

April 15, 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 May 20, 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**

Committee Chairs, Officers, and Motion Makers:

- All written reports and motions must be typewritten and emailed to secretary@aadistrict5.org before the district meeting or by the weekend after the business meeting.
- For ease of insertion into the minutes:
 - do not create your report or motion in Adobe (PDF). (You may use any other typewritten format, such as Word, Google Docs, email, text, etc.)
 - use 10 pt. Arial font
 - limit your typewritten report to one page or less to keep the meeting and the meeting minutes brief but informative. Exception: Treasurer's report may be longer than one page

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

District 5 Business Meeting:

Opening: Chair Jean M opened the meeting at 7 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer

GSR Preamble read by Greg G of the _____ Group

The 4th Concept was read by Fred of the _____ Group

Roll Call # of: GSRs: 15 Alt GSRs: 0 DCMs: 4 Alt DCMs: 0 District Officers: 4

Total # of voting members in attendance: 2/3 majority=

Total # of people attendance: 27

GSR Announcements for upcoming events (Please bring flyers to distribute to attendees. Please email flyers to the District 5 website chair at webchair@aadistrict5.org to have the event posted on the website and to the District 5 recording secretary at passport423@gmail.com and secretary@aadistrict5.org for inclusion in the minutes of tonight's meeting.)

Volunteers to make coffee and bring snacks to the May 20, 2025, GSR Sharing Session and District 5 Business Meeting (to be ready by 5:30 p.m.): Coffee: Deborah & John Snacks: Mary of the _____ group, and Michelle of the _____ group

Chairperson's Report – Jean M.

District 5

Chair Report for April 15, 2025

Good evening, everyone, I'm Jean MacFerrin, your district chair. Just a few highlights from our Area Assembly, April 4-6, 2025: Both motions A & B passed.

Our area treasury looks good. We have a balance of \$15,696 plus Operating and Prudent Reserve.

The Ad-hoc committee reported they are moving along nicely. They have 2 options down the middle or across the state. A big reminder was that groups need to put a group name, number, and district on all checks, Zelle, or Paypal. That goes for our own district/GSO.

The delegate got the same response from the area that she got from us, good job everyone!

Ad-Hoc Committee Report –

Archives – Fred G

Accessibilities Committee - Angela M

My time this month was divided between assisting with the transition of the new chair and alternate chair for PICPC and getting my running shoes on to lead the Accessibilities Committee for the next two years.

The following were my focus:

PICPC

1. Coordinated room reservation at Shannon Staub library for March PICPC committee meeting. Sent text notifications to PICPC committee members announcing meeting. Provided rides to and from meetings as our new chair does not drive. At the committee meeting, briefly explained where we left off last year with the Discharge Planners project. This meeting made me realize that, in order to regain the momentum, we had last year, I will have to put together a formal presentation and include correspondence and contacts that were developed last year. I'm planning to speak with the new chair about this and propose a date during the May PICPC committee meeting.

2. Homeless to Home Grassroots Luncheon

Attended H2H luncheon on March 18th 11:30- 1:30 pm at Plantation Golf Course. This grassroots luncheon is now being sponsored by the United Way. Lunch is provided with a \$10 fee. Multiple social service agencies and the police from Venice and North Port attend this lunch. It provides PICPC and Accessibilities with an excellent opportunity to network and to keep abreast of upcoming events we can participate in or to make contacts for future CPC presentations. I picked up the new chair Karen S and brought her to the luncheon to get her introduced to the people who coordinate the meeting.

3. Old Timers Dinner/PICPC

I provided a display table at the dinner as the new PICPC chair had conflicting plans for the evening

4. Accessibilities/Old Timers Dinner

I was contacted by the Intergroup Events Chair on behalf of the Accessibilities committee to identify and coordinate American Sign Language (ASL) for the hard of hearing who were attending the dinner. In the process, I made two new contacts who provide ASL.

Tessa (813)833-5945

Carol G (908) 265-1734

I was also responsible for determining who pays for what – District vs. Intergroup. I asked about this at the February District Meeting and was told by Tim that District 5 has a budget line item for

the provision of ASL services at meetings. Therefore, District paid the interpreter. I was also advised that intergroup was responsible for paying for the dinner tickets for the interpreter and her husband.

Eight (8) seats were reserved at the dinner for deaf/hard of hearing and people with ambulatory issues however, no one took advantage of these seats despite several people attending using walkers.

The ASL interpreter agreed to a flat fee of \$100 for her time even though she wasn't needed for sign language. It is my hope that in the future, intergroup develops some type of system to determine if ASL is actually needed before we hire someone unnecessarily.

5. Blind Resources AA/Where and Whens & Zoom ID's

I received a request for information from the District Website from someone who was inquiring about AA information for a blind person. My first thought was to direct them to Zoom meetings. In the process, I was looking over the Where and Whens to see if all the zoom meetings were listed. While I did find all Zoom meetings listed, the number and ID log ins were not listed. Is there one number for all of them: if not, why aren't the log in numbers listed on the Where and Whens. I will call Intergroup with these questions.

I also directed this person to the GSO/aa.org website as there are Braille books and pamphlets available as well as audio tapes available.

6. Accessibilities Committee Description on District 5 Website

I read the committee description on the D-5 Website. Some of the information is not correct and there seems to be no one at the end of some of the links. I brought this up at the Area 15 Accessibilities Zoom meeting and was forwarded a copy of the Accessibilities committee description from District 4. Their chair also believes it needs to be rewritten. I suggested to the Area Chair that all of us bring our committee description to share with each other and perhaps write a single committee description with links tailored to each district.

I spoke to Carol R, our Current Practice Chair in District 5. She has been simultaneously working on rewriting the Accessibilities Committee description for our Legacy of Service. We discussed her research and decided to collaborate our efforts, compare notes and rewrite the description upon her return from vacation in early May.

7. Motions for GSO

I was assigned motions J and L for PICPC and Accessibilities also has a pending motion. I participated in Zoom meetings for these motions and reported at the district 5 Business Meeting in March

8. Senior Outreach Initiative

Approximately 50 packets have been assembled for this project. Carol R representing the Eye Opener Group 8am Punta Gorda, requested 10 packets. Her home group has volunteers with inside contacts to several Assisted Living facilities and they are planning to make outreach calls. Carol and I also discussed possibly revising the project to focus more on establishing meetings at these Assisted Living Facilities rather than solely marketing the zoom meetings. We will discuss more after her return in early May.

I have also been invited to present this project to the PICPC committee at the next area 15 Assembly

9. District 5 Clean Up

I will be assisting my DCM Ruby with the verification of all the existing meetings in the Punta Gorda area to determine if they are still functioning

Corrections Committee – John A

Our District 5 Corrections committee continues to sponsor 40 AA meetings in three institutions in our district. We provide 6 meetings per week at the DeSoto Correctional Institute in DeSoto county including 3 on Monday with a Spanish speaking meeting, a meeting in the chapel, and a meeting at their work camp. On Tuesday there is an additional meeting in the chapel, on Wednesday there is a meeting for veterans, and on Thursday there is a meeting in A Dorm. We have a significant need for volunteers here as we only have two Spanish speakers and the Monday and Tuesday chapel meetings should always have two volunteers and frequently only have one and volunteers are needed to sponsor several per month.

We provide one meeting per week on Monday at the Charlotte Correctional Institute and an additional meeting on Saturday at their work camp. The work camp is a new meeting which we only started at the beginning of this month. The response has been enthusiastic and, while we anticipate larger numbers than the 5 we have attending now, the population at the facility is set to grow and we anticipate growing with it.

We provide two meetings per month at the Charlotte County jail, one for women and one for men. These meetings have also been well attended and have had adequate volunteer participation at this point.

We have two additional events on the calendar for April. The first is their Spring Re-Entry program designed to assist inmates who are scheduled for release in the next 180 days. That event is on the 23rd at 9am. Multiple organizations attend and speak to them about transitioning back to life on the outside. We have traditionally shared this event with PI/CPC as their services are part of that process. There is also a volunteer appreciation luncheon scheduled at noon on the 24th.

We continue to seek volunteers to sponsor inmates to work the steps with them. Meeting sponsors are not permitted to do that kind of one-on-one work as we are there for the entire group.

Our other pre-release service, different from the event mentioned above, is where we gather information on when and where individuals who need to continue to participate in our program once released so that we can set them up with a contact on the outside to get them plugged into the program once released. We have had great success here and continue to announce these opportunities in our meetings to collect their where and when information so we can share ours. JJ has managed to set up a couple of guys as far away as Guatemala.

News from the area assembly concerning corrections was that all of our vast array of AA materials is now available on inmates' tablets. The only glitch which we are currently addressing is that neither our district chairs or, naturally the inmates we serve, are aware of how to access the information because it is under an unfamiliar app. Since only certain vendors who have been vetted by the department are allowed to download information, we needed to know that they need to log into the Edovo add in order to access the information. We are in the process of taking that information into all of our meetings.

Gratefully Submitted,
John Arseneault
District 5 Corrections Chair

Current Practices – Carol R

Finance – Tim S

Grapevine – Vacant

Intergroup Liaison – P.J.

Literature Chair – Deb B

Hello District 5!

At our last committee meeting we discussed the literature agenda items along with the questions from the district , making sure we all learned how to get to the background .

We participated at the Old Timers dinner . It was a blast :) Having our trivia focus on navigating the websites 1) District ,2) Area, 3) GSO purchase and listen, 4) find Agenda items ... this was helpful for many members to find necessary information with a couple clicks.

I attended the Area 1/4ly in Boca Raton.

The area literature committee was well attended including 10 other districts.

The focus was on the Agenda items along with ideas from other district chairs: Some highlights were;

J . adding the concepts to the 12+12; •concerns of the GSO costs and of the purchase price •It will make the book a bit bigger • Be sure to include the chapter and fwd. The vote at committee was unanimous in favor of adding the concepts to the 12+12. The vote at Area business meeting was 1/2 and 1/2 .

K. Living sober updated ;

Some concerns were •if we make a second edition the first will not get read anymore • The adjusting of the writings (it was pointed out this book was not written by our founders) The vote to at Committee was unanimous to go for the changes . The vote at Area business meeting to rewrite and keep the original was 1/2 and 1/2. The vote for 2nd edition was more than not to have one.

L) develop a process to review all changes to the plain Language Big Book; there is a form online which our delegate Lisa D is accepting all comments and concerns.

~ District ideas included 1) QR codes on bookmakers and at display tables 2) Combine Committees in smaller districts 3) workshops , and / or visiting groups to attract new members 4) a subcommittee being formed to work on new pamphlet for our DCM's protocol specifically in Area 15 (which we run a little different than rest of country)

Our next meeting is April 30 @ 4:30 .

We will be brainstorming some workshop / visit groups ideas ~ all are welcome at ~

Frances Bourne Jacaranda Library

4143 Woodmere Park Blvd.

Venice 34293

We are flexible with time and place ~ email us @ literature@district5.org

Grateful to serve

Deborah B literature chair ✦📖

PI/CPC - vacant

Registrar Report – Amy P

On March 23rd the area registrars had an opportunity to meet on Zoom. We shared our experiences and had a moment to ask questions of the Area 15 Registrar. I was showed how to run reports of our district groups. We also had an opportunity for another sharing session at the Area 15 General Service Assembly on April 5th. New GSRs should be receiving their GSR packets within a couple weeks of being entered into GSO's database. Please allow a month or so to receive it. If you're interested in seeing virtually what is in the kit, you can find the contents on aa.org search for GSR kit I emailed our District Chair all of the groups currently in Airtable. They have been separated into the cities within our district. DCM's, take a moment to review the ones which have been printed and I can email them to you individually. I noticed a lot of the information is not current, please make any corrections on the spreadsheets and get them back to me. I have an updated email list of the district population wanting to receive the district minutes. Once a secretary is in place, I will pass this list on. Any new GSR's here tonight, please do not leave without giving me your information.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Amy Pocevic

District 5, Registrar

Treasurer's Report – Kevin C.

District 5 Treasurer Report April 15, 2025

Thanks to the following groups for their generous support: Our Great Hope (BBSS), Eye Opener, How It Works (Venice), PMS, Friday Night Recovery, Borderline Big Book, Each Day a New Beginning, Monday Night 12&12, Dawn Busters, and Under the Trees.

Monthly Profit & Loss

Group Contributions: \$908.54

District Basket: \$65.00

Total: \$973.54

Payments & Expenses

Reimbursements: \$1,922.26

Storage: \$176.24

Church Rent: \$65.00

Total: \$2,163.50

NET(+/-) -\$1,189.96

Prudent Reserve: \$4,010.32

Checkbook Balance: \$10,068.35

GSO is requesting that contributions be made online if possible. Go to 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

Love & Service,
Kevin C.
kevincarroll7@me.com

Treatment Facilities – Jason S**Website – Butch L.****Old Business:**

These positions still need to be filled for the 2025/2026 term:

- **Chairperson is still needed for the Grapevine.** -- Recommended Qualifications: minimum of 2 years' continuous sobriety • knowledge of AA's 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. Partial list of duties: use the AA workbook for their committee (found at aa.org) as a guide • attend all monthly District 5 business meetings and present a report of committee activities • forward typewritten version of report to district secretary for inclusion in meeting minutes • attend all Area 15 Quarterly Assemblies and participate in workshop for their committee • include summary of workshop in committee report at next District 5 business meeting
- **DCMs are needed.** Recommended Qualifications: 4 years continuous sobriety • 2 years' service as a GSR in any district • working knowledge of AAs 12 Steps, Traditions and Concepts. Partial list of duties: attend monthly DCM Committee meeting • visit assigned groups and keep each group's GSR/point of contact informed of General Service activities • make sure the District 5 Registrar has correct information for each assigned group • attend all District 5 business meetings • attend all Area 15 Quarterly Assemblies and while there, attend the DCM Sharing Session, any workshops assigned by the DCM Coordinator, and the business meeting on Sunday • include summary of assigned workshops attended at next District 5 business meeting

Alternate DCMs are needed. Qualifications and duties are the same as DCM, except that Alt DCMs are only required to attend Area 15 Quarterly Assemblies if they are attending in the DCM's place.

New Business:

- District 5 currently reimburses \$30 to officers for quarterly meeting expenses. A motion was made to increase that amount. The motion was tabled to allow Carol B of the Current Practices committee to compose a motion for this.
- List of groups for each city within the district were disturbed to DCM's to update meeting lists for each sub-district for existence and viability. Please check the Intergroup website for all up to date info and report any changes.

Next Month Reminders:

- May 20, 2025, GSR Sharing at 6, followed by District 5 business meeting at 7.

Volunteers for coffee and snacks (ready before the 6 p.m. GSR Sharing Session:

coffee: Deborah and John

snacks: Michelle and Mary

Adjournment: motion to close made by _____ of _____ group; seconded by
_____ of _____

Meeting was closed at ____8____ p.m. with Responsibility Statement, followed by The Lord's Prayer

District 5 of South Florida Area 15, General Service CommitteeWebsite: www.aadistrict5.org*The Information below is confidential and must not be posted in public places or clubs, etc.*

OFFICERS					
Chairperson	Jean M	itmacf62@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	Cindy S.	cindyschmiedeler@hotmail.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	Deborah B.	dkbbuehrer@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