**GENERAL SERVICE DISTRICT 7**

**South FloridaArea 15**

**Panel 72, 2022 & Panel 73, 2023**

**January 28, 2024**

***Business Meeting Minutes***

**The meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer at 2:00 pm**

Vicki A. **read AA’s 12 Traditions,** Doug H. **read Concept I,** Sandy B. **read from the Service Manual**

**Introduction of New GSRs and DCMs:** *New GSRs*: **Light at Heart**-Elizabeth T., **Walk with Purpose**-Len J., **Step Sisters**-Anne G., **Morning After**-Doug H., **Tough Love Group**-Tonya, **Sisters in Sobriety**-Cathy, **Back to Basics**-Vicki A.; *New Alt GSRs*: **Soul Sisters-**Kathy N., **Friends of Bill**-Quentin Q.; *New DCM*: none; *New Alt DCM*: none

**(42) Members Attending & (29) Groups Represented:**

**4 de Julio:** Araceli G. (GSR); **Attitude Adjustment:** JoJoe K. (Current Practices Chair), Pat St.O (Hospitality, Alt GSR), Rodney D. (GSR); **Back to Basics:** Bree H. (District Chair), Vicki A. (GSR), Laura B. (Alt DCM); **Brady Bunch:** Brian S. (GSR); **Clear the Air:** Bob H. (GSR); **Courage to Change:** Deb F. (GSR), Linda S. (Corrections Chair); **Dragonfly Group:** JoAnn S. (GSR); **Friends of Bill W:** Quentin Q. (Alt GSR), Raul P. (GSR, PI/CPC); **Fort Myers Group:** Sorelle B. (DCM); **Light at Heart:** Elizabeth T. (GSR); **Meat and Potatoes:** Greg Mu. (GSR), Frank R. (Treatment Co-Chair), **Men’s Recovery Cape Coral:** Lester B. (DCM), Martin C. (GSR); **Morning After:** Doug H. (GSR); **Pine Island Sisters Sobriety:** Cathy C. (GSR); **San Carlos Park Group:** Nick S. (GSR); **Serenity Group Lehigh:** Chris W. (GSR); **Singleness of Purpose:** Carlos M. (District Alt Chair); **Sisters in Sobriety:** Mo P. (Treasurer); **Soul Sisters:** Kathy N. (Alt GSR); **Southern Women:** Cindy W. (GSR), Sabine S. (Web Chair); **Step Sisters:** Anne G. (GSR); **Steps to Awakening:** Tawny S. (GSR); **Stepping with the Big Book:** Larissa S. (GSR); **Tuesday Night Young Peoples:** Paul L. (GSR); **U Zone Jaycee Park:** Pete N. (DCM); **Walk With Purpose:** Len J. (GSR), Ed A. (District Registrar); **Women in Sober Exploration (WISE):** Sandy B. (GSR); **Women of Willingness (WOW):** Shawna C. (Literature Chair, DCM); **Young at Heart:** Chris C. (GSR); **Visitors:** Molly M - Southern Women, Jim R. - Cape Coral Bookies; **Group Unknown:** Greg Mo. (Finance Chair)

**4 of 5 Officers, 8 of 13 Committee Chairs or Alt, 5 DCMs or Alts, 23 GSRs, 3 Alt GSRs, 2 Visitors**

**OFFICERS:**

**Chairperson** **– Bree H.****chair@district7area15aa.org**

**Alt. Chair**  **– Carlos M. altchair@district7area15aa.org**

**Secretary – Kay M-H****secretary@district7area15aa.org**

**Registrar – Ed A. registrar@district7area15aa.org**

**Treasurer – Mo P.****treasurer****@district7area15aa.org**

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

**Accessibilities –** **accessibilities@district7area15aa.org**– **VACANT**

**Archives – Kathie W.** **archives@district7area15aa.org**

**Corrections – Linda S.** **corrections@district7area15aa.org**

**Current Practices – jOjOE K.** **currentpractices@district7area15aa.org**

**Finance – Jim R.****finance@district7area15aa.org**

**Grapevine – Martin C.** **grapevine@district7area15aa.org**

**Hospitality – Pat St O.** **hospitality@district7area15aa.org**

**Intergroup Liaison – Kelly** **intergroupliaison@district7area15aa.org** **(pending approval)**

**Literature – Shawna C.** **literature@district7area15aa.org**

**Outreach –** **outreach@district7area15aa.org**– **VACANT**

**PI/CPC – Raul P.** **picpc@district7area15aa.org**

**Treatment – Henry D. –** **treatment@district7area15aa.org**

**Website – Sabine S.****website@district7****area15aa.org**

**DCMs:**

**Sub District B South Cape Coral: Greg Mu.**

**Sub District C Fort Myers: Sorelle B.**

**Sub District K North Fort Myers: Shawna C.**

**Sub District N Spanish Language: Manolo N.**

**Sub District Q North Cape Coral: Lester B.**

**Sub District U Jaycee Park: Pete N.**

**Sub District X: Barbara B.**

**OFFICERS’ REPORTS:**

**Chairperson**

My name is Bree and I am an alcoholic. My sobriety date is Dec 2, 1988 and my home group is the Back to Basics Women’s group. Wow, what a whirlwind the past 2 months have presented. Not only did we have unusually cold weather, holiday events, and visitors, but here in District 7, we were blessed with a huge opportunity. You may recall from our December meeting that we had a discussion about hosting an area 15 quarterly assembly even though there wasn’t one planned in the Lee County vicinity. We were targeting Sarasota in January 2025. What happens when we make plans, H.P. laughs. I was contacted by the area chairperson prior to the January 2024 Quarterly in Sarasota, asking if we would serve as the host committee if the July 2024 Quarterly was approved for July 12-14, 2024 at the Westin Cape Coral Resort. I didn’t hesitate to say yes and we gathered the names of some volunteers. In Sarasota at the January 7th business meeting, from 4 choices, the Westin was overwhelmingly approved. Later in that business meeting, District 7 was unanimously approved to serve as the Quarterly Host Committee. There is a time-sensitive motion on the agenda to approve the formation of a Quarterly Assembly Host Committee. More will be discussed at that time. However, I must express how proud I am of the members of this district. With very short notice, approximately 20 people showed up here at YANA on Sunday January 14th, only 1 week after the decision was made to have the assembly in Cape Coral. That day in a span of 90 minutes we formed a committee with volunteers filling all of the necessary roles. Utterly amazing and divinely inspired. Many of us are very excited about this opportunity – hoping that it will revitalize our district out of the pandemic doldrums and Hurricane Ian trauma. In Sarasota I heard from other District Chairpersons that shared that very experience – that hosting the quarterly motivated more people into service. We certainly need that. Do your GSRs realize how special you are sitting here? We have around 200 registered groups in District 7 and those of you sitting here represent a mere 10% of those groups. I am hoping that this quarterly hosting will help other groups to see the benefits of having a voice in AA, at the district, the area, and on “down” to GSO. Another thing I got from at the quarterly from other District Chairpersons was the many options they were using for communications to their members. A couple of other Districts that are about our size are using Mailchimp. I opened a free account and am giving it a try. I look forward to getting some feedback on this methodology. An interesting data point from the messages sent out to date – only about 40% of the people on our distribution list are opening the messages. Lastly, we have 2 committee chairs to approve this afternoon, and both are critical. We finally have someone willing to step into the role of Corrections Committee chair and get that back up and fully functioning. We also have someone willing to fill the Intergroup Liaison position. Now we are down to 2 vacancies, Accessibilities and Outreach. Once again, if you are a GSR or an Alternate GSR, you can also serve as a District Committee Chair. See me if you are the least bit curious. Yours in love and service, Bree H., chair@district7area15aa.org

**Alt. Chair** – Verbal

**Secretary** – Not present, report read by Sabine S.

Hi all. Kay, alcoholic, sobriety date 03/26/2020, home group Lambda Drummers which meets Saturdays at 7pm at AWOL Club in Cape Coral. Apologies for my absence today. I got married yesterday and we still have many out-of-state guests in town. A big thanks to Sabine for filling in for me today. Thank you everyone for your understanding and I look forward to seeing you again next month. Please submit your reports for the minutes. Electronic or handwritten notes are both welcome! Please remember to sign in on the attendance sheet. I use the attendance sheet to create the attendance list at the top of the minutes.

Do we have any amendments to the December Minutes? None that have not already been corrected. Motion to accept minutes by Sandy, seconded by Raul.

**Registrar** – Verbal

**Treasurer** – Bree gave a brief verbal report on Mo’s behalf.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Accessibilities** – **VACANT**

**Archives** – Molly gave verbal report for Kathie and submitted Kathie’s written report

Archives, District 7 Area 15, Kathie W., Nov 21, 1982, home group Southern Women. On January 5-6 I attended the Area 15 assembly at the Sarasota Hilton. We learned a lot about the history of AA in Florida in a report that Jack B gave getting ready with the same for his presentation at the state assembly. Other District archivists talked about what their committees were involved with. Molly M, an ancestry buff, asked if she could help and we went to explore the archive storage unit with more questions on what to inventory, keep, interview, and discard. Next month I'm going to an archives Workshop in Winter Park, FL. Hopefully, many more questions will be answered. Thanks for letting me serve.

**Corrections** – Linda has accepted the position– No disapproval– Verbal report

**Current Practices** – Present—No report

**Finance** – Greg Mo.– Verbal

**Grapevine**

Good afternoon, my name is Martin C. and I am an alcoholic. I am the District 7 Grapevine chair and my sobriety date is August 4, 1989. I attended the Area 15 assembly in Sarasota and made a point to attend the Grapevine session. There I met other district Grapevine chairs and the Area Grapevine secretary and chair. I learned about what it means to be the Grapevine chair and heard a lot of good ideas around Grapevine activities and events. I am kicking off a monthly hour-long district-level Grapevine meeting on Zoom on the third Monday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. (Zoom meeting ID: 862 4800 5693; PW: 472738) The first will be on March 18, 2024. Please spread the word. I will also have this information posted in the Intergroup Express. I will make it a priority to attend our district's sole Grapevine meeting, the Grapevine Group that meets at 7:30 PM on Tuesdays at the Grace Methodist Church off Hancock Bridge Pkwy in Cape Coral. Look for more in the future as I get the ball rolling. Thanks, Martin

**Hospitality** – Verbal

**Intergroup Liaison** – VACANT– Bree mentioned that Kelly was the new Liaison but she was not present so we will leave it as “pending approval”

**Literature**

I’m Shawna C., a grateful alcoholic. My sobriety is March 28, 2008. My Home Group is WOW Women of Willingness which meets Tuesdays at 10am at Dry Palms. Great Area 15 Assembly 1/5-7 628 people attended 345 voting. We were on the waiting list for a room the last two times and did get a room open notice in plenty of time. (\*Explain my experience.) Spanish 4th Edition BB is still in need of stories- please spread the word. Plain English BB is in its final review! There is no set Title yet. BB 5th Edition is in the works. The Literature Agenda Item for review is not only important but a lot of work. Zoom sessions have already been set- March 2,6,14,24,26. Evening sessions are 6-7:30 & 10-11:30 on weekends. Currently looking for members interested in joining Debbie & I on the Literature Committee. Plain Language Big Book Information Session February 25, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. EST Zoom ID: 867 2200 6265 Passcode: 924686. Founders Writings Zoom meeting coming 2/21 @ 8pm EST. There are no plans to change our Founders writing. So how do we stay relevant? We don’t want to be hard to understand. I have been attending Service Manual meetings every other Thursday by Zoom. This past week was on Chapter 8-The General Service Board. They are all being recorded. I was honored and excited to receive a request from a local AA Group to bring some literature (GSR, DCM, The Home Group), speak on it for a few minutes, and attend their outdoor meeting at beautiful Jacee Park on the Caloosahatchee River. Great response, many people taking pamphlets! In Love & Service, Shawna C., District 7 Literature Chair

**Outreach** – **VACANT**

**PI/CPC** – Verbal

**Treatment** – Verbal by Frank R. (co-chair)

**Website**

My name is Sabine and I am an alcoholic. My home group is Southern Women in Fort Myers. I have the

privilege of serving as the website committee chair for my district. In the past quarter, our focus has been keeping the website up to date including meeting minutes, current events, and committee meeting dates and times. We are working through technical issues with our archived minutes and are preparing for the new year with changes in mail forwarders for new officers, archiving 2023 minutes, and setting up calendar dates. We have continued to identify opportunities to update the website through theme updates and cleaning up some of the pages to be easier to read. We are also reaching out to committee chairs to update their pages and ensure that their meeting dates and locations are up to date. I am excited to be here at a quarterly again to get information that will help us improve, enhance, and improve our district website experience. In love and service, Sabine S.,

District 7 Website Committee Chair

**Quarterly Planning**

We started at 1.00 pm on a Sunday a couple of weeks ago and had most of the Committe Chairs in attendance. We were able to go through all the Committe chairs agenda as to the preparation for the Quaterly, and I must say all The committee Chairs have done other Quaterly's before and really know what they are doing. All steps and preparations for the event and each chairperson explained how they are advancing in organizing their preparation. We will be meeting for our 3rd meeting at Awol Club in Cape Coral, on Sunday March 10 th from 1.30 pm till 3.30 pm. Please The Awol Club have there business meeting that same Sunday, at 4.00 pm so is important that we start on time 1.30 Pm and end no later then 3.30 Pm Love&Service, Raul P.

**DCM Reports: (17 subdistricts total; 10 vacant)**

**Sub District B South Cape Coral** – Verbal (Greg Mu.)

**Sub District C Fort Myers**

My name is Sorelle and I am an alcoholic. My home group is the Ft. Myers Group. We meet on Mondays and Thursdays at 8 in the evening at the Episcopal church downtown across from Lee Memorial Hospital. I attended the quarterly in Sarasota like many of you here. One committee I attended really sparked my interest. It was the Remote Communities Committee. Their goal is to carry the AA message to prospects because of language, culture, geography, or other challenges that could be a barrier to someone seeking recovery. One of the examples given was that members on a cruise ship are not allowed to attend AA meetings on the ship that are set up for the vacationers on the cruise ship.This leaves the working members without easy access to an AA meeting.There are many different types of examples of remote communities such as those living in rural areas with few meetings, those living on islands, and the language barriers. This is where Remote Communities helps out. So my question to you is, does District 7 need this type of Committee? Did we ever have this Committee in the past? I am willing to do some research concerning this issue. I am still in the process of visiting the meetings for which I am DCM. My goal is to invite the GSRs over to my house just so they know who I am and to see if there are any questions after having been to the quarterly, or not. The quarterly DCM meeting had many ideas on how to bring GSRs and DCMs together. Thank you for allowing me to be of service. Sorelle B. In Love and Service, always.

**Sub District K North Fort Myers**

The DCM Workshop at the last Quarterly Assembly was a lot of fun plus informational. For the upcoming July Quarterly Assembly here in Cape Coral I hope a yet-to-be-formed committee can plan & implement something as motivating as D? Bree has asked me to lead a GSR Sharing session on basic information on attending & participating Area Quarterly Assembly. How exciting. I remember not knowing what to expect. Clipboards with info & flyers, Round Up/New Years Dance/Founder Day/Holiday Dinner Kids invited District website Book Markers with QR code \*Remember to buy from Intergroup not Amazon. 24 Groups called One Day at A Time. Make sure Groups are sending contributions to the correct address with their Group name. I was honored and excited to receive a request from a local AA Group to bring some literature (GSR, DCM, The Home Group), speak on it for a few minutes, and attend their outdoor meeting at beautiful Jaycee Park on the Caloosahatchee River. Great response, many people taking pamphlets! In Love & Service, Shawna C., District 7, DCM-K.

**Sub District N Spanish Language** – No report (Manolo N.)

**Sub District Q North Cape Coral** – Verbal (Lester B.)

**Sub District U Jaycee Park** – Verbal (Pete N.)

**Sub District X SW Ft. Myers** – Verbal (from ACM, Laura B.)

**Old Business:**

* Meeting Dates Shared
* Review of quarterly motions from January quarterly (Motion A passed-Funding for Archives Workshop attendance approved and Motion B failed: GSR and DCM sharing will be determined by the hosting district for each quarterly)

**New Business:**

* There was only time to vote on one of the motions that was time-sensitive. Motion 1-24 was presented by Raul P., approved by Jim R., seconded by JoJoe K., and unanimously approved.
* Committees have been formed and Committee Chairs selected for hosting July quarterly and Raul P. is Chairperson. The next committee meeting will be held February 11th but that might be changed and a 2nd meeting will be scheduled for a smaller group to meet at the Westin. The committees need volunteers to help!
* Carry the Message Day – Motion 6-15 states “That any year in which District 7 hosts an Area 15 Quarterly Assembly, the Quarterly Assembly serves as that year’s service workshop/Carry the Message Day.” This motion is from nearly 9 years ago, is that what we still want?
	+ There was discussion about whether we wanted to follow current practice or not. Upon show of hands, the body was split. This was tabled for further discussion next month.

**Good and Welfare:**

Anniversaries: Sabine S. January 15 (7 years); JoJoe K., January 10 (32 years); Raul P., January 15 (23 years); JoAnn S., January 26th (4 years)

Group anniversaries: Young People Group (2 years)

Announcements:

* Young at Heart has moved to a new church at 8210 College Parkway
* There are two Spanish-speaking groups at AWOL each week
* Speakers needed at AWOL meetings - Contact Tonya if interested

Motion to adjourn by Pete N., seconded by Lester B. at 3:58 p.m.

**The meeting ended with the Responsibility Statement at 3:59 p.m.**

**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON** **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 2024**

**GSR Sharing at 1:00 P.M.**

**Business Meeting will start promptly at 2:00 p.m.**

**and end by 4:00 p.m.**

**Please see Registrar Ed A. if you would like the minutes mailed to you.**

District website: https://district7area15aa.org