

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.aadistrict5.org)

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

**Next GSR Sharing / Workshop on March 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](mailto: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.)**

**6 p.m. District 5 GSR sharing:**

Opening: Alt Chair/DCM Coordinator, Steph P.

Open with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer

Read 12 Traditions

Workshop Topic: Traditions

Tradition 1 with Spence, Tradition 2 with Ruby

Area Quarterlies

If you have funding to go to the Area Quarterly from your group, get your hotel reservation/waiting list. April 4-6 Boca Raton Area15aa.org. Sunday is voting.

General Service Conference Agenda items

Agenda items fall into three general categories: Review, Discuss, and Consider.

Review is review of the work that was completed in the past year.

Discuss a request to brainstorm and bring your groups ideas and suggestions.

Consider means a vote might be taken at the GSC on this item.

When do we get the items: by Feb 25

How do we learn about them? Email info from District, Area15aa.org, Online info sessions March 10-15/ March District meeting

How do we decide to vote on them? Share back with your group/take a vote.

Ask your group for a yes/no or for/against response. If your group has no strong opinion either way, that's ok too.

When and where do you share their vote? With your DCM or at Area Quarterly in Boca Raton on April 6

Discussion: Any questions or Group issues.

State Convention update with Ruby

Next month Workshop Topic: All about Agenda items

Any other requests for topics, please contact Steph P.

Close/Break: Close at 6:50 p.m. with request to be back for Business meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**7 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 the Serenity Prayer**

GSR Preamble read by \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Group

The Long Form of Tradition 2 for February was read by \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Group

Welcome new GSR's Angela and Val!

Roll Call, # of: GSRs: 15 Alt GSRs: 0 DCMs: 5 Alt DCMs: 0 Officers:  
5

Total # of people attendance: 25

**GSR Announcements for upcoming events** *(Please bring flyer to distribute to attendees. Email flyer to [webchair@aadistrict5.org](mailto: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 March 18, 2025, GSR Sharing Session / District 5 Business**

**Meeting (to be ready by 5:30 p.m.): Coffee:** \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Group

**Snacks:** \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Group and \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Group

### **Chairperson's Report – Jean F.**

Hello everyone, my name is Jean MacFerrin, 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 new GSRs to the District 5 meeting. If we have any visitors, welcome also Just a reminder for the next Area Assembly, April 4-6 in Boca Raton. I hope those of you that are planning to go have made arrangement for your rooms and transportation. Our Delegate will be coming to give her report to us on July 20th. Last month I said June, but (write this down) I was wrong! New Service manuals are available now on digital format and in printed form on March 27th. GSO is looking for an AA member to translate literature into Haitian. If you know someone, please let me know. The tentative Agenda for the April Conference is out and I have told our Delegate what we might be interested in knowing, such as when the 5th addition of the Big Book would be out and if they are going to raise the maximum contribution from 7,500 to \$10,000. As well as the concern to protect the Founder's writings.

Yours in Service

District 5 Chairperson

### **Alternate Chair/DCM Coordinator Report – Stephanie P.**

### **Recording Secretary – Joe R.**

### **Registrar Report – Amy M.**

After our District business meeting I worked with the area Registrar to get all of the new GSRs, officers, and committee chairs updated in the Air table database.

I provided email addresses to the District Secretary to make sure all new GSRs will receive district minutes. So if you're not receiving the district emails get with me after the meeting to make sure I have your email correct.

I will be pulling a report from Air Table with all of the district's registered groups. I'm having technical difficulties because the borrowed district computer does not have Microsoft Excel. I am figuring out how to do this with Google Sheets. I will get this information sent to the DCMs in the next couple weeks.

The area registrars will be meeting the fourth Sunday of every month. This will be a session for us to ask questions and brainstorm on issues we are having.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Amy Pocevic

District 5, Registrar

### **Treasurer's Report – Kevin C.**

With the help of our erstwhile Treasure Tim S. I have an introductory handle on QuickBooks. I was able to perform a month ending reconciliation accurately. I have begun my own double entry system for contributions and expenditures that I feel comfortable with. Oh my, I have just ended a sentence with a preposition. I have also initiated contact with our

Corrections Chair to begin serving on the Corrections Committee as I was informed there are need of veteran AA members, and I are one.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,  
Kevin C

### **Monthly Profit & Loss**

Group Contributions: \$2,349.42

District Basket: \$58.00

Total: \$2,407.42

### **Payments & Expenses**

Reimbursements: \$2,095.71

Storage: \$176.94

Church Rent: \$65.00

Total: \$2,237.65

**Net (+/-): +169.77**

Prudent Reserve: \$4,010.26

Checkbook Balance: \$10,411.79 (as of 2/18/2025)

### **Standing Committee Reports**

*Please limit verbal report to 3 minutes or less. Your written report for the the minutes can include additional information.*

### **Ad-hoc Committee Report**

#### **Accessibilities – Angela M.**

I spent this month familiarizing myself with this new role as accessibilities chair including the following:

Registered with GSO as Area 15/District 5 chair and ordered the workbook and the Kit. Kits are backordered and are currently only available on-line.

Read the workbook and kit

I checked into whether the information on the district 5 website was correct for the time and frequency of accessibilities committee monthly meetings and determined that the information was incorrect. I have contacted the website chair to make the appropriate corrections.

Determined if there was not an existing accessibilities committee

Attended Area15 Zoom Accessibilities committee meeting

#### **Senior Initiative Project**

The main project I worked on this past month was the Senior Initiative Project that targets 55+ population with the goal of increasing awareness of AA meetings via the Zoom app. The project entails:

All of the 55+ communities in Charlotte County have been dropped into an excel spreadsheet designed specifically for this project. Each community's phone number and address are listed.

This list of communities has been divided among the volunteers of the project

Phone calls are made, usually to the Activities Director, using a pre-scripted phone conversation designed for this project.

The goal of the phone conversation is to heighten awareness of the frequency of older adults with drinking problems and to assess interest in displaying a poster marketing the availability of Zoom AA Meetings, specifically the Peacemakers meeting, with the log-in information. The phone call also gives us an opportunity to determine if there's interest in a literature display or an on-site AA meeting at the facility.

If the Activities Director agrees to display the poster, then a prefilled packet containing the poster, a pre-written follow-up letter, and pamphlets is delivered in person by the volunteer. The packets can also be mailed, but personal delivery helps to develop a relationship with the facility.

Pamphlets Included:

AA at a Glance

Is AA for You

AA and the Professional Community

AA and the Older Adult

Finally, after discussion with the on-sight contact, the volunteer writes a brief note in the Excel Spreadsheet documenting their interaction with the community so that follow-up can be done in the future for pamphlet displays and so that we can evaluate the number of participating facilities.

Old Timers Dinner

I was contacted by the Events Coordinator from Intergroup regarding whether or not an interpreter was necessary at the

upcoming Old Timers Dinner. I posed this question to the district during my oral report and was advised to arrange for an interpreter. I was also informed at the district meeting that funds to pay for this service were also available. I reached out to our Area 15 accessibilities chair and have acquired the name and contact information for the ASL Interpreter that is used by AA. At the time of writing this report, an email has been sent to the interpreter requesting her services for the event but I haven't heard back. If I don't hear from her by 5pm Friday, I will telephone her.

Grateful to Serve,  
Angela M

#### **Archives – Fred G.**

I have went through the box of grapevine material that is slated for the grapevine chairperson and cataloged it. I put all the issues in Ziplock bags. There are many issues missing. Nothing from 2019-2021. That's just some that are missing. I receive the grapevine as of November 2024 and will donate all that I receive. I'm looking for members to bring in their issues of the grapevine for donation to the archives. I will sort through everything and catalog them. All of the excess I have I'll donate to corrections. Please let people know that they can bring them to the next district meeting or they can contact me at +1 (941) 204-1276. Thank you!!

Fred G

#### **Correction Facilities – John A.**

We are currently providing 40 meetings per week 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 Spanish speaking and a Veterans meeting. As of last Saturday we have started a new meeting at 5pm at the Charlotte Correctional Work Camp located in Ft. Myers. The first meeting was a great success. The staff was very accommodating (not always the case in corrections, is allowing us to bring in materials and store them in their office for safe keeping, and allowed us to walk the yard inviting inmates. We had 6 enthusiastic attendees who are sure more will follow. I have begun collecting literature for them but had to order some as Intergroup didn't have the inventory. Thanks to JJ for joining me for the first and I will continue to collect volunteers for the future. Meetings at DeSoto are going well but we continue to be a bit short on volunteers for Monday and Tuesday in the chapel. HELP!! We currently have 27 volunteers with 2 snow birds as well as 6 in the pipeline awaiting clearance. The approval process is pretty slow and you can see that 30 or so volunteers for 40 meetings is pretty short. We always like to have two volunteers at each meeting. 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 Arseneault  
District 5 Corrections Chair

#### **Current Practices – Carol R.**

#### **Finance – Tim S.**

#### **Grapevine – vacant**

#### **Intergroup Liaison – P.J.**

#### **Literature – Deb B.**

Hello District 5 !

- Our committee this panel has started with great enthusiasm:)
- At our January meeting we agreed on a theme ; Digital Age ~ Let's Navigate Together .
- We voted on the canva boards for our display ~ getting the ideas and layout from Area Literature meeting this past 1/4ly in Jan. Office Depo will do the printing @ approx \$40.00 per board.
- Been working on gathering info for our meeting to go virtual / hybrid ~ Intergroup has been instrumental in suggestions to share with other committee members or start our own account~ more will be revealed.
- At the Oldtimers dinner March 22 our display will help members navigate websites with fun trivia and small prizes...also short brief summary of the agenda items which affect literature items groups will find helpful in bring their vote in April at the 1/4ly in Boca Raton.
- I will be attending the Area Literature virtual meeting March 4th.
- The Area Literature committee also started a private communication in "what's app" for other district chairs and the officers ~ very helpful.

- Lisa D our delegate posted times for pre conference virtual meetings on the Area website : Literature is March 14 @ 6 pm ~ all are welcome
- Our budget stands at \$200.00
- The next meeting is on Feb 26 @ 4:30

Frances T Bourne Jacaranda Library  
4143 Woodmere Park Blvd. Venice  
•For more info contact ~ literature@aadistrict5.org

In love and service  
Deborah B  
D5 literature chair 📅📖👤

**PI/CPC – vacant**

**Treatment Facilities – Jason S.**

**Website – Butch**

### **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?**

**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:**

**How can Area go faster?**

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District 5 Minutes

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

**Next Month Reminders:**

**March 18, 2025: GSR Sharing at 6 p.m., followed by District 5 business meeting at 7 p.m. (\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ has volunteered to make coffee. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ have volunteered to bring snacks.)**

**Adjournment:**

**Motion to adjourn made by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.**

**The Meeting was closed at \_\_\_\_\_ 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](http://www.aadistrict5.org)*The Information below is confidential and must not be posted in public places or clubs, etc.*

OFFICERS					
<b>Chairperson</b>	Jean M	<a href="mailto:itmacf62@hotmail.com">itmacf62@hotmail.com</a>	<b>Treasurer</b>	Kevin C	<a href="mailto:kevincarroll7@icloud.com">kevincarroll7@icloud.com</a>
<b>Alt Chair/DCM Coordinator</b>	Stephanie P.	<a href="mailto:plowchick@gmail.com">plowchick@gmail.com</a>	<b>Registrar</b>	Amy M.	<a href="mailto:Amymuller54@gmail.com">Amymuller54@gmail.com</a>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Joe R.	<a href="mailto:Josephdrh88@gmail.com">Josephdrh88@gmail.com</a>			-

CITY	DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (DCM)		CITY	DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (DCM)	
<b>Arcadia</b>	Fred G.	<a href="mailto:fguterding@gmail.com">fguterding@gmail.com</a>	<b>PC</b>	PJ	<a href="mailto:PJKGroma@me.com">PJKGroma@me.com</a>
<b>Englewood</b>	Spence S.	<a href="mailto:rssechler@hotmail.com">rssechler@hotmail.com</a>	<b>All-Online</b>	vacant	
<b>Englewood</b>			<b>PG</b>	Ruby M.	<a href="mailto:RubyMarconiB@gmail.com">RubyMarconiB@gmail.com</a>
<b>NP</b>			<b>Venice</b>	Deborah B.	<a href="mailto:dkbbuehrer@gmail.com">dkbbuehrer@gmail.com</a>
<b>PC</b>			<b>Venice</b>		

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