

January 21, 2025

Monthly Business Meeting District 5, South Florida Area 15, General Service Committee

Arcadia, Boca Grande, Englewood, Ft. Ogden, Nokomis, North Port, Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda, Venice

Website: www.aadistrict5.org

MINUTES ARE CONFIDENTIAL: Please do not post in public places, such as clubhouses, bulletin boards, etc.

**Next GSR Sharing / Workshop on February 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM followed by
The District 5 General Service Business Meeting at 7 PM
Location: St. Nathaniel's Episcopal Church
4200 S. Biscayne Drive, North Port 34287**

To All Standing Committee Chairs and Officers:

- **All written reports must be typewritten and emailed to secretary@aadistrict5.org before the district meeting or by the Friday after the business meeting.**
- **The Recording Secretary will copy and paste your report into the minutes. Therefore, for ease of insertion into the minutes **PLEASE DO NOT CREATE YOUR REPORT IN ADOBE (.pdf)**. (You may use any other typewritten format, such as Microsoft Word, Google Docs, Email, etc.)**

GSR Sharing / Workshop 6 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.

Opening: Alt Chair/DCM Coordinator, Stephanie P. opened the GSR sharing Session at 6:00 p.m. with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer

Around the Room: GSRs introduced themselves and their groups.

Discussion: GSR Orientation Booklet

Close/Break: The session was closed at 6:50 p.m. with a request to be back in time for Business meeting at 7:00 p.m.

District 5 Business Meeting:

Opening District Chairperson, Jean M., opened the meeting at 7 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by GSR roll call the Serenity Prayer

GSR Preamble read by Joe R. of the Venice YPG Group

The Long Form of Tradition 1 for January was not read.

Welcome new GSR's and AGSRs: GSRs: Meridith, Wes, Amy, Stuart, Bill, Val, Steve, Greg, and Patty!

Roll Call, # of: GSRs: 18 Alt GSRs: 3 DCMs: 4 Alt DCMs: 0 Officers: 5

Total # of people attendance: 34

GSR Announcements for upcoming events (Please bring flyer to distribute to attendees. Email flyer to webchair@aadistrict5.org if you wish to have the event posted on the District 5 website.)

Volunteers to make coffee and bring snacks to the February 18, 2025, GSR Sharing Session / District 5 Business Meeting (to be ready by 5:30 p.m.): Coffee: Richard of the Can Do Group Snacks: Val of the Women's Barefoot Meeting Group

Chairperson's Report – Jean F. District 5 Chair Report for January 2025:

Hello everyone, my name is Jean, and I am an alcoholic, because of God's grace, your fellowship and direct sponsorship, I have been sober since May 15, 1982. I want to welcome any new GSRs to the District 5 meeting. If we have any visitors, welcome also. For those that have motions from the Area 15 meeting, let me tell you what happened. There should be extra over there on the table.

Old business:

Approved signing contracts for this next year's assembly:

April 4-6th in Boca Raton Marriot, July 11-13th Hyatt Regency Sarasota, Oct. 3-5th Boca Raton Marriot, Jan. 9-11th Ft. Lauderdale Marriot, April 10-12th Boca Raton Marriot

Area Budget Passed

Motion A – Passed

Motion B – Passed

Motion C – Passed

Motion D – Failed

Motion E – Referred to QCC committee

Motion F – Passed

Motion G, H, I – Withdrawn

New Business:

Motion A – Passed

Motion B – Passed

An Ad-hoc committee was formed to look at splitting the Area.

Our Delegate will be coming to give her Report to us on June 22nd. More information to come.

Yours in Service,

Jean M.

Alternate Chair/DCM Coordinator Report – Stephanie P. No written report

Recording Secretary – Joe R. Last month's minutes approved. Please send all reports to josephdrh88@gmail.com until there is access to the District 5 secretary email address.

Registrar Report – Amy M.

The district registrars met at the Area 15 General Service Assembly January 4th. It was discussed to have monthly online meetings via Zoom. These meetings will be used to go over any training or issues we are having making updates to the database.

Our first training took place Sunday January 19th. We went through examples of how to update database information, run reports, and where to find information if asked. The next meeting has not been announced yet.

I have forms to fill out for all incoming district officers, committee chairs, GSRs and DCMs. Please make sure to get with me if you are new or you are unsure if your info is in the database.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.
Amy P.

Treasurer's Report – Kevin C.

Monthly Profit & Loss

Group Contributions \$2,349.42*

District Basket \$64.00

Total \$2,413.42

Payments & Expenses

Quarterly \$1,406.05

Outstanding checks \$229.70

Storage \$176.94

Church Rent \$65.00

Total \$1877.69

Net (+/-) + \$535.73

Checkbook Balance \$10,113.92

Prudent Reserve \$4,010.23

**Special thanks to the following groups:*

Came to Believe

Living Sober

Serenity-Arcadia

Each Day a New Beginning

You Are Not Alone (YANA)

Steps to Sobriety

Sunset

High Noon-Midday Miracles

Eye Opener

Friday Night Men's

Saturday Night-North Port

New Beginning

On Awakening

Dawn busters

Where to send your contributions

GSO is requesting that contributions be made online if possible

Go to www.aa.org and follow the instructions

Otherwise, send check to

PO Box 2407

James A Farley Station New York, NY

10116-2407

Area 15

Area 15 Treasurer

2950 W Cypress Creek Rd Fort

Lauderdale, FL 33309

District 5

Please make check payable to District 5 Treasurer and include group name & number

District 5 Treasurer

PO Box 7356

North Port, FL 34290

I attended the South Florida Area 15 General Service Assembly January 3-5. I arrived on Saturday the fourth and attended the following workshops: Concepts (1-4), Treasurers, Finance, What's on your Mind? I also attended the Area 15 business meeting on Sunday, January 5 and issued reimbursement checks. (6 checks totaling \$1406.05) The Treasurers meeting was conducted by the new Area chair, Jim G. The district chairs in attendance introduced themselves and described where their districts were located. There was a general sharing by the new district treasurers on whatever difficulties or problems they were having as new treasurers. I mentioned my unfamiliarity with QuickBooks and was told by a

number of treasurers that I wouldn't have any problem. Topics covered at the meeting included: Getting familiar with the GSO Seventh Tradition fact sheet, reading the Finance guidelines, transition challenges, suggestion for using tech soup for QuickBooks, digital platforms for contributions, such as PayPal and Zelle, the need for interim treasurer meetings on Zoom, and suggestions for future workshops? There was a lot of discussion about contributions, as one might expect two things that were brought up were: the idea that money flows down the triangle and that a group should not be married to their pie chart. On Thursday January 2nd, Tim S. and I went to 5th/3rd Bank to change the account signature card, cancel his debit card and initiate a new card for me. We then went to Extra Space Storage (ESS) to change contact information. On Saturday, January 11th I was contacted by ESS that our payment to Tim's debit card was declined. I went over, paid by check and set it up for automatic payment direct from our checking account. This past week, I attended two Area Virtual meetings for District Chairs and Quarterly Coordinators in order to better understand the workings of Area service.

Yours in Service,

Kevin C.

Standing Committee Reports

Accessibilities – Angela M.

For the last two years, I have represented District 5 as the PICPC Committee Chair. In the last quarter of 2024, I was approached by the PICPC Chair from the online/zoom community with a project that targets the senior 55+ population. The goal of this project was to increase participation in the Peacemakers Zoom meeting which meets every day at 8:00 am, as well as increase awareness of the availability of zoom AA meetings and the local 24-hour hotline for those seniors who may not have the mobility or transportation to attend regular meetings. The beauty of this program is that it is practically turnkey. The goal of the program is to increase participation in Online Zoom AA meeting and the 24-hour hotline; assess the need for development of on-sight meetings and on-sight literature needs. The program is fully developed and includes a list of Charlotte County 55+ communities in a spread sheet form with columns for follow-up remarks, a scripted phone conversation for the initial phone call, pre-written follow-up email, pre-written follow-up letter that accompanies the poster and the poster that is displayed at the facility. We met in late November and made changes to the poster which has been tailored to the appropriate District 5 contact names and numbers. The list of facilities has been divided between volunteers who will make the initial phone call. Using the script as a guide, they will call each facility to assess their interest in displaying the poster. There is a prewritten follow up letter which is used if the initial phone call is successful and the facility wants to display the poster. Our district put together packets including the poster, follow-up cover letter, and the following pamphlets:

The Newcomer Asks

Is AA for You

At a Glance

AA and the Healthcare Professional

I believe that the person who put together the packets also had a supply of the new AA and the Older Adult booklets, which is printed in large print. She included those as well. This isn't mandatory but it is a good opportunity to spread the word with some literature. The packets are either mailed to the facility or they are delivered in person. Our district is just beginning this project as we are all just recovering from a busy holiday season.

Grateful to Serve,

Angela M.

Archives – Fred G. No written report

Correction Facilities – John A.

We are currently providing 36 meetings per month at 3 institutions. 2 per week at the Charlotte County Jail (1 men & 1 women), 1 meeting per week at Charlotte Correctional Institute, and 6 at DeSoto Correctional Institute including a

District 5 Minutes

This information is for District 5 Committees and Group members, and as such are confidential documents; distribution is limited to members.

Spanish speaking and a Veterans meeting. Charlotte Corrections has a new Chaplain who has requested at least two additional meetings which we are currently in the process of trying to work out. One includes their work camp which is at a different location in District 7. I have reached out to their district chair to work out the logistics of that one and am working on the time for the other. I was contacted by a long-time corrections volunteer from D7 who has volunteered to participate regardless of the decision of their corrections committee. There is also a request for a vets meeting there. Amy Mellott is the classification officer in charge of the veterans' program and is spearheading the effort to get this meeting back up and running. We have a couple of volunteers lined up but will likely need more. All we need for this to get going is the day and time details. Calling all veterans!! We could also use some help with the vets at DeSoto.

We currently have 27 volunteers with 2 snowbirds as well as 6 in the pipeline awaiting clearance.

We have a sponsorship program in the early stages where we have volunteers agree to sponsor an inmate individually. Those of us who sponsor the meetings cannot sponsor individuals, so these volunteers are approved as visitors and meet with willing inmates on a personal basis.

We also work with those who are being released to make sure we have a volunteer available to meet with them and get them plugged into outside meetings as soon as possible. We have managed to line up contacts as far away as Guatemala and are currently working on one being released in Kissamee.

Gratefully Submitted,
John A.

Current Practices – Carol R.

Each District 5 standing committee has a Legacy of Service on their District 5 committee web pages which show the Composition, Scope, and Procedure of their committee. I am working with each committee to make sure their information is up to date. The Accessibilities & Literature Committee information should be updated on the web by the end of the month. I am also reviewing the work by the 2024 Current Practices Committee to see if any housekeeping motions are needed to bring current practices up to date. Please contact me if you would like to join the committee, or if you have any questions about current practices, a past District 5 motion, or need assistance writing a new motion.

Grateful to serve,
Carol R

Finance – Tim S. No written report

Intergroup Liaison – P.J. No written report

Literature – Deb B.

Hello District 5

Our Committee meets the last Wednesday of the month. We have been working on the digital age; incorporating it into our display and trivia game which encourages members to visit our table ..so fun! Our budget is \$200.00 and at that balance. We will be attending and participating at the old timer's dinner March 22. Carol R from Current Practice is helping us update the website. There will be a slight price increase on certain pieces, will attach list. I attended the 1/4 ly Assembly in Sarasota, met the rotating in Committee officers and District chairs. A great team for this panel. Am so excited our Delegate Lisa has been assigned to the Conference Literature Committee as she will be joining us with her experiences and knowledge. We discussed the Preliminary Agenda items which are found on the Area website under "Everything you need to know about the 75 General Service Assembly". For example, bringing the idea to make a 2nd edition of Living Sober book and another is changes to the Sponsorship pamphlet. They also showed us how to make a Canva board which will free us from having to carry so many books. They also had a life size Canva board which would love the other committee chairs to check out at the April assembly to see if this is a possibly for us to share. Secretary Theresa is willing to show us how to do a virtual meeting if we decide to go that route and also the very helpful QR codes Now available; Plain Language Big Book \$11.00, Service Manual &4.00 and pamphlet Black in AA experience strength hope.

In love and service
Deborah B

A.A. World Services, Inc. Literature Price Schedule Effective January 22, 2025:

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/Package_pricing_12_24.pdf

Treatment Facilities – Jason S. No written report

Website – Butch No written report

Old Business:

Open Positions. The following positions are open in District 5. The volunteers for these position would serve through December 31, 2026:

Grapevine Committee Chairperson - Desired qualifications: 2 years continuous sobriety and working knowledge of the AA steps and traditions. **Duties:** Chairs District Grapevine Committee meeting each month. Attends District 5 business meetings and reports on committee activities. Attends Grapevine Committee meeting at Area 15 Quarterly and gives report of meeting at next District 5 business meeting. (Reimbursed by District 5 for 1 night hotel stay at Area 15 Quarterly.)

Does anyone wish to stand for the Grapevine Committee Chairperson position?

PI/CPC Committee Chairperson - Desired qualifications: 2 years continuous sobriety and working knowledge of the AA steps and traditions. **Duties:** Chairs District PI/CPC Committee meeting each month. Attends District 5 business meetings and reports on committee activities. Attends PI/CPC Committee meeting at Area 15 Quarterly and gives report of meeting at next District 5 business meeting. (Reimbursed by District 5 for 1 night hotel stay at Area 15 Quarterly.)

Does anyone wish to stand for the PI/CPC Committee Chairperson position?

DCM positions are open for the following locations: North Port, Port Charlotte, Online Meetings, Venice, and Punta Gorda. Desired Qualifications: 4 years continuous sobriety, 2 years' service as a GSR in any district in the U.S. or Canada, working knowledge of the AA traditions and concepts. **Duties:** Attends monthly DCM Committee meeting. Visits assigned groups and keeps those group's GSRs/contacts informed of General Service activities. Makes sure the District 5 Registrar has the correct information for each assigned group. Attends District 5 business meetings. Attends Area 15 Quarterly Assemblies and while there, attends the DCM Sharing Session on Saturday and the business meeting on Sunday. (Reimbursed by District 5 for 1 night hotel stay at Area 15 Quarterly.)

Does anyone wish to stand as a DCM for any of the locations?

Yay Stephanie P. for standing for Venice DCM!!

Alternate DCMs are needed for all locations: Arcadia, North Port, Port Charlotte (2), Online Meetings, Punta Gorda, and Venice (2). Qualifications and duties same as DCM. (Only reimbursed by District 5 for 1 night hotel stay at Area 15 Quarterly if attending in place of DCM.)

Does anyone wish to stand as a Alt DCM for any of the locations?

New Business:

Next Month Reminders:

February 18, 2025: GSR Sharing at 6 p.m., followed by District 5 business meeting at 7 p.m. at St. Nathaniel's Church in North Port. Richard will make coffee; Val will bring snacks.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Spence and seconded by Fred.

The Meeting was closed at 7:58 p.m. with The Responsibility Statement, followed by The Lord's Prayer.

District 5 of South Florida Area 15, General Service Committee

Website: www.aadistrict5.org

The Information below is confidential and must not be posted in public places or clubs, etc.

OFFICERS					
Chairperson	Jean M	jtmacf62@hotmail.com	Treasurer	Kevin C	kevincarroll7@icloud.com
Alt Chair/DCM Coordinator	Stephanie P.	plowchick@gmail.com	Registrar	Amy M.	Amymuller54@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Joe R.	Josephdrh88@gmail.com			-

CITY	DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (DCM)		CITY	DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (DCM)	
Arcadia	Fred G.	fguterding@gmail.com	PC	PJ	PJKGroma@me.com
Englewood	Spence S.	rssechler@hotmail.com	All-Online	vacant	
Englewood			PG	Ruby M.	RubyMarconiB@gmail.com
NP			Venice	Stephanie P	plowchick@gmail.com
PC			Venice		

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:		
Accessibilities	Angela M.	amacken12@gmail.com
Archives	Fred G.	fguterding@gmail.com
Corrections	John A.	jarseneault1@icloud.com
Current Practices	Carol R.	carol@rossranch.com
Finance	Tim S.	timstakem@yahoo.com
Grapevine	vacant	
Intergroup Liaison	P.J.	PJKGroma@me.com
Literature	Deb B.	dkbbuehrer@gmail.com
PI/CPC	vacant	
Treatment	Jason S.	Jsmithelectric44@gmail.com
Website	Butch	webchair@aadistrict.org