

Area 31 Accessibility Committee Meeting

3/25/2026

Meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer

Attendance: Mark D (Chair) – Springfield Young People, Lindsay C (Secretary) – Holyoke Sober Sunday, Jean (Area 31 Representative for the MA State Convention) – Holyoke South Street Group, Robin (Co-Chair), Kathy – Friday Night South Hadley, Ray (Area 31 Delegate, Grapevine Committee)

Monthly Calendar:

Mondays: 7:00-8:00pm Pioneer Valley Health & Rehab, 573 Granby Road, South Hadley

Mark every Monday, Judy

Update:

Tuesdays: No commitments at this time.

Update:

Wednesdays: 6:00-7:00pm CareOne Northampton, 548 Elm Street, Northampton. Jean

3rd Wednesday of the month 7:30-8:30pm CareOne Holyoke, 260 Easthampton Road, Holyoke.

Kathy - who's in charge of getting speakers for this? Does she want to spearhead this? She will bring speakers every week and will take charge of that.

Update: Paulines in home visit will be 4/8, will text if she needs to cancel or wants something else, 2-3 people max

Thursdays: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month 6:15-7:15pm Linda Manor, 345 Haydenville Road, Leeds.

Lindsay potentially the 3rd Thursday

Update: Need to get Mike's contact info

Fridays: 7:00-8:00pm, Cedar Brook Village, 73 South Street, Ware.

Update:

**Gary meetings being brought in - touch points of chestnut in the process of ok-ing this, (check with mark on this)

Lindsay read last months minutes, motion to approve with a second.

There was some discussion about upcoming events that are considered **new business**:

Jean says that they are bringing a meeting to a resident in Holyoke that is a member of the South Street group on Thursday night

Kathy – they brought a meeting for Pauline that night, the next meeting will be Wednesday 4/8 for her. The second Wednesday of the month.

Kathy – asked about who should be in charge of the CareOne Holyoke meeting, when she went it was just her and a former patient and they both spoke. She will take this meeting on herself.

Ray – Spring Assembly is 4/11-4/12 in District 6 which includes Enfield, Somers and Suffield CT. Saturday will be a mini conference with 4 past delegates to moderate 4 topics each, agenda is forthcoming. Sunday will be the business meeting, each district and committee will give a report for the last 6 months from 1-5pm. This is all being held at the Holy Trinity Church, 383 Hazard Avenue in Enfield, CT.

Conference is in NY 4/26-5/2

General updates of note:

- Grapevine is now accepting direct contributions from fellowship

- A quote from Dr Bob is being removed from the manual about sponsorship
- Other districts are putting out various workshops

Ray attended NERD in Delaware with Bob, which included meeting up with past, current and incoming delegates. They will be giving a report from NERD at The Roundup in Hadley (5/29-5/30).

Upcoming event information:

Mark D – **Spring Assembly** is Saturday 4/11 and Sunday 4/12. We (Accessibility Committee) will have a table at this and Mark will be there definitely on Saturday and maybe on Sunday. Need volunteers for the table for the weekend. Because it is being held in another state (CT), the ASL interpreter is not free unfortunately. They can provide help at the assembly if an attendee needs it. The location is 383 Hazard Avenue, Enfield CT.

Roundup is Friday 5/29 and Saturday 5/30. Jill will have a table there on Friday afternoon. The theme of the Roundup is Humility in Action, volunteers are strongly encouraged to come share their stories. There will be a marathon type meeting occurring on Saturday morning (8:15-9am?)/ Area 31 website has a flyer, and you can donate a potluck dish on Friday in exchange for a free registration for a group member/friend. Catered meals are included on Saturday for lunch and dinner. The location is 98 N maple Street, Hadley MA at the United Methodist Church.

Robin notes that preregistration for Roundup is \$30 and you can do that on the Area 31 website.

Lindsay read **old business** from last month

More new business:

Kathy – Friday night South Hadley group has a member who had a stroke, and has difficulty getting to the meeting. She's interested in potentially setting up an in home meeting, but wonders how we go about this, timing, availability etc and we discuss.

Mark D – Discusses setting up a google drive for our committee with a google calendar, documents etc. Ray said that the webmaster (Tom) is setting up gmail accounts for each committee so we will wait for that official account from Tom.

Steve and John – ask about approaching Suffield House (in CT) for a commitment? We discuss reaching out to the activities director.

We also discuss if there is a list of rehabs and centers in the area and contact info with them so we can reach out to activity coordinators, talk about keeping our ears out for people going in to rehabs that may need meetings brought to them. It will be helpful to build relationships with activities directors. Other members of AA can also bring members to meetings we hold at certain facilities.

Mark D – Mentions improving communication and working with residents and last minute changes for visits, mental health etc

Robin – Accessibility meeting members have to know that a meeting is 100% accessible to be able to actually bring a client to a meeting vs. bringing a commitment to them, we can be paying attention to meetings that we can say are completely accessible

We discussed setting up ways to help members moving forward, past members who have gone back into nursing homes or rehab facilities.

Next meeting is Wednesday 4/22

Motion to close, seconded and passed

Closed with Responsibility Pledge at 8:01pm