

## AREA 31 WESTERN MASS INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

187 Books distributed

**P.O BOX 1391**

**HOLYOKE, MA 01041-1391**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

21 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 Maureen

Librarian Jason, Bridging the Gap Betsy, Liaison Erika, Treasurer Steve for Doug (not present)

Bruce - read the tradition of the month

### REPORTS

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

**Treasurer:** Steve (Doug not present)

Beginning Balance - \$ 1,044.69

Total contributions (27 Groups)- \$1,503.10

Expenses- \$ 188

Total For Books - \$ 1,315.10

Ending Balance \$ 1,044.69

**Bridging the Gap:** (Betsy) – provided an explanation of what the Bridging the Gap program is and how it works. Need more volunteers to sign up to answer the call and be available to people after they exit an institution to bring to area AA meetings. Betsy reviewed business cards with bar codes for clients and volunteers. Betsy also reviewed the previous sign-up forms that can be used in cases where the institution will not allow business cards to be handed out to residents. Completed forms should be returned to Betsy to ensure they get set up with a ride. Berkshire area is kicking butt with volunteers. The valley needs more volunteers. Betsy came away with some new ideas while attending NERAASA.

**Librarian:** (Jason) spent \$2,962.60 for 295 books and \$80 on pamphlets and When & Wheres, totaling \$3,042.60 spent. Currently up a total of 115 books from February. In February a total of 187 books were distributed. A total of 19 commitments received books. The current literature inventory stands at a total of 902 books.

**Liaison :** (Erika) – Provided explanation of role as liaison between Institutions Committee and the Institutions looking to bring commitments into their facility. Had a busy month with 7 roll-ins for the month of February. Received Letter of Intent from Westernmass Womens Correctional Center. Looking for weekly meetings on Mondays 7pm-8pm & Saturdays 2pm-3pm. CORI Checks are required for all attending. CORI check & orientation are required for Chair & Co-Chair. Motion to roll in Westernmass Womens Correctional Center - *passed unanimously*.

Erika has connected with Grace House. Because it is not a locked facility, the hope is that residents will be able to get out to attend a meeting. Anyone wishing to volunteer for an individual commitment at Grace House would be required to complete a more comprehensive CORI check due to children residing there with their mothers. Erika will follow up with Grace House to clarify whether residents are required to remain on-site for a period of time after admission in order for us to facilitate a meeting at their facility.

### **INVITED COMMITTEES**

**Area Delegate:** (Bob) : Provided an explanation as to what they do and the services they offer. Their services include outgoing commitments to groups to share their recovery and service experience. A delegate can also help a group coordinate a group inventory utilizing a prior delegate. If interested, please email Area Chair. Spring Assembly will be held on 4/11/26 & 4/12/26 at Holy Trinity Church in Enfield. MA State Convention will be held in November. 1st planning meeting was held in January. Bob hosts a bus trip with 2 more seats available. Area is looking for group histories. The group history form to fill out and submit, can be found on the area website. A Concept meeting is held on the first Thursday of every month at 7pm. The Round-up will be held on May 29th & 30th. They are looking for volunteers. Area 31 is making a bid to host NERAASA in 2029. Groups have reported that all service positions are filled; however, not all group representatives are attending area committee meetings. Please return to your groups and encourage anyone with an area commitment to attend the area meeting.

**CPC:** (Karen): Not Present

**ACCESSIBILITIES:** (Mark) – Provided explanation on what Accessibility's is, and what they do. There are currently 26 commitments for those that are unable to get out to a meeting, and are living in nursing homes, or other long term care facilities.

**Pi:** - not present

**WMPAA:** (Mark): WMPAA meets the 1st Sunday of the month for a Step Study at 4pm, and Business meeting follows at 5pm. Holding a pancake breakfast on March 15th with Bingo following.

**Berkshire Institutions:**(Brendan) Berkshire institutions is looking to move their meeting, and for ways to better connect with other regions.

**Chair Report:** (JD): no report

**Co-Chair:** (Bruce): Bruce announced he will be moving out of state, therefore will no longer be able to serve as Institutions Co-Chair. Thanked everyone for their help, sharing their knowledge, and for the love shown to him. It has been an honor to serve, and has brought him joy seeing how this meeting has grown. Keep it up!

**Feedback:** Steve encourages group reps to make announcements at every meeting they attend, urging groups to contribute to institutions. Contributions can include individual monetary donations, or by donating AA literature. Can encourage groups to add a Literature in Prison donation box to collect literature. Joe from Boca shares that up to 10 people can come to commitments at their facility.

**Roll outs** - \*Stonybrook Sect 35 (4th - Friday) Billy G. with Tuesday After Work Group

**Roll ins** - \*Boca (5th - Tues) James with Monson Green Street Group,\*Boca (5th - Thurs) Maggie with Clear Cut Directions group,\*Holyoke Medical Center BH (2nd - Thurs) Steve with Eye Opener Step Group,\*Retreat of Boston (4th - Wed) Billy G. with Tuesday After Work Group,\*Retreat of Boston (3rd - Wed) Patty with Sunrise group

### **END OF REPORTS**

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** (Jason) talked to the church about additional storage for books. Committee tabled motion to buy a storage cabinet. We will seek a replacement for Bruce as Co-Chair at the April meeting. (Steve) motion to spend \$1,315.10 on books - *passed* unanimously.

Closed Meeting 8pm

w/ The Responsibility Pledge

The next meeting will be at 7pm first Wed. of the month, 4/1/26

30 Carew St, South Hadley

### **Your 2026 Institutions Committee**

*email institutions@area31aa.org*

*JD Chair; Bruce Co Chair; Maureen Secretary; Doug Treasurer; Betsy BTG; Jason Librarian; Erika Liaison*

**OPEN COMMITMENTS - AA Service Opportunities - Updated March 2026**

*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*

<i>(W)Women (M)Men *Notes</i>				
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>* Notes</b>
<b>Boca Recovery</b>	200 Kendall Street, Springfield MA	Thursdays	6:15 PM	2nd/4th
<b>Boca Recovery</b>	200 Kendall Street, Springfield MA	Saturdays	6:15 PM	2nd/3rd/4th/5th
<b>Boca Recovery</b>	200 Kendall Street, Springfield MA	Sundays	6:15 PM	2nd/3rd/4th/5th
<b>New View Section 35 (W) *</b>	21 Kenwood Street Greenfield MA	Sundays	7:00 PM	*All Genders are Welcome
<b>New View Section 35 (W) *</b>	21 Kenwood Street Greenfield MA	Tues 2nd/4th	7:00 PM	*All Genders are Welcome
<b>New View Section 35 (W) *</b>	21 Kenwood Street Greenfield MA	Weds 1st/4th/5th	7:00 PM	*All Genders are Welcome
<b>New View Section 35 (W) *</b>	21 Kenwood Street Greenfield MA	Fridays 1st/3rd/4th/5th	7:00 PM	*All Genders are Welcome
<b>Retreat of Boston</b>	14 Chestnut Place, Ludlow MA 01056	S/Th/F(s)	6:30 PM	1st/2nd/3rd/4th/5th
<b>Retreat of Boston</b>	14 Chestnut Place, Ludlow MA 01056	Saturdays	6:30 PM	1st/2nd/4th/5th
<b>Retreat of Boston</b>	14 Chestnut Place, Ludlow MA 01056	Wednesdays	6:00 PM	1st/5th
<b>Salvation Army (M)</b>	327 Liberty Street Springfield MA	5th Tuesday	7:00 PM	
<b>Salvation Army (M)</b>	327 Liberty Street Springfield MA	5th Thursday	7:00 PM	
<b>Stonybrook Ludlow Section 35 (M)</b>	325 Alabama Street Ludlow MA	Saturdays	7:00 PM	*Cori
<b>Stonybrook Ludlow Section 35 (M)</b>	325 Alabama Street Ludlow MA	2nd Friday	7:00 PM	*Cori
<b>Valley Springs Hospital</b>	45 Lower Westfield Road Holyoke MA	Sundays	6:30 PM	1st/2nd/3rd/4th/5th
<b>Western MA Regional Women's Correctional Ctr (W)</b>	701 Center Street Chicopee, MA 01013	Mondays	7:00 PM	1st/2nd/3rd/4th/5th *Cori & Orientation
<b>Western MA Regional Women's Correctional Ctr (W)</b>	701 Center Street Chicopee, MA 01013	Saturdays	2:00 PM	1st/2nd/3rd/4th/5th *Cori & Orientation

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

**Working Together we Make a Difference!**
