

Area 31 Grapevine Committee Minutes

September 2, 2025

Present: Joe I, Ray M, Bonnie A, Drica, Beth M, Susan B

Open with Serenity Prayer

Read Statement of Purpose and Daily Quote

There is a need for a secretary and co-chair (who would roll into being chair in January)

Joe talked about responsibilities as specified on page 24 of the Area Handbook

“Encourages groups and individuals to subscribe to the Grapevine and La Viña (Spanish language edition) and to have Grapevine items like books and CDs available at meetings. Promotes awareness of the Grapevine website, including the Audio Grapevine and Digital Archives as tools of recovery. Encourages members to submit articles, letters, drawings, anecdotes, and jokes for publication. Provides displays of Grapevine materials for conferences, assemblies, and group anniversaries.” Attend the monthly meeting on the first Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

There is a need for someone to bring the boards to the Suffield Grapevine Group’s 50th anniversary on October 12 which will take place from noon to dusk at Sunrise Park with a cookout. Beth volunteered. Joe will arrange to get the boards to her.

Group reports:

Susan B (SOS; Lee) Group is considering buying a subscription for an institution or the Carry the Message Project.

Bonnie A (Hand of Hope; Enfield) Group has purchased One Day at a Time calendars. Bonnie has reminded group members of the website, app, podcast, etc. but has found little interest. She plans to keep trying.

Drica (Wildcats; Agawam) Plans to have a listening party of the podcast.

Beth; (Southwick Big Book) This is a new assignment for Beth and her first meeting of the committee.

Joe offered some suggestions for new reps:

Bookmark the Grapevine page on the aa.org website or download the app to access rep resources.

On the website – Under “Get Involved”, select “Rep Resources”

New reps are encouraged to register. They can look at the workbook, handbook, etc. and print promotional items. They are encouraged to talk about the Grapevine and all it has to offer at their group’s business meeting.

The committee will hold a workshop at the MA State Convention from 9:00 to 11:00 Saturday morning. The convention will be November 14-16 in Marlborough at the Best Western Hotel.

Drica reported that while the workshop at MSCYPAA was not well attended, participants were enthusiastic.

Joe thought it would be a good idea to promote the November workshop with a possible flyer and asked for a volunteer to take care of that. No one stepped forward.

He talked about the benefit of having workshops coincide with other events as it cuts down a budget and people can “follow the crowd”. He would like to try to promote it ahead of time and get the word out.

He talked about the success of the Haydenville podcast listening party last December. Because the podcast includes the host, guest, news and jokes and it only runs ½ hour, there is a lot to share about and time to do it in.

Joe described what a workshop entails and the format followed which includes the purpose, an “ice breaker”, introductions, guidelines & editorial calendar/topics, a break and 25-minute writing session and sharing. They have featured a guest who has been published in the Grapevine who shares about their experience. Joe is looking for contributors.

Bonnie showed the concept for the Boards redesign that is underway. The response was positive. Ray suggested that La Viña be included.

Joe presented the budget that has been spent this year including \$60 on the April retreat, \$55 in May and \$100 on the June Round-up. He said that approximately \$485 remains which would allow for the purchase of new black boards and a carrying case.

Anyone who knows of meetings that have air conditioning are asked to contact the Accessibilities committee and let them know.

Committee meetings for the 2026 Round-up start next Wednesday at 6:00 pm. The committee is in need of a treasurer.

The Area is in need of more contributions and encouraging people to return to the pie chart. They have exhausted their funds and expenses have increased since COVID.

The Fall Assembly will take place in Holyoke on October 18-19. There will be a workshop Saturday morning, descriptions of committee responsibilities in the afternoon and elections on Sunday.

On September 20, the archives committee is having a listening party from 6:00 to 10:00 pm.

Ray reported that the planning committee meetings for the MA State Convention will take place on the last Tuesday of the month. He suggested people book their rooms as soon as possible and that a link can be found on the aamastateconvention.org website.

He let the committee know that NERF, the “GSO Road Show” is free and will be held in Providence.

NERAASA will be in Portland in February. Registration and reservations for rooms are open.

There is a Concepts meeting on the first Thursday.

To arrange for speakers who can share about their experience in service or a group inventory, contact areachair@area31aa.org.

The meeting closed with the Responsibility Pledge.