



The FYI

"Your voice to Area 31 Alcoholics Anonymous"

It's on your Phone or on the Web at:
www.westernmassaa.org!



THE AREA 31 SERVICE COMMITTEE

SPRING ASSEMBLY & MINI CONFERENCE

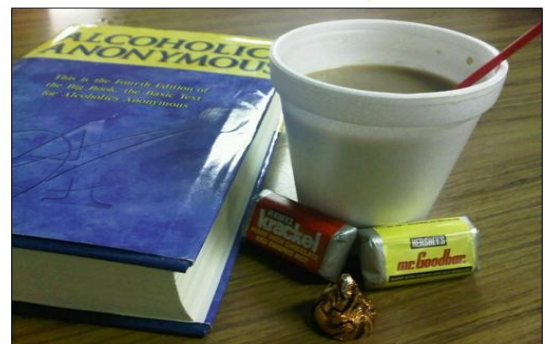
SATURDAY APRIL 27th, 2019

SUNDAY, APRIL 28th, 2019

Berkshire Community College

1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA

Saturday
Mini-Conference
10:00am to 3:30pm
Beverages &
PIZZA FOR LUNCH



Sunday
Area Service
Business Meeting
10:00am - 2:00pm



Western Mass Intergroup Group Donations - MARCH, 2019

HAND IN HAND
 GRANVILLE GROUP
 MORNING LIGHT GROUP
 STEPS TO SERENTITY
 EAST MOUNTAIN GROUP
 NOHO BIG BOOK STEP STUDY
 ISUNDAY NIGHT EAST LONGMEADOW
 ONLY TODAY GROUP
 COLD SPRING GROUP
 LA LUZ DE UN MILAGRO
 STEPS TO LIVE
 GREEN STREET
 WHIP CITY NOONER
 WILBRAHAM GROUP
 BEEN THERE DONE THAT
 SCRAMBLED EGGS
 7AM I OPENER
 SUNDAY NIGHT SOUTH HADLEY WOMEN'S
 SUNDAY NOHO NOONER
 HOLYOKE GROUP (2 MONTHS)
 WESTFIELD MONDAY NIGHT CANDLELIGHT
 EARLY SOBRIETY
 TUESDAY NIGHT HAMPDEN GROUP
 HOLYOKE NOONTIME GROUP

TUESDAY BIG BOOK STEP STUDY
 UN NUEVO AMANECER
 SUNDAY EAST LONGMEADOW GROUP
 BELCHERTOWN SATURDAY NIGHT
 A WAY OUT GROUP
 GRP # 688-859
 QUIETLY AMONG US
 HAYDENVILLE SUNDAY NIGHT LIFE
 AMHERST TUESDAY 5:15 STEP GROUP
 A NEW FREEDOM GROUP
 TUESDAY AMHERST STEP
 WOTHINGTON GROUP
 WESTFIELD MEN'S GROUP

Thank You For Your Generous Donations! Please place group name and service # on all checks.

Weekly AA Group Phone Coverage

DATE	GROUP NAME
APRIL 13 - APR 19 →	DO OR DIE
APR 20 - APR 26 →	EASTHAMPTON MONDAY NIGHT
APR 27 - MAY 3 →	HAND IN HAND
MAY 4 - MAY 10 →	HANG IN THERE GROUP
MAY 11 - MAY 17 →	
MAY 18 - MAY 24 →	
MAY 25 - MAY 31 →	
JUNE 1 - JUNE 7 →	

COFFEE MUGS



**WESTERN MASS INTERGROUP
COFFEE MUGS ARE HERE!
HOT OR COLD... COLOR RED!
THESE INSULATED MUGS MAKES A
GREAT GIFT FOR ALL OCCASIONS!
OUR LOGO AND THE SERENITY PRAYER
IS ON THE MUG!**



ONLY \$9.00

WESTERN MASS INTERGROUP BOOK STORE

BOOKS ON CD

NEW! Big Book 1st 165 pages for \$25.00 (English and Spanish)

Big Book Full Version with All Stories for \$55

Step Book of AA Full Version \$25.00

Living Sober CD \$15.00

AA Comes of Age - CD \$15.00

Pioneers of AA Old Big Book Stories - \$18.00

Grapevine CD's DVD's \$12.00

Bill & 12 Traditions CD - Bills Story DVD - Bill & 12 Traditions DVD

Three Legacies CD - Co-Founders CD—Other Grapevine CD's

DVD Movies

My Name is Bill W - \$20.00

Bill W and Dr. Bob—Broadway Play - \$20.00

To view more of our products please visit our on-line bookstore at:

www.westernmassaa.org - online bookstore. We also ship anywhere in the world!

IT'S HERE!

**WESTERN MASS INTERGROUP
AND THE AREA 31 SERVICE
COMMITTEE PRESENT THE
NEW AREA 31
AA MEETING GUIDE**

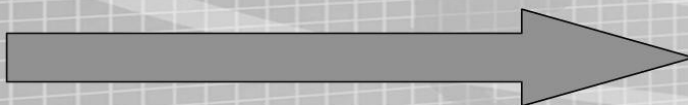
**Visit us On-Line at:
westernmassaa.org
(links to area services)**



**AA MEETING GUIDE
APP NOW AVAILABLE
IN ANDRIOD AND APPLE
AT THEIR PLAY STORES!**

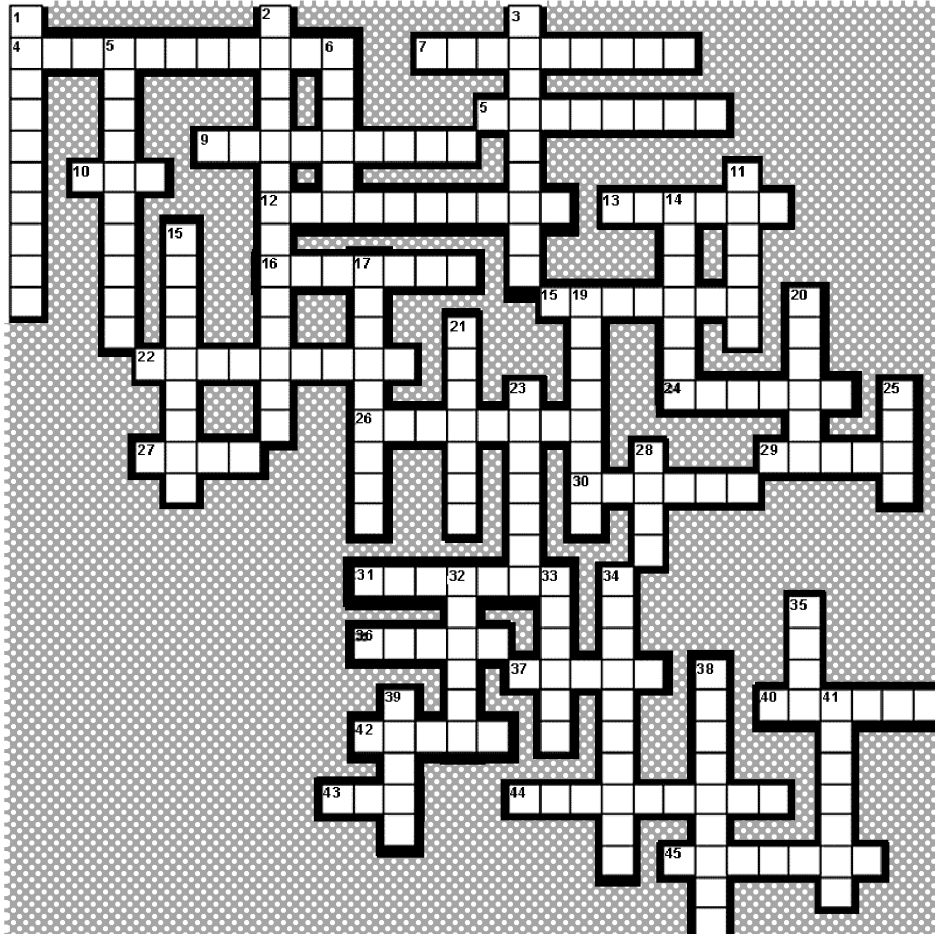


**Type in Meeting Guide
and look for the chair!**



PUZZLE TIME!

Big Book & 12/12 Puzzle



Down

1. Cheerfulness and laughter make for _____
2. Three words used at end of most meetings
3. Fourth Step
5. AA Organization as a whole
6. Step where we "come to believe"
11. Asking for guidance
14. "Self-supporting" Tradition
15. A.A. Member
17. Your primary meeting (two words)
19. Step requiring prayer and meditation
20. First Serenity Prayer request
21. Second Serenity Prayer request
23. 12th Step: Carry the _____
25. _____ Does It
28. "Faith without works is _____"
32. Ninth Step
33. _____ have we seen a person...
34. "Number One" offender
35. Hard-nosed sponsor, aka "Big Book _____"
38. Spritual _____
39. AA co-founder (two words)
41. Program mentor

Across

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4. Self-will run riot | 26. Granted one day |
| 7. Foundation of all our traditions | 27. Live and Let _____ |
| 8. _____ Prayer | 29. Twelve _____ |
| 9. AA co-founder (two words) | 30. Number of Steps |
| 10. First word of Serenity Prayer | 31. Meeting where only one member shares |
| 12. Sitting in silence | 36. What an _____! |
| 13. Avoid manufacturing this | 37. When to give advice |
| 16. More important than keeping sober | 40. Third Serenity Prayer request |
| 18. Came to _____ | 42. First Things _____ |
| 22. Sixth Step refers to defects of _____ | 43. Result until we let go absolutely |
| 24. _____ Power | 44. First Step admission |
| | 45. Primary AA resource (two words) |

AT WITS END!
(from the Grapevine)

Old habits are hard to break:

There was a group of AA members driving to a conference in a distant city.
About halfway there, they stopped for a coffee break.

The restaurant was near a botanical garden, and they decided to
walk around there to stretch their legs before going on.

As they admired the beautiful beds of flowers, a sweet little old women approached
them and asked, "Are you members of the Wild Life Society?"

"No"ma'dam".. answered one. We used to be, but then we joined AA

Big Book Quote

"If there be divorce or separation, there should be no undue haste
for the couple to get together.

The man should be sure of his recovery.

The wife should fully understand his new way of life.

If their old relationship is to be resumed it must be on a better basis,
since the former did not work. This means a new attitude and spirit
all around. Sometimes it is to the best interests of all concerned
that a couple remain apart. Obviously, no rule can be laid down.
Let the alcoholic continue his program day by day. When the time for
living together has come, it will be apparent to both parties."

Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition, Working With Others, Page 99

BIG BOOK OF AA IN ABRIDGED VERSION
1ST 164 PAGES

Contains all front matter...Prefaces, Forewords and Dr.'s Opinion; text of
pages 1-164; "Dr. Bob's Nightmare;" and Appendices.

POCKET SIZE \$5.50 LARGE PRINT \$8.25



Bill W.

From the words of Bill W. & Friends

Beyond Human Aid

"For God's sake, how did I ever get started again?"

Only to have that thought

supplanted by "Well, I'll stop with the sixth drink."

Or "What's the use anyhow?"

When this sort of thinking is fully established

in an individual with alcoholic

tendencies, he has probably placed himself beyond

human aid, and unless locked

up, may die or go permanently insane.

These stark and ugly facts have been

confirmed by legions of alcoholics throughout history.

Alcoholics Anonymous, (There Is A Solution) pp. 24 - 25



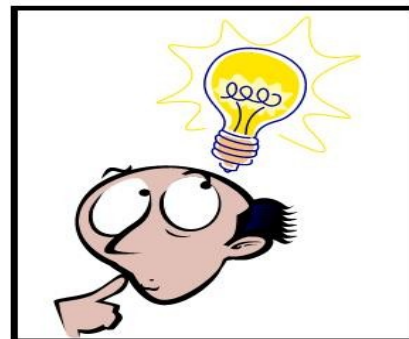
THOUGHT TO PONDER



I can't, God can, I'll ask Him to...

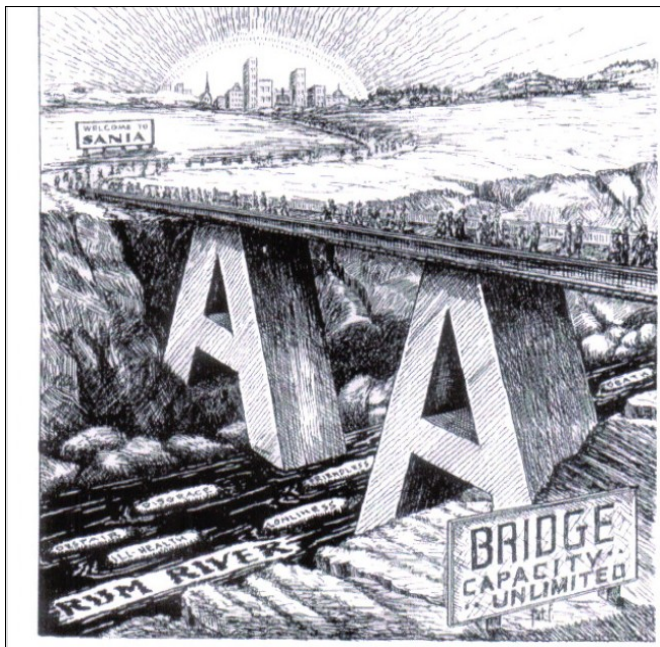


RULE #62



AA-related 'Alconym'

**DEAD =
Drinking Ends
All Dreams.**





COMING SOON!

News and Notes from the General Service Office of A.A.[®]

www.aa.org

Vol. 65, No. 1 / Spring 2019

Our Great Responsibility:

■ Rediscovered Wisdom from A.A.'s Co-Founder

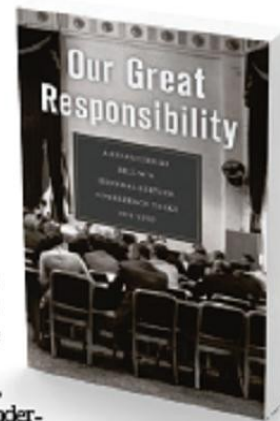
During the course of 20 General Service Conferences, Bill W. gave more than 33 talks, 16 of which are now gathered in the new book *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970*, which is scheduled for publication in early May 2019. Not only does *Our Great Responsibility* represent the first time these talks have been made available in print form to the general reader, but it is also the first original book from Alcoholics Anonymous in over 30 years.

"The talks included in *Our Great Responsibility* capture a clear picture of Bill's vision for the future of A.A. and pose questions that are still quite relevant today," says Greg T., G.S.O. general manager. "They also give fresh insights into A.A. history and the enduring purpose of the General Service Conference."

The discovery of what Greg calls "a gold mine" of material began in the G.S.O. Archives in January 2016. Discussions at G.S.O. and on the General Service Board prompted an exploration of ideas for new book publications based on making archival materials available

to the Fellowship. "We have a massive collection of audio recordings of all Conferences," nonalcoholic GSO Archivist Michelle Mirza says, "but we literally didn't know what was included in some of the recordings, or what shape they were in."

Michelle hired Susan U., former G.S.O. staffer, to undertake the project of indexing the Conference tapes. "Susan had been to Conferences for over 30 years," Michelle notes, "so she knew what to look for." Susan brought Bill's talks to Michelle's attention. "Listening to Bill's Conference talks was a revelation," Michelle reports. "There are Conferences where Bill would reveal a nugget of A.A. information that is not stated or revealed anywhere else. He might go into detail in responses to a simple question about A.A. history. We realized that if A.A.



Bill W. speaking at a General Service Conference, circa 1950.

Box 4-5-9 is published quarterly by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115, copyright © 2019 by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

Mail address: P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

G.S.O.'s A.A. Website: www.aa.org

Subscriptions: Individual, \$3.50 per year; group, \$6.00 for each unit of 10 per year. Check—made payable to A.A.W.S., Inc.—should accompany order. To have issues delivered directly to your inbox, register your email on the A.A. Digital Subscription Service on G.S.O.'s Website.

Note on anonymity: From time to time in this publication full names and/or pictures of G.S.O. employees, Class A trustees and other nonalcoholics are used. The anonymity of A.A. members is maintained, as they are identified throughout by first name and last initial only.

members could read these talks as essays that captured Bill's voice and meaning, they might gain deep insights into A.A. Looking further into it, we discovered that the talks were for the most part not published in full — some excerpts and summaries, but mainly not in full."

Michelle presented her findings to Greg, who requested that a book proposal be developed. The tapes of Bill's Conference talks were sent out to be transcribed — a complicated and time-consuming process that involved isolating Bill's presentations from long audio tracks, and then having Archives staff painstakingly verify the transcriptions for accuracy. After that, the book proposal was developed under the auspices of A.A. World Services. David R., publishing director, says that it was "particularly thrilling to participate in the early stages of putting this book together."

David gathered a team that included Michelle; Eleanor W., the now-retired A.A.W.S. managing editor; Arnes S., her successor; and Julia D., A.A.W.S. associate editor. The proposal for the book was reviewed in June 2016 by the A.A.W.S. board, which forwarded it to the trustees' Archives Committee, which in turn forwarded it to the 2017 Conference Committee on Archives, which approved the development of the manuscript for the book. When the manuscript for the book was completed, *Our Great Responsibility* was approved with minor editorial changes by an Advisory Action of the 2018 General Service Conference. As well as Bill's talks, it includes an introduction and a preface; talks by Lois Wilson, Bernard Smith and Dr. John Norris; extensive chapter notes; three appendices; and over 60 archival images.

People who worked on preparing the book found themselves moved by reading these long-archived talks of Bill's. Robert P., a former delegate and longtime freelance translator for G.S.O. (he has translated such works as *The Language of the Heart* and *The Twelve Concepts of World Service*), comments that he felt "overwhelmed in a positive way" as he translated *Our Great Responsibility*

into French. He immediately "heard" Bill's voice: "I recognized his sadness at times (as Bill recounts the conflicts surrounding the creation of the Conference), but that just makes this book even more human. It is a beautiful story."

John de Stefano, the nonalcoholic G.S.O. staff translator who has translated *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, *A.A. Comes of Age*, *Living Sober* and other important A.A. works, oversaw a team of Spanish-language translators with whom he rendered *Our Great Responsibility* into Spanish. "Having several translators available to translate the different voices in the book was a real bonus," John says. "The talks," he adds, "seemed often to be partly improvised and were extremely idiomatic. Bill might start a sentence with reference to one set phrase or familiar saying and, through a series of apparently impromptu connections, finish the sentence with another — which can make the work challenging to translate, but equally rewarding."

"I was struck by how contemporary the issues that he addresses were," says Julia D., who did much of the editing on the book. "Bill focuses on inclusion and reminds us that we are all human and that we often see things in different ways — as in his talk 'Variations on the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.' He also had a very impressive handle on how the outside world viewed A.A."

The editing process was complex. "The goal was to stay true to the exact verbiage as much possible," Julia says, "using punctuation and minimal editing to untangle long sentences from talks that Bill mostly made from notes. We tried, too, to retain the rhythms of his speech — to clearly capture his voice. A lot of it was fine tuning. It was a challenge, but a pleasure. I was really struck by Bill's humor and his ability to poke fun at himself."

"Bill has always been the most significant A.A. voice for keeping the doors of A.A. wide open," Arnes S. adds, "and for me, as I read these talks, the main benefit is that we go back to Bill himself — give him back his platform, in a sense — and can hear him describe in his own words how broad the expanse of Alcoholics Anonymous really is."



Area 31 Service Committee News

The Area 31 Service Committee meets 2nd **Wednesday of the month** at the Grace United Church (front entrance) 474 Pleasant Street, Holyoke.
Please urge your Home-Group to elect a GSR and have a voice in Area 31 AA.

Is your group looking to have the Grapevine or Archives boards at your next AA function for anniversary?
Please let the Archives or Grapevine Committee know a month in advance.
Grapevine & Archives email - a31chair@gmail.com.

AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- ARCHIVES** - 1st Tuesday, 7:30pm
- GRAPEVINE** - 1st Tuesday, 7:30pm
- PUBLIC INFORMATION** - 2nd Tuesday, 7:30pm
- CPC** - 2nd Tuesday, 7:30pm
- WM Round-Up** - 1st Weds following 2nd Tues,
- WESTERN MASS INTERGROUP** - 2nd Thurs, 7:30pm,
- WMIG STEERING COMMITTEE** - Last Thurs, 7pm (please check with office to confirm)
- AREA 31 - 12 CONCEPTS OF AA** - 1st Thurs, 7:30pm
- ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEE** - 4th Weds - 7:00pm
- AREA 31 WEBSITE COMMITTEE** - 4th Weds - 7:00pm

(All Meetings Above Meet at the Grace United Church
474 Pleasant Street in Holyoke MA

- INSTITUTIONS** - 1st Wednesday, 7pm, Providence Hospital, Holyoke
- BERKSHIRE INTERGROUP** - 2nd Monday, 7pm, 152 North St. suite 30C, Pittsfield, MA
- WESTERN MASS YOUNG PEOPLES** - 2nd Sat, 6pm, Serenity Club, 143 Main St., Springfield

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

- DISTRICT 1** - 3rd Thursday, 7:30pm, Sacred Heart Church
35 Everett Street, Springfield
- DISTRICT 2** - 2nd Monday, 7pm, Grace United Church, 474 Pleasant St Holyoke
- DISTRICT 3** - 3rd Friday, 7pm, Old Court House, Lee Town Hall - Lee, MA
- DISTRICT 4** - 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Holy Father Parish, 29 Sugarloaf St. S. Deerfield
- DISTRICT 5** - 1st Monday, 7:30pm, Union Church of Christ, 52 Center St, Ludlow
- DISTRICT 6** - 3rd Monday, 7:30pm, Western Mass Hosp, 91 East Mountain Rd, Westfield

AA Service Manual & Tradition Meetings

AREA 31 - AA SERVICE MANUAL MEETING - 1st Thurs, 7:30pm

Join us in learning the rest of the 36 Spiritual Principles!

AREA 31 TRADITIONS MEETING

3rd Wednesday, 7:30pm both meetings held at the Grace United Church,
474 Pleasant in Holyoke (home of the WM Intergroup)

THE UP AND ATOM GROUP HAS MOVED TO IT'S NEW HOME!



**AS OF SUNDAY MARCH 31st, 2019
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
867 N. PLEASANT STREET
AMHERST, MA
MONDAY - SUNDAY
OPEN AA MTG
7:00AM**

AA Area 11 Grapevine Committee Sponsored

Spring Grape Jam 2019



Saturday
**April
13th**



Entry Fee:

Buy a Grapevine book or subscription OR Donate an AA book in good condition to be given to Corrections.

Feel Free to bring a dish or a dessert!

Info DJ AL at 860-268-6342



Schedule

- 6:30 Pizza, Beverages, Snacks included with admission.
- 6:30 History of Grapevine
- 7:00 AA Meeting
- 7:45 Live Music
1st Tiny Giant and
2nd Mothers of Intervention
(Grateful Dead Cover Band)

*Powder Mill Barn
32 South Maple ST. Enfield, CT.*



Come Support the Serenity Club of Springfield

APRIL 27,
2019
6PM - 10PM

SUGGESTED
\$10 DONATION
DANCE

FOOD
FELLOWSHIP
RAFFLE
MUSIC
TWO-SPEAKER
MEETING

LOCATION:
TRINITY CHURCH - ASBURY HALL
361 SUMNER AVENUE
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01108

Chuck (413-278-1963)
Alex (413-883-9425)

More Information:

Launa (413-847-0439)
Cheryl (413-314-8039)



WMYPAA POETRY SLAM



APRIL 14TH
4PM TO 9PM

RUSTY'S PLACE IN HOLYOKE
930 HAMPDEN ST HOLYOKE MA

POETRY READING BEGINS AT 4:30PM
SPEAKER BEGINS AT 6PM
\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION



TOURNAMENT FOR BEST POETRY
\$5 TO ENTER COMPETITION
MUST PRE REGISTER FOR
TOURNAMENT
TOP 4 WINNERS GET A PRIZE
CALL CHRIS G 413-209-7669



Brimfield Tri Area Group

45 Year Anniversary

Monday April 15th

Come Join Us For Food Fun and Fellowship

Coffee & Appetizers 6:30-7:30

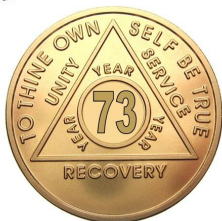
Meeting 7:30-8:30

20 North Main st, Brimfield. 1st Congregational Church

The Holyoke Group

of Alcoholics Anonymous

73rd Year Anniversary



Sunday, April 28th
Providence Hospital
(auditorium)
1233 Main Street
Holyoke, MA

Food and Fellowship
6:00pm - 7:00pm
AA Speaker Meeting
7:30pm - 8:30pm



THE AREA 31 SERVICE COMMITTEE

SPRING ASSEMBLY & MINI CONFERENCE

SATURDAY APRIL 27th, 2019
SUNDAY, APRIL 28th, 2019
Berkshire Community College
1350 West Street, Pittsfield, MA

Saturday
Mini-Conference
10:00am to 3:30pm
 Beverages &
PIZZA FOR LUNCH



Sunday
Area Service
Business Meeting
10:00am - 2:00pm



THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART

WOMEN'S GROUP

14th AA GROUP ANNIVERSARY

Wednesday, May 1st
1st Congregational Church
102 MIDDLE ST, HADLEY, MA
(Closed Women's, Multilingual)



POTLUCK & BRING FLOWERS!



Food & Fellowship
6:00 pm
Speaker Meeting
7:00pm
(Plenty of Parking on Site and across the facility)

Save the Dates

"It's the 50th"

50th Area 31 Western Mass Round-Up
 Friday, June 14, through Sunday, June 16, 2019
 @ The Clarion Hotel
 Riverdale St., West Springfield, MA



What is a Round-Up and What Happens?

- ↓ Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)
 - ↓ Presentation for Community Professionals-all are welcome (Friday night-no registration fee for Professionals)
- ↓ Delegate's report on the GSO Conference (Saturday PM)
- ↓ Old Timer's Meeting (Saturday PM)
- ↓ Bilingual Meetings (Saturday)
- ↓ Banquet and Dance (Saturday night)
- ↓ Keynote Speaker (Saturday night)
- ↓ Alkathon Meetings (throughout the day Saturday)
- ↓ Spiritual Meeting (Sunday AM)
- ↓ Workshops on a Variety of Topics (Sat & Sun)
- ↓ Al-Anon Participation and Meetings (during weekend)
- ↓ Raffle (during weekend)
- ↓ Area 31 Information and Displays (all weekend)



For Questions, Information on the Round-up or how you can get active by volunteering, go to <http://area31aa.org/round-up> or email the committee at roundup@area31aa.org.

Registration Forms and Times of Events coming soon! It is a great event for all of our AA fellowship, GSRs, Group and Committee Chairs to attend and learn about Area 31 and to show support to AA.



Western Mass Intergroup

474 Pleasant Street, Holyoke MA 01040
Office Phone: 413-532-2111
Website: www.westernmassaa.org
E-mail: intergro4@aol.com
Office Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 9am - 1pm
Thursday until 5:30pm

Intergroup Officers & Staff

Charlie R - Chair	Kevin L. - General Manager
Ron G - Treasurer	Joy F - Store Manager
Marc - Secretary	Rene D - Office Staff
	Eddie K - Office Staff

If you have Questions or Comments you may reach us at the contact information above.
Thank You for your support.

Monthly Thought

For Today

Singleness of purpose not only benefits AA as a whole, but those who seek recovery for whatever problem they have.

There are many fine Twelve Step programs out there whose singleness of purpose makes them best equipped to help the non-alcoholic addict, gambler, co-dependent, etc.

My failure to realize this and direct these persons to the program they need is selfish and ego-rewarding, choosing what feels good to me over what is right for them.

We do not have all the answers for all the problems known to man.

HOW, March 8, 2004 issue

WESTERN MASS INTERGROUP is a body made up of representatives from all AA groups in the area (Area 31). It has met on a monthly basis since it was established in 1953. Each AA group elects, annually, one of its members (one year of sobriety recommended) to serve as its representative on this important committee, and, an alternate to regularly attend its meetings (one year of sobriety recommended). Its main responsibilities are to:

1. Coordinate AA activities among its various groups and to help weaker groups in anyway possible.
2. Maintain 24 hour AA telephone coverage
3. Publish regularly updated schedules of group meetings in the area
4. Provide a program which will promote regular visits between groups.
5. Provide an inventory of AA Literature for the convenience of local groups and committees in an office which also serves as a communication and information center
6. And, to act upon any suggestions be any group, through its representatives, that would be of potential benefit to our area groups.

WESTERN MASS INTERGROUP MEETS ON THE 2nd THURSDAY AT 7:30 PM AT THE INTERGROUP OFFICE.



am responsible...

**When anyone, anywhere,
Reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A. A. always
to be there.
And for that: I am responsible.**

Quote of the Month

**"Times change,
alcoholism
doesn't."**