

## AREA 31 WESTERN MASS INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 1391

HOLYOKE, MA 01041-1391

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday April 6, 2022

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18 members were in attendance in person. and virtually.

Andrew opened the meeting at 7:00 with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer, and the guidelines of the committee. Winnie read the tradition 4 of the month, and Betsy the concept 4 of the month.

**Introductions of the committee members:** Chair, **Andy**, Co-Chair, **Jim R**, Sec. **Jax M**, Scribe Secretary, Treasurer, **Mat**, Liaison **Tyler T**, xxx Co-Liaison, Librarian, **Chris T**.

**New Institution Group Reps (IGRs):**

**Secretary's Report:** Jax was present to read the minutes of the last meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** - Mat was present to give a report in person.

- Ending Balance from Prev. \$900.00.
- Total donations \$1477.45
- Expenses \$313.97
- Ending balance for book purchases \$1163.48
- Ending Balance to Carry (reserve) \$900.00

Matt, Treasurer's Report was read, voted, and accepted.

**BTG** – Jeff present to give a report. BTG volunteer forms will be printed and Sonja P stepping down..

**Statement of Purpose:** The Berkshire Institutions Committee organizes and supports AA meetings held at county hospitals, corrections facilities and other

institutions.

**Berkshires** – Berkshire Institutions Chair – Sonja P not present.

<https://sites.google.com/view/berkshireinstitutions>

New Alternate

**Liaison** – Tyler present. Following up with the VA: Section 35. Providence Hospital is not going through us. A letter will be sent to the Holyoke Detox. Questions addressed if anyone had issues..Jax M. said Franklin Hope Greenfield was challenging to get service workers. Suggested k1.) asking the alternate if they would free the slot up for someone unless they want the commitment.

**Librarian** – Chris present to give a report.. Stocked books. Spanish versions, "AA in Prisons", "Came to Believe", "Living Sober", "Daily Reflections", Educational Pamphlets on Groups of Attention, AA Books, Step Books. "In Our Own Words", "Emotional Sobriety", "Voices of Women in AA", "AA in Prison", "AA in the Military". Chris handed in a receipt for books. \*Books Checked out to Franklin Recovery. Motion was made to spend money on books. Motion second to buy books.

**Open discussion of meeting issues**

Chris T. asked about the retention of commitments.

Master list: is reviewing to improve updates to show, "OPEN" for those commitment slots facilities requested, Listed commitments met, all reopened commitments we are asked to fill, regarded as "OPEN". Previous meeting chairpersons who wanted to resume their commitments, have done so, through the facilities directly.

**Area Delegate** – John, Delegate, ###-###-####. Reported The area office is in South Hadley, Church on Carew Street, gave Area31.org updates on. Round up – May 20/22 Clarion, W. Spfld. 5/31 Convention - 366 Sturbridge, MA Area31aa.org

Call for stories – Fifth Edition of the Book Alcoholics Anonymous

**Deadline for submissions:** October 31, 2022

**Online submission:** [aa.org/submit-bigbook-english-5th](https://aa.org/submit-bigbook-english-5th)

(link is external)

**CPC** - Charlie M CPC ###-###-#### co-chair 🌟 Cooperating with professionals, therapists, Institutions. They may step in to assist when any institution contacts a facility director, recovery coach, nurse, or corrections officer requesting information about AA.

**ROLL OUTS** – None.

**ROLL INS - 2 Betsy, First Monday Women's, Mill St;. Winnie, alternate. Bob, 6:30 insti. Mill Street 1st Mon. 3rd W. 6pm.**

**OLD BUSINESS** - The jail has just reopened to meetings. Desire to share commitments again and negotiate a working team, again. Mark, said Sec 35, Jail.

- Tyler can contact Mike to discuss new terms of negotiation to revisit a shared service program. This may require a written request of intention to address a new opportunity to serve together again
- Mira Vista (formerly Providence Hospital), who indicated that the facility will not be using the Institutions Committee to fill commitments. Restrictions are changing everywhere
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- **NEW BUSINESS:** Chris brought up topic books to commitments. Andrea made a motion to keep ISS monthly book check in and delivery to all meeting attendees on commitment to get books. It carried. Tyler present. Followed up with the VA: Section 35. Providence Hospital is not going through us. A letter will be sent to the Holyoke Detox. Tyler addressed Questions "if anyone had issues"?
- Jax M. said "Franklin Hope Greenfield was challenging to get service workers". It was Suggested: 1,) asking the alternate if they would free the slot up for someone unless they want the commitment. 2.) Reducing Tuesdays from 4 to 2.
- Fill the Bridging the Gap Coordinator that opened up: John F was made the new Bridging the Gap rep. Sonja P stepped down. He is the new Gap Coordinator. He wants to request a list of those willing to make a ride for a request to meeting. The Institutions Bridging the Gap Coordinator position is a two-year commitment. They are responsible for coordinating the process of individual AA members leaving facilities (treatment or incarceration) and returning to the

general AA community. They report monthly at the Institutions Committee. Other duties include:

Keeps an updated contact list for all facilities served including phone numbers and email addresses.

- Monitors phone service.
- Cooperates with The Berkshire County Bridging the Gap Coordinator.
- Recruits new volunteers.
- Provides flyers at the monthly meetings.
- Assists Liaisons in contacting facilities on an as needed basis.

**Committee Elections:** John F became the new Bridging the Gap Coordinator.. Sonja P has stepped down. **The next meeting will be on May 3rd - 7 PM in person at 474 Pleasant Street.**

Your 2021 Institution Committee	
Chair	Andy phone email: <a href="mailto:institutions@area31aa.org">institutions@area31aa.org</a>
Co-Chair	Jim R
Secretary	Jax M
Treasurer	Matt F
BTG	Jeff F
Liaison	Tyler F.
Co-Liaison	
Librarian	Chris T.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jax M  
Scribe Pro Tem

Contact information for Bridging the Gap: Jeff F - Bridging The Gap coordinator

**Bridging the Gap**  
**C/O Western Mass. Institutions Committee**  
**PO Box 1391**  
**Holyoke, MA 01040**  
Bridgethegap31@yahoo.com  
**1-888-240-6991**