

## AREA 31 WESTERN MASS INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

181 Books distributed

**P.O BOX 1391**  
**HOLYOKE, MA 01041-1391**  
**BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, June 4th 2025**

18 Groups in Attendance

Lina opened the meeting at 7:00pm with The Serenity Prayer, and the group representative description including responsibilities of the position.

\*In agreement and cooperation with The Responsibility Pledge of Alcoholics Anonymous, the primary purpose of The Institutions Committee is to coordinate the work of the individual AA members and their groups who are interested in carrying the AA message of recovery to all alcoholics who might benefit from a meeting brought into their facility and to facilitate a means of Bridging the Gap from the institution to the larger AA community.

Introduction of committee members:

Chair Lina, Co Chair JD, Secretary Scott (not present), Librarian Jason, BTG Betsy, Liaison Erika, Co Liaison(s) Carla, Harvey, Treasurer Steve

### REPORTS.

**Secretary:** (Betsy (for Scott)) read May report. Motion accepted for minutes to be included.

**Treasurer:** (Steve)

Beginning Balance - \$727.50

Total donations (26 Groups)- \$1757.28

Expenses- \$ 88

Total For Books - \$1669.28

Ending Balance \$727.50

**Bridging the Gap:** (Betsy) - provided explanation on what bridging the gap program is and how it works. Asked for volunteers to sign up to answer the call and be available to people after they exit an institution to bring to area AA meetings. She reviewed business cards with bar codes for clients and volunteers. Reported that no clients have signed up from institutions for the last couple of years. Encouraged AA volunteers going into institutions to distribute business cards and explain BTG program. Erika and Betsy are working with contacts/staff/directors to educate on the BTG program for clients leaving their institution.

**Librarian:** (Jason) spent \$1819 for 155 books and 50 when & where meeting lists. Current inventory total of 737 books.

**Liaison :** (Erika) - new LOI from Hampshire sheriff's office in Northampton. Any evenings weekly, biweekly, monthly commitments available at 7pm or 8pm. AA volunteers must attend a mandatory orientation (and yearly orientation thereafter), and undergo a CORI check. Men are preferred volunteers. 2-3 volunteers max per meeting. All speakers/visitors must have CORI check. Motion to add meeting to Open list. Discussion. Concern raised that there are too many meetings on the Open list. Carla noted that Open meetings have been removed if a commitment wasn't filled after 6 months in the past. Motion passed to add Hampshire Sheriffs office meetings to the Open meeting list. Salvation Army commitment had 2 different volunteers sign up for 2nd Tuesday. Issue resolved.

### INVITED COMMITTEES

**Area Delegate (Steve):** All area information available on website [area31aa.org](http://area31aa.org) including International Convention, District Meeting, Area Meeting, Fall Assembly, NERF. Berkshire Intergroup hosting a workshop 6/19 (9am-3pm) on Steps 6 & 7. GSO is hiring (see Meeting Guide app for details). Mass State Convention

planning committee occurring odd months (contact Steve for details). Please contact delegate if you would like area committee to do an outgoing commitment to your home group to discuss service work at the area level. Delegate can also help a group coordinate a group inventory. Concept meeting 1st Wed of mth. 10/18-10/19 Fall Assembly. 11/14-16 MA State Convention. NERF 12/5-7. (See area website for details).

**Grapevine():**

**CPC:(Karen):**

**ACCESSIBILITIES:(Judy)** - Explanation of committee and functions. Can bring in meetings to assisted living facilities. Reported on current commitments and they are going well. Secretary position filled! A member of AA with ASL experience has offered free ASL services.

**Pi:**

**WMYPAA(Mark):** Meets 1st Sunday of the month at Serenity Club, 5pm. Need help. MSCYPAA XXVII in Springfield, MA, 8/15-17. Registration available online. 6/13-15 - camping trip in East Dorset, VT (see area website for details). Meeting twice per month leading up to the Convention.

**Chair Report(Lina):** Announced she would be stepping down from the Chair person position. JD has agreed to step up to become the Chair position. New business will include vote for Cochair opening. Discussion re: Berkshire Institutions Zoom account.

**Co-Chair Report:**

**Issues-** none

**Roll outs-** none.

**Roll ins-** Carla / Mixed Nuts - Retreat of Boston on 3rd Saturday every month. Beatrix / Remember When - Stonybrook Tuesdays 7pm. Bruce / Joy of Living - Salvation Army on 3rd Tuesday.

**END OF REPORTS**

**Old Business:** Previous motion from month prior on BTG and if volunteer list would have identified information stored and concerns re: anonymity of volunteers preserved if stored on a DB or in a computer. Discussion. Noted that no tradition is violated. Names of clients are removed after ride is provided. Motion *Did Not Pass*. BTG list will remain as is.

**New Business:** (Steve) motion to spend \$1669.28 on books - *passed* unanimously. Discussion re: Berkshire Intergroup should be responsible for paying for Zoom account. They will now be paying for their own account. Berkshire Intergroup is a part of Area 31. They are responsible for their own Institutions meetings. They do receive Books from Institutions committee. They are a subcommittee that was formed with the understanding that we would support them. Motion to table discussion to gather information. Motion *passed* to table motion. Election for Open CoChair position. Bruce volunteered. Sobriety date 4/1/08. Has held many positions within Institutions committee. *Voted* in unanimously. Motion to close *passed* unanimous

Closed Meeting 8pm  
w/ The Responsibility Pledge

The next meeting will be at 7pm first Wed. of the month, 7/2/25,

30 Carew St, South Hadley

**Your 2024 Institutions Committee**

Email: [Institutions@area31aa.org](mailto:Institutions@area31aa.org)

**Chair Lina**

**Co Chair JD**

**Secretary Scott**

**Treasurer Steve**

**BTG Betsy**

**Liaison Erika**

**Librarian Jason**

**OPEN COMMITMENTS - AA Service Opportunities - Updated June 2025**

*To take on a commitment: Roll-In during the monthly Institutions Meeting.*

*IC Meeting is at 7PM on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 30 Carew St South Hadley MA*

(W)Women (M)Men \*Notes

Institution	Address	Day	Time	* Notes
Care One	260 Easthampton Road Holyoke MA	1st or 2nd Wed	7:30 PM	
CT Corrections	335 Bilton Road Somers CT	2nd & 4th Thursday	7:00 PM	
Hampshire Sheriff's Office	205 Rocky Hill Road, Northampton MA	Flexible Monthly/Wkly	7:00 PM	Orientation/Cori
Holyoke Medical Center BH	575 Beech Street Holyoke MA	Tuesdays	6PM or 7PM	
Holyoke Medical Center BH	575 Beech Street Holyoke MA	Thursdays 2nd/4th	6PM or 7PM	
Mira Vista Behavioral Health	1233 Main Street Holyoke MA	Tues - Saturday	7:00 PM	Cori
Mission Care at Holyoke	35 Holy Family Road Holyoke MA	Flexible 2x/month	2PM or 4PM	
New View Section 35 (W) *	21 Kenwood Street Greenfield MA	Sats & Sundays	7:00 PM	*All Genders are Welcome
New View Section 35 (W) *	21 Kenwood Street Greenfield MA	Weds - Fridays	7:00 PM	*All Genders are Welcome
Retreat of Boston (New)	14 Chestnut Place, Ludlow MA 01056	S/M/T/Th/F(s)	6:30 PM	1st/2nd/3rd/4th/5th
Retreat of Boston (New)	14 Chestnut Place, Ludlow MA 01056	Saturdays	6:30 PM	1st/2nd/4th/5th
Retreat of Boston (New)	14 Chestnut Place, Ludlow MA 01056	Wednesdays	6:00 PM	1st/2nd/3rd/4th/5th
Salvation Army (M)	327 Liberty Street Springfield MA	1st/4th Tuesdays	7:00 PM	
Salvation Army (M)	327 Liberty Street Springfield MA	2nd Thursday	7:00 PM	
Stonybrook Ludlow Section 35 (M)	325 Alabama Street Ludlow MA	Weds Saturdays	7:00 PM	Cori
Stonybrook Ludlow Section 35 (M)	325 Alabama Street Ludlow MA	2nd & 4th Fridays	7:00 PM	Cori
Valley Springs Hospital	45 Lower Westfield Road Holyoke MA	1st & 4th Sunday	6:30 PM	

There is a lot of service opportunity here please consider sharing your time, even 1 day/month.

**Working Together we Make a Difference!**

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