideas in March. Possible workshop by September and develop a format and place to have it.

**Area Report:** Ray M., Area Delegate

Bruce V., Public Information Chair

### **Round-Up**

Round Up will be hosted on May 29th and 30th at 98 N. Maple St. Hadley, MA. Registration is now open. Please send registration fees by check or money order to Western Mass Round Up Committee. Address envelopes to the Round Up Committee, P.O. Box 6818, Holyoke, MA 01040-6818.

We would like to ask the PI and CPC committees to host a kick-off meeting, with participation from professionals who interact with AA. Al-Anon participation will also be included.

Our Delegate's Report will take place on Saturday. Lunch and Dinner will be catered on Saturday.

Friday Night we will be hosting a home group celebratory potluck. Group members who register and bring a menu item will receive one free registration to bring a group member or newcomer. Districts will be asked to help with hospitality. Save the Date flyers are available. We are looking forward to celebrating together with you!

Joe I., Round-Up Co-Chair

### **Berkshire Intergroup**

2/9/26 - There were no bookie exchanges this month. Financially we are doing well. Berkshire Institutions has joined Berkshire Intergroup zoom account instead of having two accounts. We are starting to look for an office manager early to serve a 3–5-year commitment starting in 2027 due to the current office manager rolling out at the end of the year. She will stay on to train the next office manager for 6 months. In mid-January, a member resigned from the secretary position notifying the co-chair and me. Debbie C, a rep who has been on for two months, willingly stepped in to fill the position for the rest of 2026 and the vote was approved. We formed an ad-hoc committee for events this year and the meeting will be on 2/17 at 5:30pm on the intergroup zoom. Berkshire Institutions requested information on open commitments and bridging the gap to be put on the website, which the vote was approved.

Dwayne M., Berkshire Intergroup Chair

### **Institutions**

Attendance at January meeting: not enough room in the parking lot. 187 books were distributed.

17 commitments received books in January. \$3042.60 was spent on 395 books. 7 commitments were taken. 33 open commitments.

J.D., Institutions Chair

### **Western Mass Intergroup**

Intergroup meets on Carew St. in South Hadley at 7pm following the bookie exchange meeting at 6:30.

Both are hybrid - meeting link on the calendar on Area 31 website. The Steering Committee met at the end of January and talked about updating and providing an Intergroup Rep job description and explaining what Intergroup does in Area 31. We also talked about potentially having a couple more events throughout the year and looking into getting more group participation in helping host the events.

Intergroup should have its first Treasury report tomorrow night that it has had in months due to the position being vacant. Joy, the office manager, has already placed a large order for literature before the price increase of \$3 per book. We also provide phone coverage for calls coming in to the answering service to potentially help any alcoholic who calls. This is a group responsibility. From what I have seen so far, it is a smaller number of groups who fulfill this. I'm requesting DCMs to pass this on at their District meetings to attempt to get more groups to sign up for a weekly spot on the phone coverage.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Matt F., Western Mass. Intergroup Chair

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

WMYPAA business meeting is the first Sunday of the month at 5pm in the Monkey Wrench Building at the Serenity Club in Springfield and online. Traditions meeting at 4pm before the business meeting, open positions available. We will have a Pancake Brunch on Sunday 3/15 at the Alano Club in Agawam from 11:30am – 3pm. BayState bid for NECYPAA another year, co-host with NECYPAA bid committee.

Institutions commitment at Boca Recovery Center in Springfield on Sunday after the business meeting.

Mark D., WMYPAA

### **District 1**

Area Invited Guest: Bob M., Alt. Delegate. 3 GSRs in attendance - Some groups have not had their elections. Need more GSR support. Postponed new GSR orientation. Incorporating the Concepts into the district meeting. Early discussion of a workshop on Robert's Rules. Matt F. appointed as secretary. Dan, BYOBB Group, new Web Host.

Karen K., District 1 DCM

### **District 2**

7 GSRs and 1 alternate GSR in attendance. Area guest was Justin, Area Chair. Discussed workshop topics. Decided on Robert's Rules in AA, likely September so that people can see it in action at the Fall Assembly. Maybe do it at the Round Up?

Have people had issues with zoom in the past?

Two Anniversary meetings: Sunday Morning Group at Alano Club 3/1 9am-10am meeting, food afterwards.

Scrambled Eggs 3/29 9:15ish start for breakfast, meeting at 10:30.

1 group is doing a group inventory.

Thank you!

Tamara R., District 2 DCM

### **District 3**

14 people in attendance. Discussed the inverted triangle. GSRs asked groups what they want/need from the District/Area. Quarterly potluck. Due to NERAASA, we are postponing the February District 3 meeting by one week, to a new date of 3/27, 2026 at 7pm.

### **District 4**

13 GSRs (2 new). Bob, Alternate Delegate, gave GSR presentation. Tabled LCM discussion, will talk to other DCMs.

James C., District 4 DCM

### **District 5**

In attendance: 13 GSRs, Area Delegate Ray, and Accessibilities Chair Mark.

Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield needs support, they changed their meeting time to 7pm.

Jim K., District 5 DCM

### **District 6**

Area 31 Alt. Delegate Bob gave the GSR Presentation. Spring Assembly will be hosted by District 6 on 4/11-12 in Enfield.

Our next meeting is scheduled for the third Monday of February 16, 2026. It will begin at 7PM at the Daily Grind, 568 College Highway, Southwick and on ZOOM.

Grateful in Service,

Pat L., District 6 DCM

### **Delegate's Remarks**

Preparations for the 2026 General Service Conference are progressing well. The Conference agenda items have not yet been released; they are expected to become available following NERAASA. Once they are received, all Area groups will be encouraged to review the materials and share their group consciences with me at the Spring Assembly this April to ensure that Area 31's views are represented at the Conference. I am currently crafting my 2 minute Area 31 highlights and welcome any ideas to add to the report.

The General Service Office continues its work on literature translation and digital outreach. GSO emphasizes the importance of contributions for sustaining fellowship operations as expenses increase.

Area 31 remains active, with strong participation in district meetings and service committees. Our Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Grapevine, Archives and Accessibilities committees are well on their way.

All members are invited to attend and share their experience, strength, and hope at the Area 31 Spring Assembly. Bob M. and I will be attending the Northeast Regional Delegate Reunion in Delaware this March.

Since the last meeting, I have visited several districts and various committees. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me and shared their concerns and suggestions. Next up will be District 4 next Tuesday, NERAASA February 20-22, 2026, District 3 the following Friday. In March, I have Institutions, District 2, Intergroup, NERD weekend and District 3 again March 20<sup>th</sup> and Accessibilities committee to end the month.

Your input is essential to my work as Delegate. Please contact me with any questions, concerns, or feedback regarding Area 31 matters or Conference agenda items. I look forward to representing our Area at the 2026 General Service Conference and to ensuring our voices are heard.

It is an honor to serve as your Delegate, and I remain committed to unity, service, and recovery. Important dates to remember: NERAASA Feb. 20-22<sup>nd</sup>, Nerd March 13-15<sup>th</sup>, Spring assembly April 11-12<sup>th</sup>, GSC April 26-May 2, Round Up May 29-30, Mass State Convention Planning meeting last Tuesday every Odd Month in Marlboro, Mass & Zoom, Concept Meeting first Thursday every Month, Next is March 5, 2026. GSO renovations are done. PAIs are posted on the Area website.

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

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

1 GSR presentation left to do. Will get it posted on the website. Bus Trip to GSO is a go, sold out.

Bob M., Area 31 Alternate Delegate

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

I wrote a letter of support for Area 30 for the International Women's Conference bid.

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

There are carpools to NERAASA available. DCMs please use the Area 31 WhatsApp for workshops.

Justin C., Area 31 Chair

#### **Old Business** – None

#### **New Business**

1) Pat L., District 6 DCM, made a motion to remove the CT communities not in Area 31 from the map in the Area 31 Handbook. Janet B., Area 31 Handbook Editor, talked to Bob B., Western Mass Intergroup Webmaster, regarding the Meeting Guide. Janet should be able to remove them from the map. Carl G., Area 31 Archivist, said it is the same situation as Orange. There are no registered groups in those areas. Justin, Area Chair, will be creating a Handbook Ad-hoc committee in the Spring. Motion passed unanimously.

2) Bob M., Alternate Delegate, got an email from the Northeast Regional Trustee, inquiring if Area 31 is interested in a bid for NERAASA 2029. If so, it will need to be done at NERAASA this year. Delegate Ray M. said it's a massive undertaking; we would need help from young peoples. It's been 10 years since it was last held here. Tamara R., District 2 DCM, is strongly in support. Carl G., Area Archivist, said 2016 is the only time NERAASA was held here. Planning started in 2013. Pat L., District 6 DCM, asked if it will impact the Area 31 budget. It will not. Motion passed unanimously to put in a bid for NERAASA 2029.

Motion to close at 9:04pm.

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