

September 16, 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 October 21, 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 cindschmiedeler@hotmail.com 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.)

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 Amy D of the Friday Night Women's Meeting at Christ Venice

The Long Form of Tradition 9 for September was read by Al M

The 9th Concept of the month was read by Wes S of the Living Sober Group

Welcome new GSR's and AGSRs: GSRs: 0 of the Group and AGSRs: Brenda and Lindsey of the Group

Roll Call, # of: GSRs: 17 Alt GSRs: 2 DCMs: 5 Alt DCMs: 0 Officers: 5

Total # of voting members in attendance: 28 2/3 majority: 19

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.)

Easy Does It Club

Punta Gorda

Halloween Dance

October 25, 2025

7 – 10 pm

Tickets are \$10 and on sale now,

Flyer attached

Volunteers to make coffee and bring snacks to the October 21, 2025, GSR Sharing Session / District 5 Business Meeting (to be ready by 5:30 p.m.): Coffee & Set Up - Richard (it's always Richard, can someone please step in to help?)

Snacks: Mary

Clean up: John S

Chairperson's Report – Jean F.

Good evening, everyone,

I had a fruitful meeting with our Area Chairperson along with other District Chairs this past week

One worthy note was that our Area Business Meeting will be set up very differently to what we have done in the past. No tables! We will be set up in Theater Style. So, keep that in mind. No place for snacks, papers or drinks.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to what workshops districts have. Some Districts call them Events, not workshops!

One District joins forces with Intergroup. They set up tables for each committee and use a passport to encourage each person to go to each table. At the table they get a stamp, and if they join that committee, they get two stamps. At the end of the Event a prize is given to the people that have the most stamps! Of course, lunch is served first! A few of the Districts Alternate sponsoring these events with their Intergroup.

Some areas of interest of workshop for GSRs have been What is your role? What is a service sponsor? How to write a motion.

If some of you haven't noticed I have a new email address to communicate with you all. So check your SPAM. It's JeanDistrict5@gmail.com.

Alternate Chair/DCM Coordinator Report – Stephanie P.

Recording Secretary – Cindy S.

Registrar Report – Amy M.

Treasurer's Report – Kevin C.

August Treasurer Report

September 16, 2025

Thanks to the following groups for participating in our 7th Tradition: Living Sober, the P.M.S. Group, Morning Makers, the Lunch Bunch, Thursday Nite Step, Eye Opener, Women in Recovery, Tuesday Nite Step Group, and the Serenity Group in Arcadia.

AUGUST- Profit & Loss

Group Contributions: \$ 1,087.67

District Basket \$87.00

Total: \$ 1,174.67

Payments & Expenses

Reimbursements: \$ 704.52

Storage: \$176.94

Church Rent: \$75.00

Total: \$ 956.46

Net (+/-): +218.21

Prudent Reserve: \$4,010.47

Checkbook Balance: \$ 12,679.22

Outstanding checks: \$ 159.92

WHERE TO SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS:

General Service Board

GSB requests that contributions be made online if possible. Go to aa.org and follow instructions.

Otherwise, mail check made out to:

General Service Board

PO Box 2407

James A Farley Station

New York, NY 10116-2407

Area 15, South Florida General Service

Go to area15aa.org and use Quick Links for 7th Tradition Contributions.

Otherwise, mail check made out to:

Area 15 Treasurer

2950 W Cypress Creek Rd

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

District 5

Mail check made out to:

District 5 Treasurer

PO Box 7356

North Port, FL 34290

Yours in service,

Kevin C.

Treasurer@aadistrict5.org

Standing Committee Reports

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

Ad-hoc Committee Report

Accessibilities – Angela M.

Senior Outreach Project

Due to summer scheduling conflicts, our monthly committee meeting was rescheduled for September 24 (next week), instead of the regularly scheduled time/date. (2nd Wednesday of the month)

Packets for the project have been completed and we will be planning which facilities to target first at our meeting next week.

Deaf Alcoholics

I received information on the Deaf Alcoholics project from my Area Chair Carol H.

DeafAA.org has organized a forum to be held in New Mexico next January 2026. They are asking everyone to use the available flier and QR codes to spread the word. You are invited to take the flier and code to any of your meetings.

They are also collecting information on any ASL (American Sign Language) Interpreted meetings being held in our area. If you are aware of any of these meetings, please send information about them to deafaawebmaster@gmail.com

Grateful to Serve

Angela M

Accessibilities Chair

District 5/Area 15

Archives – Fred G.

Correction Facilities – John A.

Our District 5 Corrections committee continues to sponsor 40 AA meetings in three institutions at 4 locations 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. We have a few new volunteers who are recently approved and are being introduced into the schedule with veterans to show them the ropes. We also just added one who speaks Spanish which was a huge need. When you total up the average attendance at these meetings, we are thrilled that we impact nearly 160 inmates per week when we include all meetings once. We are potentially changing lots of lives for the better. Join us!

In addition to the meetings at DeSoto we provide one meeting per week on Monday at the Charlotte Correctional Institute and an additional meeting on Saturday at their work camp. We have recently learned that progress is being made with their expansion so the numbers should improve soon. We also welcomed two new members this past week.

We provide two meetings per month at the Charlotte County jail, one for women and one for men. The men's meeting has grown significantly lately and the women's is consistent.

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. We have several inmates currently waiting for someone to work with them. The requirements for doing this work are not nearly as stringent as far as background checks etc as for meeting sponsors. Our pre-release program continues to go well. We have set up several released inmates with an outside contact to get them plugged into the program on the outside.

At our monthly meeting on the 13th, we discussed two upcoming events: Our joint Area 14 & Area 15 Corrections workshop will take place on Sunday, September 21st at the ODAT Club (Pine Island Group) in Orlando from 1:30 until 4:30. Several panels will discuss ongoing correction successes and challenges. This meeting will be hybrid so anyone can join. Access codes to attend via Zoom are 847-3048-2501 with a password of 984923. This conference was a big success last year and food and drinks will be served to entice person participation. There will also be a National Corrections Conference in Nashville from November 7th to 9th. I have registered to attend.

Our next monthly meeting will be held on October 11th at 10am via zoom (882-0192-1326 pass code: service

Gratefully Submitted

John Arseneault

District 5 Corrections Chair

Current Practices – Carol R.

I am pleased to report that as of August 31, 2025, the Book of Motions and Current Practices documents are both up to date.

You can find the Book of Motions and the Book of Current Practices by going to <https://aadistrict5.org/> and then selecting Business Documents Current Practices Documents. (Please feel free to email me at currentpractices@aadistrict5.org if you need the password.)

Grateful to serve,

Carol R.

Finance – Tim S.

Grapevine – vacant

Intergroup Liaison – vacant

Literature – Deb B.

Hello District 5 !

At our last meeting we :

- Worked on QR codes
- Discuss home group pamphlet revival

Received GSO letter ~ 10 o/o discount off new and revised literature ! See attachment

Special Printing ; Language of the Heart commemorate A.A. 90th + 25th International

Attended Area virtual mtg

Lisa D our delegate on Conf. Lit Committee..

Update on Big Book ;

- reviewed 48 stories ; w goal of 30
- retaining 12 from 4th E
- Total approx 48

Discussed ; footnotes for clarification of historical writings due to some wording on :

- ch 8 to wives
- ch 10 to employees

Draft Appendix III ;

- medical view on A.A.
- religious view on A.A.

Goal ~ 2026 Conference

New 12 concepts video is complete ; release end of yr.

Our next meeting Sept 24 ~ Virtual

Pw + ID on D5 website ; literature listing

Grateful to serve

Deborah B Literature Chair

PI/CPC – vacant

Treatment Facilities – Jason S.

We are currently bringing in 3 meetings a week into the cbhc recovery unit and 1 meeting a week into their crisis unit. Everything is running smoothly and to schedule.

Thank you,

Jason

Website – Butch

Old Business:

Open Positions. The following positions are open in District 5. The volunteers for this 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: [REDACTED]. **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?

Motion to rescind Motion # 411 which was passed at the June 2025 meeting and which reads, "Increase the Chairperson's 2025 budget by \$200.00 to cover reimbursement costs for printing of material for District 5." Motion 411 is not needed since Motion 322 already reimburses officers for printing costs for all officers. Motion 322 reads, "That all officers be allowed to make copies for district as they feel would benefit the district and be reimbursed." (Note that officers are reimbursed from the District Printing and Reproduction Budget line item which is separate from the officer's annual budget.) *Respectfully submitted by Carol R., District 5 Current Practices Chair for Panel 75*

New Business:

Corrections Committee Motion for a Supplemental Budget Request

The Corrections Committee requests a supplemental budget in the amount of \$1,500 to cover anticipated needs for the balance of this year. There are several factors that necessitate this increase:

- A significant increase in the population being served at DeSoto
- The new meeting we started at the work camp for Charlotte Correctional.
- An increase in the use of literature in most of our meetings. We have replaced most discussion meetings with literature meetings to better concentrate on recovery as opposed to random discussions.
- An increased need for Spanish literature due to both population increase and literature focus.
- Increased cost of literature in general.
- Increased cost of supplies provided such as coffee.

I would also request reimbursement for part of the cost of attending the National Corrections Conference in Nashville in November. In following our tradition of supporting one night hotel reservation and the cost of a banquet, I am requesting that and the cost of the conference itself. The amount for the room is \$181.14 and the conference cost is \$150.00 for a total of \$331.14. This request would be covered by the total request of \$1500.00.

A motion was made by John and PASSED WITH ALL IN FAVOR of increasing the corrections budget.

A motion was made by Jay Jay to purchase a computer for the District Treasurer position. The computer cost cap

was set at \$1000 and would include the purchase of the software program QuickBooks to be used on the computer. An additional \$1000 for the purchase of a new computer for the secretary position shall stay in reserve until the start of the next term.

THIS MOTION PASSED WITH ALL IN FAVOR.

Next Area 15 Assembly is Oct 3-5 in Boca Raton.

All hotel rooms in the block are taken but be sure to email to the waitlist to get a room.

Info below:

BOCA RATON MARRIOTT AT BOCA CENTER 5150 TOWN CENTER CIRCLE, BOCA RATON, FL 33486

Room Rate: \$159.00 per night + tax (1-4 people)

For hotel room Waitlist: hotelinfo@area15aa.org

Here is the latest information about the International Convention that took place this summer:

International Convention | Alcoholics Anonymous

<https://www.aa.org/international-convention>

Motions A – E were discussed and can be found at the district website for your review.

Next Month Reminders:

October 21, 2025: GSR Sharing at 6 p.m., followed by District 5 business meeting at 7 p.m. Richard_ of _____ has volunteered to make coffee. ____ Mary ____ of _____ have volunteered to bring snacks.)

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by _Pamela____ and seconded by ____ Stephanie____.

The Meeting was closed at __8:18__ p.m. with The 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	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	
District Liaison to Intergroup	vacant	
Literature	Deb B.	dkbbuehrer@gmail.com
PI/CPC	vacant	
Treatment	Jason S.	Jsmithelectric44@gmail.com
Website	Butch	webchair@aadistrict.org