



South Florida Area 15

2023 General Service Committee 2024

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

4th Quarter Business Meeting - Oct. 6, 2024

Boca Raton Marriott - Hosted by District 8

This is a closed business meeting open to members only.

Interpretation available for Spanish and American Sign Language

Delegate

Lisa D
delegate@area15aa.org

Chairperson

Donna W
chair@area15aa.org

Treasurer

Karen V
treasurer@area15aa.org

Registrar

Robin P
registrar@area15aa.org

Recording Secretary

Bronwyn F
secretary@area15aa.org

1. Open with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer
 - Preamble
 - Reading of the 12 Traditions
 - Reading of the 12 Concepts
2. Chairperson's remarks Donna W
3. Registrar's roll call, report Robin P
4. Recording Secretary's report Bron F
5. Treasurer's report Karen V
6. Finance Committee report (**Vote count closes after report**) Wayne H
7. District Chairpersons' reports
8. Delegate's report Lisa D
9. Quarterly Coordinator Committee:
 - A. Chairperson Debbie C
 - B. Secretary/Treasurer Cindy L
10. Grapevine/LaViña Committee:
 - A. Chairperson Enrique S
 - B. Secretary/Treasurer Jose M
11. Corrections Committee:
 - A. Chairperson Mike A
 - B. Secretary/Treasurer Keith D
12. Treatment Facilities Committee:
 - A. Chairperson Mike B
 - B. Secretary/Treasurer Sophie C
13. Archives Committee:
 - A. Chairperson Ric B
 - B. Secretary/Treasurer Gina L
14. Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee:
 - A. Chairperson John A
 - B. Secretary/Treasurer Jacque T
15. Intergroup/Central Office:
 - A. Chairperson Allen C
16. Current Practice Committee:
 - A. Co-Chair Tom W
 - B. Secretary/Treasurer Amy W
17. Accessibilities Committee:
 - A. Chairperson Carol H
 - B. Secretary/Treasurer Carol R
18. Literature Committee:
 - A. Chairperson Isabel PC
 - B. Secretary/Treasurer Kevin O

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| 19. Website Committee: | | |
| | A. Chairperson | Jean S |
| | B. Secretary/Treasurer | Nancy H |
| 20. Spanish Linguistic Committee: | | |
| | A. Chairperson | Carlos G |
| | B. Secretary/Treasurer | J. Salud P |
| 21. Area 15 State Convention Committee: | | |
| | A. Chairperson | TBD |
| 22. Remote Communities: | | |
| | A. Chairperson | Suzie J |
| | B. Secretary/Treasurer | Tania W |
| 23. Outreach Committee: | | |
| | A. Chairperson | Adie M |
| | B. Secretary/Treasurer | Betsy BF |
| 24. Old Business: | | |
| | Hosts for Area-approved signed contracts: | Quarterly Coordinator |
| | Oct. 3-5, 2025 (Boca Raton) | Committee |
| | Jan. 9-11, 2026 (Ft. Lauderdale) | |
| | April 10-12, 2026 (Boca Raton) | |
| 25. New Business: | | |
| | Presentation of 2025 Area 15 draft budget | Finance Committee |

Motion A:

To waive the hotel contract acquisition process outlined in Motion 745 (October 2015) and Motion 774 (October 2018) for the next bid cycle, due to be brought to the body for approval in October 2025, and allow the Area 15 Quarterly Coordinator committee the opportunity to work with a single hotel on a contract that could bring all Area 15 assemblies in the next bid cycle (July 2026-April 2028) to one centrally located hotel within the geographic area of Area 15. Respectfully submitted, Debbie C, Quarterly Coordinator Committee chairperson on behalf of the Quarterly Coordinator Committee

Background A:

Contracting with a single location that is centrally located, provides abundant meeting space and hotel rooms for our group, and offers an equitable distance traveled would better meet the needs of members attending Area 15 Quarterly Assemblies. This option was discussed at the Quarterly Coordinator Committee meeting at the July assembly, where we met at a location that fully met our needs. This discussion was heavily supported and was the catalyst of this motion. The Quarterly Coordinator Committee normally begins negotiations for the Area's next bid cycle in January of odd-numbered years; however, exploring and negotiating this option should begin immediately to determine if this is a possibility. Serving our membership regarding distance traveled, comfort, access to meetings, and general preferences as an Area are important considerations. Should this option be executable, and should it meet the Area's needs, it could be requested for another, or all, future bid cycles.

Motion B:

That Area 15 adhere to Motion 309, approved by the body in January 1996, requiring the Area to assume financial responsibility for all expenses incurred by the Delegate in performing his or her duties by gradually increasing the annual contribution to the General Service Conference to cover the Delegate's expense to attend the Conference by an additional \$2,000 per year until the Area is covering the current full cost of \$9,000. Should the Delegate's cost to attend the Conference increase in future years, the Delegate will include the increase in his or her budget request to the Area 15 Finance Committee for the following calendar year. Respectfully submitted, Lisa D, Area 15 Delegate, Panel 73

Background B:

Historically, South Florida Area 15 has sent no more than the minimum amount suggested to reimburse the Conference for what it costs to support our Delegate at the annual Conference. At the same time, Area 15 routinely contributes upwards of \$50,000 annually to the General Service Board. Directing more of our funds to pay for our Delegate's Conference expenses, rather than putting the burden on the Conference, would allow us to be more fully self-supporting in accordance with the Seventh Tradition. As outlined in the A.A. Service Manual attending the annual Conference is the primary responsibility of the Delegate along with communication with the area. Also, in the A.A. Service Manual it lists the annual Conference as the number 1 expense for the Delegate and currently our area is not fully fiscally responsible.

Motion C:

That Area 15 form a Technology Committee to serve the needs of the Area with tasks including but not limited to managing cloud-based storage, assisting with online meetings hosted by Area officers and Area committees on the Area's online platform, managing audio recordings, tracking the Area's technology assets, transferring Area emails at rotation, and making recommendations for new and/or enhanced technology as well as technology vendors. The committee would consist of a chairperson appointed by the Area chairperson; a member of the Area 15 Website Committee; up to five members from across the Area who have technology knowledge invited by the committee; and a secretary-treasurer selected from among the committee members. Technology Committee meetings will be held at Area 15 assemblies at a time determined by the Area 15 Quarterly Coordinator Committee and between assemblies using the Area 15 online platform at the discretion of the committee. While the committee will focus on Area technology needs, a portion of each meeting will be designated as a forum for District technology committee members to share experience with each other. The Technology Committee chairperson will report on the committee's activities in the manner consistent with all Area committees. The budget for the committee's first year will be \$150 with any changes in this amount determined through the annual Area 15 budgeting process. Submitted by Evonne L, DCM, District 9, and Web Servant, Area 15 Website Committee

Background C:

The chief recommendation of the Area 15 ad hoc Technology Committee, which met from January 2021 through July 2022, was that Area 15 create a technology committee to assist the Area with the following technology needs: smoother transitions and continuity from panel to panel for Area officers and Area committees; technology discovery and adoption; security, anonymity and storage assistance to the Area; and overall ongoing technology support to the Area. The need for an Area technology committee has continued to grow since the ad hoc Technology Committee delivered its final report two years ago. With no designated resource for meeting these needs, the Area 15 Website Committee has assumed the responsibility although it is not within its scope. An Area Technology Committee would be a valuable asset in facilitating the work of Area 15 trusted servants while serving as a forum for members of District technology committees.

Motion D:

Area 15 Assemblies can be hosted in facilities outside the geographic boundaries of the Area. Submitted by Greg A, District 1 Chairperson

Background D:

This motion would provide flexibility in finding hotels that are large enough and provide new locations to help with equitable rotation. The Orlando has a number of convention centers that would provide a competitive environment to help reduce prices.

Motion E:

The annual agenda review assemblies for the General Service Conference will rotate locations from East to West each year. Submitted by Greg A, District 1 Chairperson

Background E:

The farther away district members have to travel to attend assemblies, the lower the participation rate. Rotating the annual agenda review assemblies would provide GSRs across the Area easier opportunities to share their group conscience and become a part of the process.

Motion F:

That the Panel 75 chairperson of South Florida Area 15 select A.A. members to serve as an Ad-Hoc committee to be structured as follows:

- a. Two Co-Chairpersons, one from a northern district and one from a southern district. These co-chairpersons will be selected from those currently serving as district chairpersons or DCMs.
- b. Five additional committee members, one each representing different quadrants of the south Florida mainland (NW, NE, SE, SW) and one from either the Florida Keys or one of the outlying islands (U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands).
- c. The following Panel 75 members of Area 15 will serve as non-voting ex-officio members:
 - Area 15 Chairperson
 - A representative of the Current Practice Committee
 - A representative of the Quarterly Coordinator Committee
- d. Any vacancy on the committee will be filled in accordance with the stated structure by the currently sitting Area 15 chairperson.

The purpose and scope of this Ad-Hoc Committee:

- a. To gather information and documentation for South Florida Area 15 to make an informed decision about the possibility of forming a new delegate area, thus dividing Area 15 into two (2) general service areas. This shall include all information needed to complete an “application for an additional delegate area” as prescribed in Appendix F of the 2021 edition of the AA Service Manual.
- b. The committee will meet monthly, either in person or via virtual means.
- c. The 1st meeting shall be held no later than January 31, 2025.
- d. The Area 15 chairperson will provide a copy of the “application for an additional delegate area” to all members of the ad hoc committee once it is formed.
- e. To present for approval proposed boundaries for each of the general service areas no later than the July 2025 South Florida Area 15 business meeting.
- f. To report the committee’s progress at each South Florida Area 15 quarterly business meeting until the work of the committee is complete.
- g. To present the completed “Application for Additional Delegate Area” for approval via a motion at an Area 15 business meeting no later than the July 2026 Quarterly.
- If the motion is approved by the body, Area 15 will submit the application to GSO prior to the deadline (currently Sept. 30) for Proposed Agenda Items for inclusion at the next General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- h. The committee’s work shall be considered complete upon submission of the application or the disapproval of the motion.

Submitted by Bree H, District 7 Chairperson

Background F:

Attendance at Area 15 business meetings has grown beyond the capacity of hotels in our “rotation.”

- There are fewer hotels willing to contract with Area 15 considering our space needs, quarterly assembly dates and our desired price points.
- These limitations will stifle the ability to include even more service representatives.
- Development of infrastructure has not kept up with population growth, thus traffic continues to worsen. Commutes from the furthest districts to some sites in our current rotation locations exceeds 3 hours.
- Excessive commute times to assemblies is a reason stated for two northwestern districts to consider moving from Area 15 to Area 14.

Dividing into 2 General Service Areas will:

- Reduce commute distances for Area Assemblies.
- Reduce the needs for hotel space which will allow more options for contracting future assemblies
- It will allow for continued growth in the number of groups represented at assemblies.

Motion G:

To update Motion 196 as follows: Members of the Area 15 Finance Committee shall include: a Chairperson appointed by the Area 15 Chairperson; the incumbent Area 15 Treasurer; the immediate Past Delegate or an Area 15 Past Delegate appointed by the Finance Committee Chairperson if the immediate Area 15 Past Delegate is unable to serve; two members appointed by the Finance Committee Chairperson, one of whom serves as Secretary; and the Area 15 Chairperson as ex-officio member. The Past Delegate is defrayed one night’s lodging by Area 15. Submitted by Tom W and Shirley P, Area 15 Current Practice Committee Co-Chairs, on behalf of the Area 15 Current Practice Committee.

Background G:

This will create current practice to be used if the immediate Past Delegate is unable to serve and will ensure that the Past Delegate member is defrayed one night’s lodging. The motion does not change the composition of the Finance Committee.

Motion H:

If the Area 15 Quarterly Coordinator Committee cannot find hotel accommodations that alternate the Area 15 Quarterly Assemblies from east to west as required by motion 774, the Committee will first bring a motion to the Area 15 body asking that Motion 774 be temporarily waived before submitting the new slate of hotels to the body for approval. Respectfully submitted by JoAnn B, District 2 Chairperson

Background H:

This motion would ensure the Quarterly Coordinator Committee notify and ask the body to deviate from Area 15 current practices. Area 15’s slate of hotels for July 2024-April 2026 included six east coast and two west coast locations with the only change being the Miami hotels contract fell through which opened July 2024 and the Area was able to procure a contract with a west coast hotel in Cape Coral.

Motion I:

Area 15 defines the east Districts as Districts 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 19 and west Districts as Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 15, 20, 21 and the Orlando region. Respectfully submitted by JoAnn B, District 2 Chairperson

Background I:

This would provide greater flexibility in finding hotels by clarifying East and West Districts and would not limit it to coastal districts.

26. Adjourn business meeting

27. Election Assembly