



Area 30

Alcoholics Anonymous
General Service Committee
of Eastern Massachusetts



The Messenger

May 18, 2025
Volume 47 Issue 3

The latest news, views, histories and announcements of Area 30.

INSIDE

Featured Articles

(New) Focus on A
Committee

Meet Districts 18 & 19

Interview with a Past
Delegate - Jean K.

—

Also Featured

Trivia

Committee Listings

As Bill Sees It quotes

—

How can you contribute?

Please submit your District
Articles, Items of Interest,
Poetry, etc. via email to
Messenger@aaemass.com



A SPACE FOR NOTES

As Bill Sees It

The A.A. Way of Life

“Dr. Bob was my constant companion and partner in the great A.A. adventure. As the physician and great human being that he was, he chose work with others as his prime A.A. vocation and achieved a record which, in quantity and in quality, none will ever surpass. Assisted by the incomparable Sister Ignatia at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, he - without charge - medically treated and spiritually infused five thousand sufferers.”

“In all the stress and strain of A.A.’s pioneering time, no hard word ever passed between us. For this, I can thankfully say that the credit was his.”

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“I took my leave of Dr. Bob, knowing that he was to undergo a serious operation. The old, broad smile was on his face as he said almost jokingly, ‘Remember, Bill, let’s not louse this thing up. Let’s keep it simple! I turned away, unable to say a word. That was the last time I ever saw him.”

As Bill Sees It pg. 18

1. LETTER, 1966
2. A.A Comes of Age, P 214

Focus on a Committee

Here is a new continuing article for the Messenger. Each edition we hope to have a "Focus on a Committee". Thanks to Avi S. for submitting our first addition - an overview of the Handbook Committee.

Handbook Committee

We Want Your Help & Your Vision!

The Area 30 Handbook was first published in 1996.

Institutional knowledge, Area customs, and the Service Manual - all in the mix.

The goal was to have all in Area 30 service have access, to know what we do.

How the Area serves, how we function, what is true.

An ad-hoc committee was tasked with creating this brand new Area lit.

It took great commitment, willingness, creativity and wit.

And finally in September '96, the Area Assembly made a motion and said "Yes! To this new Handbook we commit!"

Since then the Handbook has been revised thirteen times.


Hang in there- almost done with my rhymes!

The Handbook Committee wants your help, and your vision!

We want you! As we prepare for the next revision!

For now, let us stay in the day!

Enjoy the Assembly and join us monthly, 7pm, on 3rd Thursdays!



**Area
30**

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE MEETING


**3rd Thursday of the Month
7PM - 8PM online**

Help us improve our Area30 Handbook!
Have ideas, suggestions, and want to
brainstorm? Join us!

**Zoom ID:
845 4646 7812**

**Password:
273475**

**Questions? Email:
AltChair@aaemass.org**



Meet the Districts - Featuring Districts 18 & 19!!!

Welcome to Districts 18 & 19. Our District meets in hybrid format on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, both in person at St. Mary's Church in Danvers (24 Conant Street) and on Zoom. We are proud to serve groups in the following 16 Northshore communities: Beverly, Danvers, Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Manchester, Marblehead, Middleton, Peabody, Rockport, Rowley, Salem, Swampscott, Topsfield, and Wenham. At present there are 57 physical and 3 virtual groups on record with the GSO in our district.

Districts 18 & 19 are celebrating a revitalized spirit of inclusion and service that is energizing our fellowship and expanding our outreach. As we continue to grow together, we've seen remarkable developments that reflect our core commitment to unity, service, and recovery. District participation has seen dramatic growth, with more groups represented and more trusted servants engaged in the work. Our committee work is thriving, as members come together to support our efforts in outreach, public information, accessibility, corrections, archives, literature, CPC, and more. The energy and dedication of our trusted servants have made a noticeable impact across the districts. We now have two DCMs and 27 GSRs in service

Internally, we've made major changes to our meeting structure as well. What began as in-person-only, then moved to virtual-only, has now evolved into a hybrid format in a handicapped-accessible space. This change reflects our deep commitment to being welcoming and inclusive to all members of the fellowship, regardless of physical ability or location.

We're especially proud of the success of our three annual fellowship events, each of which has seen enthusiastic attendance and heartwarming fellowship. The Old-Timer's Meeting was a standout success, drawing 508 attendees—an impressive leap from 280 the previous year. This event continues to be a moving celebration of long-term sobriety and shared wisdom.

Our Summer Bash provides the opportunity to bring members together for sun, fun, and fellowship, creating lasting connections in a relaxed and joyful setting. Later in the year, our Thanksgiving Alkathon provided a safe and welcoming space during the holiday season, supporting those who needed connection and sobriety during a potentially challenging time.

In addition to our ongoing events, we are honored to sponsor the Area 30 Post-Conference Assembly this year, embracing its new format and helping to ensure a smooth, inclusive, and effective gathering. It was a privilege to support this important event and to be part of the continued evolution of service at the Area level.

With a full voice for all, a renewed sense of purpose, and growing momentum, Districts 18 & 19 are excited to continue serving the fellowship with love and commitment. We invite you to join us, there is a place for everyone at the table.

In Love & Service, John P., DCMC D18/19



Time for A.A. Big Book Trivia!!!

What is the central fact of our lives today?

a.) we are not drinking

b.) the absolute certainty that Our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous

c.) we are members of Alcoholics Anonymous

(answer on last page)

Interview with a Past Delegate

An interview with Jean K., Area 30 Panel 69 Delegate, 2019/2020.

Jean grew up in the 1950/1960's era in the Dorchester/Quincy area. She lived in a big white house with parents who didn't drink. Her mom was a social drinker; her dad drank no alcohol at all. As a young adult, her Dad was a main influence. When she turned 18, there were no funds for her for college (those monies were allocated to her brother). Her dad coached her on how she should approach life. This included advice on having a job, a car, etc. But he also told her to watch her drinking as she had the complexion of an alcoholic. Both of Jean's grandfathers had been alcoholics. One actually died from the disease. Jean was doomed. She did not heed these warnings. Instead she took them as permission to drink.

Jean proceeded to drink for the next four years until she met first husband. He did not drink. She thought the cure was a husband who didn't drink. (She did not want to go to AA with all the old men.) This plan worked for 8 years until her husband became a daily drinker. The marriage was ending, and she had three kids to raise, so she started working part time on an overnight shift. Her drinking paused, but she did ask her coworkers when did they fit in drinking on this type of shift?

She started drinking slowly, and within 6 months she was on a 4 year bender. She went to AA because a friend needed a ride, but she had no intention of quitting alcohol as she had never been arrested. Because some of her friends were in AA she kept going. Her ex-husband asked her about AA and so she brought him there and supported him getting sober. She thought it would mean she could drink even more. Then in 1989, on July 10, she did get sober. She had been out drinking on the 3rd of July. Starting in Quincy she worked her way through to Dorchester. She got really drunk ending up at JJ Foley's bar. She was so drunk she passed out in her car with the door open. She had never made it home. The next day her 7 years old daughter wanted to go to the beach. Jean told her she was too sick. Her daughter replied that Jean was always too sick on Sundays. This was her wake up call. She went to the Saturday night meeting in Quincy. This began her sober journey.

In the beginning, she was resistant to the steps, sponsors, commitments etc. She knew it all, couldn't be taught. But she was miserable. The strict old timers kept talking to her. They encouraged her to go on commitments; told her she needed to open her own mouth to save her own butt. They were very big about service. In 1994 or 1995 her district hosted an assy. She only remembers she was in charge of the juice. She spent some time in a Big Book Step Study. In 2001, she became a GSR and walked into her first district meeting. The district was suffering; was barely holding on with only a few members. She became secretary. She thought oh no, now I have to come back. She needed to email minutes and reminders and she did not know how to email. She learned and then started to like it. She then became district treasurer and learned spreadsheets. These skills not only helped her progress in her AA service career, but her personal career as well. She started dating an Alt. DCM and this also helped keep her in service. Kevin N. lured her into being Area Messenger Chair, and so Area work began. At the AA Mass State Convention, she was excited to work on the alkathons. These early positions helped her to stay and encouraged her to stand for Area Officer positions, leading eventually to becoming Area30 Delegate in 2019/2020.

Jean credits AA Area work with helping her meet so many more people than had she stayed in just group or district jobs. She learned a lot about AA. Her message to those young in their recovery is stay connected to service and you will stay connected to AA. Service kept her sober through life challenging events.

Jean now works at Central Service in Boston. From this new vantage point she shares that she is seeing even more sides of how AA works. Area showed her how AA functions. Central Service is showing her what is going on in the groups. So many groups don't have GSR's and she fields their calls asking things like why the AA preamble changed? What happened? Jean would like to see AA evolve so that even more groups understand about the Traditions. She would like them to care as much for the AA structure as they do about their own recovery.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN AREA 30

Many Committee Meetings convene virtually. Please see the Area Calendar at aaemass.org or contact Committee Chairs to inquire about location, format, and possible time changes. All are welcome to attend.

General Service Area Committee – chair@aaemass.org

7:30pm – 4th Wednesday of the month *in even-numbered months*

Note: 3rd Wednesday in December, Hybrid and In-Person: IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport St #1, Dorchester, MA 02122

Accessibilities Committee – accessibilities@aaemass.org

7:30pm - 3rd **Monday** of the month

Note: 2nd Monday in December

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

7:00pm – 3rd **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

7:00pm – 2nd 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

7:00pm – 4th 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

7:00pm – 1st Wednesday 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.

Literature Committee – literature@aaemass.org

7:00pm – 1st 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

7:00pm – 1st 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.

(Committee meetings continued next page...)

Joint Treatment Facilities Committee – treatment@aaemass.org

7:00pm – 3rd 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.

Technology Committee – technology@aaemass.org

7:00pm – 1st Tuesday of the month

This committee currently meets jointly with the Website Committee.

Website Committee – website@aaemass.org

7:00pm – 1st Tuesday of the month

This committee maintains the Area 30 website per assembly action and develops recommendations the future maintenance of the site. This committee currently meets jointly with the Technology Committee.

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 Alcoholics Anonymous.



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AA Mass State Convention

November 14–16, 2025

Next planning meeting will be on May27th at [Royal Plaza 181 Boston Post Road W., Marlborough.](https://aaestateconvention.org/About.html)

<https://aaestateconvention.org/About.html>

MSC planning meetings are scheduled for January, March, May, July, September, and October, please join us!

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Meeting Change Notification: The the Saturday night “Young People’s” meeting at St Paul’s Church in Newburyport has changed to the new name: “Saturday Night Story Tellers”. It will be a one hour speaker discussion meeting starting at 7pm. at St Paul’s Church Newburyport MA. There will be an pen mic night once a month.

AA Trivia Answer : b.) from the Big Book page 25, paragraph 2, line 5

