

January 20, 2026

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 17, 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 [REDACTED] 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 Michelle of Another Chance Group

The Long Form of Tradition 1 for January was read by John S

The 1st Concept of the month was read by Tammy T

Welcome new GSR's and AGSRs: GSRs: 4 new and AGSRs: 0

Roll Call, # of: GSRs: 21 Alt GSRs: 0 DCMs: 4 Alt DCMs: 0 Officers: 5

Total # of voting members in attendance: 30 2/3 majority: 20

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.)

Old Timers Dinner

Englewood United Methodist Church

3/21/26 5:00 - 9 (flyer attached)

Volunteers to make coffee and bring snacks to the February 17, 2026, GSR Sharing Session / District 5 Business Meeting (to be ready by 5:30 p.m.): Coffee & Set Up: Mike Snacks: Brenda
Clean up: Everyone please pitch in to help!

Chairperson's Report – Jean F.

Hello everyone, my name is Jean MacFerrin, and I am an Alcoholic. I want to welcome new GSRs to the District 5 meeting. If we have any visitors, welcome also

I want to say thank you to all that came to the assembly Jan 9, 10, 11 and especially to those of you who volunteered to help out. Just a reminder for the next Area Assembly, April 10-12 in Boca Raton. I hope those of you that are planning to go have made arrangement for your rooms and transportation. If you have not, please get on the waiting list or double up with someone else.

At last meeting in December, I asked if anyone was interested in Hosting an Assemble. Well the upcoming two that are on the west coast have been spoken for. July will be District 2 and Oct. will be District 7. The next term will have to bid on any coming up in 2027 and 2028.

Motions A and C were not passed and Motions B and D did pass. Other notable happenings were the chairperson for the new Technology Committee, from District 9, Ryan N.

(A GSR asked a question during the business meeting) "Why do we keep talking about change and not actually doing it?" This took everyone to look at how we do things!

Our Delegate has scheduled June 14 to come to District 5 to give her Report to us. So we have to scramble to find a place that we can hold that event. It's a Sunday so let's do from 1 to 3 with lunch, like we did in Venice last year. We had about 100 people, so we need to look at places in Port Charlotte that can accommodate us. Who are our Port Charlotte GSR'S? Thank You, please get with your DCM's (Ruby and PJ) and get back to me.

I also asked last month if anyone was interested in co-hosting an event with Intergroup? By a show of hands, is anyone interested? What, Where, and How?

Just something I thought was interesting, did you know that there are 1,930 active groups in Area 15? That's more than Connecticut and Road Island combined!

Yours in Service

Alternate Chair/DCM Coordinator Report – Stephanie P.

I attended the Area Quarterly January 10-11 and attended the District Chairs session with Jean and the DCM session. I attended an interesting "what's on your mind" session and learned about the GSO reserve fund. We had a DCM meeting on Jan 12 and discussed GSR workshop topics.

In Service,
Steph Plowman
Alt chair

Recording Secretary – Cindy S.

I announced at this meeting that I will be stepping down as Recording Secretary as of February. It has been a pleasure to serve.

Registrar Report – Amy M.

On January 10th I attended the Area Registrar meeting at the General Service Assembly in Coral Springs. We discussed some updates in Air Table to facilitate making changes and updates easier for the District Registrars.

The District Chairs were given the FAQs sheet, which are on the handout table. These answer some questions about duties of the Registrar and how group information is kept and updated.

Group forms are available on the Area 15 website for new groups, new GSRs, group changes: <https://area15aa.org/registrar/>
Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Amy Pocevic
District 5, Registrar

Treasurer's Report – Kevin C.

December Treasurer Report

January 20, 2026

Thanks to the following groups for participating in our 7th Tradition: the Over the Hump Group, Each Day a New Beginning, Living Sober,

Came to Believe in Venice, Sisters in Sobriety, Thursday Night Step, Dawnbusters, Friday Night Recovery, Wednesday Night Beginners, the 164 Big Book Group, Bear with Us, Primary Purpose, Tuesday Night Beginners and Under the Trees.

DECEMBER- Profit & Loss

Group Contributions: \$ 2,523.60

District Basket \$ 95.00

Transfer from Prudent Reserve \$4,805.99

Total: \$ 7,424.59

Payments & Expenses

Reimbursements: \$ 1,335.71

Storage: \$172.11

Church Rent: \$75.00

Total: \$ 1,582.82

Net (+/-): + \$ 5841.77

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

Prudent Reserve Total \$ 5,010.71

Checkbook Balance: \$ 10,666.04

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.

Attended the January Quarterly Assembly representing District 5. I stood for and was accepted by the Area Body, as Alternate Chair of the Accessibilities Committee.

Throughout the entire month of December, first my husband and then myself was sick with a lingering upper respiratory infection limiting my activities.

Senior Outreach Project

Five of the six pilot Assisted Living Facilities have received their outreach packets. All were well received but there hasn't been any activity on the associated email address (SrOutreachAA@gmail.com) to date.

One aspect of the project was to help Assisted Living Facilities who were interested establish on site AA meetings for their residents. On review of the Meeting Guide App, we realized that there was a regular AA meeting held on Saturdays at 2 pm at Aviata Residential Care in Englewood. I decided to attend the meeting on Saturday January 15 to document how the meeting was formatted. No sense reinventing the wheel as we want any meeting developed from our project to have the same basic format. At our next Accessibilities Committee Meeting, I will share the information with the committee and we will outline our proposed meeting format so that we can start to gather the materials/handouts necessary to have a turn-key meeting format available to any Assisted Living Facility who is interested in establishing a meeting.

Charlotte Behavioral Health

I created two literature racks as follow-up to the Zoom Presentation I delivered to the clinical staff at CBHC in late November of last year. If you remember, at the end of the presentation they requested that AA provide the two clinical buildings with literature racks.

I also sent an email to Sarah Wright, Director of Community Services letting her know that they were delivered and encouraging her to send an email to all staff letting them know that they are available and where they're located inside the buildings.

Grateful To Serve:

Angela Macken
Accessibilities Chair, District
Alternate Accessibilities Chair, 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 is working on a how to read and understand the pre conference items . There are 11 we could see from the list. (Will attach)

There is a price increase coming ~ (will attach letter)

GSO sent us an announcement Happy New Year special combo offer (will attach letter)

D2 may be having a Plain Language/Big Book workshop virtual ~ more will be revealed .

Young people shorts are on u tube now .info can be found on Meeting chair app ; news feed.

If you have submitted a story for the 5th edition Big Book , you will receive a letter .

We did a presentation with the help of Brenda Duff , at the District gsr share session emphasizing group literature reps , deep importance and passions of our literature . The importance to purchase items at Intergroup and using digital tools along with our traditional paper. It was a blast :)

Literature Agenda items and background will be coming out between Feb 15- 22nd.

Our virtual meetings are last Wednesday in month @4:30 . ID 882 •0192 •1326

PW service

Grateful to Serve
Deborah B
D5 Literature Chair 

Online Committee (NEW) – Mary

Treatment Facilities – Jason

Bridging the Gap is close to being up and running, sign up to volunteer.

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: . **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:

- Great news, Shelly, GSR for the Progress Group has procured a spot for our Delegate Report Back on June 14 (Sunday from 1 to 3). Please make a note on your calendar.
Thank you, Shelly!
- The group was asked if anyone would be interested in working with Intergroup to host an event. Pamela expressed interest, but there needs to be more involvement. Tabled to visit next month.

Next Month Reminders:

February 17,2026: GSR Sharing at 6 p.m., followed by District 5 business meeting at 7 p.m. Mike has volunteered to make coffee. Brenda has volunteered to bring snacks.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Spence and seconded by Amy .

The Meeting was closed at 8:08 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	Vacant				-

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