

Area 31 Meeting Minutes

Date: March 2, 2026

Opened with: Serenity Prayer

Chair: Jim

Secretary: Alicia

1. Opening & Welcome

- New GSRs and visitors were welcomed.
- Peter introduced himself as a new GSR from the Friday Night Eye Opener Group in Ludlow.
- Louise filled in for Nora from Morning Light.

2. Housekeeping

- Please take all trash with you when leaving the room.

3. Secretary's Report (Alicia)

- Reviewed minutes from February 2.
- New GSRs introduced at that meeting included: Lynn, Eric, Walt, Jean-Claude, Mark, Nora, Ray, and Don.
- GSR reports were given (not re-read).
- **Traditions Play:** Discussion began about whether to hold it again this year. Last year had ~75 attendees. Most costs were food; potluck option suggested to reduce expenses.
- **Area 51 Map:** Orange area removed from the map after a vote.
- **Budget Questions:**
- Carl asked about a rumored \$10,000 shortfall.
- Ray clarified:
- Budget increased from \$24k (previous years) to \$42k last year.
- COVID savings created a surplus.
- Rent increased to ~\$10k/year.
- International Convention funding was moved from the NERAASA line item.
- Prudent reserve has not been touched.

4. Area & Committee Reports

Accessibility Committee (Mark, Area 31)

- Mission: Ensure AA message is accessible to all alcoholics.
- Supports members with disabilities, mobility issues, illness, or who are homebound.
- Currently only **6 members**; needs volunteers.
- Meets **4th Wednesday** monthly.
- Conducts ~20 commitments per month, including bringing meetings to homebound members.
- Checking meeting spaces for accessibility (ramps, heat/AC).
- Contact: Bob at Area 31.

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Area Chair/Treasurer Updates (Ray)

- January Area Meeting voted to allow the Area Chair to have a guest host.
- NERAASA held Feb 20–22.
- Ray will attend:
 - New England Delegates Meeting (Delaware, March)
 - General Service Conference (NYC, April)
- Spring Assembly: April
- Roundup: May (Hadley)
- Mass State Convention: Marlborough — needs volunteers for hospitality & meet-and-greet.
- Concept Meeting: 1st Thursday monthly at this location.
- Area Chair can arrange group inventories or send past delegates to groups.

5. GSR Reports

Wilbraham Friday Night Group (Dory)

- 6:30–7:15 Living Sober beginners meeting; 7:30–8:30 speaker meeting.
- 10 Chapel St., Wilbraham.
- Contributions low this month; no pie donation.
- All service positions filled.
- Institutions meeting at Boston Recovery in Ludlow (1st Tuesday).
- Healthy attendance (~60).

Wilbraham Thursday Night Men's Group (Steve)

- 7–8 PM at Grace Union Church.
- Commitments: Stony Brook & Mill Street.
- Donating all available funds to institutions this month.

Ludlow Eye Opener Group (Peter – new GSR)

- Fridays 7–8:15 PM, 45 East St.
- Step & Tradition meeting.
- Business meeting last Friday monthly.

Hero Now Group – East Longmeadow (John)

- Wednesdays 7:30 PM, St. Mark's.
- Two-speaker format.
- Stony Brook commitment monthly.
- 35 members; 50–60 weekly attendance.
- Regular pie contributions.

Lost & Found – Chicopee (Alicia)

- Thursdays 6:30 PM, beginners/discussion meeting.
- 284 Montgomery St.
- Missing alternate GSR & secretary.
- Contributes to the pie.

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Belchertown Saturday Night Group (Lynn)

- 6 PM beginners; 7 PM two-speaker.
- 18 Park St.
- Treasurer out sick; pie contributions expected soon.
- Outgoing commitment March 17 (After Work Group, Springfield).
- Monthly coins; business meeting last Saturday.

Group Do or Die – East Longmeadow (Jean-Claude)

- 181 Elm St.
- All positions filled; strong participation.
- Carlson Detox (3rd Thursday).
- Outgoing to South Hadley Grapevine; incoming on the 18th.
- \$1,000 prudent reserve; \$877.69 to be pied out.

South Hadley Tuesday 12 & 12 (Carl)

- Tuesdays 6–7 PM, All Saints Episcopal.
- Step & Tradition meeting.
- Pie contributions every few months.
- Monthly anniversaries & chips.

Sunrise Group – Three Rivers (Wayne)

- Daily 7–8 AM reflections meeting.
- Palmer Historical Building.
- ~\$120/month to pie; prudent reserve \$600–700.
- Institutions: Mill Street (last Monday), Ludlow Jail (2nd & last Tuesday).
- Gives newcomers Big Books & monthly reflections books.
- Weekly Grapevine subscription raffle.
- Growing attendance (35 on Sundays).
- Reported the passing of a newer member; group supporting each other.

Morning Light – Chicopee (Louise)

- 7 days/week; hybrid Mon–Sat.
- Strong attendance (20–60).
- Monthly trips, medallions, incoming/outgoing commitments.
- Institutions: Carlson every Saturday.
- Members involved in Bridging the Gap.
- Most positions filled; working on PI, Grapevine, Intergroup, Archives.

Cold Spring Group – Belchertown (Jen)

- Thursdays 7:30 PM, 18 Kirk St.
- Speaker/discussion.
- Pie contributions every few months; dipped into prudent reserve for supplies & NERAASA.
- Accessibility rep stepped down.

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- Monthly incoming/outgoing commitments.

South Hadley Sunday Night Women's Meeting (Jen reporting)

- Sundays 6–7 PM, All Saints Episcopal.
- Small but growing (5–6 regulars).
- Now has GSR & institutions rep.
- Picking up a women's commitment in Greenfield.
- Monthly coins; step meeting with traditions at month-end.

6. Old Business

- Budget questions clarified earlier.
- Workshop discussion postponed pending more information.

7. New Business

Committee Participation

- Many Area committees need help: Accessibilities, PI, CPC, etc.
- Members do not need to be committee reps to attend.

GSO Donations

- GSO continues to need support.
- Groups encouraged to contribute to the pie when able.

NERAASA Report (Jim & John)

- Attendance estimated 500–700.
- Business meeting was intense but resolved with unity.
- District submitted a bid to host NERAASA 2029 in Springfield.

8. Workshop / Traditions Play Discussion

- Last year's Traditions Play was a major success (~65 attendees).
- Alicia emailed GSO to ask about additional AA plays.
- Ideas discussed:
 - Repeat Traditions Play
 - Jeopardy-style workshop
 - Skit similar to NERAASA's "Bees" skit
- Venue concerns:
 - Church next door has new seating/sound system; may not allow use.
 - Alternatives: All Saints Episcopal, St. Patrick's Social Center.
- Tentative target: **A Saturday in June** (6th, 13th, or 27th).
- No memorization required; scripts read aloud.

9. LCM / Outreach Idea

- Some areas use "LCMs" (Local Committee Members) to visit dark groups.
- District may consider adopting a similar outreach approach.

10. Delegate & Alternate Delegate Reports

Alternate Delegate (Bob)

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- NERAASA was successful; learned from delegates.
- **Mass State Convention:** Nov 6–8, Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough.
- Planning meeting March 31; carpool available.
- Archivist seeking **group histories** (forms on Area website).
- Concept Meeting: 1st Thursday monthly at this location.
- Proposed Action Items (PAIs) now available on Delegate's Corner.
- Will attend NERD (Northeast Regional Delegate Reunion).
- Encouraged committee reps to attend their committee meetings.
- Institutions are not "low on cash" but groups should return to pie-chart contributions.
- Area submitting bid for NERAASA 2029.

Spring Assembly

- April 11–12 in Enfield (tentative Holy Family).
- Proposed agenda items already released early this year.
- Delegate will bring group conscience to NY after Assembly.

11. Roundup Presentation (Jill)

- Roundup = Delegate's report-back event.
- Dates: **May 29–30**, Wesley United Methodist Church, Hadley.
- New format:
 - Friday 5:30–9:30 PM
 - Saturday 8:30 AM–9:30 PM
- Each district will host an Al-Capone-style meeting (topics assigned by drawing).
- Districts asked to help with hospitality.
- **Friday Night Home Group Cook-Off:**
 - Potluck
 - Buy-one-get-one registration for those who bring a dish
- Registrations will be available soon (no QR codes this year).
- Volunteers needed for setup, cleanup, hospitality.

12. Readings

Tradition 3

Read by John.

Service Manual – Chapter 7 (Conference Committees)

Read by Jason (filling in for Linda).

Covered:

- Committee structure
- Advisory actions
- Floor actions
- Committee responsibilities (CPC, Corrections, Finance, Grapevine, Literature, PI, Treatment, Accessibilities, etc.)

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13. Closing

- Next meeting: **April 6, 2026 at 7 PM**
- PI Chair Bruce will attend.
- GSRs reminded to hand in group sharing forms to Alicia.
- Closed with the Responsibility Statement.