

AREA 31 WESTERN MASS INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

199 Books distributed

P.O BOX 1391

HOLYOKE, MA 01041-1391

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, August 6th 2025

15 Groups in Attendance

JD 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 JD, Co Chair Bruce, Secretary Scott, Librarian Jason, BTG Betsy, Liaison Erika, Co Liaison(s) Carla, Harvey, Treasurer Steve

REPORTS

Secretary: (Scott) read July report. Motion accepted for minutes to be accepted - *unanimously*.

Treasurer: (Steve)

Beginning Balance - \$727.50

Total donations (32 Groups)- \$1994.39

Expenses- \$ 88

Total For Books - \$1906.39

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 the last few months. 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 \$1015 for 95 books and 40 when & where meeting lists. Current inventory total of 608 books

Liaison : (Erika) - Thank you all for your service work. The communication updates from Institutions and Volunteers has been good. The Institutions are very pleased and the volunteers 'look forward' to being of service. Reminder to everyone, that when taking on an individual commitment be sure the Chair/Co-chair have established/agree to the format(s) for their commitment to lessen confusion when starting a new commitment. If you need help with a format please ask as we are happy to help. Communication with Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Behavioral Health Unit, Northampton, MA, Request 1st and 3rd Fridays, to start, Unit is Coed. LOI received and read, approved to add. JD & Erika discussed moving forward to minimize any confusion, that Erika will help lead the meeting discussion for roll-ins, roll-outs, and any issues with commitments.

INVITED COMMITTEES

Area Alt Delegate (Ray): Noted 43rd millionth BB given away at AA International Convention in Vancouver. All area information available on website area31aa.org including District Meetings, Area Meetings, Fall Assembly, NERF. District 6 workshop upcoming (see area website). Mass State Convention planning committee occurring odd months (contact Ray for details). Please contact chair if you would like area committee to do an outgoing commitment to your home group to discuss service work at the area level. Chair can also help a group coordinate a group inventory. Concept meeting 1st Wed of mth. 10/18-10/19 Fall Assembly including Area Elections. District 2 workshop on Plain Language BB on weekend of FA. 11/14-16 MA State Convention. NERF 12/5-7. (See area website for details). Accessibilities Co-chair position is available for those interested in doing service. Please donate to Area and attend monthly area meetings.

Grapevine():

CPC:(Karen): To do - flyer for groups re: CPC. Upcoming commitments - Baypath, AIC (nursing). Barriers - changing contacts at institutions, looking for new leads.

Registrar (Sally): explanation of role in Area 31. Addressed new/existing correctional facility groups within A31. What is Area / Institutions role for these groups?

ACCESSIBILITIES:(Judy) -

Pi:

WMYPAA(Mark): Meets 1st Sunday of the month at Serenity Club, 5pm. Need help. MSCYPAA XXVII in Springfield, MA, 8/15-17. Registration online. Meeting twice per month leading up to the Convention. 8/9 Beach trip (\$20 cost).

Chair Report(JD):

Co-Chair Report:

Issues- New View - Tuesdays (1st and 3rd) not on Open commitment list.

Roll outs- Retreat of Boston - Heather (chair).

Roll ins- Retreat of Boston - Rob (co-chair now chair) will be continuing commitment looking for another Cochair. Salvation Army (1st, 4th Tues) - Kevin S (chair), Ron D (co-chair). Cooley Dickison Hospital - Fridays (1st, 3rd) - Migdalia (chair), Victoria (co-chair). Hampshire Sheriff's Office Jail & HOC: Wednesdays (2nd, 4th) - John (chair), Mark (co-chair); Fridays (4th, 5th) - Matt (chair), Gary R (co-chair).

END OF REPORTS

Old Business: Sue confirmed Berkshire intergroup will pay for Zoom account (prior tabled motion).

New Business: Joe from BOCA Recovery Center a new facility opened, located in Springfield, 128 beds, coed looking to add 4 nights/week of AA meetings from 615-715pm. Erika responded that Institutions director will need to complete a letter of intent (example letter provided to Joe) and can submit and communicate further with the Institutions Liaison. (Steve) motion to spend \$1906.39 on books - *passed* unanimously. Emphasized need for continued support of groups to donate to Institutions committee. Discussion re: groups allocation of monies / explanation of history of suggested donation percentages. JD reviewed progress of Institutions boards for display for Area and State Convention (2 of 3 finished). He will continue work on design / building of these.

Closed Meeting 8pm

w/ The Responsibility Pledge

The next meeting will be at 7pm first Wed. of the month, 9/3/25.

30 Carew St, South Hadley

Your 2024 Institutions Committee

Chair JD - email: Institutions@area31aa.org

Co Chair Bruce

Secretary Scott

Treasurer Steve

BTG Betsy

Liaison Erika

Librarian Jason

OPEN COMMITMENTS - AA Service Opportunities - Updated August 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	
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 1st/2nd/4th	7:00 PM	*All Genders are Welcome
New View Section 35 (W) *	21 Kenwood Street Greenfield MA	Thursdays/Fridays	7:00 PM	*All Genders are Welcome
Retreat of Boston (New)	14 Chestnut Place, Ludlow MA 01056	S/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	5th Tuesday	7:00 PM	
Salvation Army (M)	327 Liberty Street Springfield MA	2nd/5th 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, 3rd, 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!
