**GENERAL SERVICE DISTRICT 7**

**South FloridaArea 15**

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

**April 28, 2024**

***Business Meeting Minutes***

**The meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer at 2:10 pm**

Maria D. **read AA’s 12 Traditions,** Larissa S. **read Concept IV,** Danielle C. **read from the Service Manual**

**Introduction of New GSRs and DCMs:** *New GSRs*: Dave O. - **Cape Reflections Tuesday Night**, Maria D. - **Singleness of Purpose,** Larry B. - **Fort Myers Shores**; *New Alt GSRs*: Dave H. - **Meat and Potatoes,** Sue C. **- Sisters in Sobriety (Fort Myers),** Danielle C. - **Dragonfly Group**; *New DCMs*: none; *New Alt DCMs*: none

**(41) Members Attending & (27) Groups Represented:**

**4 de julio:** Marco V. (GSR); **Attitude Adjustment:** JoJoe K. (Current Practices), Pat St.O (Hospitality, Alt GSR); **Back to Basics:** Bree H. (District Chair), Laura B. (Alt DCM), Vicki A-R (GSR), **Brady Bunch:** Brian S. (GSR); **Buckingham:** Steven M. (GSR, Outreach); **Cape Reflections:** David O. (GSR); **Clear the Air:** Bob H. (GSR); **Dragonfly Group:** JoAnn S. (GSR), Danielle C. (Alt GSR); **Finance:** Greg Mo. (Finance); **Friends of Bill:** Raul P. (GSR, PI/CPC, Quarterly Planning); **Fort Myers Shores:** Larry B. (GSR); **Lambda Drummers:** Kay M-H (District Secretary); **Meat and Potatoes:** Brian V. (GSR), David H. (Alt GSR), Greg Mu. (DCM), Kelly L. (Intergroup); **Men’s Recovery Cape Coral:** Lester B. (DCM), Pete N. (Jaycee Park DCM), Martin C. (Grapevine); **Morning After:** Doug H. (GSR); **Nooners Lehigh:** Bill D. (GSR); **Sanibel Friday Speaker:** Barbara B. (DCM); **Singleness of Purpose:** Carlos M. (District Alt Chair), Maria D.; **Sisters in Sobriety (Fort Myers):** Mo P. (District Treasurer), Sue C. (Alt GSR); **Sisters in Sobriety (Pine Island):** Carol N. (GSR); **Sobriety on the Shores:** Chris C. (GSR); **Soul Sisters:** Kathy N. (GSR); **Southern Women:** Cindy W. (GSR), Kathie W. (Archives), Sabine S. (Website); **Steppin w/ the Big Book:** Larissa S. (GSR); **Steps to Awakening:** Tawny S. (GSR); **Women in Sober Exploration (WISE):** Sandy B. (GSR); **Women of Willingness (WOW):** Shawna C. (Literature, DCM); **Visitor:** Gale P. (Past Delegate)

**4 of 5 Officers, 11 of 13 Committee Chairs or Alt, 5 DCMs or Alts, 19 GSRs, 4 Alt GSRs, 1 Visitor**

**OFFICERS:**

**Chairperson** **– Bree H.**[**chair@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:chair@district7area15aa.org)

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

**Secretary – Kay M-H.**[**secretary@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:secretary@district7area15aa.org)

**Registrar – Laurie registrar@district7area15aa.org**

**Treasurer – Mo P.**[**treasurer**](mailto:treasurerdistrict7@yahoo.com)**@district7area15aa.org**

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

**Accessibilities –** [**accessibilities@district7area15aa.org**](about:blank)– **VACANT**

**Archives – Kathie W.** [**archives@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:archives@district7area15aa.org)

**Corrections – Linda S.** [**corrections@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:corrections@district7area15aa.org)

**Current Practices – jOjOE K.** [**currentpractices@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:currentpractices@district7area15aa.org)

**Finance – Greg Mo.**[**finance@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:finance@district7area15aa.org)

**Grapevine – Martin C.** [**grapevine@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:grapevine@district7area15aa.org)

**Hospitality – Pat St O.** [**hospitality@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:hospitality@district7area15aa.org)

**Intergroup Liaison – Kelly** [**intergroupliaison@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:intergroupliaison@district7area15aa.org)

**Literature – Shawna C.** [**literature@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:literature@district7area15aa.org)

**Outreach – Steven M.** [**outreach@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:outreach@district7area15aa.org)

**PI/CPC – Raul P.** [**picpc@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:picpc@district7area15aa.org)

**Treatment – Henry D.** [**treatment@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:treatment@district7area15aa.org)

**Website – Sabine S.**[**website@district7**](about:blank)**area15aa.org**

**Quarterly Planning – Raul P.** [**picpc@district7area15aa.org**](mailto:picpc@district7area15aa.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.**

**Open Sub-Districts Available**

A – Bonita Springs M – Sanibel

D – Southeast Fort Myers O − Pine Island

E/F – YANA S – NE Lee, Labelle & Clewiston

G – Fort Myers Beach W – AWOL Club

L – Lehigh Acres

**OFFICERS’ REPORTS:**

**Chairperson** – Present

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, Wednesday night, St. Columbkille at 7pm. • I was very glad to see so many of you at the Boca Raton Quarterly earlier this month. What an act we have to follow. For those who weren’t there, the 3 Spanish Linguistics districts (17, 18 & 21) joined forces to host the assembly. They were incredibly passionate and did an amazing job. They went above and beyond what is normally expected of a host committee by providing homemade tamales in the hospitality room and then topped things off with grand surprise by bringing in a mariachi band for entertainment after the speaker meeting on Saturday night. Some people suggested to me that we had big shoes to fill hosting the July assembly. My response was simple, we aren’t trying to compete with that, we just want to do a good job of doing what we need to do to host a successful quarterly assembly. Our venue is so much nicer than where these events have been held recently, that it will steal the show all by itself. We still have a lot of work ahead of us but I have all the confidence that those on the host committee will rise to the occasion and we this will be a very well run event. I did speak to some of the folks leading the past host committee and I know they were very busy and feeling the stress until the business meeting started on Sunday. They were so happy to hand off responsibility to us. So if you are on the host committee and feeling a little pressure, you are right where you are supposed to be. And like all things in AA, one day at a time, it will get better and we will get through this. • A change in Registrar. Ed resigned his position shortly after the last meeting and I was able to get an able replacement for the rest of his term. We will address this further when we get to that position in our Agenda. • Mailchimp mailings; we currently have 201 names on our distribution list. Our most recent messages have helped to clean things up after some names were following a recent review of GSRs and POCs shown in the area registrar’s database. o As of 11:30am this morning, our business meeting message had a 61.5% open rate but only 13% clicked on the links. This leads me to the conclusion that the overwhelming majority of you don’t look at the documents being sent (Agenda, Minutes or Treasurers report) until you get here for the meeting. This gives me the impression that trying to meet the requirements of our 2 Current Practice is a waste of time and effort to get these out to you all at least 1 week prior to the business meeting. I will be adding this topic to an agenda soon. o The survey message had a 67% open rate but only 16.3% clicked on a link. Of those, the majority clicked on the Area survey regarding assemblies but only 12 people completed the Area Treasurers Thank You letter survey. So what I am to gather from this? Either you don’t like to complete surveys or you don’t care enough about the thank you letters to even respond to the survey? • It is hard to believe that the calendar is about to roll over to May, the Cape Coral Assembly will be upon us before you know it. Keep up all your hard work and keep encouraging others to get involved in general service work!!

**Alt. Chair** – Present, no report

**Secretary** – Present

Hello all, Kay, alcoholic, home group Lambda Drummers. I attended the Secretary and Registrar meeting at the April Quarterly. Our meeting was a fairly standard update and check-in. We reviewed some information about our databases (Fellowship Connection/GSO and Area 15’s Airtable). We also discussed the possibility of having inter-Quarterly Secretaries’ meetings and raised possible topics to cover. I apologize that the March Minutes were released late. Corrected minutes are up on the District website. There were no amendments to the corrected minutes. Mo P. made the motion to accept the minutes as written, Sandy B. seconded, and none opposed. Thank you for the privilege of serving.

**Registrar** – Not present, no report

**Treasurer** – Verbal

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Accessibilities** – **VACANT**; report on the Accessibilities Meeting at the April Quarterly given by Kay

Hello all. To represent District 7, I attended the Accessibilities meeting at the April Quarterly in Boca. The Area Accessibilities Chair, Mary, had to resign. The Alt Chair, Kate, is remaining in her current position and will cover the responsibilities of the Chair while the Committee determines who should fill the Chair position. (\*\*A note from Bree that during the Sunday Business Meeting, Kate was voted in as Chair, not Alt Chair.\*\*) The Committee also elected a new Secretary/Treasurer. I apologize, I missed that person’s name. At the request of Area Officers, the Committee is working on writing better definitions for Committee positions and responsibilities, as well as updating by laws to describe Committee functions. (This request was made to all Committees, not just Accessibilities.) Those present discussed and worked on wording at length, but draft language is still in process. In addition, Committee Member Lydia C. conducted a workshop to discuss the guidelines for how to determine if an AA meeting is wheelchair accessible. We discussed how groups can evaluate their own accessibility in terms of meeting space, bathroom space, and group practices such as the Greeter service position. I have printed several copies of the AA Guidelines on Accessibility, which includes an accessibility questionnaire for groups to use to evaluate themselves. In addition to the printouts I’m circulating around the room, the pdf of this resource is available at <https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-16_en_1122.pdf>. One of the reasons to do this survey with your group is to make sure that Intergroup has accurate information about whether your meeting is accessible. There were stories from other districts about people showing up to meetings they thought were accessible and being unable to get in the door. So, please consider taking the survey with your group and sending your updated accessibility information to Intergroup. Thank you for allowing me to be of service. IL&S, Kay, District 7 Secretary

**Archives** – Present

Grateful alcoholic, Kathie W, Southern Women on Friday at 6 pm, Church of the Cross, sobriety date 11/21/82. There is also a 9:30 am outdoor meeting at Church of the Cross held at the gazebo. I attended the Quarterly in Boca Raton on April 5, 6, and 7. After an exciting Friday opening meeting which had much of the opening readings done in Spanish and a wonderful speaker who gave his story in English although Spanish was his first language. Then more excitement after when both women in my hotel room wanted to watch the Iowa/Connecticut girls basketball championship game and rooted for the wrong team. At the Archives meeting after giving our district report, I talked to the rep from District 9 and was invited to join their Zoom Archives meeting on the 1st Saturday of the month at 11 am. Molly, Mo, and I visited the storage room to set up a display for the upcoming Quarterly. We made a plan to make a tree with leaves to represent all the Fort Myers area meetings with their start dates. Mo called me later to tell me Intergroup already has it. We will be working on additions to the tree as well as still working to organize the storage. Thanks for letting me serve.

**Corrections** – Not present; verbal report given by Committee Member Vicki A-R; written report by Committee Chair Linda S. included below

Hello everyone, my name is Linda S. an Alcoholic grateful to be in recovery and grateful to be of service. My sobriety date is 6/9/1992. My home group is the Courage to Change Women meeting, we meet on Tuesday at 6:00. I am happy to report that the Corrections Committee is making forward movement. The Corrections Committee had its quarterly meeting on 4/9/24 at YANA, there were 11 in attendance and a guest speaker. We are pleased with this attendance. Our current budget is $2,700.00 annually and our current balance is $2,515.70.

District 7 serves 4 facilities, 2 in Lee County, 1 in Hendry County, and 1 in Glades County. We are actively recruiting new volunteers for all facilities. We especially need someone for Moore Haven Correctional Facility, the 2 members currently going to the jail are snowbirds and will be leaving soon. We currently have 28 members of which 7 are inactive.

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| --- | --- |
| Lee County – currently has 9 members going to the jail Monday – Thursday | offering a total of 22 meetings per month. Friday is open. The bi-weekly Wednesday night meeting replacement has been found and will start in May |
| Glades County – currently has 2 male members going to Moore Haven jail (snowbirds) | offering 4 meetings per month.  There will be no meeting here starting in May. Looking for willing members to step up |
| Hendry County – currently has 2 men and 2 women members going to the jail | offering 4 meetings per month. |

We have 1 new member who will be taking the Bi-weekly Wednesday meeting into Lee County. Still waiting for approval of 1 application submitted to LCSO. I will be taking 10 Spanish Big Books to LCSO in May. I have been approved to take a meeting into Hendry County, I will attend to better access our needs there. We have a few more positions that we are hoping to fill soon and are actively trying to recruit new members. If anyone is interested in this vital service work, please contact me. Speaking Opportunities for the RSAT (Residential Substance Abuse Treatment) program, held at Lee County Jail. If you’re interested in speaking, you will need to complete an application and attend the orientation with Lee County Sheriff's Office (LCSO). Please contact Kip M. for assistance. In Service, Linda S.

**Current Practices** – Present; Verbal

**Finance** – Present

Good afternoon, everyone, my name is Greg Mo., your alcoholic Finance chair. The Finance committee met right before this district meeting; there were 5 in attendance. We went over the treasurer’s report, and noted that although there were more contributions than expenses in March, the month of April will be expense-heavy, due to the previous quarterly. So we need to continue to encourage groups to contribute. Looking at our Current Practices, I found a DCM willing to serve on our committee, but our committee is still 1 person shy, appointed by the Finance Chair. Anyone interested in serving on that committee again please let me know; thanks! We had a discussion regarding one of the motions passed in March, namely one night’s lodging for host committee members when we are hosting. One of those duties is having the Banquet Chair at the previous quarterly to sell banquet tickets. As she took over a room for a reimbursed member who was unable to attend, and given the intent of the motion, the Finance Committee unanimously approved paying for that room for the past Quarterly.

Unless there is a motion for May that has a financial impact on the District, our committee will not meet next month, but will meet again in June prior to the district meeting. And a brief note to our standing committees - we are still currently about $1100.00 under budget, and while from a business sense that looks good, from a service perspective, it means we can do more, and financially support more efforts to carry our message to the still-suffering alcoholic. So please consider what actions your committee can do. Thanks! In Love and Service, Greg Mo.

**Grapevine** – Verbal

**Hospitality** – Verbal

**Intergroup Liaison** – Present

**Literature** – Present

I’m Shawna C., a grateful alcoholic. My sobriety is March 28, 2008. My Home Group is WOW Women of Willingness which meets Tuesdays 10 am at Dry Palms. Absolutely excellent Assembly hosted by the Spanish community, felt blessed to experience this historical moment in Area 15. The total attendance count was 572, with 338 voting. When they announced stay after the speaker, I thought oh great cake! A cantina band came marching through the crowd, tables were pushed aside for some dancing. What a treat! As I have said before the Area Literature committee is full of such knowledgeable and passionate AA members, and I always come back so inspired. Teresa from D1 provided a very helpful updated powerpoint to review the recovery literature matrix. I have it saved and can send it to anyone interested as it is too much to share in this report. We also were provided the cost breakdowns of new literature…unreal. Since 2016 140K has been spent on the Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous. I can send this information to anyone interested. Here are some examples: “they were restless, irritable & discontented unless they can again experience the sense of ease and comfort” TRANSLATION- “and they felt anxious, and frustrated unless they again felt the comfort they got from drinking” Definitions for some word will be provided in the margins. Dr. Bob had concerns early on that written at an 11th grade many would not understand. Years of work and review are put into developing and changing our AA literature -our motto- we are purposely slow! These are some new pamphlet titles being considered for the future-The Transgender Alcoholic, Unhoused Alcoholic in AA, On the District 6 website there are many virtual opportunities; A little trivia- There are 1032 groups, 42 Virtual meetings, and 124 unknown in Area 15. Lastly, it’s giveaway time!! Understanding Anonymity & my favorite The AA Group, In Love & Service, Shawna C., Literature Chair

**Outreach** – Steven M., GSR for Buckingham, stood and was approved for Outreach Chair. Thank you, Steve!

**PI/CPC** – Present

Raúl Alcoholic. We are working with 3 members in our committee. We have some events coming up next month and we are trying to get more members involved and we are looking to go to the libraries in May and some of the Universities. We will have a better idea towards those goals in May. Raúl P., District 7 area 15, PI/CPC, CHAIRPERSON

**Treatment** – Not present

Chairs were unable to be here, but the summary provided through Bree is, “Things are going great. 50 active committee members. Also, they have educated some of the treatment facilities that their pricing should include Big Books, so the Treatment Committee may be giving some of their budget back this year. More to be revealed.”

**Website** – Present

Greetings! My name is Sabine S. and I’m an alcoholic. My home group is Southern Women which meets on Friday nights at 6:00 pm at The Church of the Cross in Fort Myers. As a reminder, the website address for our district is **https://district7area15aa.org**. To access the minutes or other password-protected information, the **password is “district7”**. In addition, there is a link to the Area 15 website on our page which will bring you to the Area 15 website. The **password for the area website is “area15aa”**. I apologize for not making the past two meetings. However, I was able to make it to the Area 15 Quarterly and attended the website committee meeting. It is helpful to hear best practices and technology tips and tricks. There are also monthly meetings and interim quarterly meetings on various topics pertinent to websites and technology that are helpful. We reviewed a technology survey that was helpful in understanding the platforms and software that other groups are using. We have been busy maintaining and keeping up with updates. Some updates for committees, expense reports, Zoom, and email forwarders. Please remember to add your district email in your address book to avoid it being blocked. Our Google analytics as of today, April 28h at 2 pm are as follows: For the past 30 days: Visitors – 11,140 Visitors – 37, 317 visits. This is exponentially higher than in the past. I suspect this may be due to hacking and phishing attempts. The top 3 countries that were blocked: Bulgaria, the Netherlands, and China. Our Site Health Status is good! That means all updates have been done and there are no issues with the website. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your District 7 Website Chair. In love and service, Sabine S.

**Quarterly Planning** – Present; \*Minutes from the 4.14 Quarterly Planning Meeting are also available on the District website\*

Hello Raúl Alcoholic, as our Quarterly Committee members know I have been out of town for the last meeting. What I do have is the information that our next meeting for the continued preparation for the Quarterly in July, will be Saturday, May 11 2024. I want to thank all the committee Chairs for doing so much work for a successful Quarterly Event preparation. Thank you all so much. Raúl P, Chair Person, 2024 Quarterly, Cape Coral, Fl, District 7 Area 15

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

**Sub District B South Cape Coral** – Present; no report

**Sub District C Fort Myers** – Not present

**Sub District K North Fort Myers** – Present

I’m Shawna C., a grateful alcoholic. My sobriety date is March 28, 2008. My Home Group is WOW Women of Willingness which meets Tuesdays 10 am at Dry Palms. With snowbirds back to their homes for the summer, I will begin making an appearance at each registered meeting in sub-district K NFM. This has been made easy with a list of meetings in my sub-district thanks to Ed A., our past Registrar. From this printout, I can update meeting contacts as well as promote groups having an active GSR. Heard at the April Assembly: A good DCM always has a folder or clipboard with essential pamphlets (The Home Group, GSR, Treasurer) registration forms, an Intergroup Express & Grapevine with subscription form intact along with current event flyers! Although I missed the last Intergroup meeting, I was given the list of registered groups without an Intergroup Rep and a short script. If you would like to see this list and help out, please see me after this meeting. I know Intergroup would appreciate the help. In Love & Service, Shawna C., DCM-K

**Sub District N Spanish Language** – Present (Manolo N.)

On April 13, 2024, the business meeting of Subdistrict N began at 5 pm, with the Board present. Coordinator Gregorio present, DCM Manolo present, La Viña Jose present, and representatives from groups including Fort Myers 5to Pase (5th Step), Bonita Springs 4o de julio (4th of July), Naples Aprendiendo a Vivir (Learning to Live), Naples Nueva Vida (New Life), Immokalee Recuperación (Recovery), Naples Sendero de Vida (Trail of Life) Fort Myers, and Lehigh Acres Hispanos (Hispanics). We have our Subdistrict N anniversary on May 19 at 1 pm in the afternoon. It will be held at the Fort Myers 5to Paso (5th Step) Group. We want District 7 present with us that day. The next Subdistrict N meeting will be May 11, 2024, at 5 pm in the Immokalee Recovery group.

**Sub District Q North Cape Coral** – Present; no report (Lester B.)

**Sub District U Jaycee Park** – Present; no report (Pete N.)

**Sub District X SW Ft. Myers** – Not present (Barbara B.)

**Old Business:**

* During the April meeting, three motions passed, two as written, and one as amended.
* 6-24 was tabled, not withdrawn.
* At the Area Assembly, there were two motions which we reviewed here last month
  + Motion A passed for a budget increase to send members to a meeting
  + Motion B was withdrawn
  + We also reviewed pre-conference agenda items both at District and at Area
* Possible motions about new positions
  + It was determined that DCM Coordinator may fall under Outreach (and Steve just stood for Outreach Chair). This is tabled again and will possibly be withdrawn.
  + Room & Ride Coordinator for Quarterlies - Kay to discuss with Steve; this is tabled again for now.

**New Business:**

* All District Officers and Committee Chair position descriptions need to be updated to help inform and prepare our next batch of district servants.

**Good and Welfare:**

Anniversaries: Kelly L. April 28th 27 years; Barbara B. 15th 37 years; Laura B. April 27th 30 years

Group anniversaries:

* None

Announcements:

* National AA Technology Workshop takes place every year, the next one in September in St. Louis. In the past, this meeting was in person, then it was online during Covid, and now they’re talking about going hybrid. naatw.org

Motion to adjourn by Pete N., seconded by Greg Mo. at 4 p.m.

**The meeting ended with the Responsibility Statement at 4 p.m.**

**OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON** **SUNDAY, MAY 19th, 2024**

**District Inventory Part II (in lieu of 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 if you would like the minutes mailed to you.**

District website: https://district7area15aa.org