

AREA 31 WESTERN MASS INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

188 Books distributed

P.O BOX 1391

HOLYOKE, MA 01041-1391

BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, October 1st 2025

21 Groups in Attendance

3 new group representatives 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 (not present) Harvey (not present), Treasurer Steve

REPORTS.

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

Treasurer: (Steve)

Beginning Balance - \$727.50

Total contributions (28 Groups)- \$1775.25

Expenses- \$ 188 (extra \$100 to prudent reserve for state conv)

Total For Books - \$1587.25

Ending Balance \$539.50 (recompense to chair for room expense at conv)

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 signed up this past month. Volunteers are utilizing QR codes on business cards, but clients are not. Encouraged AA volunteers going into institutions to distribute business cards and explain BTG program.

Librarian: (Jason) spent \$925 for 75 books and 50 when & where's. Current inventory total of 510 books.

Liaison : (Erika) - Thanked all for continued service work. Appreciates communication updates from volunteers and Institutions. Reported answer to ? from last month re: number of commitments within Institutions. Reported currently coordinating confirmed 75 / mth. 46 / mth are not confirmed. Currently 42 open commitments, and 22 not confirmed open commitments. Noted challenges of communicating with institutions, and volunteers to coordinate all of these commitments. Bruce, co-chair, noted appreciation of Erika, and all of her hard work.

INVITED COMMITTEES

Area Chair (Bob): email: areachair@area31aa.org. Area website is area31aa.org which includes District Meetings, Area Meetings, Fall Assembly, Mass State Convention planning committee meetings. Please contact chair if you would like area committee to do an outgoing commitment to your home group to discuss recovery and service experience. Chair can also help a group coordinate a group inventory utilizing a prior delegate. Concept meeting 1st Wed of mth. 10/18-10/19 Fall Assembly including Area Elections (Sunday 1-5), District 2 workshop on Plain Language BB, Saturday (9-3) of FA. 11/14-16 MA State Convention. NERF 12/5-7 in RI

(registration is free - See area website for details). Still have need of co-chairs for GV and CPC if you are looking to be of service. Looking for old GV's from the 90's - please donate! Round Up needs help - please volunteer! GSO in NYC is being refurbished, and offices are closed to the public, but can still call/email/write for assistance. Chili cook off on 10/12 (see website). CT Alcathon over thanksgiving(12pm-12am) (see website) Please donate to Area and attend monthly area meetings.

CPC:(Karen): Commitment at AIC went very well. Upcoming commitments at Bayoath and Westfield State. New position of liaison within CPC committee (modeled on Institutions position). Tonya prior co-chair is taking this position.

ACCESSIBILITIES:(Judy) - 17 commitments/mth to people not able to make it out to meetings in area. Helping state convention to organize ASL, stenographers. Avg 7 gp reps / mth at meeting.

Pi:

WMYPAA(Mark): meets 1st Sunday of mth. Elections, 10/5 at Serenity Club. Traditions mtg 4pm, and business mtg to follow.

Chair Report (JD): none

Co-Chair (Bruce): none

Issues- Gary - commitment at Hampshire Corrections. Can't bring in literature from AA to distribute. Also only 2 clients at meeting / competition with gym time at same time as AA at 7pm. Noted possible better time to start at 6pm then may have better attendance. Can Erika investigate? Doug - Mill St. can't bring in books, but also told by CO that volunteers can. Please investigate. Johnny - New View. 2nd Tuesday is not filled per ppl at New View, but is listed as filled on open commitment list. Please investigate.

Feedback:

Roll outs- Aster House (Mon 1st, 3rd, 5th - Sam, Sean). BOCA - QAU on Wed.

Roll ins- Aster House (Mon - 3rd, 5th) - Tom/Rick. Retreat of Boston -(Tue - 2nd) - Andriana/ Remember When gp.. Retreat of Boston - (Tue - 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th) - Mark/Mark. New View (Wed - 2nd) - James/Jen - The Valley LGBTQ gp. BOCA (Thr - 3rd) - Doug / E Longmeadow Sun Night gp. Stonybrook Ludlow Section 35 (Wed - all) - George / Belchertown Saturday Night gp.

END OF REPORTS

Old Business: none

New Business: (Steve) motion to spend \$1587.25 on books - *passed* unanimously. Steve 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. Bob, area chair, has a pamphlet that addresses allocation of monies collected at groups. Jason, librarian, also asked that members donate older literature to institutions for distribution to commitments. Betsy, BTG, suggested groups start LIP (literature in prisons) donation box at your home group to be donated to institutions committee for distribution. Karen, CPC Chair, motioned to use BTG QR code on CPC pamphlets to bring more clients to BTG program - *passed unanimously*.

Closed Meeting 8pm

w/ The Responsibility Pledge

The next meeting will be at 7pm first Wed. of the month, 11/5/25

30 Carew St, South Hadley

Your 2024 Institutions Committee

institutions@area31aa.org

Chair JD

CoChair Bruce

Secretary Scott

Treasurer Steve

BTG Betsy

Liaison Erika

Librarian Jason

OPEN COMMITMENTS - AA Service Opportunities - Updated October 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
Boca Recovery	200 Kendall Street, Springfield MA	Tues 1st/2nd/3rd/4th/5th	6:15 PM	
Boca Recovery	200 Kendall Street, Springfield MA	Thurs 1st/2nd/4th/5th	6:15 PM	
Boca Recovery	200 Kendall Street, Springfield MA	Sundays	6:15 PM	
Care One	260 Easthampton Road Holyoke MA	1st or 2nd Wed	7:30 PM	
CHD Aster House	51 Old Lyman Road, South Hadley MA	1st Monday	7:00 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	Tues 1st/3rd	7:00 PM	*All Genders are Welcome
New View Section 35 (W) *	21 Kenwood Street Greenfield MA	Weds 1st/4th/5th	7:00 PM	*All Genders are Welcome
New View Section 35 (W) *	21 Kenwood Street Greenfield MA	Fridays 1st/3rd/4th/5th	7:00 PM	*All Genders are Welcome
Retreat of Boston (New)	14 Chestnut Place, Ludlow MA 01056	S/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	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!				