

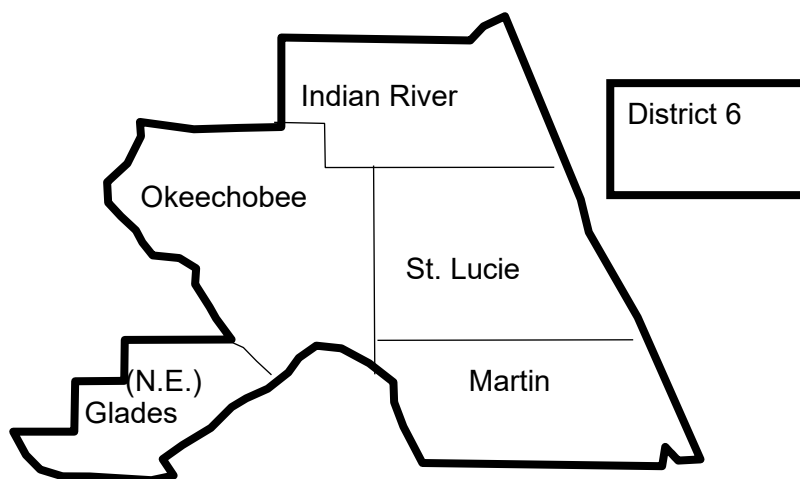
**DISTRICT 6 WELCOMES THE
NEW
GSR AND
ALTERNATE GSR**

TO

GENERAL SERVICE

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS PAMPHLET IS TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES TO MAKE YOUR
SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

INFORMATIVE - ENJOYABLE - PLEASANT - REWARDING



**DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK QUESTIONS OR SEEK ADVICE FROM YOUR SERVICE SPONSOR, OFFICERS,
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS OR DCMS**

District 6 is one of 19 districts in Area 15 (South Florida)

**Area 15 stretches from Pasco County in the Northwest to Miami Dade County in the Southeast. It also
includes the Florida Keys, Bahamas, US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten and Cayman
Islands**

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THIS IS THE FORMAT FOR CONDUCTING THE NEW GSR ORIENTATION

This will help each individual presenting the orientation to give information in a similar manner. The orientation should take about 15 to 20 minutes.

ORIENTATION WILL BEGIN BEFORE ROLL CALL AND END AT 7:20 PM

Review these pages with the new GSRs and AGSRs with emphasis on orientation, GSR preamble, GSR role, GSR service sponsor, and GSR report

Give them suggestions. Let them know that the rest of the booklet can be read at their leisure. Emphasize our committees that they should start looking about a committee to join for a service commitment. Emphasize to them if they have questions or lenient misunderstandings seek the advice of the Current Officers, DCM's, ACMs, GSRs, AGSRs, and Committee Chairpersons.

Advise them to review the area assembly information, voice at GSO and the Third Legacy Procedure

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TERMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

AGSR--ALTERNATE GSR
GSR--- GENERALSERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
ACM-- ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBER
DCM--DISTRICT COMITTEE MEMBER
GSO-- GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

First printing 6/2001 District 6 Motion # 294

Revised 2005 Combined with a general information pamphlet for all trusted servants in District 6--8/2001 District 6 Motion # 295

Revised 2011--Remained combined

Revised 2012--Remained combined

Revised 2018--Returned to original format for GSR Orientation and separate pamphlet for general District 6 information

Revised 2022--GSR Orientation only

WELCOME NEW DISTRICT 6 GSRS

"The strength of our whole A.A.service structure starts with the group with the general service representative group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the GSR's importance." – Bill W

In your new role as a general service representative (GSR), you have entered a new dimension of 12th step work by becoming the link between your group's conscience to the District, the Area, the Area Assembly, and the General Service Office (GSO) in New York. In your leadership GSR, you will be well-informed and protect the right of the individual group to be heard and acknowledged, the matter how much of a minority opinion that member represents. This will ensure that any changes within AA comes as a response to the needs of all members and not just the few.

Your dedication to the fellowship of AA will be most evident in your home group is you ensure that the doors of your meetings remain open, that the 12 traditions are being practiced and understood, that your group is well-informed, and that your meeting is a safe place for the suffering alcoholic.

DISTRICT SIX SERVICE STRUCTURE

Individual Members

District 6 AA Home Groups

GSRs and Alternate
GSRs represent their Home
Groups

DCMs and Alternate DCMs
represent all groups in
their sub-district and help
advise GSRs

District Standing
Service Committees

District
Officers

Events
Website
Archives
Literature
Grapevine
Corrections
Room and Ride
Current Practice
Treatment Facilities
Remote Communities
Accessibility
Public Info/ Cooperation with
the Professional
Community
Finance

Chairperson
Alternate Chairperson
Treasurer
Registrar
Recording
Secretary
Finance

WHAT IS GENERAL SERVICE

Open quotation marks or twelve-step – carrying the message – is the basic service that a fellowship gives: this is our principal aim in the main reason for our existence therefore, AA is more than a set of principles: it is a society of alcoholics in action we must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither in those who haven't been given the truth they die.

Hence, an AA service is anything Whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer 10 – ranging all the way from the twelve-step itself to a 10 – cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to AA's General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all the services is our Third Legacy of Service.

Services include meeting places, hospital cooperation, and intergroup offices: they mean pamphlets, books, and good publicity of almost every description. They call for committees, delegates, trustees in conferences. And not to be forgotten, they need voluntary money contributions from within the fellowship.

The most vital yet least understood, group of services that AA has are those that enable us to function mainly the general service office, AA world services, Inc., AA grapevine, Inc., And the Board of Trustees, known legally as the general service port of Alcoholics Anonymous our worldwide entry in much of our growth since early times are directly traceable to the cluster of the giving activities."

GSR **ORIENTATION**

Welcome to District 6 General Service! We are glad you are here. As a new GSR or AGSR, you are your group's link to AA as a whole. **Our purpose at District 6 is to help you and the members of your group.** We suggest you add this meeting to your calendar for the whole year. **All of the district officers, the standing committee chairpersons, the intergroup/central office liaisons and a pre-designated DCM deliver their current reports of developments and activities during the month.** Some of us like to bring our spondees or a fellow home group member.

After the GSR sharing we have an introduction of all new GSR's and AGSR's and a roll call. The Officers (elected by the GSRs) then give their reports, followed by Committee Chairpersons reports. Next, we discuss Old Business including all motions before the body. GSRs are **voting members both in District 6 and South Florida Area 15**. All motions before the district or area must be on the agenda for that meeting and the motion maker must be present in order for the motion to be heard. The GSR is **allowed to make motions at the District 6 level but are not allowed to make motions at the South Florida Area 15 level**. GSRs have the right of participation at both levels. Which means they can express their group conscience views as well as their own views. Once you have finished your term as a GSR (**usually two years when each panel of officers are selected at voting assemblies in October-Area 15 and November- District 6**) you may move forward in the service structure as an Alternate Committee Member and eventually a DCM. **All groups in District 6 will be assigned a DCM (who may or may not have an ACM)**. This person will be visiting your group and the other groups in their sub district and will be able to provide all GSR's and group members, general help and information about how the group works, and participates in service. After you have met you DCM, please consult the DCM about their responsibilities so you can start to become aware of the job ahead for you. The DCM is a valuable source of information for understanding our traditions and concepts.

You may stand for a DCM position if you have served two years of continuous sobriety and one year as a past or present GSR in any of the 93 areas within the United States and Canada. (Motion 508) You may stand for a district officer position if you have no less than two years of continuous sobriety and no less than one year as a past or present DCM in the South Florida area. (Motion 321)

GSR **PREAMBLE**

We are the GSRs. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of AA. We realize that the ultimate authority in AA is a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that the group can reach an informed group conscience. Passing along this group conscience we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship. Let us: therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups and AA as a whole. From Box 4-5-9 Aug/Sept. 1989

GSR **ROLE**

In your service manual (**Chapter 1, Introduction to General Service**), you will find a diagram of an upside down triangle describing the relationship of the GSR to your Group, District and to the rest of the AA service structure. Every person below the GSR on this diagram serves the GSR and their group. This means that over time the GSRs that came before you felt that certain services were needed for the district and were to be accomplished in certain ways. They came to an **agreement (voted on as a motion) and placed these decisions in a Book of Current Practices**. The motions in the current practice book become our District 6 **guidelines** on how we run our district. The area also has a book of current practices that they use for their guidelines. Many of us use a Service Sponsor to help guide us through all this information. To obtain a service sponsor you can ask an experienced individual, currently serving in General Service, or someone who has served before

GSR SERVICE SPONSOR

The service sponsor and or a DCM will explain what a home group is and is not. (**Chapter 1 The Group and its GSR IN THE SERVICE MANUAL**) They can help you obtain another group member involved as an Alternate GSR. The Service sponsor will help you learn the traditions and concepts along with the help of your DCM. It is suggested that the members involved with service should have a tradition meeting in their program. The GSR attends, the GSR sharing sessions at the monthly district meeting and at the area quarterlies. It is suggested that the GSRs listen to the committee chairperson reports at the district meeting and make a decision as to which committee they would like to serve on. It is suggested that all new GSRs join a district committee of their choice, **one to two months after attending their first District meeting.** This decision should be discussed with your service sponsor and be based on your general interests. Each month it will be requested that each new GSR, from the current serving District 6 chairperson, as to what committee they will be interested in joining. **This is not a decision you have to make right away.** But eventually we would like everyone to be on a committee. It is suggested that the alternate GSR becomes a member of the Grapevine committee. However they may join the same committee as their GSR or a committee of their choice. Our General Service Structure for Alcoholics Anonymous is based on committee work.

GSR REPORT

It's important to get your group used to hearing a GSR report. **For a start**, we suggest that you make District and Group Event announcements at your meetings when there is a call for AA related announcements. During the Group's regular business meeting, break down the information into short bullet points. If an informed group conscience is needed so that you can vote on behalf of your group, then you will need to give more in-depth information. **You will be receiving a GSR Packet from GSO in the mail a couple of months after registering with the District Registrar. (The envelope does not mention AA.)** It will include a copy of the Service Manual, several sheets with A.A. Guidelines for various committees or on certain topics, and several Pamphlets. We have found the "A.A. Group" pamphlet especially useful. Bring the information back to their group with a brief report at the group business meeting. Allow for questions and answers. Know who your DCM is and invite them to attend this meeting or welcome them when they show up at your meeting. Discuss district and Quarterly motions with your group and get the group conscience for voting purposes at the district and area. Contact your DCM if you will not be able to attend either the district or quarterly meetings and give them your group's conscience. Know your voting rights. Vote on all issues at both the district and area business assemblies and general assemblies. Communicate with your DCM on all issues that you do not understand to help your group be informed. **Use and become familiar with the service manual, (listed below) and this local district pamphlet**

ALTERNATE GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

ALTERNATE GSR is generally elected at the same time as the GSR at the home group and is encouraged to assist, participate and share in the same responsibilities as the GSR. **They fill in for voting purposes** for the GSR when the GSR is not present for voting. It is recommended that the **AGSR may serve on the Grapevine Committee**, at the District 6 and the Area 15 level as the Grapevine Representative of their Home Group. It is recommended that the AGSR serves on this Committee by the service manual. However, they may join the same committee as their GSR or a committee of their choice.

Chapter on Home Group
Chapter on GSR/responsibilities
Chapter on DCM/responsibilities
Chapter on the general service conference
Leadership Essay (**Concept 9 Service Manual**)
Third Legacy Procedure (a copy is in this pamphlet)

INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE

"The group conscience is the collective of the group membership and thus represents substantial unanimity on an issue before definitive action is taken. This is achieved by the group members through the sharing of full information, individual points of view, and the practice of A.A. principles. To be fully informed requires a willingness to listen to minority opinions with an open mind."

On sensitive issues, the group works slowly--discouraging formal motions until a clear sense of its collective view emerges. Placing principles before personalities, the membership is wary of dominant opinions. Its voice is heard when a well-informed group arrives at a decision. The result rests on more than a 'yes' or 'no' count—precisely because it is the spiritual expression of the group conscience. The term 'informed group conscience' implies that pertinent information has been studied and all views have been heard before the group votes."

The A.A. Group pamphlet, pp. 28 & 29 reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES

Most standing committee meetings are open to all AA members in District 6. GSRs are asked to volunteer on a committee. The work these committees do is an excellent way for sponsors to introduce service work to those they sponsor and to practice AA's 12th Step. Each of these committees has service work waiting for you. The Finance Committee is the only committee that does not utilize this as this person is appointed by the district chairperson

Any Gen. service representative who has two (2) years of continuous sobriety and one (1) year as a past or present GSR in any of our ninety-three (93) areas within the United States and Canada, nominees must be full time Florida residents living within District 6 can stand for a DCM or an Alternate DCM or a Committee Chairperson or Alternate Committee Chairperson

The Chairperson for each of the District Committee shares a report at both our District Business Meetings and at the Area Quarterlies at the designated workshop. Once you are involved with the committee when you go to our quarterly meetings it is suggested that you go to the workshop for your committee. District committee chairperson reports back to our District with news and information gathered from other Districts and the General Service Office (GSO). A simple description of each committee is noted below. For further information on each committee you can go to the district website. (district6AA.org)

Accessibilities Committee

Volunteers carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to members who have special needs such as visual impairment; deaf or hard of hearing; chronically ill or home bound; and those who are developmentally disabled.

Archives Committee

This is an opportunity to actively share our history; another way we "pass it on"! Members may transport and set up displays at Events, categorize and inventory incoming items

Corrections Committee

This committee carries the AA message of recovery to inmates that cannot attend our meetings. The committee may place and hold meetings in State and County prison facilities and provide literature.

Current Practice Committee

This committee is responsible for updating our current motions to be incorporated into three entities (Legacy of Service, Book of Motions and Current Practice).

Events Committee

District 6 holds four self-supporting events during the course of the year. Events are the Spaghetti Dinner, Ice Cream social and Founders Day, the Okeechobee Fish Fry and the Gratitude Dinner. The events committee also helps out with the Treatment Committee event (Breakfast for Big Books) and of the Corrections Committee event (Bowling for Big Books).

Finance Committee

This committee is responsible to conduct a quarterly review of all District checking accounts and finances and for providing the wired record-keeping documents. The chairperson of the district appoints this chairperson and the chairperson of the committee appoints two members to be on the committee. These members should have financial backgrounds **This committee is not available to volunteer your services**

Grapevine and La' Vina Committee

The Grapevine Committee promotes subscriptions to the AA Grapevine, the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous and La Vina, a bi-monthly publication written by and for Spanish-speaking members of A.A. Presents displays at the district events and to groups as requested

Literature Committee

The Literature Committee reviews and discusses changes in our literature. This will include district 6 service items such as the GSR and responsibilities pamphlets and any other general materials used in our district. Keeps literature on hand.

PI/CPC: Public Information & Cooperation with the Professional Community

The committee provides information about AA to the public, and to those who have contact with alcoholics through their profession. Members might fulfill speaking engagements or place literature in the community.

Remote Communities Committee

The committee carries the AA message to those who may not have easy access to meetings due to geography, language, and other obstacles.

Room and Ride Committee

This committee assists and coordinates rooms and rides for district meetings and area quarterlies (assemblies).

Treatment Facilities Committee

This committee places and coordinates restricted AA meetings for clients/patients in treatment facilities throughout District 6. Individual AA members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities work through this committee.

Website Committee

The Website Committee is responsible for making the District 6 website an increasingly more valuable resource, servicing newcomers seeking help, visitors and members seeking meeting and fellowship opportunities, increasing awareness of service opportunities, and reporting the business of our District.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Officers, Committee Chairpersons and committee members, along with the DCMs, ADCM's, GSRs, and AGSR's which together make up the District 6 Committee. All meet monthly at the District 6 Business Meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at **Indian River State College** in Ft. Pierce. The monthly District 6 Meeting begins at 6:30 PM with the chairperson asking for announcements, and the serenity prayer. Next, At 6:35 pm. the current alternate chairperson conducts DCM/GSR sharing (Tradition Check List read at this time). They will be responsible for the contents for this portion of the meeting. This is where collective experience is shared and helps the GSR and the DCM **become more fully informed in order to better serve their groups**. The participants can exchange questions and answers, problems and solutions encountered by the groups they represent.

During March of each year, much of the District Agenda is devoted to the agenda items that will be discussed in New York in April at the General Service Conference. Background material is made available for all pertinent items on the Conference Agenda. The DCMs, ADCM's, GSRs, and AGSR's from each District will have the opportunity to bring any items of interest or concern to the floor during the April area 15 Assembly before the Delegate attends the General Service Conference later in the month. This is the forum where the voice of the groups is heard and where the Delegate learns the conscience of South Florida Area 15 on most of the Agenda items.

During June of each year the current serving delegate comes to our District to report information from the General Service Conference. All 19 Districts are asked to make two suggested dates for the delegate to come to their district and share the report on the latest General Service Conference. The delegate plans a schedule to visit each district based on the requested dates from everyone. We usually select June as our 1st choice and July as the 2nd choice. We usually are awarded our 1st choice.

During November of even years District 6 holds their elections for the upcoming service panel.

DECLARATION OF UNITY

This we owe to A.A.'s future:
To place our common welfare first; To keep our fellowship united.
For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

I am responsible... When anyone, anywhere, Reaches out for help,
I want the hand of AA always to be there.
and for that: I am responsible.

ABOUT THE AREA ASSEMBLY

As part of your GSR role, attendance at the Area 15 Assembly or “Quarterly” is strongly encouraged. District 6 is a part of **South Florida Area 15 (see map)**. An Assembly is a meeting of the 19 Districts in the Area. These meetings are held quarterly, usually in January, April, July and October. Our districts share the responsibilities for hosting the quarterlies. See Sunday afternoon below.

Attending Assemblies offers you the opportunity to learn more about your duties as a GSR, how to use the Traditions and Concepts in your meetings, and how to better carry the AA message. You will meet with other GSR's for the sharing of ideas and experiences.

The schedule for the Assembly usually looks something like this:

FRIDAY NIGHT: Speaker Meeting and late night discussion meetings for both English and Spanish

SATURDAY: Committee Meetings (all those listed above), Workshops on the Concepts, Traditions and Service Manual, all of which benefit your effectiveness as a GSR. Sharing sessions and workshops for GSR's and DCM's are also scheduled.

SATURDAY NIGHT: Saturday ends with a Banquet and Speaker Meeting, and a late-night discussion meeting for both English and Spanish.

SUNDAY MORNING: Business meeting for South Florida Area 15. Your Group Conscience is carried by your vote. GSRs have the right to participate in discussions at the microphone. GSR's are not allowed to make motions at the area level. GSR will work with their DCM and service sponsor, if they wish to make a motion at the Area level.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON: At our April afternoon assembly we discuss all of the agenda items for the General Service Conference held every year in New York. At our October quarterly on even years we elect a new panel of officers for the area and this is called a voting assembly

LOGISTICS AND FINANCES:

The Service Manual suggests that the group support their GSR in attending these meetings, including financial support, in the spirit of being self-supporting. Some groups pay the entire cost for the GSR to attend and others pay only a portion. The point is that your group be aware of their responsibility, the benefit to them from your attending the Assemblies, and that an **informed Group Conscience prevails**. The DCM can be a valuable resource to answer group questions. The fourth Tradition says your group is autonomous and the GSR has the right to make decisions for the group except when these decisions affect other groups and AA as a whole.

WILL YOUR VOICE BE HEARD AT GSO???

"What in the world is GSO," you ask? Why, it's us. That's right. GSO is each and every one of us in A.A. The initials stand for the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, which is located in New York City, but in reality it is each and every one of us.

Every year in April, the Area Delegates from the United States and Canada, converge upon New York for the annual General Service "Conference." At this Conference, the Delegates, Trustees and GSO Staff members discuss and vote on numerous agenda items concerning the current and future direction and welfare of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The **Delegate from Area 15** attends the Conference as the representative for South Florida, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, St. Maarten, Antigua and Cayman Islands. They represent our collective conscience and ensures that the voice of AAs in Area 15 is heard. For approximately 10 days and sometimes until late into the night, these trusted servants will meet to discuss AA concerns brought to New York from the many Areas represented.

After the Conference, our Delegate will travel to each District's monthly business meeting to give a report to the District body on the New York Conference. Through the GSRS and DCMs, this information is brought back to each of our AA groups.

All this is accomplished in keeping with those pesky Traditions so few of us want to worry or talk about. What's even more, it involves something called the "Concepts" and the "Warranties." Are you confused yet? If so, that's good. Are you curious? That's even better.

The Conference Is what binds our 5-county conclave that makes up District 6 (**Indian River, Martin, North Glades, Okeechobee and St Lucie Counties**) with the rest of the AA world. It is hoped that each group has a GSR, since they are the group's direct link to AA. Other positions you should know about are the following. A DCM is responsible for the **number of groups that they can reasonably expect to keep in touch with, learn their problems, and find ways to contribute to their growth** This will include groups with or without GSRS. Ensuring that all available information finds its way to these GSRS and their respective groups. In addition to GSRS and DCMs, ideally each GSR has an Alternate from the home group they represent and each DCM has an Alternate as well.

SAMPLE AGENDA DISTRICT 6

General Service
South Florida Area 15
District 6

Indian River Community College • 3209 Virginia Ave, Ft. Pierce, FL 34982

Announcements

6:30 PM Open Meeting with Serenity prayer by the current serving chairperson

6:35-7:00 PM Tradition checklist--DCM/GSR SHARING conducted by the current serving alternate chairperson

7:00 PM Introduce **New** GSRs, AGSRs and Guests (new GSRs, AGSRs go to orientation)

7:00-7:20 PM GSR Orientation conducted by either a current serving DCM from one of our counties and or a current serving committee chairperson

Roll call

Select DCM or Committee Chairperson for GSR orientation for next month

Chairperson remarks

Alternate Chairperson's report

Registrar's report

Recording Secretary's report

Treasurer report

DCM report

Select DCM report for next month's report. Each of the counties perform this report on a rotating basis

Old business (selection of DCM's, Alternate DCMs, Committee Chairpersons, postponed motions and GSR committee assignments)

New business/motions

Committee Reports – Committee Chairpersons, Central office/Intergroup liaisons

give or email your reports (submitted in writing) to the recording secretary

1. Accessibilities Archives
2. Corrections/Bridging the gap
3. Current Practice
4. Events
5. Events Treasurer
6. Finance
7. Grapevine La' Vina
8. Literature
9. PI/CPC
10. Remote Communities
11. Room and Ride
12. Treatment/Bridging the gap
13. Website
14. Central Office/Intergroup Liaisons
15. Indian River County
16. Martin County
17. St. Lucie County/Okeechobee County

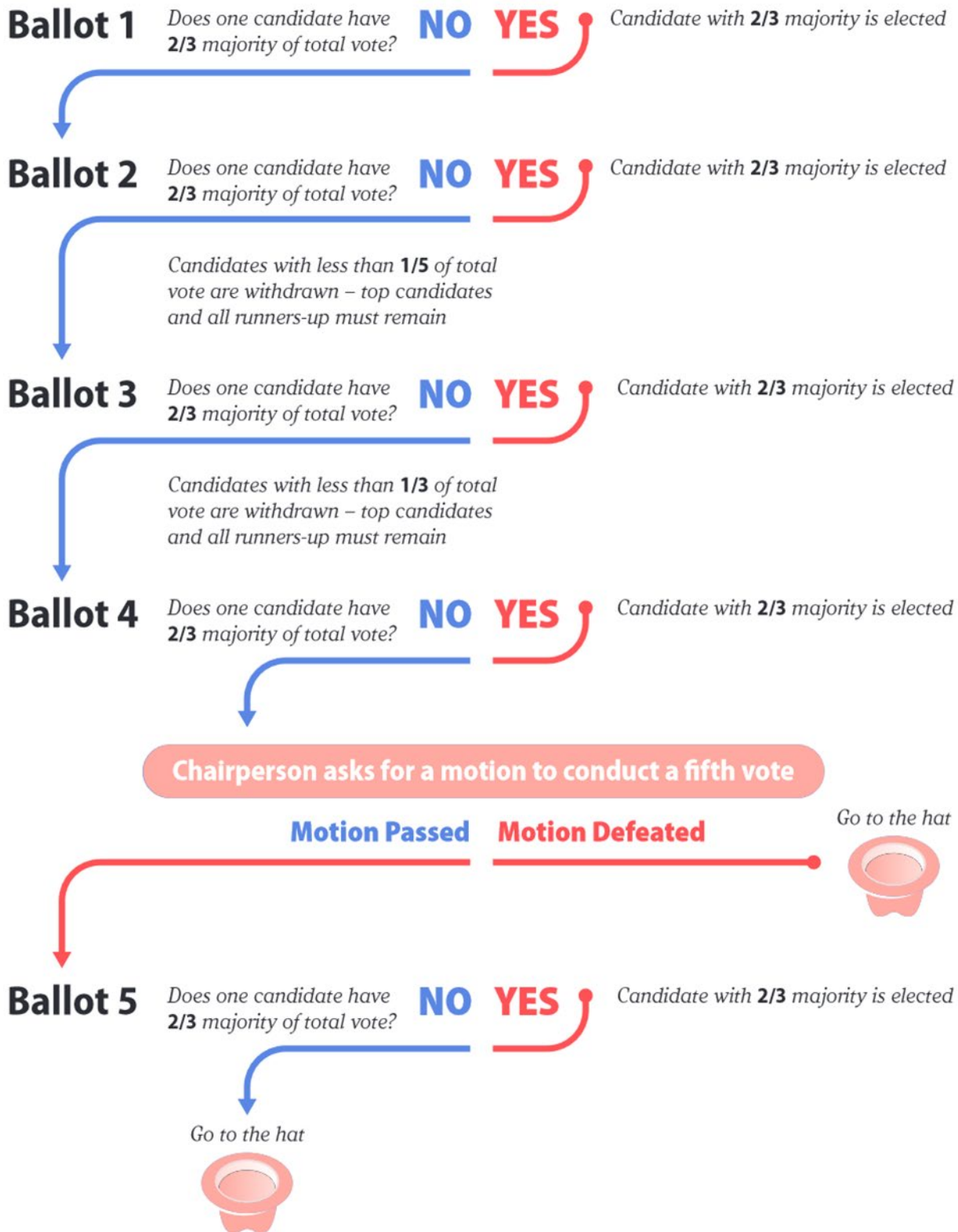
Motion To Adjourn

Declaration of Unity/Responsibility Pledge

Close with the Lord's prayer

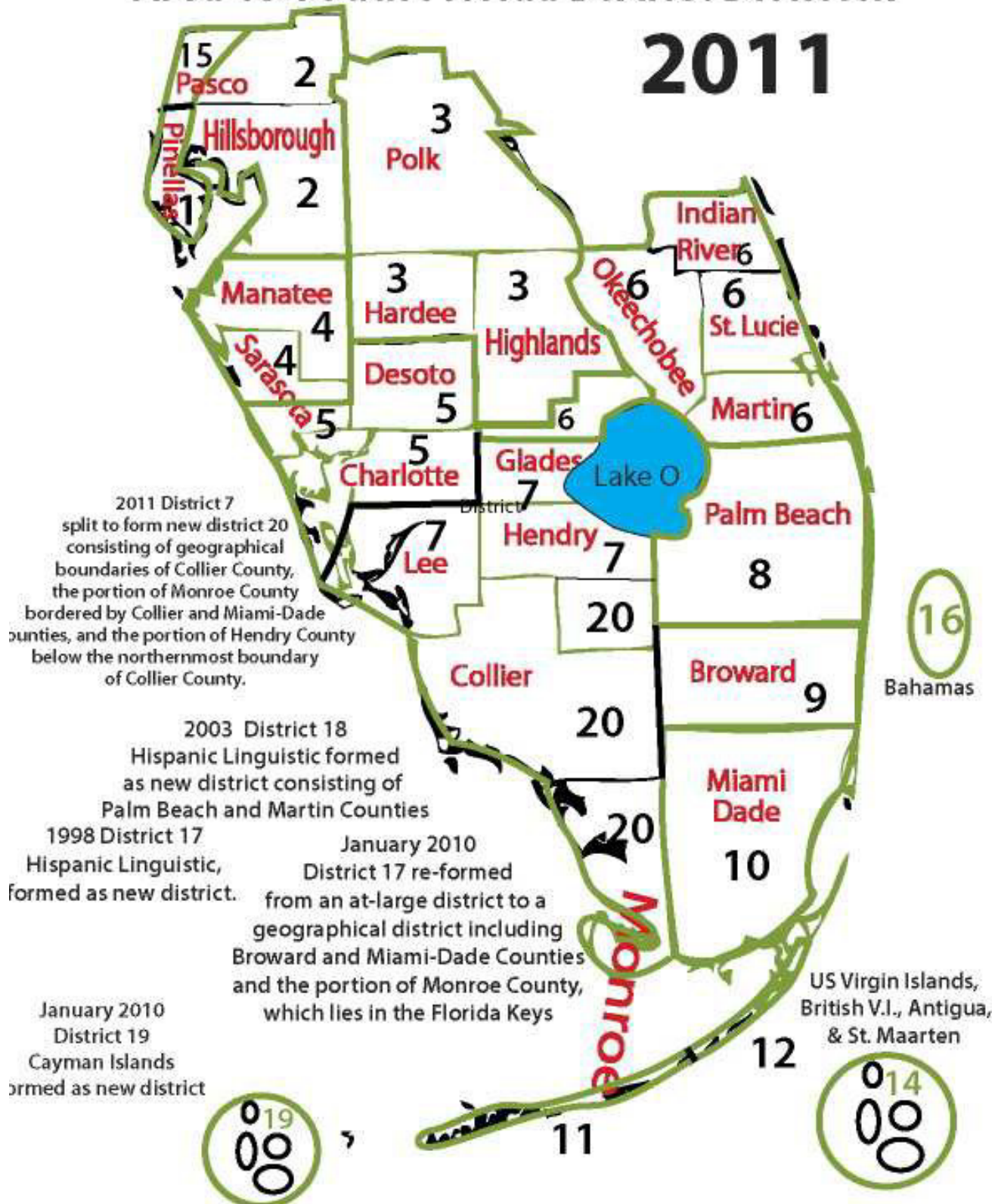
THIRD LEGACY PROCEDURE (also found in the AA Service Manual)
https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_bm-31_3.pdf

1. The names of eligible candidates are posted on a board. All voting members (of the area or Conference body) cast written ballots, one choice to a ballot. The tally for each candidate is posted on the board. • The first candidate to receive two-thirds of the total vote is elected.
2. Withdrawals start after the second ballot. If any candidate has less than one-fifth of the total vote, his or her name is automatically withdrawn — except that the top two candidates must remain. (In case of ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
3. After the third ballot, candidates with less than one-third of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except the two top candidates remain. (In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
4. After the fourth ballot, if no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the candidate with the smallest total is automatically withdrawn, except that the top two candidates remain. In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied second-place candidates remain. • At this point, the chairperson asks for a motion, second, and a simple majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot. • If this motion is defeated, balloting is over and the choice is made by lot — “going to the hat” — immediately. • If the motion carries, a fifth and final ballot is conducted.
5. If after the fifth ballot no election occurs, the chairperson announces that the choice will be made by lot (from the hat). At this point, the top two candidates remain. In case there are ties for first place, all tied first place candidates remain. In case there are no ties for first place, the top candidate and any tied second-place candidates remain.
6. Lots are then drawn by the teller, and the first one “out of the hat” is the delegate (or trustee or other officer).



Area 15 South Florida District Divisions

2011



ORIGINAL REVISED 2022

NOTES