

Berkshire Intergroup Monthly Committee Meeting

February 9, 2026

Location/ format: Online/ Phone/ 152 North St Suite 30C Pittsfield MA

Time Called to Order: 7pm

The meeting was called to order by the 2026 Chair, Dwayne M.. The preamble was read by Scott C., (from a recent AA Grapevine issue) and Berkshire Intergroup Articles of Purpose were read by Rusty C.

Roll Call

Officers Present: Chair – *Dwayne M., Co Chair – Hedley S., Treasurer – *Brownwyn (B) N., Webservant – Rusty C., Office Manager – Robin D. **

Groups Represented: Becket Grapevine – Scott C., Keep it Simple – Elaine B., Big Book Step (Lenox) - *Dwayne M., Monterey 11th Step (Sunday Morning) – Craig, Sober on Saturday (SOS) – *Bronwyn N., Southern Berkshire Group – Ilene M., Stockbridge Tower Group – Lo, Thursday (and Sunday online) Men's Group – Bill M., Virtual Sober at Sunrise – Marc C., Watch Your Step – Debbie C.

Other Trusted Servants: Berkshire Institutions Committee Chair – Sue N., Area 31 Panel 76 Delegate - Ray M.

*Serving as an elected officer and intergroup representative (IGR)

**also acting as recording secretary for February due to resignation of 2026 Secretary in January
Quorum met with fifteen (15) members eligible to vote present. Our By-Laws require seven (7).

Secretary's Report - Minutes

Minutes from January 9, 2026 were presented via email reminder and approved without discussion.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer apologized for the lateness of the report due to our bank portal being unavailable from February 6–9. It was shared online and will be emailed as soon as possible by the office manager. The report was accepted.

Office Manager's Report

Report sent via email reminder and brief overview given.

Webservant (WS) Report

Everything is going good with the website and transition. WS in communication with predecessor, Craig. Questions were asked by WS but rescinded. {we have a three-year contract with wix as our webhost, bill was paid in 2025}. WS has moved, and expects to serve their full term.

Chair's Report

No one attended the Bookie/ Speaker exchange meeting this month (6:30pm before BIG meeting). Chair attended Area 31, District 3, and is looking forward to the North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) in a couple of weeks. {Chair's registration is paid by BIG funds, hotel room and other expenses were unfunded this year}

Co Chair's Report

No Report – Co Chair was asked via chat about what the Bookie/ Speaker exchange is. Here's our printed explanation:

What's a "Bookie?"

A Bookie is a member of your group responsible for booking/organizing either outgoing or incoming speaker commitments. Bookies for regular Speaker meetings may have dates that they are in need of speakers (incoming commitment). Bookies for other types of meetings round up fellow members to go on outgoing commitments.

What's an outgoing commitment?

Three or more members of your group show up to share their experience, strength, and hope at another meeting. Usually out of town.

What's an incoming commitment?

Three or more members from another group come in as speakers to share their experience, strength, and hope.

More Questions? Bring them to our next meeting **2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm.**

Berkshire Institutions Committee Report

Meets on the second Thursday of each month at 8:30pm. Discussed the Berkshire Institutions Committee independent Zoom account. Berkshire Intergroup voted at January's meeting to pay the bill for the upcoming year. A member of Berkshire Institutions began the independent account in 2020. In 2025, Western Mass Institutions Committee reimbursed that expense. A Motion under New Business eliminates the need to record further discussion of that matter here. A draft document was shown and discussed for adding to the BIG website. The document includes resources and links for participation in carrying our message into local institutions. Liaisons positions are open for Jones 3, and Berkshire County House of Corrections.

Group Reports

Becket Grapevine – Scott: this meeting (Becket Grapevine) was his first ever, during a very vulnerable time. "It was good for me, and has been good for me ever since." Usually everyone gets a chance to share. The group began in January 2002, but celebrates its anniversary in July with an outdoor picnic. Senior members of the group celebrate on that day, as well. Members come early and stay late. Average attendance is 9-15. Dress warmly in winter!!

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Monterey Group – Craig: Going strong. Meets outside, even during our most frigid weather (minus 8 degrees Fahrenheit). A Group Inventory is being planned for May, along with BBQ. This is for group members only. Call Craig if you want to hear about how awesome it is. The group will be doing a pre-Area 31 Spring Assembly reading of the items up for discussion at this year's World Service Conference – a week-long business meeting (April 26 – May 2, 2026).

Sober on Saturday – B: Great strong group. Meets regardless of weather. May 2, 2026 they will have a potluck brunch. It's an open meeting; all are invited and welcome. For reference 8am Saturday at First Congregational Church, 25 Park Place, Lee.

Southern Berkshire Group (SB) – Ilene: Hybrid/unified meeting gets about 50 attendees online and 60 in person every week (110 total). The group isn't getting a lot of newcomers at this time. Attendees from Living Sober Beginner's meeting at 6:45p prior to SB are encouraged to also attend SB meeting. Group is considering a group inventory.

Thursday (and Sunday online) Men's Group – Bill: Group has three institutions commitments. McGee, CSS, Jail. Sunday night's virtual meeting is reviving. Thursday's meeting has 50 members on a slow night. Anniversary attendance 100.

Virtual Sober at Sunrise – Marc: Going strong. Average 25 attendees each day. Newcomers are showing up, staying, and getting active in service at group level. Just had a potluck on Feb. 7. Despite the weather, about 30 people attended. The group gets together in person twice a year.

Stockbridge Tower Group – Lo: No news.

Keep it Simple – Elaine: Meets online Mon- Fri and in person Mon-Sat.

Watch Your Step – Debbie: Meets simultaneously, (separately) on line and in person. Suspects attendance online has increased due to poor weather. The group held an inventory within the last six months but will revisit in six months.

Area 31 Report

Panel 76 Delegate, serving on General Service Conference Grapevine Committee - Ray: Area handbook map will no longer include the town of Orange. Groups in Orange participate in Area 30 service. Our Area Tech Host responsibilities have been formalized as responsibilities for our Area 31 Assistant Webmaster. Ray is looking forward to the North East Region Delegates (NERD) reunion in Delaware during March. Past, current and Alternate Delegates attend to learn, share and grow spiritually. Spring Assembly dates are not set yet, as the contract with space has not been signed. Save the first or second weekend of April. "Grid" of the General Service Conference (GSC) agenda draft will be available on the Area 31 website soon. The background information for agenda items is being prepared and translated into French and Spanish before being distributed. He will do his best to get materials to District Committee Members (DCMs) as soon as they are distributed to Delegates. Our Delegate can be reached by email to request a hyperlink to them. Background materials are **confidential**, not anonymity protected and only for AA members. Alternate Delegate Bob is responsible for planning how/which items will be discussed at our Spring Assembly (tentative 2nd weekend of April).

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Contact our Area Chair for support in facilitating a group inventory, or an incoming speaker meeting of Area Committee Officers and members sharing their experience, strength, and hope in service. Area Concept Study is hybrid (unified) first Thursdays each month.

New Business

Election of Secretary

Due to resignation two weeks ago, a new Secretary is needed to fill the 2026 term.

Debbie C. willing to serve as Berkshire Intergroup Secretary for the remainder of 2026. "If no one is too mean to me." "We'll be just mean enough." No other candidates available.

Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to elect Debbie.

Thank you for filling the remainder of the 2024-2026 term!

Events Committee for 2026

Motion was made to form the 2026 Events Ad Hoc Committee to plan the events agreed upon at the January meeting.

They were/are: A.A. Trivia, Christmas Alkathon, Speaker Jam of GSRs (General Service Representatives), BIG Meditation Meeting

Craig, Debbie, Dwayne, Ilene, Marc, and Sue will be the initial members.

Any AA member is welcome to participate in the event committee, and it will meet online, though a hybrid(unified) option is available.

First meeting Tues. Feb. 17, 2026 at 5:30pm

Elaine : Suggest that Berkshire Intergroup pay for one Zoom account instead of two saving \$170.00 per year.

Suggest that we begin process/search for 2027- 2030/32 Office Manager

Suggest that bank balance be drawn down, and prudent reserve fund CD be sold

B : Suggest that the bookstore increase amount of Spanish language literature available [currently one Spanish hardcover tercera (3rd?) edition Alcoholics Anonymous, six Spanish softcover Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, one Spanish and four French Living Sober, and four Spanish Came to Believe]

Suggest Berkshire Intergroup supply financially struggling meetings with literature

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Craig: Request progress report regarding our incorporation filings, and non-profit application/status

Request information / planning for any By-Law changes if needed for compliance

Request Event Planning members stay after to plan first meeting

Motion to approve inclusion of Berkshire Institutions information and links as presented on Berkshire Intergroup website (berkshireintergroup.org)

Motion was seconded and passed.

Rusty: Motion to take steps necessary for Berkshire Institutions Committee to host its online meetings with the Berkshire Intergroup Zoom account, and unique ID with passcode. Berkshire Institutions member will need to cancel their existing account.

Motion was seconded, preceded and followed by lively discussion with only one member speaking against. Motion passed.

Lo: Members using telephone to participate in Berkshire Intergroup have difficulty dialing in from our website. Others echoed having challenges. Rusty (WS) will look into this after meeting ends. ~ placement of link was to help prevent "Zoom bombers"

Additional Items to Be Addressed ASAP

1. The Treasurer was again asked to produce a detailed annual expenditure report outlining Berkshire Intergroup income and expenses for years 2023, 2024, and 2025 to determine appropriate prudent reserve funds and future budgeting.
2. A progress report was again requested regarding nonprofit paperwork and status.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at: 8:09pm.