

May 13, 2026
Area 31 Business Meeting Minutes
Called to order at 7:30 PM

Position	Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	S/A	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	F/A	Nov	Dec
Area Delegate	Ray M.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Alt. Delegate	Bob M.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Area Chair *	Justin C.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Area Treasurer	Kate V.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Area Secretary	Lara A.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Area Registrar	Sally S.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Area Archivist	Carl G.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Accessibility Chair	Mark D.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Accessibility Co-Chair	Robin D.	Wayne M. N	wayne M. N	Y	Y	Y							
Archives Chair	Rick W.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y							
Archives Co-Chair	Jill F.	Judy H. Y	Judy H. Y	Beatrix N	Y	Y							
CPC Chair	Judy H.	Sam L. N	Sam L. N	Y	Y	Y							
CPC Co-Chair	Erin G.	Greg R. Y	Greg R. N	Y	Y	Y							
Grapevine Chair	Carl H.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y							
Grapevine Co-Chair	Kevin	N	Y	N	N	N							
Public Info Chair	Bruce V.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Public Info Co-Chair	Chris K.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N							
Webmaster	Tom H.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Asst. Web/Tech Host	Eric N.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y							
WMass Intergro Chair	Matt F.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Berk Intergroup Chair	Dwayne	Y	Y	Co-Chair Hedley Y	Y	Y							
Institutions Chair	JD	N	Y	N	N	Y							
Institutions Co-Chair	Eric M.	Bruce N	Bruce N	Bruce N	Y	N							
Round Up Chair	Jill F.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Round Up Co-Chair	Joe I.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
WMYPAA	John S.	Y	N	Y	N	N							
District 1 DCM	Karen K.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
District 1 Co - DCM	Carol L.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
District 2 DCM	Tamara R.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
District 2 Co - DCM	Mark B.	N	Y	Y	Y	Y							

District 3 DCM	Michael K.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y								
District 3 Co - DCM	Kate A.	N	Y	N	N	Y								
District 4 DCM	James C.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y								
District 4 Co - DCM	Patrick O.	Y	Y	N	Y	N								
District 5 DCM	Jim K.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y								
District 5 Co- DCM	Sean C.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y								
District 6 DCM	Pat L.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y								
District 6 Co- DCM	Brendan M	Y	Y	Y	N	Y								
QUORUM = 18	voting	26	26	27	27	29								
*Area Chair only votes to create or break a tie														

Secretary's Report

Old Business: Carl, District 5 GSR, raised the question of who is eligible to vote at Area Assemblies, noting that the roll call changes by the end of the meeting, and should be taken again prior to any voting. He also noted that, in keeping with Robert's Rules, a motion is needed to accept the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports only.

New Business: None

Treasurer's Report

April (March 2026 Financials and Contributions)

Beginning March Balance	2474.71
March Group Contributions	3480.21
Total Area Expenses	4756.19
Closing March Balance	1408.73
<i>PLUS</i> –Prudent Reserve	8501.00
Total Funds available	9909.73

May 13 (April 2026 Financials and Contributions)

Beginning April Balance	1408.73
April Group Contributions	3387.79
Total Area Expenses	4768.88
Closing April Balance	77.64
<i>PLUS</i> –Prudent Reserve	8501.00
Total Funds available	8578.64

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. Final reimbursements for NERASSA are included in this month's report as well as the first of two NERD reimbursements and the Spring Assembly. Next month, we should be able to catch up the treasury a bit, but please ask your groups to make their contributions to the Area. Thank you for supporting AREA 31 Western Mass General Services.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate V., Area 31 Treasurer

Registrar's Report

The number of registered active groups in Area 31 rose by 2 since the Spring Assembly, from 301 to 303. One of the new groups is a virtual group that split off from an in-person group after the pandemic. Another is not new, but had been moved into the "unknown" category for lack of a GSR or mail contact. The group now has a GSR and is "active" again.

Over the summer I will update the list of Group IDs and History Dates on the website. If you get a chance, encourage groups to check those History Dates (= Anniversary Dates). We recently found one listed in Fellowship Connection as 2013 when it actually started in 2008, and the Archivist just told me about another group that needs its date corrected. Registrars can't make those changes directly, but Member Services always responds within a day to my requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sally S., Area 31 Registrar

Archivist's Report

This month I researched when we started funding our Delegate to the International Convention. I provided a map for the redistricting Ad hoc committee, and I provided 501c documentation to the Webmaster. I researched the Holyoke Group, the oldest, longest existing group in the Area, which was closed at one time. I also researched the Round Up history.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl G., Area 31 Archivist

Webmaster

Thank you to Carl, our Archivist, for tracking down the Letter of Determination that I had referred to in my Spring Assembly report regarding proving non-profit status for free webhosting. I'll be submitting our application before the end of the month, and our hosting should be switched over before the end of June. There shouldn't be any visible impact on our website. After the website has been migrated, I'll begin researching Google Workspace integration and bring ideas to the table before implementing anything. Thank you for continuing to submit your minutes and for utilizing the website to serve your committees. We've been able to address specific requests from a few committees, such as fillable forms, integrated calendars, and better general information. Thank you for bringing those needs to light.

Thank you for letting me serve.

Tom H., Webmaster

Accessibility

Attendance at the monthly Accessibility committee meeting is down. There is now a calendar of commitments posted on the Accessibility page on the Area website. There is one in-home meeting at Pauline's that is not included on the online calendar, as it is not an open meeting. All 26 commitments are filled every month.

Mark D., Accessibility Chair

Archives

The committee met on 5/5. The purpose of the Archive committee and the importance of collecting group histories for the Archives was reviewed. The monthly Archives Secretary's report contains links to the Archives representative kit materials. The committee is concentrating on increasing the number of group histories, as well as getting more board placements at area group anniversaries. The committee is currently working on a flyer to let groups know they are available.

Committee members were encouraged to attend the Round Up and to learn how to set up the boards for events. Archives Chair Rick displayed the boards at the Spring Assembly. While there, he received some history to be added from the Chicopee Lost and Found Group. Brian O. and Cheryl gave him some recordings from Bill W. and others. These were submitted to Archivist Carl for review.

Rick will bring the boards to District 5 meeting on 6/1.

CPC

We continue to reach out for new contacts and commitments. We have a Group Inventory with past Delegate John scheduled for either 6/20 or 6/30. We are pricing new boards with new graphics. We are purchasing more literature for commitments. We will attend the Umbrella of Wellness Fair in Belchertown along with PI on 5/16. We have a commitment at BayPath on 9/18. We have a commitment at AIC in the fall. The Accessibility committee requested that CPC give a presentation to the staff at a nursing home.

Thank You,
Judy H., CPC Chair

Grapevine/LaViña

There was an announcement made at our committee meeting that Bonnie, a previous committee member has passed away.

We had 6 committee members in attendance at our meeting this month. The Grapevine Quote and Statement of Purpose are read at the beginning of our monthly meeting. One rep reported their group donated a Grapevine subscription to the church where they meet, another group donated a subscription to Stonybrook Rehab in Ludlow. Some groups have old and current copies of the Grapevine available to borrow/take on their literature table. At this point most groups have subscribed. GV reps are encouraged to download the app. We have a time slot of 5:15-6:00pm on Saturday 5/30 at the Round Up. Topic is The AA GRAPEVINE APP/CARRY THE MESSAGE PROGRAM.

Grapevine boards will go out to Clear Cut Directions anniversary in East Longmeadow on 6/9, and to Cold Spring in Belchertown on 6/4 at 6:15pm. We will have a writers' workshop on 7/25 from 11-2 at Faith Community Chapel, 485 East St., Ludlow MA. Pizza, water and soda will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share. There is a flyer on the Area website.

Carl H., Grapevine Chair

PI

Our focus is on broadening our reach and ensuring that the AA message is accessible across our local community. Our goal is to provide information, not promotion. We reviewed the *Speaking at non-A.A. Meetings* pamphlet and did a mock presentation. We are trying to increase commitments at high schools, and to secure firm commitments for information sessions and literature placement in school libraries. We have a commitment at Hampshire Regional High School in October. Committee member Danny will reach out to Central High School. We have an ongoing commitment at Gandara the 3rd Thursday of every month at 11am. Our Co-Chair Chris wrote a 33 second radio spot for Rock 102. We are seeking a spot on the UMass radio station, and a PSA on WARE. Committee member Dennis will speak with local broadcast station ELCAT in East Longmeadow. We are looking to get into the Mass. Building on Mass. Day at the Big E. We've asked our committee members to identify upcoming community events. This approach ensures that we have booth presence at local fairs, health events and town gatherings. We will attend the Umbrella of Wellness Fair in Belchertown along with CPC on 5/16. We need manpower for these commitments, especially at high schools. We are focusing on getting more attendance at our monthly committee meeting, and we discussed how we can increase working with CPC. We have a time slot featuring speakers and discussion questions at the Round Up on 5/29 from 7:30-8:15pm. We're having business cards and posters printed. We'd like to get the posters into libraries and other public spaces. Our members have been asked to check local libraries to see if they have a Big Book and 12&12. Thank you for letting me serve.

Bruce V., Public Information Chair

Round-Up

The Round Up will happen this year at 98 North Maple st, Hadley, MA on Friday May 29th and Saturday May 30th. Here are the highlights for the weekend: • Friday Night Ask-it Basket • Friday Night Homegroup Cook-off Potluck • Friday night professional keynote* • Saturday panels • Delegates Report and Q&A: Saturday 12:15 PM - 2:00 PM • Raffle (Saturday throughout) • Keynote Speaker • Catered Lunch and Dinner (Saturday) • Al-anon participation (Saturday) • Outreach from various local and regional AA Committees

Please take flyers on the back table. Pre-registration is now closed, but you can still attend the Round Up for an at-the-door cost of \$35. Scholarships are available, and we will never turn away attendees who need to hear our service message of "Humility in Action". We will have a June meeting to discuss plans for the 2027 Round Up. Feel free to attend, especially if you are interested in participating in service and having fun at the same time! We will be electing new committee officers then, followed by our unique service summer vacation. Serving on the Round Up Committee is an amazing experience. It is here that

we find that our service work at times feels like we are doing almost nothing, but the truth is evident when we see the results. If this type of service interests you, come check us out on June 10th at 6:00 PM, 30 Carew St, South Hadley. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the 2026 Area 31 Round Up Co-Chair. Joe I.

Berkshire Intergroup

On May 9, B.I.G had an AA team trivia event in Cheshire Ma. There were around 30 to 35 attendees. Thanks to the event committee who put on a good event and thanks to area member Carl for visiting and enjoying the fun with us. There are two save the dates for the couple of events: B.I.G. meditation meeting and GSR speaker jam on July 25 and September 26. Thank you for letting me serve.
Dwayne, Berkshire Intergroup Chair

Institutions

5 new commitments were taken. Over 100 commitments are being serviced. There is a list on the Institutions web page for easier access. We have good meeting attendance.
JD, Institutions Chair

Western Mass Intergroup

We are currently looking at the guidelines for our webpage. WM Intergroup maintains phone coverage for individuals who may call looking for help. Groups sign up for week time slots to be responsible for calling back anyone who may call. Intergroup office hours are Monday & Tuesday 9am-3pm. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9am-1pm. Location: 300 Appleton St, Holyoke. WMIG picnic will be Sunday, August 16th at Moose Lodge, 244 Fuller Rd, Chicopee. We are requesting raffle basket contributions from AA groups/members. We meet in person on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 30 Carew St., South Hadley, with bookie meeting from 6:30-7pm, and Intergroup committee meeting from 7-8pm. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.
Matt F., Western Mass. Intergroup Chair

Western Mass Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (WMPAA)

WMPAA 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 before the business meeting is ending due to lack of participation.

District 1

Workshop on Saturday, July 11 at Church of the Acres in Springfield: film Bill W. Story.
Karen K., District 1 DCM

District 2

There were 21 people in attendance at our district meeting, including 15 GSR's; Sally, Area 31 Registrar; and Justin, Area 31 Chair.
May 25th Wild Cats are having their anniversary: 5-7pm food + fellowship, 7-8pm meeting.
Many groups report having Institutions commitments. 7 groups have an Accessibility commitment as well. We have two Round-Up meetings on 5/30, focused on Robert's Rules: 10:15-11am + 2:15-3:00pm. We will have a larger, comprehensive workshop scheduled for September.
District 2 meets at 7:30 PM on the second Monday of each month. Meetings are currently hybrid.
Location: 745 Main Street, Agawam, MA
Thank you! Tamara R., District 2 DCM

District 3

Our district is chairing a meeting at the ROUND-UP on Saturday May 30, 4:15-5PM on the 7th Step Prayer. Mike (GSR Sheffield 12&12) and Collin (GSR GB Men's Meeting) will gather speakers and chair that meeting.

DISTRICT EVENT PLANNING: "Area-level Service 101" in September - No specific date but will make sure not to conflict with Intergroup events. 8/9am kick off, going until 12 or 1.

"Fun" summertime event: July/August. Potential picnic/band performance/lawn games in Lee.

GROUP EVENTS: Copake Sober Springtime Social, May 16, 12 pm to sundown at Copake Memorial Park. Sheffield 12 & 12: 51st anniversary picnic planned for June 20th at Sheffield Town Park.

Discussion of lack of Grapevine knowledge and how do we get the Grapevine to be better known in the district. William L. says he has the Grapevine committee coming to his meeting next week and he will ask them about this question and what they can do. Alt DCM proposal about how to get more participation in the district? Making it zoom most months and 1 month in person? Asks people to consider and we can continue discussion if people have thoughts or ideas.

Mike K., District 3 DCM

District 4

District 4 met on Zoom on 4/21/26. 8 GSRs were present, no new GSRs. Attendance at AA meetings in District 4 remains healthy. At least one group in District 4, the 7am Grapevine Morning Meeting, had a group inventory. Spring Assembly report was given by DCM and Co-DCM. GSRs were encouraged to announce at meetings that Area 31 Treasury is not what it should be. District 4 is excited to be hosting the Area Round Up on May 29-30 at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Hadley. GSRs have been announcing that help is needed for hospitality and set up. We discussed topics for an upcoming District 4 workshop. The idea of the 11th Step as a theme was proposed and generally met with enthusiasm. The GSRs present wanted to go back to their respective groups and get feedback. We plan to continue discussion about this at May's District meeting. For the second consecutive year, District 4 will be bringing two AA meetings to The Northfield Mount Hermon School during their Alumni weekend on June 5-6 at 5:30pm. District 4 is working together to attend meetings that do not currently have GSRs. The hope is to spark awareness and interest in Area 31 service.

James C., District 4 DCM

District 5

District 5 meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 7pm at 30 Carew Street in South Hadley MA and online. This month we only had 7 GSRs in person and 2 online, so attendance was disappointing. Ray, our Delegate, and Sally, Area 31 Registrar, were also in attendance. None of the GSRs reported any concerns, and we spent much of the meeting discussing and finalizing the play workshop. We decided to do the Traditions play again because we had a great turnout and people are still talking about what a good time it was. We are having it on July 18th at 1pm. Doors open at 11:30. Jen, GSR for Cold Spring Group, got the hall rental at All Saints Episcopal Church in South Hadley. We will have a potluck. Please bring a dish if you wish.

Chapter 2 Group, which meets on East St. in Ludlow on Tuesday night, is closing. Their last meeting is on 5/26. Thank you for letting me serve as District 5 Co-DCM.

Sean C.

District 6

District 6 met hybrid on Monday, April 20, 2026 at the Daily Grind, 568 College Highway, Southwick and on ZOOM at 7PM. Seven groups were represented with GSRs, Co-DCM Brendan, and Area 31 Delegate Ray. Brendan opened the meeting for group reports and reported on the Spring Assembly PIA's Group Conscience results and I reviewed the Area 31 Business Meeting notes from April 11 and 12, 2026, hosted by District 6 at Holy Trinity Church in Enfield. We are grateful for those in attendance. Holy Trinity was impressed and invited any group who wishes to relocate to their facility without insurance requirement. District 6 donated excess supplies to the Round Up committee. We added one new ZOOM based group as a result of Spring Assembly. Ray provided a summary of additional Area 31 events especially on the upcoming General Service Conference and additional discussion on the PIA's and proposed Ad Hoc committee. I was unable to attend the first Ad Hoc meeting, however, I received an update from Ad Hoc Chair. We plan to have as guest at our next District meeting. The group raised interest in learning more on "the group conscience" and we discussed that this may be a good start as we consider potential workshop ideas. Our next meeting is scheduled for the third Monday of May 18th, 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

Ad hoc committee – redistricting

The ad hoc committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Our first meeting was April 22 at 6pm at 30 Carew St., South Hadley MA and online. 3 districts were represented, in addition to Sally, Area 31 Registrar and myself. We reviewed the purpose of the committee and shared experience trying to stay in touch with groups. We reviewed past Ad hoc reports and other area structures. We will be visiting districts and looking at meeting clusters. We're interested in ideas to improve participation. I will attend the District 4 meeting on 5/19. Our next Ad hoc meeting is 5/20 at 6pm.

Jack A.

Delegate's Remarks

Greetings to my Home Group! (Area 31) Since the spring assembly, I have had the honor of attending the General Service Conference in New York. First, I wanted to thank the area for showing up for the mini-conference, I was able to hear and bring the area conscience with me. Thank you Bob for putting it all together, I know from my past experience it was no small feat. Without giving away too much information about what happened at the conference, I can say it was a spiritual experience, and I want to encourage anyone within my earshot to consider making yourself available. It is an experience you will not want to miss. Even discussing 1 word for 7 hours, with motions, amendments, and "call the questions", it really is important work. I am currently working on my report back to give at this year's Round Up, at 12:15pm May 30th. I am also looking forward to hearing our Keynote speaker, Lisa E. the current delegate from Area 70 (Vermont) will be speaking Saturday Night. I am excited to announce the theme for the panel 77 2027 General Service Conference: "Honoring our Past, Embracing our future"- and let me tell you, with everything that happened this year at conference, we will all need to head these words close to our hearts. Big, exciting things happened that will help shape the future, opening the doors of AA to some that may have not otherwise felt comfortable joining us for this life saving message. Please know, wherever you are, you are part of this beautiful spiritual entity of Area 31 & Alcoholics Anonymous.

I do Love you all, and there is lots you can do about it! LOL

Ray M., Area 31 Panel 76 Delegate, GV/LV conference committee

Alternate Delegate's Remarks

I don't have much to report this evening. It's been pretty quiet for me. I've been attending on a regular basis district and committee meetings offering any help I can give. I am a member of NAAD, North American Alternate Delegates. Every other month a different region puts on a presentation. This month was the Northeast Region, and I was involved in presenting our topic, the Many hats of the Alternate Delegate. The presentation went very well. I'm serving as the Co-Program Chair for the Mass State Convention. The Intergroup golf tournament will be on June 20 at Agawam Country Club, \$100 per person. 5 foursomes are still available. There's a flyer on the website. That's all to report for the month.

Bob M., Area 31 Alternate Delegate

Area Chair's Remarks

We have printed QR codes available for Area contributions. I've been attending the NAAAC meeting (National Association of AA Chairs). There have been 12 group inventories so far this year.

Justin C., Area 31 Chair

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Motion to close at 8:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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