

December 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 January 19, 2026 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 Lindsay

The Long Form of Tradition 12 for December was read by Shelia

The 12th Concept of the month was read by John

Welcome new GSR's and AGSRs: GSRs: 4 - Shelly, Brenda D, Shelia and Kevin C and AGSRs: 0 of the _____ Group

Roll Call, # of: GSRs: 15 Alt GSRs: 1 DCMs: 4 Alt DCMs: 0 Officers: 4

Total # of voting members in attendance: 22 2/3 majority: 15

Total # of people attendance: 32

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.)

Christmas Alcathon

Englewood Recovery Oasis

12/24 5:30 pm – 12/25 8:00 pm (flyer attached)

Christmas Dinner

Easy Does It, 23312 Harper Ave, Port Charlotte

12/25, 1-3 pm

Bring a dish to share

*New Year Eve Alcahthon
Englewood Recovery Oasis
12/31 5:30 pm – 1/1/26 8:00 pm (flyer attached)*

**Volunteers to make coffee and bring snacks to the January 19 2026, GSR Sharing Session / District 5 Business Meeting (to be ready by 5:30 p.m.): Coffee & Set Up: Lindsay H Snacks: Lindsay
Clean up:**

Chairperson's Report – Jean F.

Good evening, everyone, my name is Jean MacFerrin and I'm an Alcoholic.

I sent out a copy of the updated items being considered for vote at April's conference. They will not be finalized until February but there are some very interesting items. I encourage you to look them over because we will be discussing them in April. I will send out the final list in February when they are released.

I also had an interesting zoom meeting with our Area Chair and other District Chairs. Discussion was how our District functions. How well are the GSR's kept informed? Do you think I am keeping all of you informed and up to date on Area and GSO happenings? Is Email suffusion in commutation? We also discussed collaboration with our Intergroups. Many Districts hold events with their Intergroups or alternate holding events. Are we interested in holding events with Intergroup?

On another item,

There is NO Host for the upcoming January meeting. The two-person Quarterly coordinator committee is doing all the work and is in need of volunteers to help, with things like Greeting, Registration, Hospitality, and anything else that may be needed. Banquet tickets sales are so low we will be in trouble if it doesn't pick up. Banquet tickets are now \$60. As of now There is a district to host the April meeting but not after that. Are we interested in hosting an area meeting? There are two in 2026 that are on the west coast, Saddlebrook and Cape Coral. The Chairperson of the Quarterly Coordinator also asked if District wanted to donate \$ to the Hospitality room.

P.S. Also any time we are in Boca Raton Marriott we will not have tables at our Sunday Meeting.

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE.

Alternate Chair/DCM Coordinator Report – Stephanie P.

Recording Secretary – Cindy S.

Registrar Report – Amy M.

Treasurer's Report – Kevin C.

November Treasurer Report

December 16, 2025

Thanks to the following groups for participating in our 7th Tradition: the Time Group, Live & Let Live, Indian Mound, On Awakening, Ground Breakers, and Women's Big Book Study Group.

NOVEMBER- Profit & Loss

Group Contributions: \$ 461.00

District Basket \$ 63.40

Total: \$ 524.40

Payments & Expenses

Reimbursements: \$ 402.98

Storage: \$172.11

Church Rent: \$75.00

Total: \$ 650.09

Net (+/-): - \$ 125.69

Prudent Reserve: \$ 4,010.67(+), \$1,000(computer), \$4805.99(excess funds)

Prudent Reserve Total \$ 9,816.66

Checkbook Balance: \$ 4,824.27

Outstanding checks: \$ 00.00

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 – Reports from committees that verified District meeting demographics.

Accessibilities – Angela M.

Senior Outreach Project

The committee had some issues meeting over the last two months due to family illness and personal travel schedules however, the members were still able to deliver Senior Outreach Packets to 5 of the 8 targeted pilot facilities. So far, so good. All were well received. We continue to monitor the Gmail account affiliated with the project but there has been no activity to date.

PICPC

The committee as invited to present to Charlotte Behavioral Health Center's clinical social workers at their regularly scheduled Teams Monthly Meeting. Teams is a platform similar to Zoom. The presentation was held on November 26.

CBHC asked that the presentation cover what PICPC is and does, the structure of AA in the local Area/Districts, the 12 steps and 12 traditions, meeting type and where to find them, and AA Resources available to the Clinical staff.

It was a 45-minute presentation. I used the Preamble as the basis for explaining how AA works, breaking it down into the various Traditions mentioned in the Preamble. I then grouped the step into 1-3, 4-5, 6-7,8-9, 10-12, and discussed the main points of each group of steps. I introduced the Intergroup 800 #, AA. Org, our YouTube Channel, Facebook page and LinkedIn sites. I spent several minutes explaining the Meeting Guide App and its highlights, funding, and how to navigate it.

There were 40 people on the call. Feedback was positive. The facility asked to stock a pamphlet rack in both of the buildings for use by clinical staff and their patients.

Newcomer Packets Charlotte Behavioral Health Inpatient Treatment Center

At the request of the Treatment Committee, PICPC supplied 15 Newcomer/Discharge packets that will be used for patients who are discharging from the 30-day Inpatient Treatment Center.

The packets included the following:

1. Where and When
2. The Newcomer Asks
3. Questions and Answers about Sponsorship
4. AA at a Glance
5. Is AA for You?

A packet will be given to any alcoholic who is discharging from the facility.

Angela will also stop by CBH Inpatient Facility to restock the existing literature rack in the group room. {approved by Josh, Treatment Chair}

Grateful to Serve,

Angela Macken

Accessibilities Chair

PICPC Secretary

District 5/Area 15

Archives – Fred G.

Correction Facilities – John A.

District 5 Corrections Report

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! The work is incredibly rewarding and has a great impact on the lives of those we serve.

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 recently.

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. We also have a corrections correspondence program where inmates have requested individuals to write them and open communications with someone on the outside via mail. The individual is paired with someone on the other side of the country to keep correspondents separated.

We held our monthly meeting on December 13th and had 12 participants. I reported that New York has selected 3 new Class A Trustees (that is "amateur or non- alcoholic) and each one has a background in corrections. Dr. Tom Ivester is the son of a long-term corrections volunteer and popular AA speaker who literally grew up around AA. Kelly Parsley also grew up around AA as her husband was a member of AA. She is thrilled to have been assigned to the corrections committee and looks forward to the work. Veronica Ramirez started in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a parole officer and referred people to AA routinely and later was chief probation officer in New Orleans. She continues to teach criminal justice at South Texas College. Corrections is certainly well represented on the board and we look forward to their sharing their expertise and experience with those of us who continue to do the work of helping those who we serve behind the walls.

Our latest communication from New York provided lots of details as to the amount of content that is available to inmates via their tablets. This is great but not replace the need for literature as they don't have access to them all of the time and cannot bring them to the meetings. They have also added a new vendor, Smart Communications which has resulted in our information now being available on 75,000 tablets with several thousand more expected over the next several months. We continue to add additional ways to carry the message. If anyone is interested in the details I am happy to forward them to you. It is far too much to handle here.

Our next committee meeting will be held January 10th at 10:00AM via zoom. 882-0192-1326. Passcode service.

Gratefully Submitted,
John Arseneault
District 5 Corrections Chair

Current Practices – Carol R.

Finance – Tim S.

Grapevine – Amy P

Intergroup Liaison – vacant

Literature – Deb B.

Hello District 5!

Our Committee has been answering a request from an A.A. member in reference to a workbook/ study guide to aid in sponsoring the Steps and Traditions.

Our journey had us go to the 72nd GSC Agenda item "L" . In reviewing it gave 3 options. Made its way to the 72GSC which recommended; send to the Trustee Literature Committee for further info and examples. Amazingly it's in the proposed Agenda items for 2026 :)

Our Committee is gaining valuable skills to help our members keep up with all the changes in our beloved program ♥

•Attended Area virtual meeting:

- 1) DCM handbook will be at the Jan. Area Conference ~ DCM share session. The DCMs are encouraged to click the QR code to add further comments.
- 2) keep eye open for pre-conference virtual share sessions.
- 3) Don't forget our pamphlet sale until January 15, 2026.

We meet virtual, the last Wednesday of the month
Log in: ID 882 0192 1326
Password service

Grateful to Serve
Deborah B

Online Committee (NEW) – Mary

Treatment Facilities - Jason

Website – Tom

Old Business:

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

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?

Motions A – D were read and discussed at the November meeting to clarify any confusion regarding the meaning and intended impact. **MOTIONS ARE ATTACHED TO THIS EMAIL FOR YOUR REVIEW.** These motions should be taken back to groups by GSR's for discussion and vote at the next area assembly which is held on January 11, 2026.

Amy P of Eye Opener has graciously stepped back into to Grapevine Committee Chair position through the end of the term. THANKS AMY!

New Business:

- A motion was made by Spence to donate \$300 for the Hospitality room to the upcoming area assembly in January. **This passed with all in favor.** In addition, Jean opened a discussion of whether we would be willing in hosting an Area Meeting in the future. Discussion was tabled for a later meeting.
- The District 5 2026 proposed budget (**attached**) was voted on and passed with 2/3 majority (17 in favor.)
- Church rent for this meeting will increase to \$80 or \$85 in 2026.
- The area literature committee is looking for written stories for Asian-American and Transgender Alcoholics. They are creating new pamphlets. For more info go to the General Service App.
- Area 15 is looking for Quarterly Quarterbacks. These are people willing to assist those attending the Assembly for the first time. Contact Beth D @ 954-729-3632. **Flyer attached.**

Next Month Reminders:

January 19,2026: GSR Sharing at 6 p.m., followed by District 5 business meeting at 7 p.m. Lindsey has volunteered to make coffee. Lindsey has volunteered to bring snacks.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by __Spence__ and seconded by __Amy__ .

The Meeting was closed at __7:57__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 | JeanDistrict5@gmail.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 | Amy P. | |
| District Liaison to Intergroup | vacant | |
| Literature | Deb B. | dkbbuehrer@gmail.com |
| PI/CPC | vacant | |
| Treatment | Jason S. | Jsmithelectric44@gmail.com |
| Website | Tom | webchair@aadistrict.org |