

Area 15

South Florida, the
Bahamas, U.S. Virgin
Islands, British Virgin
Islands, Antigua, St
Maarten & Cayman
Islands

Remote Communities Workbook

**Remote Communities serves A.A. in places where it is
challenging to carry the message because of:**

- **Language - linguistic, dialect**
- **Culture - customs, beliefs**
- **Geography - travel, locale**

Area 15 Remote Communities Workbook

This workbook is service material, reflecting experience shared in Area 15 - South Florida, the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands. Workbooks are compiled from the practical experience of the Remote Communities Committee and A.A. members.

2020

Know that “Far” or “Distance” does not necessarily equal “remote”. Places considered remote by some do not identify themselves as remote.

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ABOUT AREA 15

Area 15 includes South Florida, the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands.

The Area 15 Committee meets four times annually, at quarterlies and assemblies. A schedule of area meetings is posted under the Events/Quarterlies and Assemblies tab and elsewhere on the website, along with a detailed meeting information and agenda package for the upcoming meeting.

THE AREA 15 COMMITTEE

Perhaps more than any other group of people in A.A., the Area Committee is responsible for the health of the conference structure and thus for growth and harmony in the A.A. fellowship. If GSR's are lax, if there is a lack of harmony in a district, if there are difficulties in public information or some other service area, the committee member knows it and can turn to the full committee for help.

An active Area Committee deals with all kinds of service problems: Is experience being shared among groups? Is the A.A. message getting into hospitals, prisons, jails, and rehabilitation centers? Are news media and professionals who deal with suffering alcoholics well informed about A.A.? Are new groups and loners being visited and helped? (Chapter 5 of the Service Manual)

Remote Communities serves A.A. in places where it is challenging to carry the message because of:

Language - linguistic, dialect

Culture - customs, beliefs

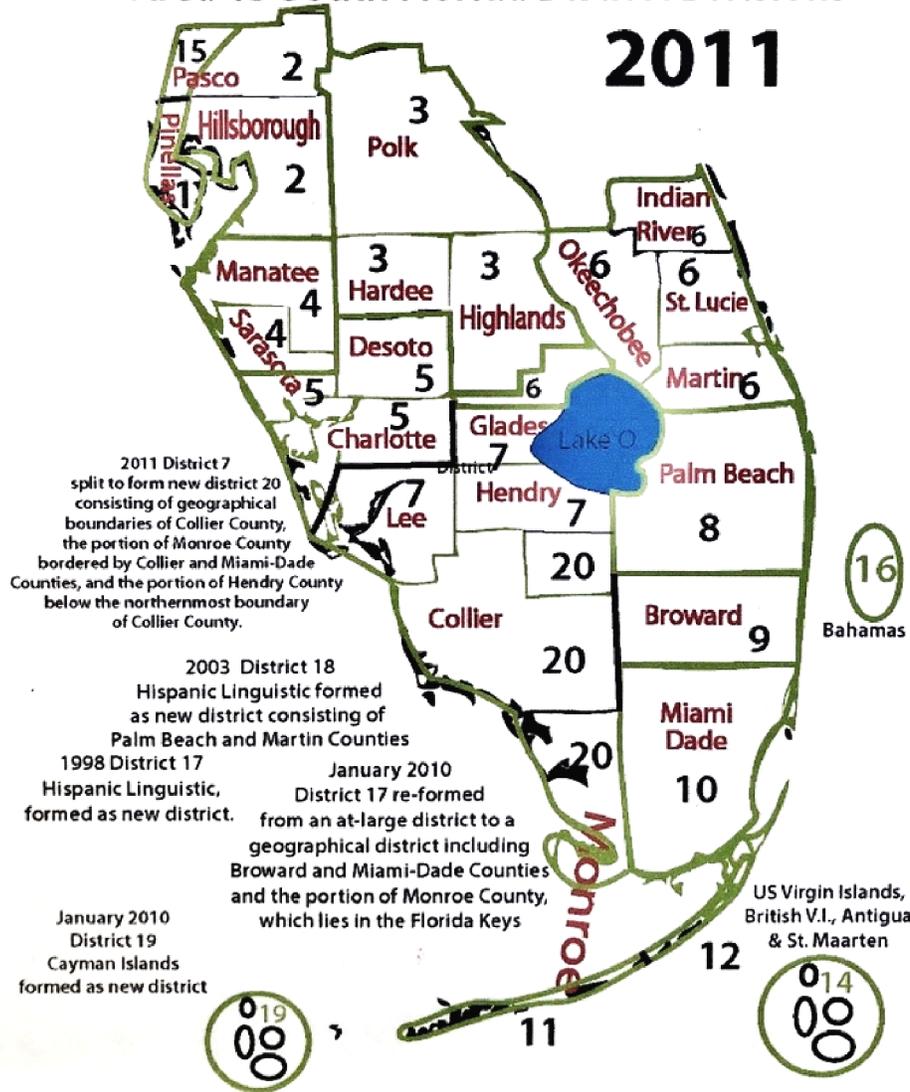
Geography - travel, locale

South Florida Area 15 Map

See Geographical Evolution of Area 1966-2010

Area 15 South Florida District Divisions

2011



MAP Area 15 - South Florida, the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands

<https://area15aa.org/>

MISSION STATEMENT

To foster unity within the fellowship of Area 15 by creating an awareness of the needs of alcoholics in remote communities. This committee seeks to assist those who are unable to make it to regular face-to-face meetings on a consistent basis. Members may be faced with travel or geographic challenges or may face barriers such as language, cultural considerations and/or anything else that could separate a person who needs A.A. from our lifesaving program of recovery.

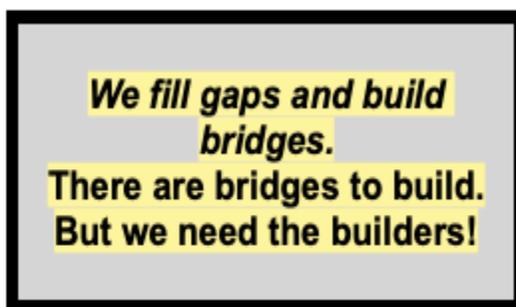
CARRYING THE MESSAGE

- What the Remote Communities Committee Is and Does:

A **“remote community”** is any place where it is difficult to carry the A.A. message because of language, culture, or geography. Members faced with these challenges or barriers could separate a person (who wants A.A.) from our lifesaving program of recovery.

The **mission** is creating an awareness of the needs of alcoholics in remote communities by going to any lengths as just one more link in the chain of responsibility in our effort to help the alcoholic who still suffers.

Our simple **vision** for the Remote Communities Committee is to foster unity and offer all A.A. groups and emerging groups an opportunity to understand and utilize the available services of our Fellowship. We do this to help the alcoholic who still suffers by offering an invitation to become part of the whole.



REMOTE COMMUNITIES AREA COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Remote Communities Committee Chair is an appointed position on the General Service Committee. For more information please visit www.area15aa.org .

To contact the Remote Communities Committee Chair

Email: rccArea15@gmail.com

AREA 15 REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Composition: The Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer are elected in Committee using the Third Legacy procedure. Newly elected officers are presented for approval at the Area business meeting. Other voting members may include one member from each District.

Scope: Offers a forum for the Area 15 Districts to share their experience in carrying the A.A. message to their remote communities, those that are separated from the program of Alcoholics Anonymous by language, geography and culture; where we assist each other in the creation and operation of effective Remote Community Committees.

Procedure: Holds quarterly meetings where Districts may share their experience. each district submits a written report of District Remote Community activities; which becomes a part of the Committee minutes, It also presents a report of Committee activities at the Area Business Meeting orally, and in written form for inclusion in the Area minutes. It is the communication channel to and from the RC Meeting which takes place Saturday morning, Pre-Conference at the Conference location. The Delegate is the communication channel between the Area committee and the pre-Conference Remote Communities meeting. The purpose of this communication is to inform the Delegate of newly active remote communities in our Area or remote communities that are interested in joining our Area or one of our Districts.

In addition to this Area 15 Current Practice, the Area 15 Remote Communities Committee has developed a tri-fold pamphlet for distribution that includes information about the committee and resources. Also, the current Area 15 Committee Chair develops and publishes the Remoter Newsletter included in Appendix A.

In 2018, Annie C., our Delegate for Panel 67 wrote a presentation for the Southeast Regional Forum. A copy of her presentation is included in Appendix B and it is an excellent description of remote communities and our responsibility to outreach. Part of outreach efforts is described in Appendices C and D. Molly's story, from Haiti, describes the connection made through the "language of the heart," (Bill W's description) during a trip in 2009 to District 14 (U.S. & British Virgin Islands, Antigua & St. Maarten) by Ken C., our Delegate for Panel 59 with followup in 2010.

Most recently, a member of our Remote Communities Committee, George R. with support from District 10, worked to outreach to cruise ship employees that come into the port in the Miami area. "When the need and request was brought to the attention of the District 10 governing

body for timeliness and budgetary approval, District 10 moved enthusiastically and decisively to provide funds for Alcoholics Anonymous literature from GSO translated in Russian, Ukraine, Tagalog (Philippines) and English—the languages spoken by the majority of crew members.” The full story is included in Appendix D.

SUGGESTIONS FOR AREA/DISTRICT RESOURCES FOR REMOTE COMMUNITIES

The following suggestions are meant as possible tools for Area 15 and our Districts to consider implementing. We would love to hear about any information you feel could be added here, or anything you may feel is lacking.

1. Prepare a **Contact List** of remote people and locations. This can be accomplished by asking those in your committee and in your district committee or by any means possible, who and where these people may be. They could be active or inactive members of A.A.
2. Prepare a **Quick Reference Guide** for A.A. services in your community, e.g. meeting lists of surrounding groups or all A.A. meetings in your district. This would also have the location (and possibly name and/or contact information) of those in remote communities. This list would also include the day, time and place of your district meetings, including a district contact list with people’s names and contact information.
3. Suggest where the nearest **Literature Depot(s)** may be found.
4. The **Remote Communities Chairperson reports monthly to the district** by contacting each remote member (or community) once a month to see how things are going. This is very encouraging for those living in a remote situation and provides for more unity within the whole district.
5. Consider using **Public Service Announcements (PSAs)** in local media, including newspapers, radio and television. For more information on PSA’s contact: Area 15 - South Florida, the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands Public Information Committee Chair: picpc@area15aa.org
Website: <https://area15aa.org/pi-cpc/>
8. Prepare a list of **Teleconference Meetings** for your area. Check with County Central Offices/Intergroups.
9. Supply a list of **Area 15 Remote Community Committee tools**, which include: **A.A. Speaker CDs, Temporary Sponsors, phone and/or email buddies.**

10. Supply the contact information and explanation of the **Remote Communities Connection Program**, (Appendix E).

11. Organize **Roaming A.A. Meetings**. This is where a group of members travel to a remote community for a meeting. Experience suggests that this could be done every one to three months. There is usually no cost to the district as the travelers chip in to cover expenses. Meeting topic ideas are included in Appendix F.

AREA 15 REMOTE COMMUNITIES PAMPHLET - South Florida, the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands

How can I help or know more?

If you wish to find out more or help carry the message of A.A. by helping to locate members and groups who may need to be found and their hope restored **anywhere...**

You can be contacted by a member who will keep you posted about our activities. Please use this form and **photo, scan, or type** it to: remotecommunities@area15aa.org

First Name _____ Last Initial _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Check one: Mobile or Home

Language(s) Spoken _____

Do you live in, travel to, or know of a remote community? _____

Does your Group or District have an RCC Chair?
 Yes No Don't Know

→ More effectively connect *remote* persons and groups with ongoing "sponsorship" and meetings.

→ Find more effective ways to connect people returning to *remote communities* from treatment and corrections facilities to AA.

We invite all of you to join us.
 Opportunities for service are **anywhere and everywhere.**
 There are many opportunities to serve

**Be Involved
 Be Inspired
 Be of Service**

**We fill gaps
 and build bridges.
 There are bridges to build.
 But we need the builders !**

¿Dónde puedo encontrar una reunión de AA?
 Как можно найти собрание AA?
 Ki koté réunion Alcohol Anonime?

REMOTE COMMUNITIES

remotecommunities@area15aa.org
 Area website - <http://area15aa.org>

"Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety."



Remote Communities Committee

Remote Communities serves A.A. in places where it is challenging to carry the message because of:

- Language – linguistic, dialect
- Culture – customs, beliefs
- Geography – travel, locale

AREA 15
 SOUTH FLORIDA,
 BAHAMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS,
 ANTIGUA, ST. MAARTEN,
 CAYMAN ISLANDS

Carrying the Message

- What Remote Communities is:

A "remote community" is any place where it is difficult to carry the A.A. message because of language, culture, or geography. Members faced with these challenges or barriers could separate a person (who wants A.A.) from our lifesaving program of recovery.

The **mission** is creating an awareness of the needs of alcoholics in remote communities by going to any lengths as just one more link in the chain of responsibility in our effort to help the alcoholic who still suffers.

Our simple **Vision** for the Remote Communities Committee is to foster unity and offer all A.A. groups and emerging groups an opportunity to understand and utilize the available services of our Fellowship. We do this to help the alcoholic who still suffers by offering an invitation to become part of the whole.

What we do – help restore hope

We try to carry the AA message where it is otherwise difficult due to geographical, language, or cultural barriers. The purpose of this committee is to locate, identify and reach out to members of these communities, offering the hand of AA services.

It may seem that this committee overlaps some of the work of the Accessibilities, Treatment, PI, CPC, or other committees. In reality, while the Remote Communities Committee does work closely with other committees, we serve a different need and help fill the gap in overall 12-step work by reaching out to various "inaccessible" communities that might not fall within the vision of other committees in the Area or Area Districts:

- ▲ Identifying Remote Groups / Members
- ▲ Share Ideas ▲ Temporary Sponsors
- ▲ Outreach ▲ Providing Services
- ▲ Loners Intl. ▲ Conducting Workshops
- ▲ Literature ▲ Online Meeting List

If you are reading this, you are lucky to be in an AA room. Some are not so lucky...yet.

Area Website - <http://area15aa.org>

remotecommunities@area15aa.org

Want to help or Know More?

Let no one who suffers miss the message of hope and recovery that AA has to offer. If you are interested in being a part of the Committee or simply want to know more about what it offers, please contact us. Fill out the info. on other side and send to:

remotecommunities@area15aa.org

"Are new groups and loners being visited & helped ?"
 (Chapter 5 of the Service Manual)

For your consideration, there is a need to:

• Reach alcoholics living in small communities concerned that they will be "ID'd" as AA members. Anonymity concerns can cause reluctance to start groups and/or attend AA meetings.

• Address concerns regarding real and/or perceived prejudice, racism, and exclusion due to cultural and/or religious differences.

• Reach people of cultural groups reporting stigma associated with Alcoholism in their community as a barrier to seeking AA's help.

Know that "Far" or "Distance" does not necessarily equal "remote". Places considered remote by some do not identify themselves as remote.

RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN A REMOTE COMMUNITY

Know that “Far” or “Distance” does not necessarily equal “remote”. Places considered remote by some do not identify themselves as remote.

You can contact Alcoholics Anonymous in **Area 15 - South Florida, the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands** by:

Email: rccArea15@gmail.com

Website: www.Area15aa.org

- The General Service Office website, www.aa.org, is a great resource for A.A. information. You can even read the Daily Reflection, which is a free daily download available in English, French and Spanish.

Mailing Addresses:

New York Office:

475 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10115

Telephone Numbers

New York Office:

English: (212) 870-3400

International: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/contact-international-desk

- Meeting guide can be helpful: https://aa.org/pages/en_US/meeting-guide
- Information about **Online/Electronic/Telephone Meetings** can be found at www.aa-intergroup.org. There are some easily accessible meetings in languages other than English.
- **Loners-Internationalists Meeting:** Supply contact information for access through the General Service Office at the following link:
https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/contact-loners-internationalists-meeting-lim-desk

Mailing address: 475 Riverside Drive at West 120th St. - 11th Floor
New York, NY 10115

Telephone: (212) 870-3400

Website: <https://www.aa.org/>

Additional information on Loners International is included in the following section.

- May we suggest the **Grapevine and La Viña** magazine (our A.A. meeting in print) and Grapevine's other publications? You may contact Grapevine at
Website: <https://store.aagrapevine.org/subscriptions>:

Mailing Addresses:

New York Office:

475 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10115

Customer Service La Viña:

PO Box 15635
North Hollywood, CA
91615-5635

Customer Service Grapevine:

PO Box 16867
North Hollywood, CA
91615-6867

Telephone Number

New York Office:

(212) 870-3018
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5
p.m. EST (Bilingual)
Español: (800) 640-8781 EE.UU,
(818) 487-2092 Internacional
Français: (818) 487-2093 Ê.-U.
et à l'étranger

Telephone Orders - Credit Card

Only:

Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
EST
English: (800) 631-6025 US,
(818) 487-2091 International
(818) 487-4550 (7 days/24 hrs)

Fax Orders - Credit Card Only:

International
Español: (800) 640-8781 EE.UU,
(818) 487-2092
Internacional
Français: (818) 487-2093 Ê.-U.
et à l'étrange

Questions Concerning Subscription

And Related Material Orders:

English: (800) 631-6025 US,
(818) 487-2091

These resources are meant as possible tools for someone living in a remote situation, whether short-term or long-term. We would love to hear any suggestions for information that you feel could be added here.



Service Material from the General Service Office

LONERS-INTERNATIONALISTS MEETING (LIM) CORRESPONDENCE SERVICE

The Loners-Internationalists Meeting (LIM) is a confidential bimonthly bulletin sent to Loners, Homers, Internationalists, Port Contacts, and Loner Sponsors. The bulletin contains excerpts from LIM members' letters that are sent to the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous. The bulletin includes full names and addresses. LIM is distributed only to the members described below who appreciate the need for confidentiality of personal sharing with one another through correspondence. To participate, an A.A. member needs to: 1) read and write English; 2) provide a stable email and/or mailing address; and, 3) be willing to share experience, strength and hope via correspondence. Many LIM members communicate via email, while some utilize postal mail.

A G.S.O. staff member coordinates the Loners, Homers and Internationalists correspondence service, which is open to A.A. members who fit one of the categories listed below:

Loner An A.A. member who is unable to attend meetings regularly because there is no A.A. meeting in the vicinity where he or she lives.

Homer An A.A. member who is unable to attend A.A. meetings because of physical incapacity.

Internationalist An A.A. member working on a seagoing vessel for long periods.

Port Contact An A.A. member serving as a contact for Internationalists when in port.

Loner Sponsor An A.A. member active in local A.A. meetings; who shares his or her experiences and group activity with Loners, Homers and Internationalists through correspondence. A Loner Sponsor is not a "Loner" or a "sponsor" in the traditional A.A. sense. (Because more Loner

Sponsors participate in the LIM service than Loners, Homers and Internationalists combined; new Loner Sponsors are not currently being added.)

Loners, Homers, and Internationalists receive bimonthly copies of the confidential bulletin Loners- Internationalists Meeting (LIM) and Box 4-5-9, a newsletter published by G.S.O. The Loners-Internationalists & Homers Directory is printed annually and lists all active LIM members.

To participate, an A.A. member needs to be able to read and write in English. A.A. members who fit a LIM category may contact: Loners Assignment, c/o General Service Office, 475 Riverside Drive at West 120th St. - 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115; or email: lim@aa.org.

OVERVIEW OF LIM HISTORY

The first LIM bulletin, printed in 1949 as The Internationalists Round Robin, was a few pages of excerpts from letters received at G.S.O. and mailed to a small band of Internationalists determined to stay sober no matter how isolated they were.

By 1963, the bulletin consisted of five or six one-sided pages, mimeographed on blue paper. In 1976, an A.A. Loners meeting merged with the original Internationalists meeting. Ever since the March-April 1980 issue, LIM has been printed on the familiar yellow pages.

LIM began through the efforts of Captain Jack S., a sailor who found sobriety in A.A. and understood that to maintain sobriety he needed to reach out to other members through correspondence.

Initially, Captain Jack was looking for A.A. contacts in port cities when he wrote a letter to G.S.O. dated March 28, 1946. Captain Jack requested information on A.A. contacts because he was “. . . still at sea on oil tankers, on which I have served for ten years. I have few contacts ashore with A.A., and have to rely on the Book and the guy upstairs.” A G.S.O. staff member provided Captain Jack with the names of A.A. contacts in port cities, and encouraged him to write to other seagoing members, which he did.

After the publication of a three-part article, “A ‘Loner’ at Sea,” by Captain Jack in the October, November, and December 1948 issues of the A.A. Grapevine, plans began to take shape to start an Internationalists meeting-by-mail. Letters responding to that Grapevine article prompted another G.S.O. staff member to suggest to Captain Jack that he consider starting a “Round Robin Meeting” via letters. Captain Jack responded positively and suggested the name be “The Far East Internationalist Group.” He said that name “. . . would leave it open to lone members

stationed ashore in the Far East and also to men who sail these waters under flags of different nations.”

Captain Jack died in December 1988 at age 91, a few months after celebrating his 42nd A.A. anniversary. He had remained active in the Fellowship, seeking newcomers in Portland, Maine – where he had retired – while continuing to answer the many letters that he received.

A.A.’s phenomenal worldwide growth is attributed in part to Captain Jack and hundreds of Internationalists like him who, sailing the seven seas, carried the message wherever they dropped anchor.

Rev. 10/16 SM F-123

ONLINE INTERGROUP INFORMATION
www.aa-intergroup.org



Get Help Now for a Drinking Problem

The [OIAA 12th Step Committee](#) responds directly, by email, to people who are searching for help with a drinking problem. Fluent in many languages, scores of AA members from around the world provide 24-hour assistance.

How We Can Help



Browse the Directory of Online Meetings

The [OIAA Directory](#) features 1,000+ online AA meetings worldwide, ranging from video or telephone conferences to email or chat groups in many languages, available 24/7. Browse the next available or search for the right one for you.



Browse AA Online Resources

Learn how Online AA meetings work, what options are available, how to run one, and how to make the most out of them. Videos, pamphlets, and guides on how to work the program are available in multiple languages.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AREA 15

General Services Area 15 comprises several Districts identified geographically as southern portions of Florida including the Upper and Lower Keys, the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St. Maarten & Cayman Islands. It includes metropolitan centers and small towns, islands and intercostals, long stretches of water front with multiple marinas and ports, as well as the Everglades, Native American Reservations, travel destinations, and vast acreages of citrus groves, sugarcane and other agriculture.

We are diverse when it comes to "human geography" - languages, dialects, culture, customs, and ways of life. We are home to the native-born, immigrants, transplants, and transients. We are retirees, small business owners, fishermen, migrant workers, farmers, builders, educators, travel / entertainment / tourism ambassadors, boat operators, white and blue collar folks, stewards, service personnel, sales people, support, and staff members. We are a diverse variety of persons - from the powerful to the powerless.

We even have astronauts, engineers, and rocket scientists but none of this is rocket science when it comes to unity, recovery, and service although many of us have been rocketed to the 4th dimension as it says. There are several opportunities for those in recovery and those who have yet to experience that. We are probably the flattest Area of all so there are no mountains to climb, only roads to trudge toward happy destiny.

Reflecting on the membership of AA as shown in the 2014 membership survey a question came up; how does the diversity of our South Florida communities compare with what we see in our groups. One way to see this was to look at the U.S. Census data, found at: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=0500000US12086&tid=ACSDP1Y2018.DP05&hidePreview=true> This data was compiled by extracting comparable ethnicity numbers and totalling 22 individual counties and the U.S. Virgin Island. Comparable data was not available for the British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St. Maarten, the Cayman Islands or the Bahamas but this effort assisted in development of a picture of the racial and ethnic makeup of Area 15. For further information, the data for each of the Counties and Districts is included in Appendix G. Included in this appendix is a table of the counties identified by districts. Also, these tables include expanded race/ethnicity data.

Race/Ethnicity	2014 A.A. Membership U.S. and Canada	South Florida & US Virgin Isl. - 2018 U.S. Census data
White	89%	47%
Black	4%	16%
Hispanic	3%	32%
Native American	1%	>0.2%
Asian and Other	3%	5%

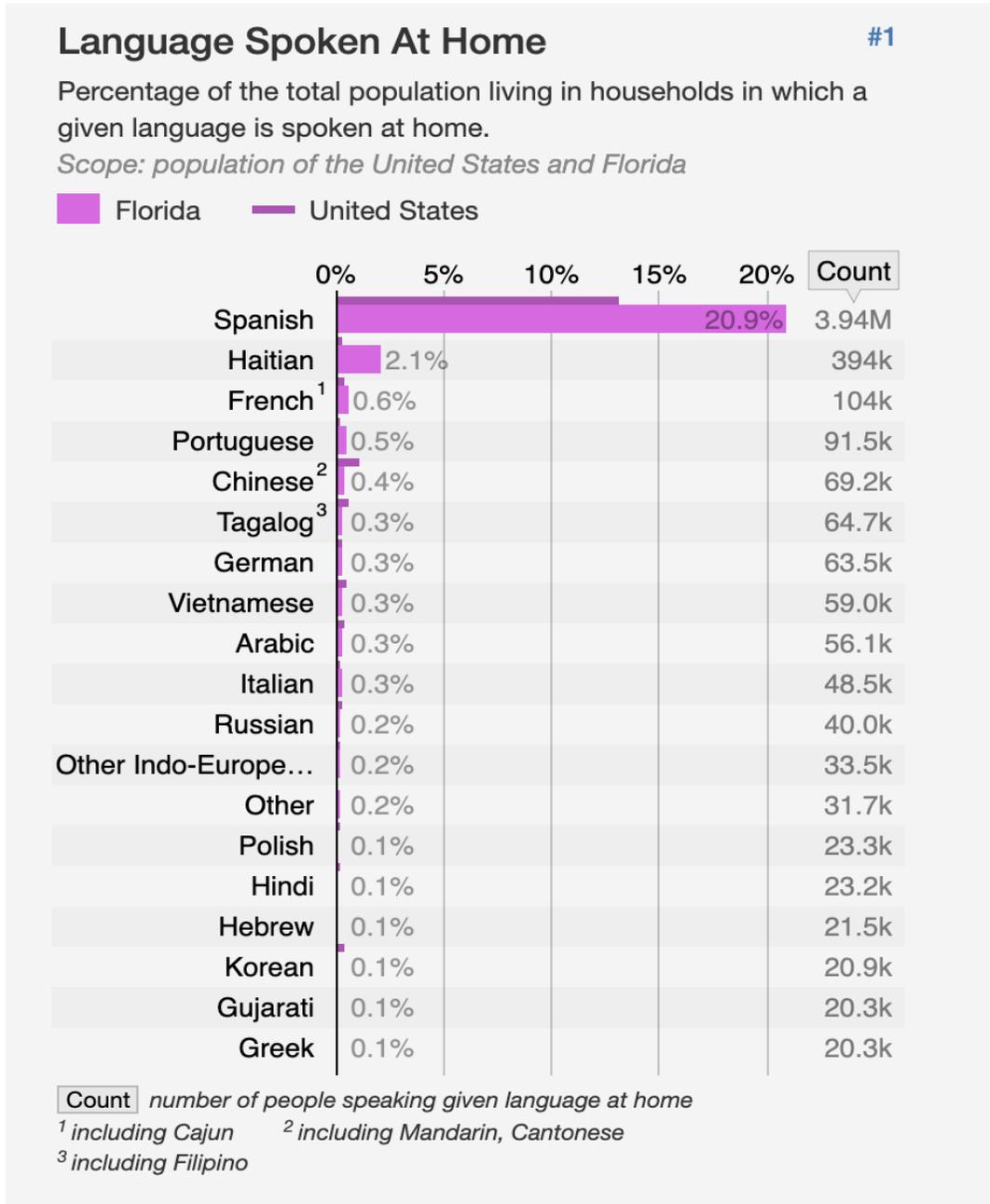
It is evident that the composition of AA Membership does not reflect the diversity of our Area 15 communities. It is also apparent there are many who are reaching out for help through literature available in their languages, but these alcoholics do not seem to be represented in our meetings.

Area 15 populations speak many languages, including English, Spanish, French, Creole, Russian, Portuguese, various Chinese dialects, and many others as identified on the following table.

OVERVIEW OF LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN FLORIDA, OTHER THAN ENGLISH

The following table is based on information from <https://statisticalatlas.com/about>

Statistical Atlas presents data from the US Census Bureau, specifically from the 2010 census, and from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey



AREA 15 REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE AND OTHER AREA 15 COMMITTEES

AREA 15 COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The South Florida Area Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous is a service body for the groups in Delegate Area 15. Its primary purpose is to provide a forum for sharing collective 12th Step experience – how best to carry the AA message in South Florida, the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands. The Area also has the responsibility to carry that message worldwide via the General Service Conference U.S./Canada.

Area 15 is supported by the voluntary contributions of the groups it serves. The Committee structure borrows much from “The AA Service Manual and Twelve Concepts for World Service” is ever mindful of the Twelve Traditions, Concepts for Service, and the Twelve Steps of AA.

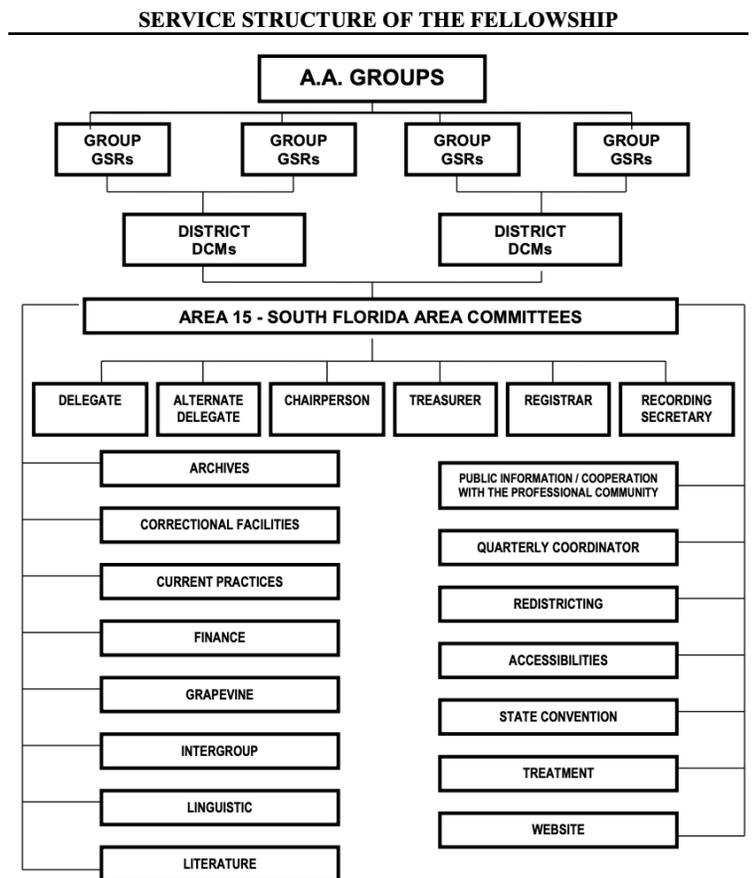
The Area 15 Committee reports to, and takes direction from the full Area 15 Committee. It has 22 members, consisting of six elected area officers and 16 committee chairs/co-chairs. Area 15 Committee members serve two-year terms in keeping with the General Service Conference Panel rotation.

Elected Members:

Six **area officers** are elected, in even numbered years, at the October meeting of the full Area Committee (the Election Assembly). They are:

- [Delegate](#)
- [Alternate Delegate](#)
- [Chairperson](#)
- [Treasurer](#)
- [Registrar](#)
- [Recording Secretary](#)

Further information about each of these positions, contact information and a job description are provided on their individual web pages: <https://area15aa.org/area-15-contacts/>



their individual web pages:

Standing Committees: Area 15 has 16 standing committees, which are chaired/co-chaired by members selected by election in committee except as noted. (As needed, the Redistricting Committee can be in session to consider questions of redistricting.)

[Accessibilities](#)

[Archives](#)

[Corrections](#)

[Current Practice \(Two Past Delegates\)](#)

[Finance \(Appointed\)](#)

[Grapevine](#)

[Intergroup](#)

[Linguistic](#)

[Literature](#)

[Outreach \(Sub-Committee\)](#)

[PI / CPC](#)

[Quarterly Coordinator \(Appointed\)](#)

[Remote Communities](#)

[State Convention \(Past Alt. Delegate\)](#)

[Treatment](#)

[Website](#)

AREAS OF SERVICE DUPLICATION IDENTIFIED AT THE AREA AND DISTRICT LEVELS:

Districts within Area 15 generally have consistent committees, although not every District has a Remote Communities Committee. In general, these committees work in cooperation with one another. Below is a table identifying some ways the Remote Communities Committee interacts cooperatively with other committees. In addition, Area 15 Remote Communities Committee receives support from our Delegates. Included in Appendices B and C are recent correspondence and reports.

Services/Needs	Committees
reaching out to “homers”, and those with physical and/or mental disabilities	Special Needs/Accessibilities ; Remote Communities; “LIM” Program by GSO
Communication with treatment facility staff, coordinating Bridging The Gap (BTG) contacts	Treatment/BTG ; Remote Communities
Communication with correctional facility staff, coordinating pre-release contacts	Corrections; Remote Communities
Communications with professionals who are located in remote locations, professionals in urban settings who provide services to people in remote communities, work with professionals who deal with specific cultural or linguistic groups	Cooperation with the Professional Community; Remote Communities
Communications with the public who are located in remote locations and/or the public who are part of specific cultural or linguistic groups	Public Information; Remote Communities

LITERATURE RESOURCES

The following table identifies some literature that might be useful in outreach to identified remote communities. This literature can be displayed at various public locations, including public libraries, community centers, health centers, police stations, treatment facilities, etc.

Remote Communities Kit Literature

Pamphlet Name	Pamphlet #
A.A. Guidelines (full set)	MG-20
A.A. Fact File	M-24
Information on A.A.	F-2
Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix	F-3
Catalogue- A.A. Literature, Service Materials and Order Form	F-10
Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for U.S. and Canada	F-25
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ROOM FOR ACTION

Area 15 has included a description of the Remote Connection Program implemented by Area 79 to encourage participation by a District or any interested Area 15 A.A. member (Appendix D). In addition, should any A.A. member(s) feel inspired to start or bring a meeting in a remote area, please feel free to utilize any of the resources in this workbook. Appendix E includes a list of meeting topics. Our committee is willing to be of assistance.

The following areas for suggested action were also identified by Area 79 and these can apply to Area 15 as well:

- There is a continued need for improved communications throughout the service structure.
- More emphasis on active participation in Home Groups and Sponsorship.
- Some of the Fellowship is not informed that members of the Area 15 - South Florida, the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands GSC are available for Workshops and events at the local level. There is also some confusion regarding self support and who is responsible for expenses when Area is invited.
- There is a lack of awareness regarding services available from Area 15 and how to access these services.
- Many members reported a lack of information regarding current AA activities in the District, Area and worldwide.
- Much of the Fellowship is not informed of Box 459 and/or Accessibilities.
- The development of a list of Area wide literature sources (Central Offices, Literature Depots, District Literature resources) may be useful in response to comments that some members don't know how and where to get AA literature.
- Attraction vs. promotion. How we "attract" members into service continues to be a matter of great concern.
- There are varying degrees of access to and comfort with computers while an increasing amount of Area 15 information is made available online. Some expressed concern about access to this information and the costs to members to print material.
- Some Groups feel they do not need District/Area; they can handle things themselves
- Some Groups do not encourage "outsiders" to participate, even within the same District
- There were several comments regarding "disunity", "personality issues", and "rotation issues".
- Barriers of homelessness, poverty, or being transient can make getting sober, staying sober, and getting involved in service difficult.

APPENDIX A

2020 Remotor Newsletter

THE REMOTOR

A SEMI-ANNUAL NOTE OF THE
 REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE (RCC)
 NEWS, HAPPENINGS, AND PERSEVERANCE



General Service Area 15, Panel 69

What's YOUR 20 in 2020?



What's your 20 in 2020 ?

- Offered by Alcoholics Anonymous, Area 15 Remote Communities Committee -

Contact Us



Remote Communities 305-975-3181
 remotecommunities@area15.org

"let no one who suffers miss the message of hope and recovery that A.A. has to offer."

Action

Q: What does "what's your 20" mean? (Answer on next page)

MEMBERS IN AREA 15 were very thoughtful to have shared an article in the current issue of Box 459 with our Remote Communities Committee. Our Fellowship is so blessed by those who bring us the right spark at the right time....
(continued on reverse)

THE BUZZ Current activities



- Working on a kit/workbook
- Trying to locate and visit meetings in Creole and Russian
- Trying to locate or create a service piece in Creole.
- Language-based ALFs
- The Military as Remote Community
- Addressing Diversity
- Cayman *Brac Attack*
- Skype and Youtube meetings
- Essays & Articles for SERF and the *Remote Communicator* publication
- Workshops & Panel Discussions



Attraction

NEW BROCHURE...

Our attraction tool, a tri-fold color brochure, is available upon request.



Request your electronic copy



Service

RCC Members attended a *Lunch & Learn* in Sebring, FL. Within a 3-hour event with a potluck lunch break, we shared activities as they relate to diversity. A Q&A period followed. It was asked if their locale is a "remote community". Most people no matter where they live do not consider themselves as one. There are also language and culture considerations.

If you are reading this, you are lucky to be in an AA room. Some are not so lucky...yet.

Volunteers are needed to carry the message of recovery and hope to folks who would not get it any other way.



THE REMOTOR

A SEMI-ANNUAL NOTE OF THE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
NEWS, HAPPENINGS, AND PERSEVERANCE IN AREA 15



ALKALI LAKE

A MODEL REMOTE COMMUNITY SUCCESS STORY

(Continued from other side)...Our Fellowship is so blessed by those who bring us the right spark at the right time. Our angels at 'Box 459', in a past issue, bring us the story of Alkali Lake located in western Canada. Those angels at Box 459 tell the full Alkali Lake story in a 'What It Was Like. What Happened and What It's Like Now' format. The story may bring tears to your eyes too.

In the early 1940s, people of Alkali Lake began receiving alcohol from trading posts for their furs rather than food or clothing. Alcoholism rapidly spread throughout the Reserve until every man, woman, and child was drinking. A resident of Alkali Lake, Phyllis, hit bottom, quit drinking in 1972 and reached out to Father Ed from a nearby community for help in staying sober and shortly thereafter inviting others to do so.



Together they conceived a vision of an alcohol-free Alkali Lake community. Phyllis and (soon after) her husband, Andy, sought sobriety and courageously stood their ground against the persuasion of friends and family. For the first two years, they were leading a lonely lifestyle but persevered. That was in 1973. Since then and for forty (40) years, the residents of Alkali Lake have continually turned to the local A.A. group to help solve their "alcohol problems."

One by one people joined them and 14 years later they went from 100% heavy drinkers to 95% sober - giving hope and inspiration to Native people and all people affected by alcoholism. They saw the importance of community support, love, and forgiveness and how individual lives can be reclaimed. We in the remote communities are particularly grateful for the publication of the story. Thanks again Box 459. This story / lesson is not to be missed.

July 10, 11 & 12, 2015
Campout @ Pop-Wow Anchor
Alkali Lake, BC

ESK'ETEMC NATION

39th Annual AA Round Up

Theme: *Release Your Fear*

Friday, July 10, 2015	Saturday, July 11, 2015
8:00 PM Registration	7:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 PM Women's Meeting	8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 PM Men's/Coed Meetings	9:00 AM Drop-in Coed Session
9:00 PM Outdoor Service	10:00 AM Church Meeting
11:00 PM Historical Meeting	12:00 PM Lunch
	1:00 PM Committee Meeting

Saturday, July 11, 2015

7:00 AM Breakfast	Registration:
8:00 AM Breakfast & Registration	Divorce All Women
10:00 AM Fall-up meeting	Family (4)
11:00 AM A.A. P.P.A.A. Meeting	Single
12:00 PM Post-Lunch Luncheon	Group Rates are negotiable. See Us Here!

Special thanks to Valerie M. Area 15 District 10 for seeing the article first and giving us a heads-up and of course to the Box 459 Editor for allowing us to 'pass the story on' here.

For more information contact us at: remotecomunities@area15.org

We have Service Opportunities. JOIN US!

Going to any lengths necessary to carry AA's message to all those who need it and is just one more link in the chain of responsibility in our effort to help the alcoholic to who still suffers.

305-975-3181

remotecomunities@area15.org

A: "What's your 20?" means "where are you located".

Contact Us



APPENDIX B

**PANEL 67 DELEGATE REPORT ON REMOTE COMMUNITIES TO THE SOUTHEAST
REGIONAL FORUM**

FROM the SERF November 16 to 18, 2018 in Sterling, VA

Carrying the Message to Remote Communities

—Annie C., Delegate Panel 67, Area 15 South Florida/Bahamas/Virgin Islands/Antigua

Good morning. I am an alcoholic and currently serving as Panel 67 delegate for Area 15 South Florida, Bahamas, the U.S. & British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St. Maarten and the Cayman Islands.

When I received the loving invitation from our Regional Forums desk on the topic of “Carrying the Message to Remote Communities,” I thought, this is easy! But as I began to write this presentation I realized how many variations of remote communities there can be. I also realized how many various service committees have an opportunity to identify and assist in carrying the message to those members that are “underserved” or “remote.” At the 68th General Service Conference, the Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities expanded its scope to include those in “underserved” or “remote communities.” It may appear that Remote Communities work may overlap that of Treatment/Accessibilities, P.I./C.P.C. and Corrections. While each of these committees have a specific need as well, Remote Communities work does have a specific need. Through cooperation with other service committees, we are hoping to fill the gap in overall Twelfth Step work by reaching out to various “inaccessible” communities that might not fall within the scope or vision of other committees. Remote Communities work, in essence, can “build bridges and fill gaps.”

From the description of Area 15, you may have noticed we have what people call “remote communities.” While some of these communities appear to be geographic, our area also contains pockets of communities in which language and/or culture make carrying the message of recovery a bit of a challenge. A challenge that we can overcome. Creating awareness of these underserved members is the first step. Explaining what a “remote community” both is and is not opens the door to a world of service opportunities. What you and I may consider a remote community may not be considered one by those that live there. “Far” does not necessarily equal “remote.”

Culture can be one area in which sharing our message of recovery is difficult. Oftentimes recovery comes slowly, with one member of the specific community reaching out to another — e.g., African Americans, women of Spanish heritage and, as we recently witnessed, Native Americans. This might sound a little bit like sponsorship, and maybe we can help get recovery into these communities with this type of shared experience — one alcoholic sharing with another. I need to be that walking Big Book. Our common bond of one alcoholic sharing with another is key. Sharing comes in many forms. We can share with literature such as our Big Book,

specific and generalized recovery pamphlets, as well as Grapevine and La Viña magazines and articles.

But what if geography is an obstacle? How do we carry the message then? One of our island communities in Area 15 receives speaker CDs and has a lending library for its members. A couple of times a year a group of members from Grand Cayman embark on a weekend of fellowship and sharing to a sister island in Cayman Brac, where there are only two members in recovery. Another district sends Big Books and other literature to meet the needs of members in the Virgin Islands. Those of us that have easy access to Wi-Fi and Internet may not realize that some places don't have access to these technological methods. So online meetings and video calls or chats are not possible.

In Area 15 we have two linguistic districts; both speak Spanish. We assist in providing as much literature and other information in Spanish as possible. With the cooperation of our Linguistic Committee we translate and interpret many of our area meetings and documents. A Spanish website was launched recently, and we are seeing an uptick in participation as a result. Unfortunately, there is much more work to be done. We are hopeful that the newly Conference-approved pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women will make its way to those not yet reached. Our Remote Communities Committee has discovered members that speak Haitian Creole and Russian. The members are working with other area committees, such as Treatment, P.I./C.P.C. and Corrections, to hopefully begin a dialogue to overcome the alcoholic stigma in these locations. Over the years our fellowship has been able to identify so many areas that can be labeled as "remote communities." Recently we discovered that when a natural disaster hits a community or a remote community those areas can become even more remote or possibly isolated. Such was the case with the Florida Keys, the Bahamas and the Virgin Islands.

We are already familiar with geography, culture and language being the prime obstacles for a remote-community situation. But there are others. What about the military? Or those living in nursing homes? Or those individuals that are a part of LIM, or those members that cannot speak or hear? With the help of our General Service Office and staff, we can reach these underserved members. We, as individuals, groups, districts or area committees can request specific pamphlets, articles from Grapevine and yellow Guidelines, and we can then send wherever necessary. We can write letters or notes, provide tapes or CDs and, if possible, "drop by for a cup of coffee."

This brings me to a thought that keeps running through my head. This is a "WE" program, and communication is a two-way street. Once a candidate is identified as a remote community, are we being mindful and sensitive to the needs of others? Are we building a relationship that benefits both sides? If we can answer yes, then unity and recovery between our communities will foster and grow.

In closing, when doing remote communities work, I need to ask myself these questions: Does it help the alcoholic? Does it help build unity? If I can answer yes, and even if the alcoholic in question is me, then I have brought us one step closer to carrying the message to the alcoholic that still suffers — and that is service in action.

APPENDIX C

MOLLY'S STORY

Molly in Haiti
Delegate's Report
January 14, 2010

I started this quarter with a trip to District 14, the U.S. & British Virgin Islands, Antigua & St. Maarten, to give the last of 14 Delegates Reports for 2009. Although the Delegates Report was well received and had the best attendance to date. The most important happening was a series of miracles that started to unfold on Friday evening. The theme of the Promises In Paradise Convention was "A.A. Around the World". Molly L. was an A.A. visitor from Port au Prince, Haiti. Molly is doing relief work in Haiti and there are no A.A. meetings. Molly asked Courtney and Kate, 2 young convention attendees, who are 19ish and 3 years sober, who she could speak to in order to start an A.A. meeting in Haiti. They introduced Molly to me and we had a long discussion about the difficulties involved. I informed Molly that I would contact the International Desk at GSO on Monday to see if there were any political challenges that would need to be addressed and gave her contact information as well.

I asked Kevin if we could locate a Service Manual & some literature. He put me in touch with the District 14 PI/CPC chairperson, Denny. On Saturday, Denny brought in a Service Manual and an envelope of indexed literature – almost anything we have! We found Molly and then Denny presented her with all the literature from District 14. She just cried – tears of joy! Now we are all crying!

On Sunday evening after the convention, Molly came up to Annie's and my hotel room. Annie proceeded to show Molly how to access GSO's website and find various helpful information. Coincidentally, the General Service Board was meeting as we spoke (6:30 PM). I decided to call El N., our new S.E. Regional Trustee. I called El; coincidentally she was on dinner break. I repeated all of the happenings to El. She was very quiet, and then just said, "Ken, we were talking about Haiti today!" El asked me to call Don Massey, our new Trustee at-Large U.S. I called Don and repeated the story to his amazement. I asked Don if he would like to speak with Molly, he said, "of course". Molly got on the telephone and said "Sir, this is Molly and I'm an alcoholic." At this point we are all in tears.

Molly has posted a website, secured a telephone and had a meeting place lined up. Unfortunately, the meeting place was in a government building which required a photo I.D., sign in, purpose, etc. so this meeting place did not work out. But... the grapevine is working and many have stepped up to assist Molly in locating a meeting place such as in a church.

In the interim, I have spoken to several of our staff workers at our General Service Office. I learned that “Information on Alcoholics Anonymous” was translated and extremely helpful in bringing A.A. to China and Cuba. I have made a request to Valerie O., Publications Director, that “Information on Alcoholics Anonymous” be translated into French-Creole. Valerie has budgeted this request for 2010. Once we have confirmed the language to be translated, this piece will go forward.

On Wednesday evening, Molly called on “Skype” and informed me that French was the language used by professionals, however she thought that “44 Questions” and “Is A.A. for Me?” translated in French-Creole would be helpful to reach the local community. On Thursday, Valerie O., Publications Director at GSO informed Molly and me that the translation is in process. Molly called me at 4:40 and informed me that she spoke to a Dr. at the hospital regarding a meeting place. He was thrilled to hear there was contact with A.A. and thought Molly should contact APAAC, a local treatment facility. Molly took a ride to APAAC, a mile from her home. After 5 months of attempting to start a meeting, Molly searched out the location that GSO had reported as the last known meeting place. Molly found a room with slogans on the wall, window shades, some literature and French speaking meetings at 5:00 PM every day. Molly has decided that Public Information/CPC is the place that God has chosen for her to pass our message. Yesterday, Molly met with a group member to initiate the start of an English speaking A.A. meeting.

I am reminded, when we place just a few dollars in the basket, one may keep the meeting room open, the other dollar may carry the message to another country. Please... pass the message as to why it is important we support the General Service Office and why Area 15 sends excess contributions down the ladder. I am proud of your unselfish support and generosity and feel so privileged to share this story.

Sequel:

On Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at approximately 5:00 PM EST, Port au Prince, Haiti experienced a devastating earthquake. For 48 hours we questioned Molly’s health & well being. Needless to say, we questioned whether this story might come to a tragic end.

Our prayers were answered. I was so relieved to send the following email at 1:53 PM the afternoon of Thursday, January 14, 2010 to the manager of the General Service Office and many on staff, the Trustee at-Large U.S., S.E. Regional Trustee, Area 15 Officers, Standing Committee Chairpersons and District Chairpersons.

Dear Fellows,

Many of you have assisted me in helping Molly L. attempt to carry the message to

our fellows in Haiti. Many of you heard the Delegates Report at the Area 15 Assembly last weekend and were touched by the series of miracles that have taken place surrounding Molly and her endeavors to start a meeting in Haiti. Many of you have called and written to check on Molly's well being and offer prayers for her and those who are suffering from the devastation in Haiti.

I am so happy to report that we have received a very brief note from Molly this morning that says "I'm okay! Doing lots of relief work with my org now but will be in touch." On behalf of Molly, I would like to personally thank each of you for your assistance, your thoughts and your prayers. I am certain that the days, weeks and months ahead will be more difficult for Molly, the suffering alcoholic in Haiti and all who have suffered from the events of such a devastating event. I know that your continued thought and prayer is appreciated. The days ahead will be difficult, but we will do together what we could not do alone...

Thank you...

Love in Service,

Ken

Delegate 59/15

South Florida...

I have received numerous emails in response. When I spoke to Warren Stafford, International Desk at GSO, he informed me that calls had come in to the office from members around the country asking to help.

Today, January 16, 2010, my wife Annie & I received an email from Molly "Communication is limited - I'm at the office now and writing critical emails for relief aid. I know all are worried but I'm okay. Thanks for your thoughts and prayers and I'll be in touch when I can."

This story will be continued... I am certain that God has Molly, our fellows and the still suffering alcoholic in the palm of his hand.

Respectfully submitted with Love in Service,

Ken C.

Delegate, Panel 59

APPENDIX D

2020 District 10 Miami Outreach - Crew of Cruise Ships

Winter 2020

District 10 A.A. Remote Communities

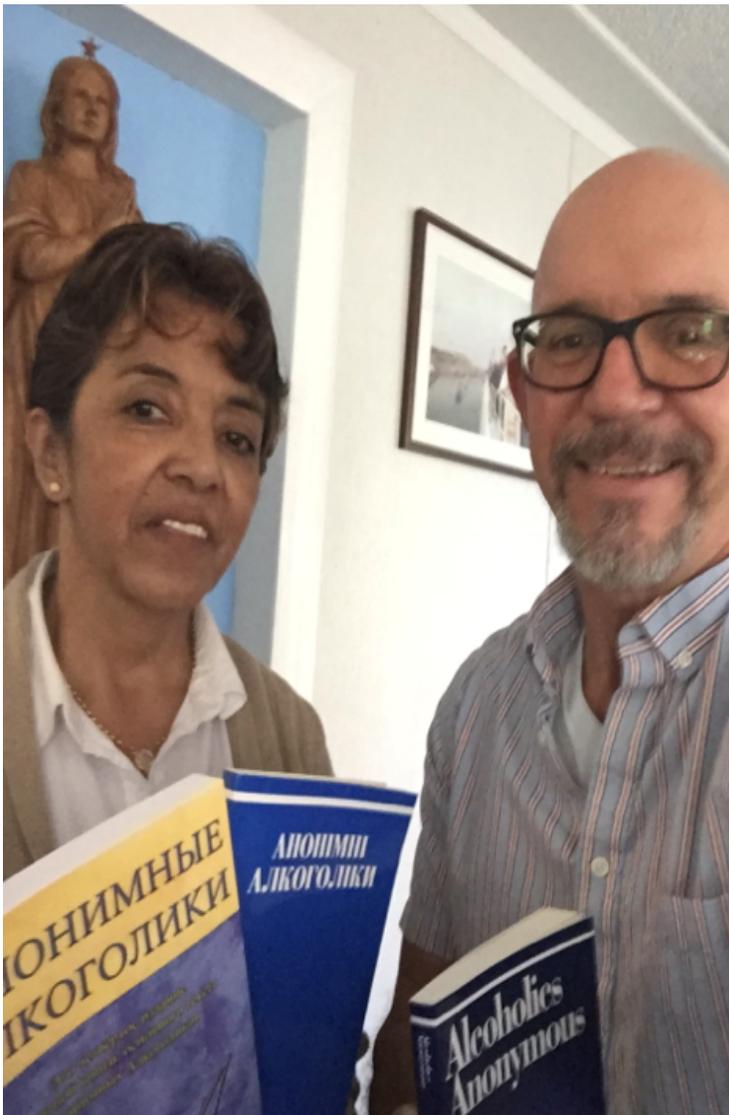
As Port Miami smashed records in cargo and cruise passengers last year setting the world record with 6,824,000 passengers, Remote Communities (RCC) in District 10 was busy setting up the Stella Maris Center and crew lounge at Port Miami with Big Books of Alcoholics Anonymous.

It is widely known A.A. Meetings are conducted on-board cruise ships for passengers. But what about the hard working crew members keeping those same passengers pampered 24/7 and catering to their every whim? Where and when do they attend meetings? Are they even aware that A.A. exists, that A.A. has it's principal text translated into their native language? This is where RCC comes in and does it's best work.

The idea there may be a need to carry the message at Port Miami was just the beginning. After repeated telephone calls and unanswered emails, a meeting was eventually convened with the pastor of one of the resident Christian ministries which provides hospitality and spiritual resources and guidance to crew members who visit the crew member lounge on their day off. From that meeting it was determined a selection of translated literature would be displayed and made available as reference books for visiting crew members to the

lounge. This was not as easy as it may seem. There were some misgivings and disappointment that Jesus is not mentioned in “the solution” but we seem to have moved past it. And so we continue...”one day, one person, at a time”.

When the need and request was brought to the attention of the District 10 governing body for timeliness and budgetary



approval, District 10 moved enthusiastically and decisively to provide funds for Alcoholics Anonymous literature from GSO translated in Russian, Ukraine, Tagalog (Philippines) and English—the languages spoken by the majority of crew members.

We are excited to continue to monitor our new community at Port Miami. We are sure this is but the first

step in a long journey creating another gateway to freedom

from alcoholism for seafarers. RCC joins the efforts of Captain Jack S, a sailor who originally wrote to GSO in March 1946 in search of AA contacts in port cities. His outreach in turn led to a 3-part series in the A.A. Grapevine: “A ‘Loner’ at Sea” in October, November and December 1948; and the publication of LIM: Loners Internationalists Meeting, a bimonthly confidential bulletin delivered by mail to seafarers and others. Our hope is other RCC members in port cities everywhere will extend the hand of A.A in the same spirit—we look forward to hearing about it. yours in service. George R, Remote Communities Chair. (RCC) District 10, Area 15

APPENDIX E
Remote Connection Program

Remote Connection Program

This is an entirely different way of carrying the message to those who, because of their location or other challenges, are unable to make it to regular, face-to-face meetings.\

The first AA meetings online used Bulletin Boards and were around 1986. Email groups started forming in the early nineties and the development of the worldwide internet rapidly fueled the growth and variety of groups. The first online AA group, Lamp-lighters, was formed in 1990, and has met by email continuously since then. Now there are hundreds of AA groups with thousands of members, connected together through this Online Intergroup. Using various mechanisms — [video conferencing](#), [phone conferencing](#), [message boards](#), [email listservs](#), and [chatrooms](#) — the AA community is constantly connecting and finding new, creative ways to communicate the experience, strength and hope of recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous.

A connection is made between the remote person/group and a person/group that is willing to become a host. The host might be considered a “sponsoring” person or group. There are few requirements other than a suitable location and the communication device you plan on using at both ends. Some use telephones while others use computers, and some are using a combination of the two.

The groups are introduced to each other by telephone or email through the Remote Communities Committee chair. At that time, the participants decide the frequency, day and time of meetings, and the format they wish to follow. A commitment is made by both groups to be there to make or receive the connection. The sponsoring group may have a list of members who would like to participate in the meeting, thereby ensuring the remote members hear a variety of experience, strength and hope.

How can you help as an individual or as a group?

- Individual sponsorship by telephone, video-conferencing, email or becoming a host.
- Your group can become involved with a remote connection and host a meeting.

Some considerations before signing up...

- People are counting on you. Participants have a responsibility to show up for the time they are committed to.
- Groups of five to seven have been found to work best.
- If you are a large group, consider forming a committee to take on this project and be willing to contact members to remind them of the group’s commitment to ensure you have a full complement of members at each meeting.
- Financial commitment: The sponsoring group should cover any charges, and perhaps purchase a speaker phone. It may also be necessary to supply the group you are sponsoring with a speaker phone.
- Be patient. The wheels of A.A. rotate very slowly. Be prepared to wait for your sister group. In most cases it will not happen instantly, but you will eventually get connected.

- Individual sponsorship: Other than the fact that you may never meet your sponsee/sponsor face to face, this does not differ much from normal sponsorship. Almost all communication will be via telephone, email, etc.

Remote Connection Program – Tips for Three-Way Calling

Some remote connections use three-way calling, also known as conference calling. To use the three-way calling feature:

1. Call the first party and inform them you will be placing them on hold and bringing in another party.
2. Press the link/flash button on your phone; if your phone does not have one, use the on-hook button (just like call waiting).
3. When you hear a dial tone, dial the number of the person you are trying to reach.
4. When they answer, press the link/flash button (or on-hook) and you will now have the three persons in the conversation.

Like call-waiting, it is better to use the link/flash button for three-way calling if available. Also, if the second participant is unavailable, the customer needs to press the link/flash button twice to get back to the original party. When on a three-way call, call waiting will not work and all incoming calls will be routed to voicemail (or a busy signal if voicemail is not subscribed).

Remote Connection Program - Online meetings -

The phenomena of the new technology of computers, modems, World Wide Web, and Internet communication gave birth to a new medium of exchange through which alcoholics could interact with other alcoholics. Over the last several years, many new online meetings have sprung up which, having no geographical boundaries, were not able to fit the service structures of the usual face to face (f2f) meetings of A.A.. Out of this grew a recognition on the part of many online groups that some form of service group was necessary to assist and facilitate communication and coordination of the cyberspace A.A. milieu. While the official service structure of A.A. is attempting to develop a strategy for including the online meetings within that structure, the Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (OIAA) was formed to provide services typical for Intergroups or Central Offices of face-to-face meetings. While most Intergroups serve specific geographic regions, OIAA was established to serve cyberspace.

The primary purpose of all Alcoholics Anonymous groups is to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Out of that purpose, OIAA has committed itself to assisting member groups in several ways, most of which are related specifically to the medium of cyberspace. Because personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity, we at OIAA are dedicated to assisting and facilitating the best possible unity of service to and for A.A. in cyberspace. Communication and information are two essential ingredients for establishing and maintaining unity; therefore, OIAA is obliged to provide a central forum for the dissemination of information about and for the online community of A.A. and A.A. as a whole. The site address for Online Intergroup is <https://aa-intergroup.org/>.

REMOTE CONNECTION SIGN-UP

Please fill out the form below if you are interested in participating in the Remote Connection Program, as either a Remote Participant or a Sponsoring Group, and return to the Remote Communities Committee chair or your DCM.

Group/Name	City/District/GSR	Email	Phone

If you have any questions or concerns, contact:
rccArea15@gmail.com

APPENDIX F

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION MEETINGS (from SM F-56)

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION MEETINGS (from SM F-56)

GENERAL IDEAS

1. The Twelve Steps

Some groups discuss one Step a week. If there is a newcomer attending for the first time, the group may change the topic to focus on the first three Steps.

2. The Twelve Traditions

Following the conclusion of the Step meetings, some groups will discuss the Traditions so that, every thirteenth meeting the group focuses on a Tradition.

3. The Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous

Some groups discuss one chapter from the Big Book each week. Other groups read from the Big Book weekly and discuss each chapter as they go along.

4. Readings from *As Bill Sees It* can inspire sharing on discussion topics.

5. *Living Sober* also has many topics used by groups.

6. Some A.A. slogans can be used as topics—such as **“Live and Let Live,” “Easy Does It,” “First Things First,”** and **“H.A.L.T.”** (Don’t get too Hungry, Angry, Lonely, or Tired).

SOME SPECIFIC TOPICS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Acceptance | 11. Hope |
| 2. Attitude of gratitude | 12. Humility |
| 3. Belief in a Higher Power | 13. Identification |
| 4. Complacency | 14. Inadequacy |
| 5. Contempt prior to investigation | 15. Inventory |
| 6. Dependence | 16. Letting go of anger |
| 7. Fear | 17. Let’s be friendly with our friends |
| 8. Forgiveness | 18. Living one day at a time |
| 9. Freedom through sobriety | 19. Making amends |
| 10. Group inventory | 20. Meditation |

21. Open-mindedness
22. Participation and action
23. Patience and tolerance
24. Personal spiritual experience and spiritual awakening
25. Plan the action — not the result
26. Practice these principles in all our affairs
27. Principles before personalities
28. Projection — living in the wreckage of the future
29. Resentments
30. Responsibility declaration
31. Rigorous honesty
32. Serenity
33. Service
34. Sponsorship
35. Staying away from the first drink
36. Surrender
37. Three Legacies — Recovery, Unity and Service
38. Twelfth Stepping
39. Twelve Concepts
40. Understanding Anonymity
41. Ways of carrying the A.A. message
42. What is sobriety
43. Willingness
44. Working with others

Other topics may be found in the A.A. Grapevine monthly section on “Discussion Topics.”

General Service Office

P.O. Box 459

Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163

Web Site: www.aa.org

Revised 10/14

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(A.A.W.S.)*

APPENDIX G

U.S. Census Race/Ethnicity Data by County/District

Area 15 Counties	District
Pinellas	1
Hillsborough	2
Hardee	3
Highlands	3
Polk	3
Manatee	4
Charlotte	5
DeSoto	5
Indian River	6
Martin	6
Okeechobee	6
St. Lucie	6
Lee	7
Palm Beach	8
Broward	9
Miami-Dade	10
Collier	20
Monroe	11, 12 & 20
US Virgin Islands	14*
Pasco	2 & 15
Sarasota	4 & 5
Glades	6 & 7
Hendry	7 & 20
*District 14 also includes British VI, Antigua and St. Maarten	

District 1	Pinellas
Total population	975,280
White alone	718,310
Black or African American alone	96,324
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2,209
Asian alone	32,433
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	797
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	97,592
Additional identification	
Mexican	17,620
Puerto Rican	30,535
Cuban	18,297
Other Hispanic or Latino	31,140
Cherokee tribal grouping	N
Chippewa tribal grouping	N
Navajo tribal grouping	N
Sioux tribal grouping	N
Asian Indian	4,534
Chinese	2,646
Filipino	6,284
Japanese	659
Korean	1,697
Vietnamese	6,446
Other Asian	10,305
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1,235
Native Hawaiian	284
Guamanian or Chamorro	587
Samoan	24
Other Pacific Islander	340

District 2 (also part of Pasco)	Hillsborough
Total population	1,436,888
White alone	689,662
Black or African American alone	224,445
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2,684
Asian alone	57,782
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	388
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	420,114
Additional identification	
Mexican	78,259
Puerto Rican	128,858
Cuban	104,292
Other Hispanic or Latino	108,705
Cherokee tribal grouping	N
Chippewa tribal grouping	N
Navajo tribal grouping	N
Sioux tribal grouping	N
Asian Indian	26,984
Chinese	9,585
Filipino	5,303
Japanese	896
Korean	2,561
Vietnamese	5,315
Other Asian	7,657
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	388
Native Hawaiian	N
Guamanian or Chamorro	N
Samoan	N
Other Pacific Islander	N

District 3	Hardee	Highlands	Polk	Total
Total population	27,228	105,424	708,009	840,661
White alone	12,865	69,891	407,842	490,598
Black or African American alone	2,082	10,051	104,456	116,589
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	45	0	2,395	2440
Asian alone	212	921	12,550	13683
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	21	0	0	21
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	11,834	21,938	167,229	201,001
Additional identification				
Mexican	10,284	10,450	58,491	79,225
Puerto Rican	839	6,136	70,621	77596
Cuban	278	2,663	11,199	14140
Other Hispanic or Latino	433	2,689	26,918	30040
Cherokee tribal grouping	0	N	N	0
Chippewa tribal grouping	0	N	N	0
Navajo tribal grouping	0	N	N	0
Sioux tribal grouping	0	N	N	0
Asian Indian	19	N	4,356	4375
Chinese	52	N	1,230	1282
Filipino	141	N	3,035	3176
Japanese	0	N	707	707
Korean	0	N	1,110	1110
Vietnamese	0	N	1,423	1423
Other Asian	0	N	1,200	1200
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	21	0	0	21
Native Hawaiian	0	N	N	0
Guamanian or Chamorro	21	N	N	21
Samoan	0	N	N	0
Other Pacific Islander	0	N	N	0

District 4 (also part of Sarasota)	Manatee
Total population	394,855
White alone	279,703
Black or African American alone	31,725
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	618
Asian alone	9,139
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	235
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	66,075
Additional identification	
Mexican	34,704
Puerto Rican	8,068
Cuban	5,171
Other Hispanic or Latino	18,132
Cherokee tribal grouping	N
Chippewa tribal grouping	N
Navajo tribal grouping	N
Sioux tribal grouping	N
Asian Indian	1,127
Chinese	1,894
Filipino	663
Japanese	67
Korean	365
Vietnamese	4,110
Other Asian	995
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	235
Native Hawaiian	N
Guamanian or Chamorro	N
Samoan	N
Other Pacific Islander	N

District 5 (also part of Sarasota)	DeSoto	Charlotte
Total population	36,399	184,998
White alone	20,017	154,240
Black or African American alone	4,402	9,781
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	45	224
Asian alone	194	2,517
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	46	215
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	11,352	13,711
Additional identification		
Mexican	9,844	4,139
Puerto Rican	267	4,622
Cuban	469	788
Other Hispanic or Latino	772	4,162
Cherokee tribal grouping	25	N
Chippewa tribal grouping	0	N
Navajo tribal grouping	0	N
Sioux tribal grouping	0	N
Asian	194	2,517
Asian Indian	35	N
Chinese	18	N
Filipino	79	N
Japanese	0	N
Korean	62	N
Vietnamese	0	N
Other Asian	0	N
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	46	215
Native Hawaiian	0	N
Guamanian or Chamorro	42	N
Samoan	4	N
Other Pacific Islander	0	N

District 6 (also part of Glades)	Okeechobee	St. Lucie	Martin	Indian River
Total population	40,572	321,128	160,912	157,413
White alone	25,805	181,629	124,067	118,145
Black or African American alone	3,337	63,497	8,835	13,492
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	229	0	316	111
Asian alone	380	5,676	2,649	1,188
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	63	232	0	264
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	10,217	62,776	22,433	19,962
Additional identification				
Mexican	7,740	12,766	8,839	6,497
Puerto Rican	515	16,210	3,381	5,843
Cuban	1,052	10,760	1,937	3,603
Other Hispanic or Latino	910	23,040	8,276	4,019
Cherokee tribal grouping	0	N	N	N
Chippewa tribal grouping	0	N	N	N
Navajo tribal grouping	0	N	N	N
Sioux tribal grouping	0	N	N	N
Asian Indian	18	N	N	N
Chinese	0	N	N	N
Filipino	283	N	N	N
Japanese	0	N	N	N
Korean	3	N	N	N
Vietnamese	0	N	N	N
Other Asian	76	N	N	N
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	86	376	0	264
Native Hawaiian	23	N	N	N
Guamanian or Chamorro	30	N	N	N
Samoaan	33	N	N	N
Other Pacific Islander	0	N	N	N

District 7 (also part of Hendry & Glades)	Lee
Total population	754,610
White alone	500,358
Black or African American alone	64,553
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	487
Asian alone	12,098
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	272
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	165,233
Additional identification	
Mexican	42,517
Puerto Rican	32,712
Cuban	46,145
Other Hispanic or Latino	43,859
Cherokee tribal grouping	N
Chippewa tribal grouping	N
Navajo tribal grouping	N
Sioux tribal grouping	N
Asian Indian	1,304
Chinese	2,547
Filipino	4,583
Japanese	355
Korean	602
Vietnamese	1,576
Other Asian	1,436
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	399
Native Hawaiian	N
Guamanian or Chamorro	N
Samoan	N
Other Pacific Islander	N

District 8	Palm Beach
Total population	1,485,941
White alone	799,421
Black or African American alone	267,692
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	875
Asian alone	41,718
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	525
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	340,570
Additional identification	
Mexican	53,702
Puerto Rican	44,050
Cuban	56,098
Other Hispanic or Latino	186,720
Cherokee tribal grouping	N
Chippewa tribal grouping	N
Navajo tribal grouping	N
Sioux tribal grouping	N
Asian Indian	15,408
Chinese	9,058
Filipino	4,636
Japanese	1,017
Korean	1,346
Vietnamese	4,343
Other Asian	6,251
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1,017
Native Hawaiian	N
Guamanian or Chamorro	N
Samoan	N
Other Pacific Islander	N

District 9	Broward
Total population	1,951,260
White alone	689,186
Black or African American alone	540,636
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	3,829
Asian alone	71,268
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	1,267
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	593,733
Additional identification	
Mexican	37,193
Puerto Rican	99,104
Cuban	125,867
Other Hispanic or Latino	331,569
Cherokee tribal grouping	N
Chippewa tribal grouping	N
Navajo tribal grouping	N
Sioux tribal grouping	N
Asian Indian	25,103
Chinese	18,168
Filipino	5,165
Japanese	1,671
Korean	4,247
Vietnamese	9,673
Other Asian	8,636
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1,816
Native Hawaiian	N
Guamanian or Chamorro	N
Samoan	N
Other Pacific Islander	N

District 10	Miami-Dade
Total population	2,715,516
White alone	365,131
Black or African American alone	436,864
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	2,321
Asian alone	41,372
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	590
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	1,845,646
Additional identification	
Mexican	62,257
Puerto Rican	100,245
Cuban	985,704
Other Hispanic or Latino	697,440
Cherokee tribal grouping	331
Chippewa tribal grouping	0
Navajo tribal grouping	17
Sioux tribal grouping	97
Asian Indian	10,668
Chinese	13,503
Filipino	6,994
Japanese	1,486
Korean	1,705
Vietnamese	3,024
Other Asian	5,909
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	751
Native Hawaiian	122
Guamanian or Chamorro	188
Samoan	85
Other Pacific Islander	356

District 14 (only US Virgin Island data available)	US Virgin Is.
Total population	108,612
Black or African American alone	82,750
White alone	14,218
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	320
Asian alone	1,215
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	28

District 20 (also part of Hendry & Monroe)	Collier
Total population	378,488
White alone	236,290
Black or African American alone	25,431
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	749
Asian alone	5,356
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	106,743
Additional identification	
Mexican	38,473
Puerto Rican	7,755
Cuban	29,437
Other Hispanic or Latino	31,078
Cherokee tribal grouping	N
Chippewa tribal grouping	N
Navajo tribal grouping	N
Sioux tribal grouping	N
Asian Indian	N
Chinese	N
Filipino	N
Japanese	N
Korean	N
Vietnamese	N
Other Asian	N
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	112
Native Hawaiian	N
Guamanian or Chamorro	N
Samoan	N
Other Pacific Islander	N

Hendry Co. (part of Districts 7 & 20)	
Total population	40,127
White alone	13,127
Black or African American alone	4,407
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	571
Asian alone	324
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	21,219
Additional identification	
Mexican	12,863
Puerto Rican	1,283
Cuban	4,135
Other Hispanic or Latino	2,938
Cherokee tribal grouping	6
Chippewa tribal grouping	0
Navajo tribal grouping	0
Sioux tribal grouping	46
Asian Indian	41
Chinese	10
Filipino	157
Japanese	8
Korean	0
Vietnamese	34
Other Asian	74
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0
Native Hawaiian	0
Guamanian or Chamorro	0
Samoan	0
Other Pacific Islander	0

Glades (part of Districts 6 & 7)	
Total population	13,363
White alone	8,053
Black or African American alone	1,762
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	516
Asian alone	54
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2,790
Additional identification	
Mexican	1,669
Puerto Rican	214
Cuban	443
Other Hispanic or Latino	464
Cherokee tribal grouping	1
Chippewa tribal grouping	0
Navajo tribal grouping	2
Sioux tribal grouping	0
Asian Indian	51
Chinese	0
Filipino	0
Japanese	0
Korean	0
Vietnamese	0
Other Asian	3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0
Native Hawaiian	0
Guamanian or Chamorro	0
Samoan	0
Other Pacific Islander	0

Sarasota (part of Districts 4 & 5)	
Total population	426,718
White alone	353,850
Black or African American alone	18,164
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	747
Asian alone	7,263
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	157
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	39,848
Additional identification	
Mexican	11,863
Puerto Rican	5,900
Cuban	5,810
Other Hispanic or Latino	16,275
Cherokee tribal grouping	N
Chippewa tribal grouping	N
Navajo tribal grouping	N
Sioux tribal grouping	N
Asian Indian	451
Chinese	2,893
Filipino	2,043
Japanese	292
Korean	482
Vietnamese	536
Other Asian	908
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	238
Native Hawaiian	N
Guamanian or Chamorro	N
Samoan	N
Other Pacific Islander	N

Pasco (part of Districts 2 & 15)	
Total population	510,593
White alone	385,808
Black or African American alone	26,225
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1,429
Asian alone	12,547
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	327
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	74,279
Additional identification	
Mexican	13,974
Puerto Rican	31,031
Cuban	9,970
Other Hispanic or Latino	19,304
Cherokee tribal grouping	502
Chippewa tribal grouping	100
Navajo tribal grouping	25
Sioux tribal grouping	40
Asian Indian	3,726
Chinese	2,479
Filipino	2,540
Japanese	129
Korean	910
Vietnamese	1,665
Other Asian	1,422
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	335
Native Hawaiian	77
Guamanian or Chamorro	112
Samoan	73
Other Pacific Islander	73



**Area 15 - South Florida, the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands,
Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands**
**with gratitude to BC/Yukon Area 79, who paved the way for Remote Communities,
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*~ In Love and Service,
Area 15 Remote Communities Committee
Panel 69*