



# Area 30

Alcoholics Anonymous  
General Service Committee  
of Eastern Massachusetts



## THE MESSENGER

“A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service.”

Theme of the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference

Volume 44, Issue 2

April 10, 2022

### MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings Area 30!

In this issue we’ve got some interesting news from our General Service Office. They are seeking input and stories on several different topics important to our fellowship. Please click through on the links and submit your experience, strength, and hope. Please announce these items at your groups as well!

Be sure to learn about the ways in which you can become involved with our Corrections Committee through an article from Ali S., Corrections Chair.

Alcoholics Anonymous has two kinds of trustees: Class A (non-alcoholic) and Class B (alcoholic). If you can’t remember which is which, just remember that A = Amateurs and B = Boozers! You can learn about our 3 new Class A trustees in this edition; they serve an incredibly important role in our fellowship.

MSCYPAA has a number of fun events coming up. Be sure to check them out!

We all know that I really like to have fun, so I’m especially pleased to see the new book by The Grapevine: FUN IN SOBRIETY. It is reinforcement that we are not a glum lot!

As always, if you have content to share, please send it to [Messenger@aaemass.org](mailto:Messenger@aaemass.org).

In love & service,  
Carlene J.  
Area 30 Messenger Chair/Editor

### IN THIS ISSUE:

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## A.A. WELCOMES THREE NEW CLASS A (NONALCOHOLIC) TRUSTEES

Reprinted from About AA: A NEWSLETTER FOR PROFESSIONALS, Spring 2022

A.A. has always relied upon its many nonalcoholic friends to provide professional expertise, sound business judgment and balance to the dedicated group of trustees who donate their time and interest in service to Alcoholics Anonymous. Of the 21 members of A.A.'s General Service Board, seven are specifically designated as Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees.

Historically, the Fellowship owes a tremendous debt to these Class A trustees, men and women from a variety of disciplines whose vision and faith not only helped the struggling movement through its difficult early years but were instrumental in shaping the principles that continue to guide its present course. Elected to six-year terms, the three most recent Class A trustees, Linda Chezem, of Plainfield, Indiana, Kevin Prior, of St. Louis, Missouri, and Molly Anderson, of Williamsville, New York, began their service to the Fellowship following the 71st General Service Conference in April 2021.

**Linda Chezem** was selected as the new chairperson of the General Service Board. Trained as a lawyer, she spent 22 years serving as a judge, beginning as the first female Circuit Court judge in Indiana, followed by a decade on the Indiana Court of Appeals.



Linda became acquainted with Alcoholics Anonymous as a newly minted jurist in 1975 and, while still a circuit court judge, Linda spearheaded the first certified court alcohol and drug program in Indiana, serving on a state substance abuse advisory council along with state legislators and A.A. members.

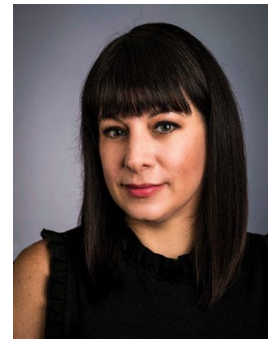
One thing Linda's experience as a judge taught her is that "a person who has issues with alcohol doesn't just have to show up on the criminal docket to need the hand of A.A. to be there. Bankruptcy, divorces, child custody cases, business failures — I bet if you took a look at 100 cases, you could find any number where alcohol had been part of the problem."

Born in New York City, **Kevin Prior** moved to Champaign, Illinois, for high school and college, and finally to St. Louis — where he now lives with his wife and two children — to start a career in public accounting. "I am among the strange minority of people for whom alcohol does nothing. I barely drink," he says. "Yet alcohol was the most powerful force in my life as I was growing up."



This was because of his experience with the alcoholism of a close family member. Kevin remembers being four years old and going to a detox center to visit his relative. Asked to write his "autobiography" in fourth grade, he began, "My family was torn apart by alcoholism." The family member eventually got sober through A.A. "I firmly believe alcoholism is a family disease and I feel a debt to A.A." Kevin is Senior Director of Finance for the Catholic Health Association of the United States, a nonprofit very similar in size and scope to Alcoholics Anonymous; like A.A., it is funded by its own members, with what Kevin describes as a "parallel financial structure."

**Molly Anderson** has worked with people and organizations around the world in the areas of leadership development and organizational effectiveness. Since 2016, she has been Executive Director of the Center for Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness at the University of Buffalo. She finds A.A.'s model of governing its organization with a focus on service "fascinating."



"I have served on a number of boards and have spent a good deal of time learning about their challenges. I've worked with diversity, equity and inclusion issues, and how these impact organizations. I've learned it's wise for boards, every few years, to look at their purpose and mission. I want to underscore the history and Traditions of A.A. People describe me as someone who builds and creates things, and that's what I hope to help accomplish as I serve Alcoholics Anonymous."

## NEWS FROM OUR GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

### REQUEST FOR SHARED EXPERIENCE ON “INSIDE” SPONSORSHIP

The trustees’ Committee on Corrections is requesting shared experience on the methods by which A.A. members on the outside sponsor members inside correctional facilities.

This request is to address an unmet need for sponsorship of A.A. members in custody. Once

compiled, this can be added to corrections service material.

If you have experience to share, please visit the [What’s New](#) section on the AA website, or click through to this [link](#) for the form.

### RECOVERY STORY SOLICITATION FOR THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE BIG BOOK ALCOHÓLICOS ANÓNIMOS

In keeping with the recommendation of the 2021 General Service Conference that "a Fourth Edition of the Spanish-language Big Book, Alcohólicos Anónimos, be developed, including updated stories that better reflect the current membership, and that a progress report be presented to the 2022 General Service Conference," the trustees' Literature Committee is seeking stories of recovery from members of the Hispanic community in the A.A. structure in the United States and Canada.

The committee is seeking stories of recovery from a wide representation of the Hispanic community.

Stories of recovery may also include: • Ethnic, cultural, gender and LGBTQ diversity • Diversity of social status • Experiences of sobriety during the pandemic • Newcomer and old-timer experiences • Accessibility experiences • Spiritual experiences • A.A. meetings on virtual platforms • Sobriety and mental health The new website has an updated, clean visual style and structure for each page, with an improved mobile-friendly design.

For more information please visit the [What’s New](#) section on the AA website or read the [full memo](#).

### APPOINTED COMMITTEE MEMBER SOUGHT FOR THE TRUSTEES LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Following the 2021 Advisory Action regarding revision of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American Alcoholic,” the trustees’ Literature Committee is seeking to fill the position of an appointed committee member (ACM) and would appreciate any recommendations. The appropriate

individual will help to move forward the pamphlet revision process, including the call for stories.

For more information on applying for the position, please visit the [What’s New](#) section on the AA website or read the [full memo](#).

### RECOVERY STORY SOLICITATION FOR THE “A.A. FOR THE BLACK AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN ALCOHOLIC” PAMPHLET UPDATE

The trustees’ Literature Committee has opened a call for recovery stories in response to the 2021 General Service Conference advisory action regarding the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic,” stating that the pamphlet be updated to include current stories of recovery and a new title that is respectful and inclusive. The committee is seeking stories of

recovery from all African American, Canadian, Caribbean A.A. members from the English, French and Spanish-speaking Black communities in the A.A. structure in the United States and Canada.

For more information, please visit the [What’s New](#) section on the AA website or read the [full memo](#).

## A MESSAGE FROM AREA 30 CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

My name is Ali S, and I currently have the privilege of serving as the Area 30 Corrections Chair. Serving as a committee chair during a pandemic has been quite a ride. Most events in the area are taking place virtually these days, so I've been able to "travel" to meetings and outreaches via Zoom instead of putting mileage on my car. While that is definitely a timesaver, I still wish I could get to even more. Please, invite me to your homegroup, district, or intergroup meeting! Whether in person or virtually, I'd love to attend.

While it might be easier for me to attend meetings virtually, the same thing cannot be said for folks behind the walls. Unfortunately, AA members in jails and prisons in Massachusetts went a long time without meetings, and in some facilities, that is still the case. We are back live in South Bay, and I am so grateful to the people in Area 30 who have made that happen. The Essex County facilities are also well taken care of, thanks to the corrections committee in District 18/19.

If you or your district/homegroup currently take a meeting into a correctional facility aside from South Bay or Essex County, please reach out to me. Additionally, if your district or intergroup has a corrections committee and they are not attending the monthly Joint Corrections Committee meeting, feel free to share the Zoom info below. We want to

make sure that all our great resources in Area 30 are connected!

If you're not currently doing corrections work, I'm sure by now you are wondering how you can get involved. Here are some easy ways to be of service to AA members who are incarcerated:

- Attend the monthly Joint Corrections Committee meeting on Zoom! We meet the 4th Thursday of every month at 7pm. Meeting ID: 842 8172 0059 Passcode: 446053
- Email me at [corrections@aaemass.org](mailto:corrections@aaemass.org) to find out what facilities are in your district and how you can support them
- Buy a Grapevine or La Vina subscription for a facility in your county. So that it gets to the AA members inside, connect with the librarian at the facility first, or reach out to the corrections committee to see if a contact exists. You can purchase a gift subscription at <https://www.aagrapevine.org/>

I hope to connect with many of you this year!

In love and service,  
Ali S., Corrections Committee Chair

### DID YOU KNOW? from Area 30 Accessibilities Committee

Did you know there is an official podcast from AA Grapevine?

You can find it at [Grapevine Podcast | AA Grapevine.](#)

A web search will also reveal many unofficial alcohol/recovery podcasts. Try searching for "AA podcasts".

Podcasts provide an accessible alternative for people with print disabilities.

# MSYCPAA: MASSACHUSETTS CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA

MYSCYPAA 2022



Visit [www.MSYCPAA.com](http://www.MSYCPAA.com) to register!

**Join the conference planning committee!** The committee meets generally the first Saturday of the month hybrid, however our April meeting will be the third Saturday for next month. The next two planning committee meetings are:

**Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm-6:00pm and Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm-6:00pm**

**In-Person location:** Club 24 South  
320 West Center Street West Bridgewater, MA  
02379

**Virtual Location:**  
Zoom Platform (Zoom.US)  
Meeting ID: 869 1334 3981  
Meeting Passcode: 620884





# ARMED FORCES INTERVIEW PROJECT

HOME // ARMED FORCES INTERVIEW PROJECT

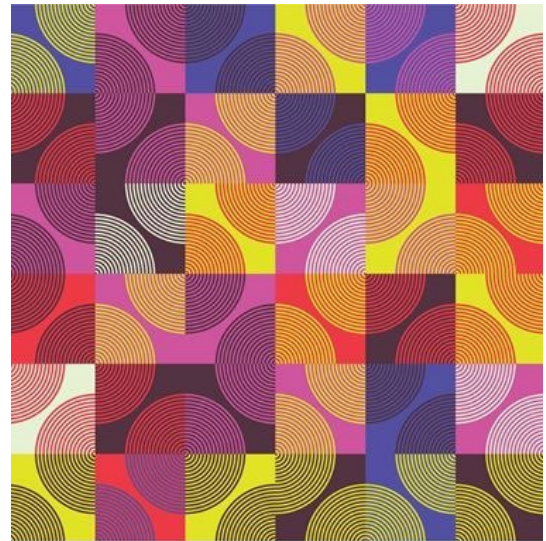


The Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities is seeking A.A. members in the U.S. and Canadian Armed Forces to discuss their experience, strength, and hope as sober members of A.A. in the military in recorded anonymity-protected interviews. The goal of this effort is to improve A.A. outreach to members in the U.S. and Canadian military. Interested military members can volunteer or get more information about this project by writing to [militaryoutreach@aa.org](mailto:militaryoutreach@aa.org).

## New Literature from The Grapevine!

*Fun in Sobriety* features 50-plus inspiring stories by members of Alcoholics Anonymous about the many ways they've learned to have a good time after putting down the drink. Chapters include travel, outdoor activities, arts & hobbies, social entertainment, fun-filled AA activities and sober events. The stories were previously published in *Grapevine*, the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Full of passion and humor, this book shows how, by working the program and developing a sober network, life can begin to take on new, exciting adventures.

Price: \$11.50 each. Order [here](#) or contact your local intergroup or central office!



## Fun in Sobriety

How AA members learn to live sober and enjoy life to its fullest

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN AREA 30

Many Committee Meetings are still meeting virtually. Please see the Area Calendar at [aaemass.org](http://aaemass.org) or contact Committee Chairs to inquire about virtual vs. in person meetings and to confirm date/time of meetings in case of any changes!

**We welcome anyone with an interest!**

**General Service Area Committee** – [chair@aaemass.org](mailto:chair@aaemass.org)

8pm – 4th Wednesday of the month **Note:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in November & December

**Accessibilities Committee** – [accessibilities@aaemass.org](mailto:accessibilities@aaemass.org)

6:30pm - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month

*Some alcoholics experience barriers to participating in AA due to cultural, geographic, mental, physical, or social factors, or other reasons. This committee is working toward a future where all who want to participate in AA meetings (and other AA services) in Eastern Massachusetts are in fact able to fully participate.*

**Archives Committee** – [archives@aaemass.org](mailto:archives@aaemass.org)

7:30pm – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month

*The Archives Committee is charged with collecting, preserving and presenting materials of historical interest to Alcoholics Anonymous. We invite you to join us as we continue our efforts to discover and celebrate the history of AA in Eastern Massachusetts.*

**CPC Committee** – [cpc@aaemass.org](mailto:cpc@aaemass.org)

7:00pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month

*Members of C.P.C. committees inform professionals and future professionals about A.A. — what we are, where we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do. They attempt to establish better communication between A.A.s and professionals, and to find simple, effective ways of cooperating without affiliating.*

**Joint Correctional Facilities Committee** – [corrections@aaemass.org](mailto:corrections@aaemass.org)

7:00pm – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month

*Responsibilities include working with the correctional facilities in Area 30 to assist in bringing the AA message behind the walls. We currently offer a service helping inmates who are being released from prison connect with AA members in their communities called the Prerelease Contact Program. AA's who are interested in corresponding with an inmate by mail or being included on a 12-step call list to serve as contact points for those getting out of prison should contact Boston Central Service for particulars.*

**Grapevine Committee** – [grapevine@aaemass.org](mailto:grapevine@aaemass.org)

1:00pm – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

*One of the Grapevine Committee's primary goals is to let the people and their groups in Area 30 know all we can about our "meeting in print." Like our meetings, the monthly Grapevine magazine is as diverse as each of us. Its 64 pages, written by friends and members of AA, have become the voice of AA today. Through the Grapevine, members share their Experience, Strength, and Hope, always striving to carry the message of Recovery -Unity -Service to all who read it.*

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN AREA 30 (cont.)

### Literature Committee – [literature@aaemass.org](mailto:literature@aaemass.org)

7:00pm – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month

*In addition to our committee's purpose and goals listed on the CONTACTS page of this website, we use the time at our meeting to review current conference-approved and locally developed literature in order to be able to let the membership know what is available and to assure that the message is consistent with the principles of our Steps and Traditions. We answer inquiries requesting information on various topics and provide possible sources of information. Our goal is to inform the membership of the tools available for our own recovery as well as to carry the message to others.*

### Joint Public Information Committee – [pi@aaemass.org](mailto:pi@aaemass.org)

7:00pm – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month

*Public Information (P.I.) in Alcoholics Anonymous means carrying the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the A.A. program. We carry the message by getting in touch with the media, schools, industry, and other organizations which can report on the nature and purpose of A.A. and what it can do for alcoholics.*

### Joint Treatment Facilities Committee – [treatment@aaemass.org](mailto:treatment@aaemass.org)

7:00pm – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month

*The purpose of the committee is to coordinate the work of individual AA members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities, and to set up means of "Bridging the Gap" from the facility to the larger community. The JTFC provides information about AA as well as literature and guidelines for setting up AA meetings in treatment and outpatient facilities. Its objective to make sure all treatment facilities wanting AA meetings to participate is serviced.*

### Website Committee – [website@aaemass.org](mailto:website@aaemass.org)

7:00pm – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month

*This committee maintains the Area 30 web site per assembly action and develops recommendations on the future maintenance of the site. This committee is also currently functioning as the "tech team" and handling a tremendous amount of other tech related activities during the pandemic such as our virtual assemblies and area meetings.*

**Joint Committees:** In the spirit of cooperation, the Boston Central Service Committee and the Eastern Massachusetts General Service Committee (Area 30) work together on these committees whose purposes are to carry the message of experience, strength, and hope to those who may be interested in Alcoholics Anonymous.





## Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

Declaration of the 35th Anniversary International Convention, 1970, Miami, Florida

### ➤ **Massachusetts State Convention 2022**

The convention will be November 11 - 13, 2022 at The Sturbridge Host Hotel. The MA State Convention is a joint venture with the Area 31(Western Mass) General Service Committee and will be chaired by Paul H., Immediate Past Delegate Area 31. There are many fun and interesting service opportunities, so be sure to attend and participate! Check the Area 30 Calendar or join the Facebook page for more info: [www.facebook.com/groups/MASTATECONVENTION](http://www.facebook.com/groups/MASTATECONVENTION).

Planning committee meetings will be held at 7pm on each of the following nights: May 31st, July 26th, September 27th, & October 25th.

All meetings will be held in a hybrid format – in person in the large conference room (overlooking the lake) at the Sturbridge Host Hotel, 366 Main St., Sturbridge, MA and online.

### ➤ **NERAASA 2023**

NERAASA 2023 is being hosted by Area 48, Hudson Mohawk Berkshire, NY. It will be held February 23-26, 2022 in Albany, NY. Register and learn more at [www.NERAASA.org](http://www.NERAASA.org).

### ➤ **Road Shows**

The Area Committee is available to speak at your commitment meeting! While we cannot reciprocate with an outgoing commitment for your group, we would love to visit your speaker meeting and share our experience, strength, and hope. If you think your group would like an Area 30 Road Show, please contact our Area Alternate Chair at [altchair@aaemass.org](mailto:altchair@aaemass.org).

### ➤ **Service Seminar**

If your group or district is interested in an outreach, or conducting a group conscience or inventory, please contact our Service Seminar chair at [serviceseminar@aaemass.org](mailto:serviceseminar@aaemass.org).

### ➤ **Upcoming Assemblies**

Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on the fun!

May 15, 2022	Post Conference Assembly
September 11, 2022	Workshop Assembly
November 6, 2022	Election Assembly

The Area 30 newsletter, *The Messenger*, is published five times a year. It is available at all Area Assemblies and through the service structure at the many, varied committee meetings, schedules for which are found in this edition and posted on [aaemass.org](http://aaemass.org). *The Messenger* contains news, stories, and special events going on in Eastern Massachusetts. Suggestions and submissions are welcome and may be emailed to [messenger@aaemass.org](mailto:messenger@aaemass.org). Please include your confidential contact information.