

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

District 3 DCM	Michael K.	Y	Y	Y									
District 3 Co - DCM	Kate A.	N	Y	N									
District 4 DCM	James C.	Y	Y	Y									
District 4 Co - DCM	Patrick O.	Y	Y	N									
District 5 DCM	Jim K.	Y	Y	Y									
District 5 Co- DCM	Sean C.	Y	N	Y									
District 6 DCM	Pat L.	Y	Y	Y									
District 6 Co- DCM	Brendan M	Y	Y	Y									
QUORUM = 18	voting	26	26	27									
*Area Chair only votes to create or break a tie													

Secretary's Report

Old Business: 1) Motion was passed to remove the CT communities not in Area 31 from the map in the Area 31 Handbook.

2) Motion was passed for Delegate Ray M. to submit a bid to host NERAASA 2029 in Area 31.

New Business: None

Treasurer's Report

Beginning February 2026 Balance	\$1,993.57
February Group Contributions	\$ 4,296.12
Total Area Expenses	\$ 3,814.98
Closing February Balance	\$ 2,474.71
<i>PLUS</i> – Prudent Reserve	\$ 8,501.00
Total Funds Available	\$ 10,975.71

*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. Reimbursements for NERAASA will be reflected on next month's report. Thank you for supporting Area 31 Western Mass General Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate V., Area 31 Treasurer

Registrar's Report

The number of new GSRs I've entered into Fellowship Connection is smaller than usual this year, at least so far. I know DCMs are encouraging GSRs to get their contact info to me, and some groups are still getting their service positions organized. So this is just a friendly reminder that I'm always happy to get the new GSR forms, or just an email, or just a scribbled note. I'll bring forms to the Spring Assembly. Also, Tom (Webmaster) and I are talking about a simple web form for new GSRs and Alt GSRs. Stay tuned. And I will visit more District Meetings. So far I've only gotten to one this year. Carl and I have been working with someone from the Holyoke Soldier's Home to form a new group there, which will be the first in their massive new building. Looks like it will be called the Warrior Group.

And the numbers: 301 groups. (289 regular and 12 virtual.)

Sally S., Registrar

Archivist's Report

Received a new group history from Springfield Young People's.
Carl G., Area 31 Archivist

Webmaster

Business as usual for the website. Thank you for continuing to submit your minutes and for utilizing the website to serve your committees.

Quick reminder: don't hesitate to reach out for anything our website can do for your committee or for help with email access. Our website hosting will be expiring in July of this year. Renewal is \$20/mo. for a 3-year plan paid up front. Part of the webmaster description is to "register the site's domain, and to shop for the best value of services provided for the website". Other, less expensive options include negotiating with our current provider for maybe a 20-40% discount or taking advantage of options for non-Profits like DreamHost's free plan. Asking for discussion from the area, possibly in new business.

Thank you for letting me serve!

Tom H., Webmaster

Accessibility

The Accessibility committee met on 2/25/26. We had 17 attendees. We have 22 commitments every month now. We just picked up one more in-home meeting for a member of South St. Group. We are working on communication between facilities and volunteers. Welcome to our new Co-Chair Robin D.! Mark D., Accessibility Chair

Archives

Committee is looking to collect additional group histories for the Archives binders. Signs were made to be posted next to the boards when they are displayed, stating that photography of the boards is prohibited. Mini Archives boards were brought to an Accessibility committee commitment.

Judy H., Archives Co-Chair

CPC

CPC met on 03/10/26 at 30 Carew St., South Hadley at 6:30pm. We had 13 members plus invited guests. The Liaison, Tania, reported she has access to the CPC webmail, as discussed last month. She attended NERAASA and heard how other Area CPCs operate. She was asked to write an "invitation letter" to professionals inviting them to this year's Round Up. It is complete, accepted by the committee and will be emailed accordingly. Upcoming commitments are at Springfield College, Locklin Hall on 04/09/26 and BayPath's Physician Assistant Program on 09/18/26 (commitment is solidified, date is not). Several members reached out to previous contacts, some are no longer in their former position to make arrangements for a commitment with us. One passed on the rep's contact information to the person who now fills the position, but no response yet. Contact was made with Westfield State College, they have not responded. Bruce, who was visiting, noted that we need to reach out to AIC soon because we usually secure a commitment with them at the beginning of the Fall semester. CPC has purchased some literature for our commitments. We may have someone on the committee who can help with printing. We reviewed the Guidelines for Presentation and additional resources to use during a presentation that is not on the Guidelines. One item is the film on the Area CPC site. There were some new leads, which will be handled with diplomacy since the pool of potential contacts will have fellows who are not practicing their field in Western MA. A member of the committee who, with the AA groups he belongs, is dropping off *When and Where's* to facilities who may be interested in a commitment from us.

Thank You,

Judy H., CPC Chair

Grapevine/LaViña

11 attendees, 3 new members. 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. I found out At NERAASA in writers' workshop that poetry is an art which cannot be edited, is why

you cannot submit it to the GrapeVine. Most groups shared they are involved in buying and distributing the GrapeVine. Workshop in July or August. Susan B mentioned she had somebody that has had a story written in the GrapeVine and is willing to share at a workshop. Grapevine has a slot at the Round Up. Any group wanting Grapevine boards for anniversaries contact grapevine@area31aa.org or golfmann314@hotmail.com. Delegate Ray M. mentioned GV/LV Chair gets a free Grapevine subscription, to do with as they choose.
Carl H., Grapevine Chair

PI

The committee met on 3/10/26 at 7:30pm at 30 Carew St., South Hadley and online. There were 9 group reps. Introduced new members and committee officers, defined the purpose of the committee and what should be expected for the upcoming year and how members can participate. Discussed last year's accomplishments and how they can be included in this year's agenda. Made a decision to get 20 second radio spots from GSO to air on UMass station, Rock 102, or WARE. Will work together with CPC to reprint business cards and postcards, and posters with tear-offs. Tom H., Webmaster, has postcard templates. Sending letters to public school administrators to invite to Round Up. Decided not to have a workshop in September. Bruce reported on NERAASA and discussed new ideas that can be implemented in our Area.

Bruce V., Public Information Chair

Round-Up

Round Up will be hosted on May 29th and 30th at 98 N. Maple St. Hadley, MA. Theme is "Humility In Action." Registration is open: \$30 pre-registration ends 5/8; \$35 at the door. Save the Date flyers and registration form link on Area website. PI and CPC committees will host a kick-off meeting, with participation from professionals who interact with AA. Al-Anon participation. Spanish meeting. Friday Night homegroup celebratory potluck. Register and bring one menu item and receive a free weekend registration for a group member or newcomer. Delegate's Report, followed by Q&A, on Saturday afternoon. Lunch and Dinner will be catered on Saturday. DCMs will help with hospitality stations. District 2 will host a workshop on Robert's Rules. Several Area committee members will lead sessions. Keynote speaker, selected by Delegate Ray M., on Saturday evening. Raffle drawings between meetings on Saturday! Raffle contributions can be dropped off to Jill. Help stock hospitality! Come be of service!
Jill F., Round-Up Chair

Berkshire Intergroup

We met this past Monday. There were around 9 reps who attended. There were no bookie exchanges this month. Financially we are doing well. Thanks to Round Up Chair, Jill F., for attending and giving a report on what the Round Up is all about and the event coming up. The office is doing well; there are no more large print *As Bill Sees It* books. When restocked, the price will be \$14. We will have 4 events this year. The first one is AA Trivia, followed by a B.I.G. Meditation Meeting, Speaker Jam with GSRs, and the Christmas Alcathon. The next event ad hoc committee meeting will be on 3/15 at 7pm on the B.I.G. zoom account.

Hedley, Berkshire Intergroup Co- Chair

Institutions

No rep in attendance. As per financial report:

February contributions from 27 groups	\$1,503.10
Expenses: March rent	\$85.00
Bank fee	\$3.00
Budget reserve	\$100.00
Intergroup: pamphlets	\$100.00
AAWS: books	\$1,215.10
Prudent reserve: 2 months rent at \$85	\$170.00
Budget reserve – NERAASA & MA State Convention	\$874.69
	\$1,044.69

Western Mass Intergroup

Intergroup meets on Carew St. in South Hadley at 7pm following the bookie exchange meeting at 6:30. Both are hybrid. The Steering Committee talked about updating an Intergroup Rep job description and explain what Intergroup does in Area 31. We found an older Guidelines and Positions document; updates may be necessary. New rep packets should be ready for the meeting tomorrow: will include Intergroup group rep responsibilities, information on phone coverage, sample documents for taking notes as a rep and suggestions on what to report back to home group. New events chair Jeff K. is working on events and planning ahead to hopefully increase attendance and group participation. Picnic, Thanksgiving and Christmas alkathons as in past years and possibly others to attempt to increase unity among our area. We have a Treasurer who has given financial standing after months of not being able to provide. We have a motivated Steering Committee with fresh ideas that are intended to help all. We will possibly have web and email changes in the future. More *When and Where's* need to be ordered and should be available at the store soon if sold out now (inventory was low). Store hours: Mon and Tue 9-3, Wed-Fri 9-1. 300 Appleton St, Holyoke. Golf tournament: June 20, 2026. Picnic: August 16th at Moose Lodge.

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 with a chicken dinner at 4pm before the business meeting. We had 2 new members. We will have Bingo at the 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

4 GSRs in attendance, 1 via Zoom. Plus one Alternate GSR from the Bring Your Own Big Book group. Bob M., Alt. Delegate presented his GSR orientation program. Amazing! Bob spoke about the plans for submitting our interest in hosting NERAASA IN 2029. A handout of Concept Two was passed out. Discussed and started planning workshop using the Bill W. documentary, potentially in June. There was enthusiasm with the proposal.

Friday Mid-Morning Group anniversary 3/13. Food, fellowship, 1 speaker. Rick W., Archives Chair will bring the boards.

Karen K., District 1 DCM

District 2

15 GSRs in attendance, 2 Alternate GSRs (1 new). Tech issues from last month were figured out. Area guest was Ray M., Area Delegate. Discussed Robert's Rules workshop at Round Up, full workshop in September. Scrambled Eggs anniversary 3/29 - 9:15ish start for breakfast, meeting at 10:30. 2 groups now using a Venmo QR code for 7th Tradition contributions. Discussed outreach to groups who contribute to the pie but don't have a GSR. Tabled discussion on LCM until next month.

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 D3 meeting by one week, to 3/27, 2026 at 7pm. Discussed potentially changing our District meeting from the 3rd Friday to another night. Options are 4th Monday, 3rd Wednesday, or 4th Thursday. Discussed items that our Delegate will be voting on at the GSC and that GSR's should take these topics to their group (either at business meeting or specially scheduled meeting) to get their group conscience. Discussed the Spring Assembly. D3 will host 2 events in 2026. One will be incorporated into the Fall Assembly (October 2026)

which will be hosted in D3. Archives & Grapevine boards will be there. The other event will be a standalone summer/fall event. Discussed rotating locations between North, Central, and South County to increase representation from underrepresented areas (few North County GSR's in attendance). The group also suggested a strategy of holding the same workshop/event twice - once in South County and once in North County. Discussed outreach to groups who contribute to the pie but don't have a GSR. Berkshire Intergroup is seeking a new Office Manager (3-5 year commitment starting 2027). Berkshire Institutions Committee is seeking new liaisons for the Berkshire County House of Corrections and the Jones unit of Berkshire Medical Center
District 3 has a WhatsApp Group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Lf8t13Si0cHjhKJQLkQ1N>

District 4

Met 2/17/26. 13 in attendance, 10 GSRs (3 new). District 4 was contacted by the Northfield Mt. Hermon School in Gill MA to ask for 2 meetings for their Alumni Weekend 6/5-6/6.

Still working on appointing an LCM.

James C., District 4 DCM

District 5

We meet the 1st Monday of the month at 7pm in South Hadley MA. Attendance has been good.

We had 11 GSRs this month. We had Bob, our Alternate Delegate, and Jill, the Round Up Committee Chair as our speakers.

Sean, our Co-DCM, and I talked about what we learned from NERAASA. We also discussed that we will be putting on a play for our workshop. We have 2 to choose from. We're currently looking into a couple of different places to have it. Jen S. is looking into places in South Hadley. We're thinking sometime in June; I will report back when we have it finalized.

No one brought up any concerns from their groups. Brimfield Saturday Night stated that they should be able to contribute to the pie again soon. They haven't been able to in a long time.

We brought up having an LCM. We will revisit it next month.

Jim K., District 5 DCM

District 6

8 GSRs in attendance, plus DCM and Co-DCM. Guests: Mark, Accessibilities Chair; Area Guest – Bob, Area 31 Alt. Delegate

Mark, Accessibilities Committee – Supply support and meetings to folks that are homebound or in care facilities. Meet the 4th Wednesday of each month at 30 Carew St., S. Hadley at 7pm. The committee needs help. Only six members to handle 26 commitments. Work with MA State Convention and Accessibilities Checklist available. Anyone needing accommodations reach out to Accessibilities.

DCM and Co-DCM gave Area Report on Treasury. Check out new Concepts video at aa.org; Action/Agenda (PAI-Proposed Agenda Items) for GSR's to take back to their groups for discussion and vote so info. can be given to Delegate at the Spring Assembly.

New Business: Bonnie has some personal matters to attend to. Pat and John took notes.

Next meeting March 16th.

Grateful in Service,

Pat L., District 6 DCM

Delegate's Remarks

This past month has been a turbulent whirlwind of information and learning for me. I have been absorbing the background material for the 2026 General Service Conference in New York, as well as focusing on my Grapevine/ La Viña committee work. Bob has started planning for the Mini conference on April 11th at Holy Trinity in Enfield, Ct. (shameless plug), we have our topics and moderators selected.

Bob and I will be riding down to NERD this Friday to enjoy the weekend and to get more familiar with the process and become more comfortable with our fellow Northeast Delegates and Alt's.

As normal, I have been making the rounds to various Districts and committees, enjoying the expressions of love and service each one of you exhibit through your enthusiasm and experience.

A few reminders: Keep checking the area website's "delegates corner" for anything GSO related and for any updated Conference related material.

If your district has new GSR's, or would like a replay of the GSR presentation, I am sure Bob would be glad to come back to provide it.

If you have a sponsee, or even a sponsor that could use a JOLT of spiritual growth, have them come attend any of the committees and get involved, The round up is a great opportunity to help them keep the fellowship informed and it's a fun way to get involved. See Jill or Joe for any information.

It seems Area 31 is having a great start to 2026

Thank You for all that you do,

Ray M., Area 31 Western Mass Panel 76, Grapevine La Viña Committee

Service Gladly Rendered,

Ray M., Area 31 Panel 76 Delegate

Alternate Delegate's Remarks

I am settling into my position as Alternate Delegate. Over the last month I became pretty busy. I have 2 monthly meetings I attend: NERT and NERD, plus in February we had NERAASA. March brings on another busy month. The Agenda Items and their background information were released for the 76h General Service Conference. Ray and I worked diligently compiling and getting the information out. I really hope all GSR'S attend their district meetings where all the information will be discussed and groups will then have the information (in a perfect world). We want a well-informed group conscience from the Area for Ray to bring to the GSC. I am attending the NERD reunion with Ray in Wilmington DE this weekend. I hope to gain knowledge as to how to perform my service position to the best of my ability and to learn how to prepare to cover for the Delegate if needed. The Mass State Convention planning committee meets this month on March 31st at 7:00. It is being held at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center in Marlborough, MA. I am hosting a car pool that leaves the Mercedes Benz/Bowling alley parking lot at 5:30 sharp. I have 2 seats available

April, we have the Spring Assembly/Mini Conference April 11 – 12. It is being held at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 383 Hazard Ave in Enfield. Please highly emphasize to your groups' GSR's to attend. It is their responsibility to attend. And lastly, we are bidding for the 2029 NERAASA to be held here in Area 31, ideally in Springfield. Our committee is forming and we're plugging away on the venue, hotels, food and the like. The Trustee needs our Bid a week before the GSC. There, Ray will be presenting our Bid. And a huge THANK YOU to Janet who is running with the bid process.

Bob M., Area 31 Alternate Delegate

Area Chair's Remarks

April commitments: Monday 4/27 Agawam Wildcats at 7pm, and Tuesday 4/28 Tuesday Night Westfield Speaker 7pm.

DCMs please use the Area 31 WhatsApp for workshops.

Justin C., Area 31 Chair

Old Business – None

New Business

1) Joe I., Round Up Co-Chair, made a motion: don't meet in April due to the Spring Assembly. Motion passed unanimously.

2) John S., WMYPAA Chair, made a motion to use a non-profit for the Area 31 website. Kate V., Area Treasurer, seconded. Mike K., District 3 DCM, likes Google Suite. Joe I., Round Up Co-Chair, asked if we can have both. Tom H., Webmaster, said we can. Justin C., Area Chair, said Google Suite is used by almost every Area because of the free cloud storage and ease of use for writing newsletters. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to close at 9:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lara A., Area 31 Secretary

Western Mass. General Service