

August 12, 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	N	Y	Y				
Alt. Delegate	Bob M.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Area Chair *	Justin C.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Area Treasurer	Kate V.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y				
Area Secretary	Lara A.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y				
Area Registrar	Sally S.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Area Archivist	Carl G.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y				
Accessibility Chair	Mark D.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Accessibility Co-Chair	Robin D.	Wayne N	wayne N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Archives Chair	Rick W.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N				
Archives Co-Chair	Jill F.	Judy Y	Judy Y	Beatrix N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y				
CPC Chair	Judy H.	Sam N	Sam N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y				
CPC Co-Chair	Erin G.	Greg Y	Greg N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Grapevine Chair	Carl H.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N				
Grapevine Co-Chair	Kevin	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y				
Public Info Chair	Bruce V.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Public Info Co-Chair	Chris K.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y				
Webmaster	Tom H.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y				
Asst. Web/Tech Host	Eric N.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
WMIG Chair	Matt F.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Berk Intergroup Chair	Dwayne	Y	Y	Co-Chair Hedley Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Institutions Chair	JD	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y				
Institutions Co-Chair	Eric M.	Bruce N	Bruce N	Bruce N	Y	N	Y	N	N				
Round Up Chair	Joe I.	Jill F. Y	Jill Y	Jill Y	Jill Y	Jill Y	Y	N	Y				
Round Up Co-Chair	Beatrix E.	Joe Y	Joe Y	Joe Y	Joe Y	Joe Y	N	N	N				
WMYPAA	John S.	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N				
District 1 DCM	Karen K.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
District 1 Co - DCM	Carol L.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N				
District 2 DCM	Tamara R.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
District 2 Co - DCM	Mark B.	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
District 3 DCM	Michael K.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y				
District 3 Co-DCM	Kate A.	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N				

District 4 DCM	James C.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
District 4 Co-DCM	Patrick O.	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N				
District 5 DCM	Jim K.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N				
District 5 Co-DCM	Sean C.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
District 6 DCM	Pat L.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
District 6 Co-DCM	Brendan M	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N				
QUORUM = 18	voting	26	26	27	27	29	24	26	24				
*Area Chair only votes to create or	break a tie												

Secretary's Report

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Treasurer's Report

Beginning July Balance	1820.11
July Group Contributions	3171.84
Total Area Expenses	1416.36
Closing July Balance	3575.59
PLUS –Prudent Reserve	8501.00
Total Funds available	12,076.59

Please continue to announce at the meetings you attend that our treasury is not what it should be and encourage people to ask their groups to contribute more regularly. This month we had a more even showing from all districts. The Virtual Sober Sunrise Group that I could not find on the list is in District 3. I will again send out this running list of group contributions to the DCMs so they may hopefully encourage some groups in their districts who are contributing to send GSRs to the district meetings. We are hoping that the DCMs have been able to find some groups who are not contributing nor sending a GSR to their District meeting. I am available to visit the districts if you need information about the 7th tradition and where our treasury goes. The Comcast issue has been resolved and the account has been closed. 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 is 302. This includes 288 regular groups and 14 virtual groups. Activity in registrar-land is very light, which usually happens in August. I've entered a few new GSRs, visited District 6, and will soon visit District 1. I've also met online with about 30 other registrars from across the US and Canada to trade questions and suggestions about Fellowship Connection. It's always interesting and helpful to share ideas and experience, and to see how other areas do things. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Sally S., Area 31 Registrar

Archivist's Report

Received a group history from the South Hadley group. Carl G., Area 31 Archivist

Webmaster

I learned Sunday that the website's security certificate expired and was not automatically renewed by the host. I worked with Namecheap and got a new certificate in place. There may be email issues right now, especially if you're using a mail client. If you're having trouble getting into your email, please let me know. Thank you! Tom H., Webmaster

Accessibility

Attendance has been low, but commitments are being filled with no issues. There is a new commitment every Wednesday 6-7pm at Grace House in Northampton, which is all women. In response to a request from the Accessibility Committee put out to our fellowship, every Wednesday through the end of 2026 has been filled. It is possible they might allow escorts in the future to take women to meetings, but there may be an issue with car seats, as many of the women have their children with them. Mark D., Accessibility Chair

Archives

The committee is planning a listening/recording party, with two women speakers, for later this summer or early fall. We discussed what should be included in group histories, and we have developed a new flyer to encourage groups to generate, document or update their group histories. It will be posted on the Area website. Rick W., the Archives Committee Chair, continues to visit districts. He brought the Archives committee boards to Palmer tonight. The boards are available for groups to have them present for group functions, anniversaries and the like. They will be displayed at East Mountain Group anniversary in Westfield on Friday 8/14 from 7-8pm. They were brought to Easthampton on Monday 8/10, and they will be going to the Grapevine meeting in Greenfield on 8/28. Alan B., Archives Co-Chair

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)

We had 5 members in person and 8 online at our committee meeting this month. Progress was reported on obtaining new commitments. Erin, CPC Co-Chair, did some research and found in the minutes from prior years, many commitments that we used to serve. She is investigating current contact numbers for these facilities. Some of the entities have since closed and others have new point people as contacts. She is going to continue researching and will disseminate her findings to the committee. I asked the committee for feedback on the CPC Service Structure, the Agenda Structure and our Outreach Plan. The item that got the most attention was the position of the Liaison. Some were confused about what the position is responsible for and whether we still need it. Discussion was tabled until January 2027. Committee member Matt presented the mockup board, it contained the design of the 4th ed. Big Book cover on the title portion, the graphic of Bill & Bob with Alcoholic #3 (known as "The Man on the Bed") as the shadow background, 4 possible slots for catch phrases to attract professionals and there is space reserved for 3 QR codes at the bottom. One of the QR codes will be the Meeting Chair app., one is available "to be determined" and the last will require help from our Webmaster. This last QR code will be CPC specific. We would like to have it function as a data collector and have an option to request a presentation. The committee will meet on 8/26, at my home, to continue designing the board. CPC has upcoming commitments at Bay Path, and AIC Nursing. We also have 2 commitments at Valor Recovery on Worthington St. in Springfield, including a tour of the facility scheduled for 9/16 from 11-3. We will attend the National Overdose Awareness Candlelight Vigil in Belchertown, along with PI, on Monday 8/31. We are invited to tour a new facility in Agawam, Pyramid Healthcare and Recovery/Detox Center, anticipated for October. They're also interested in a CPC presentation to the staff before they open in November. Grateful to be of service, Judy H., CPC Chair

Grapevine/LaViña

There were 7 reps in attendance at the last committee meeting. A reminder was given that a subscription to the Grapevine app is \$30/year, and that makes the whole archive of Grapevine material (going back to 1944) available to the subscriber. The writers' workshop on 7/25 was successful. Attendance was good, the speaker was inspiring and attendees were open to sharing what they had written. We will host another workshop in December in Lee. Will ask an AA member who was recently published in the Grapevine to speak and ask a Grapevine Trustee who lives near the Berkshires to attend. At next month's meeting we will discuss new boards. Kevin S., Grapevine Co-Chair

Public Information (PI)

The PI committee met on Tuesday 8/11 at 30 Carew St., South Hadley and online at 7:30pm. 10 members were present as well as our delegate, Ray. We discussed our upcoming commitments to area high schools in the fall. Next month we will practice our presentation. We have an ongoing commitment to Gandara in Ludlow, every 3rd Thursday of the month at 11am. We need women speakers to share their experience, strength, and hope. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer and help us, please reach out and let us know, thank you. We are participating in the Belchertown International Overdose Awareness Day on Monday, August 31st from 6-8pm on the Belchertown town common. Bruce has been in communication with iHeart Radio to have our PSA go live with them. Radio stations Rock 102.1 and 99.3 continue to air our PSA. Our committee also discussed redoing our board and possibly checking with GSO to see if they have anything available for us. Next month we will discuss further. Thank you for allowing me to serve as the Co-Chair for PI. Chris K.

Round Up

The Round Up committee is still on Summer Vacation. A reminder to DCMs regarding my report from the June 2026 Area meeting: Districts: I would like you to start looking for locations for our next Round Up. Please search your areas for 1-3 locations where we could hold next year's event. I've put together a mini bid packet outlining specifics. Check your district emails, they will be due September 1st. I would also like to ask each DCM to report back to GSRs that we are looking for a Spiritual Speaker to present at the Round Up. We are asking speaker meetings to participate. We would like short (10 min or less) anonymity-protected recordings of speakers. Please work as a committee to narrow your submissions to one speaker. Once districts have submitted their speakers, we will vote on a final speaker. Don't forget to submit your recordings to the Area Archives! We are also requesting these speaker tapes by September 1st. Joe I., Round Up Chair

Berkshire Intergroup

We had 12 members at our last meeting. There was lively discussion about the bylaws, getting them in order. Berkshire Intergroup hosted *Mindfulness Practices* in Sheffield MA on 7/25, led by Elaine M. It was a great spiritual experience, with around 30 attendees. Berkshire Intergroup and District 3 will present GSR/Intergroup Rep. Orientation & Speaker Jam with a potluck on Saturday 9/26 from 11am-3pm at the Ski Lodge at Pittsfield State Forest, 104 Cascade St. in Pittsfield MA. Thank you for letting me serve.
Dwayne M., Berkshire Intergroup Chair

Institutions

There were 29 people at our last meeting. We had 1 roll-out and 1 roll-in. We spent \$2,383 for 245 books. We handed out 248 to 19 different commitments. JD, Institutions Chair

Western Mass. Intergroup

We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month: bookie meeting at 6pm, Intergroup committee meeting at 7pm. WMIG picnic will be Sunday 8/16 at Moose Family Center, 244 Fuller Rd, Chicopee, starts at 11am. Looks like a good day, weather should be nice. There will be horseshoes, cornhole, freezer pops, bubbles, face painting and a DJ. This is a free event. The Moose Lodge will have food for sale. We had our inventory in late July with Past Delegate Mike B. We got some good direction on things we are doing well and areas we can look at. We have some out-of-date documents that the steering committee and office staff are working on. We continue to fill phone coverage slots. 10-12 groups provide all of the phone coverage. Our Treasury looks healthy. The store has summer hours: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, then closed next week. Then back to regular hours. It is suggested to call ahead to make sure somebody is there and check the Intergroup website at www.westernmassaa.org. We will have Thanksgiving and Christmas alcathons.
Thank you for letting me be of service. Matt F., WMIG Chair

Western Mass Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (WMYPAA)

We meet on the 1st Sunday of the month at 5pm at the Serenity Club, 143 Main St., Springfield MA. We will host a free event on Sunday 10/4 at the Alano Club in Agawam MA, with a meeting and pasta luncheon around noon, followed by learning YPAA games. Our business meeting will take place after the event.
Mark D., WMYPAA

District 1

Groups are reporting an increase in summer attendance. Thank you to Erin, CPC Co-Chair, for updating us on their improving techniques of spreading the word. Thank you to Bruce, PI Chair, for sharing his activity in getting info to the masses. With much prayer and meditation and speaking with people, I have made a decision about our workshop. With a heavy heart I have decided to cancel District One's workshop. It will not be rescheduled. Karen K., District 1 DCM

District 2

Our Robert's Rules of Order workshop is scheduled for Sept. 19th from 2-4:30pm at Agawam Methodist Church, 459 Mill St., Agawam MA. We are also accepting the invitation to the Mass. State Convention for two workshops on Robert's Rules. MiraVista concerns amongst three groups have been resolved. A closed women's group brought up concerns within their group about allowing children and about allowing transgender individuals. Thanks, Tamara R., District 2 DCM

District 3

14 groups were represented at our last meeting. The Sober on Saturday Group is supporting a Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) to be submitted to the General Service Conference, with District support, which proposes that annotations be added to the Plain Language Big Book, referencing the corresponding passage from the Big Book. The "Area-level Service 101" event will be combined with the GSR speaker jam that Berkshire Intergroup is planning for September 26. Planning also ongoing for "fun" events - the ad hoc planning committee hopes to plan a contra dancing event for late fall/early winter. No dates set yet.
Mike K., District 3 DCM

District 4

We met on Tuesday 7/21 at 7pm on Zoom. There were 7 GSRs present. One new Alternate GSR attended from the 6pm Greenfield *Only Requirement Group*. The Co-DCM and Area Chair were also in attendance. Attendance at meetings in District 4 has been steady "but a little wonkey." GSRs attribute this to the summertime and vacations. District 4 will host an 11th Step workshop on 10/17 from 11am-1pm at First Congregational Church of Sunderland, 91 South Main St., Sunderland MA. 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. At our 8/3 meeting we had just 5 GSRs present. Of note on 7/18 we performed our Traditions play. Attendance was around 35 people and there was plenty of food and drink following the play. It was brought up that there were no Area representatives physically present at the play (although one was on Zoom). We had a good post-hash discussion at our meeting about how the play went and how we could improve it if we do it again next year. Proposed maps for the redistricting were distributed and GSRs were urged to share with their groups. We then had a presentation from Judy, CPC Chair and we heard from Ray, Area Delegate. District 5 Co-DCM, Sean C.

District 6

District 6 met on ZOOM on Monday 7/20/26 at 7PM. Six groups were represented with General Service Representatives, Co-DCM Brendan, and area guests: Registrar Sally, Ad Hoc Chair Jack, and Area 31 Delegate Ray. The meeting had discussion from our area guests regarding needs of the GSR's for Sally as our Area Registrar and discussion of the purpose and potential "What If" scenario for the Redistricting Ad Hoc Committee. Groups are showing slight decrease in attendance and are having some struggles with filling group service positions, however, most groups are contributing to the Pie Chart. East Mountain Group is holding an Anniversary Friday 8/14 and Suffield Men's Tuesday Big Book is celebrating their 51st Anniversary on 10/25. The group nominated several candidates to share experience, strength, and hope with regards to "Sponsorship" for a workshop anticipated for 10/24 at 11am. Our next meeting is scheduled for the third Monday 8/17/26. It will begin at 7PM exclusively on ZOOM, as our normal facility is unavailable June, July, and August. We will meet back in person in September. Grateful in Service, Pat L., District 6 DCM

Redistricting Ad hoc

At our last meeting on 7/15, we started a conversation, imagining what a "logical" map of Area 31 would look like if we more balanced our districts to about 33 groups per district, which resulted in the maps provided. Moving forward, there are still a lot of details that would need to be worked out, but we're off to a good start. We are aware that there may be some errors, but this is intended to get the conversation going throughout all of our active groups. Feedback can be sent to redistricting_adhoc@area31aa.org. I am willing to come to your district if you wish. I will attend District 3 next. Our next meeting is 8/19 at 6:30pm. Jack A.

Delegate's Remarks

First, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for all that you do. It is never work when you love what you do. AA and Area service has been the adventure of a lifetime. I never want to get off this ride. Love of service makes life worth living, and this sense of duty has given me the type of skills I never knew I needed. Now for the updates: Last month District 5 had their Traditions play, and I could tell from my zoom screen that fun was had by all in attendance. We can NEVER have too much exposure of the traditions in our world, especially if you happen to be slowly tumbling down the triangle like I did. Thank you for having the event, and my sincere apologies for not attending live, my granddaughters have me wrapped around their fingers and insisted we go camping. I survived, but barely – lol. Grapevine had their writer's workshop that had a few published writers in attendance. We all wrote a short story and most of us got up and read it out loud. It was a great experience. Thank you to the Grapevine committee and ALL in attendance. Now for the not so fun news. At the most recent NERD meeting (this past Sunday), we learned that there is a problem of bullying the delegates (not me) & worse yet, our paid office workers. They have endured many unhappy and unprofessional phone calls, staying on the phone beyond when they should. They have been instructed to hang up immediately if an AA member calls swearing or being rude. Thankfully, none were reported out of this Region & I love that. Please come to me if you need to vent about any actions taken by GSO. I'll smile and inform you about the right of decision & service responsibility equals your service authority. (concepts 3 & 10 respectively). I look forward to getting ready for the Fall Assembly in District 3 this October, I know Justin is putting together an informative weekend. Sunday we will be voting to nominate someone for me to present at the GSC this April. Let's show up strong, bring a buddy and join us. Also please consider registering & reserving your room for the MASS State Convention ASAP. Those who fail to plan, plan to fail! Service Gladly Rendered, Obligations Squarely Met. Ray M. Area31 Panel76 Delegate to the General Service Conference

Alternate Delegate's Remarks

I don't have much to report. 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. This month's topic was how we do our report backs. Our area is pretty unique where we report monthly at the area business meeting. Other areas report only in person and at their assemblies. The AA international convention is looking for Theme ideas for the 2030 convention in St. Louis, MO. Please send your ideas to 2030ictheme@aa.org by October 9, 2026. The Mass. State Convention will take place November 6-8, 2026 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center in Marlborough, MA. The next planning committee meeting is Sept. 29TH. I host a carpool that leaves from the bowling alley/Mercedes Dealer at the end of Route

291 at 5:30pm. Seats vary, but I have 2 seats available. It's a great time to get involved. I am the Program Co-Chair. AAWS has acquired the Everything AA app. The 5th edition of the Big Book should be out by first quarter next year, maybe sooner. Plain Language BB Audiobook is available. Bob M., Area 31 Alternate Delegate

Area Chair's Remarks

The Fall Assembly will be October 3rd and 4th in District 3, at Berkshire Waldorf High School, 6 Main St., Stockbridge MA. The Saturday will be an educational day with Past Delegates and Area officers. Sunday will be the usual 6-month Area business meeting. Saturday 9am-3pm, Sunday 1-5pm. The Redistricting Ad hoc committee is looking for participation and input from the districts. There may be a future Ad hoc committee to put together inventory guidelines/formats to be used for Area committees. The Area has a commitment on Monday 8/31 at 7:30pm to Lee Young Peoples Group, at Berkshire Baptist Church, 190 Pleasant St. The Area is still available to do outgoing commitments and continues to sponsor a Concepts meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7pm at 30 Carew St., South Hadley and online. If you would like a group inventory, I can put you in touch with a Past Delegate. Email me at areachair@area31aa.org. Justin C., Area 31 Chair

Old Business – None

New Business – 1. Motion made by Judy H., CPC Chair, to change the start time of the CPC committee meeting from 6:30pm to 6pm, on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, starting in September. PI meets at 7:30pm, so CPC must end their meeting by that time, whether or not they are finished. Second by Robin D., Accessibility Co-Chair. The church asked that the CPC committee members arrive no earlier than 6pm, with the exception of the Tech Host, who may arrive earlier to set up. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Motion made by Judy H., CPC Chair, to request the Area pay for the cost of new CPC display boards, as the expense exceeds their annual budget. Second by Robin D., Accessibility Co-Chair. CPC committee member Matt gave a detailed explanation of a 33-inch x 81-inch banner on a transportable retractable screen, featuring QR codes for information and a referral collector, plus optional accompanying handouts. Cost is expected to be between \$495-\$666, depending on which options are chosen; specific cost breakdowns were provided. Discussion ensued. Question was asked if the Area can afford to finance the new boards without dipping into the prudent reserve. Kate V., Area Treasurer, moved the question. Motion passed unanimously, not to exceed \$666.

3. Presentation given by Susan B., member of *Sober on Saturday* in Lee, MA, of an agenda item proposal to the General Service Conference, that the margins in pages of the *Plain Language Big Book* be annotated to reference the original paragraphs in *Alcoholics Anonymous* from which they were translated. The expected outcome of this proposal is to allow newcomers and sponsors to make better use of the *Plain Language Big Book* as the tool it is intended to be. This proposed agenda item is supported by *Sober on Saturday* in Lee, MA and *Eastside* in Wichita, KS. It will be discussed and a vote for support taken at the District 3 meeting this month.

Motion to close at 9:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lara A.

Area 31 Secretary, Western Mass. General Service