



THE BENDERS

CBIA, 3833 S. Staples Suite S-212, Corpus Christi, TX 78411 (361) 992- 8911 or Toll Free 1 (866) 672-7029 www.cbiaa.org

*“When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.”**



The **Weber Road Nooners Group** celebrated the group’s 25th Anniversary with a party on Saturday, December 5th. As part of the celebration, Amy M. and her decorating committee did a bit of re-decorating. Weber meets at Travis Baptist Church (5802 Weber Road at Schanen – 2nd Floor). They have noon meetings Monday thru Saturday, 5:30 PM meetings Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and a 10:00 AM meeting on Saturday.

Port O'Connor Fellowship Group

The Port O'Connor Group was started in August of 1997 by Lynn R. and Jo M. Prior to that there was no meeting in Port O'Connor. The group was registered with the General Service Office in April of 2000. While the group originally met at 8:00 PM, they now hold open discussion meetings at 7:00 PM on Saturdays at First Baptist Church (5th at Jefferson in Port O'Connor).

- Mike B., Port O'Connor Fellowship Group, Port O'Connor, Texas

Walks with God

Most of the last 28 years has been a joyful journey. However, it has included a few walks with God through "Valleys of the Shadow of Death."

Some of the walks have been of my choosing -- decisions I made with God's guidance and the support of the program. When I was 4 years sober, I decided to end a 14-year relationship. Then 11 years ago I decided to take early retirement at age 55 from a company in New England I'd worked for for 32 years and relocate 2,250 miles away -- back here where I grew up. As I walked through these transitions there were times when it didn't seem like such a good idea after all. An obstacle or a negative thought filled me with fear that I'd made a terrible mistake. I was told to "Remember what you were thinking when you were thinking clearly." Along the way, God opened doors for me and gave me little signs (*like a rainbow when I reached the end of the bridge taking me over the Hudson River on my way to Texas*) that let me know I was on the right path.

Some of the walks have NOT been of my choosing. Ten years ago, I walked through a chemo treatment program for a chronic and treatable, but incurable form of cancer (*leukemia and lymphoma*). God has been with me each step of the way and I have felt surrounded by the love, support, and wisdom of people in the program. My challenge has always been to stay in the moment and do the next right thing: To put one foot in front of the other and walk through it. My friend Ken says, "You don't need the ticket until you get on the train." It's been my experience that God doesn't give me courage or other resources before I need them. I think that's His way of letting me know that I'll always be taken care of. There have been terrifying moments, but not one entirely bad day. As long as I stay in the moment, I have the sense that life is good and I am in God's hands. At times I do not know where I'm going, but I know I'm not lost and I know that I will be alright however it unfolds.

Early in my cancer journey, I was misdiagnosed with acute Erythroleukemia, a "brush fire" cancer that would have killed me in a few months. Some good things came out of that

pathology error - I was referred to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (*ranked #1 cancer hospital in the country*). My doctor is the chairman of their Leukemia Department. I couldn't have better care anywhere. In addition, I was forced to confront and lose my fear of dying.

One of my friends is an anesthesiologist. It is her job to revive people when they die on the operating table. She says part of her job is technical (*the paddles and injections, etc.*) and part of her job is sales, because NOBODY EVER wanted to come back. Baptists, Catholics, Jews, Atheists all liked it better on the other side. She told them, "It's not your time. I promise you that when your time comes, you will return to that place." That told me we will all go to a better place.

C. S. Lewis once said "You ARE a soul. You HAVE a body. It seems to me that people with Alzheimer's sometimes outlive their minds and people with cancer and cardiovascular diseases often outlive their bodies. The soul, the divine within, the essence of who they are lives on forever with their maker.

It occurred to me that there were a few fears that I could and should do something about.

- The fear of being kept alive beyond any hope of quality life because a doctor or a relative couldn't let go. I needed a living will and a health care proxy who was willing and able to pull the plug when the time came.
- The fear of not being ready -- of leaving unfinished business. I needed a current will and directives for cremation and services. I needed to express a few withheld acknowledgements and make a few amends for recent slights. The old amends had been made long ago.
- The fear of 'abandoning' those I care for. Thanks to Al-Anon, I had already detached with love. And the truth is while I made a difference in their lives, I never really was essential. That says it all: I'm not essential and I make a difference. And God loves them and is there for them just as he loves me and is there for me.

What was left was just another Walk with God. I knew that he would go with me every step of the way and that I would be all right forever. It occurred to me that billions of people have successfully died and when my time comes, I'll manage with God's help.

Just for today I am alive and well.

~ Rob M. (2.24.1985) Weber Road Nooners Group, Corpus Christi, TX

Local Stories Wanted for the BENDER

Consider writing your recovery story or an article on an AA topic for publication in this newsletter. Submit your article to cbia@grandecom.net in a Word document or similar format.

MINUTES

CBIA BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING

November 9th 2015

I. OPENING: (6:00PM)

- **Johnie** opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence followed by Serenity Prayer at 6:00 PM.
- **Jimmy** read the CBIA Mission Statement
- **Johnie** read the 12 Traditions

II. ATTENDANCE:

- **Johnie S.** (*Chair*), **Ed B.** (*Trustee*), **Jimmy M.** (*Trustee*), **Ginger S.** (*Trustee*), **Phyllis H.** (*Trustee*) and **Rob M.** (*Office Manager*) were present. **Kelly J.** (*Asst Office Manager*), **Joe R.** (*Vice Chair*) and **Tom K.** (*Treasurer*) were not present.

III. MINUTES:

- Minutes of Quarterly Meeting of October 26th were reviewed.
 - **Phyllis** moved to approve the minutes as read. **Ed** seconded. Motion carried.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- **Rob** presented the October Financial Report.
- **Balance Sheet:** Total CBIA funds as of October 31st were \$19,275.43; \$50.00 in Petty Cash; \$4,158.39 in Checking; \$12,601.20 in Prudent Reserve and \$2,465.84 in the Jamboree Account.

- **Profit & Loss** for the month:

- **Group & Individual Contributions** \$2,054.80.

NOTE: Only 15 / 113 groups contributed this month; only 36 / 113 Groups contributed year-to-date.

- **Sales** (*Books, Chips & Medallions*) \$1,505.50 (*less Cost of Goods Sold \$1,094.45*) for a gain of \$411.05; \$425.00 was spent on Social Events.
- **Total Operating Expenses** for the month were \$2,450.07.
- **Net Loss** for the Month was \$409.22.
- **Ed** moved to approve the Financial Report. **Phyllis** seconded. Motion carried.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **12th Step:** **Phyllis** said she continues to contact the people on the 12th Step List.
- **Archives:** **Johnie** had nothing to report.
- **Bilingual:** **Joe** was not present.

- **Coastal Bender:** Ed said the BENDER looks good and went out on time.
- **Corrections/Treatment Facilities:** Joe was not present.
- **Group Outreach:** Tom was not present. Rob said Tom asks each Trustee to bring in the updated Outreach Worksheets for their groups with contact information, etc. updated.
- **Jamboree:** Jimmy said the Jamboree Committee will meet this coming Saturday. He said Shawn from Victoria will be the local speaker. She was the newest person at the Jamboree 18 years ago and she is still sober.
- **Nominations:** Jimmy noted that three new trustees were elected at the October Quarterly Meeting.
- **Public Information/Cooperate with Professional Community:** Johnie said she had nothing to report.
- **Social:** Ginger said a fun time was had by the 133 people who attended the Halloween Dance. We made a net profit of \$227.01 after paying all expenses. The next event will be the New Year's Eve Dance at St. Bart's Episcopal Church. The first meeting of the New Year's Eve Dance Committee will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, November 21st at the Alanos Cottage (1635 18th Street in CC).
- **Web Site:** Tom was not present. Rob demonstrated the new CBIA web site and showed how the meeting finder function will work by using the Hill Country Intergroup's web site.

VI. OFFICE REPORT:

- **Office Update** – Rob had nothing to report.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

- None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- None.

IX. NEXT BOARD MEETING:

- Next CBIA Board of Trustees meeting Monday December 14th 2015 at 6:00 PM in the CBIA Office.

X. NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING:

- Next CBIA Quarterly Association meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM on Monday January 25th at All Saints Episcopal Church (3026 S Staples).

XI. CLOSING:

- Ed moved to adjourn. Jimmy seconded. Motion carried.
- Johnie closed the meeting with prayer at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob M.

Office Manager



Bender Bits & Pieces



Special Events

2015 Coastal Bend Jamboree (January 22nd – 24th 2016 in CC) *

The 62nd Annual Coastal Bend Jamboree will be held January 22nd – 24th. After a year at the Holiday Inn Marina, the Jamboree will return to the newly-renovated third floor of the Omni Bayfront Hotel. This popular conference is the premier event each year in Coastal Bend Area AA and must not be missed. (*See Registration Form / Flier attached.*)

Some of us who know we will be attending the Jamboree and have the funds are registering now. It would help with the Jamboree's cash flow if you can do that. For the first time, it is now possible to register on-line via Pay Pal at the Jamboree web site (www.cbjamboree.org). Registration costs \$20 until January 15th; \$25 after January 15th.

The hotel is offering a special conference rate of \$115 through January 12th with Group Code 14500812528. The nicest way to attend the Jamboree is to stay in the hotel. (*You can pop upstairs for a quick nap or to change your outfit or to touch up your makeup.*) Staying in the hotel that weekend is another way to support the Jamboree – the cost we pay for the use of the third floor facilities depends on the number of room nights booked that weekend using our Group Code.

2016 SWTA 68 Winter Workshop (January 29th – 31st in San Antonio)

The 2016 Southwest Texas Area 68 Winter Workshop will be held at the [San Antonio Marriot Northwest](#) (3233 NW Loop 410) on January 29th – 31st. The theme will be "SERVICE: A new freedom and a new happiness!" The conference room rate is \$109 per night with code SWTA68.



Bender Bits & Pieces



Service Opportunities

2016 Coastal Bend Jamboree Committee (2nd Saturday of each Month in CC)

The 2016 Jamboree Committee meets at 9:30 AM on the 2nd Saturday of each month from now until the Jamboree (January 22nd – 24th, 2016) at the Alanos Cottage 1635 18th Street in Corpus Christi. Some service opportunities are still available.

Silent Auction Items Are Needed *

See the attached flier for details on donating items, services or gift cards to the silent auction.

Raffle Items Are Needed *

See the attached flier for details on donating raffle baskets or items to be used in making raffle baskets.

Volunteers Needed to Carry the Message in Corrections Facilities

Volunteers are needed to carry the message to alcoholics in corrections facilities. You must be at least 18 years old and not been in trouble with the law (*arrested, incarcerated, pending, etc.*) for at least 18 months. Men work with men and women work with women.

SATF – Corpus Christi

- Attend Meetings to support separate men's and women's meetings at 8:00 PM on alternate Fridays. (*NA provides meetings every other Friday.*) (*New development: prior clearance is now required to attend meetings at SATF.*)
- Activity Sponsors take people to meetings once a week or so. (*Minimum one year sober and prior clearance.*)
- Step Sponsors work the steps with people. (*Minimum two years sober and prior clearance.*)

Avalon (Formerly Reality Ranch) – Corpus Christi

- Attend Meetings to support a men's meeting at 8:00 PM every Sunday. (*Prior clearance is required.*)



Bender Bits & Pieces



Service Opportunities (Continued)

Volunteers Needed to Carry the Message in Corrections Facilities (Continued)

Live Oak County Jail – George West

- Attend Meetings to support a men's meeting at 7:00 PM every Wednesdays. *(Prior clearance is required).*

If you are interested in any of these service opportunities,

- Women should contact District 8D Corrections Chair Joyce T. *(Calallen Group)*.
- Men should call CBIA Corrections Trustee Joe R. *(Alanos Group)* for facilities in Corpus Christi.
- Men should call Dist 8E Corrections Chair Jesse T. *(Choke Canyon Group)* for Live Oak County Jail.

Where clearance is required, provide Joyce or Joe or Jesse your full name, as it appears on your driver's license and your driver's license number and state at least a week prior to service. We cannot publish personal phone numbers or email addresses due to anonymity / media concerns. However, you can call the CBIA office (361) 992-8911 during business hours *(M-F 7:30 – 11:30 AM and 1:30 – 5:30 PM)*

Local Stories Wanted for the BENDER

Consider writing your recovery story or an article on an AA topic for publication in this newsletter. Submit your article to cbia@grandecom.net in a Word document or similar format.

Helpline / 12 Step List

The Helpline is staffed by volunteers who are making sure that the hand of AA is available 24 hours a day in the Coastal Bend area by answering the phones overnight *(5 PM to 8 AM)* and on weekends *(8 AM Saturday to 8 AM Sunday; or 8 AM Sunday to 8 AM Monday)*. A minimum of six months sobriety is required to answer the phones. The helpline is pretty well staffed at present.

If someone needs help beyond meeting information, the helpline passes them to someone on the 12-Step List for a longer conversation and maybe a visit to discuss how to get sober and stay sober. A minimum of two years sobriety is required to be on the 12-Step List. We can always use more people on the 12-Step List. We especially need people *(particularly women)* in the surrounding area *(like Beeville and Alice)*. If you would like to be on the 12-Step List or on the Helpline, call Rob or Kelly at the CBIA Office (361) 992-8911 or (866) 672-7029.



Bender Bits & Pieces



District Meetings

District 7 (Saturday, February 20th)

District 7's next meeting will be on Saturday, February 20th at 9:30 AM. There will be Service Manual Study at 9:00 AM.

District 8C Next Meeting (Saturday, January 9th in Kingsville)

District 8C's next meeting will be on Saturday, January 9th at 1:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Serenity Club (819 N. Third Street in Kingsville).

District 8D Next Meeting (Saturday January 16th in CC)

District 8D's next meeting will be at 2:00 PM on Saturday, January 16th at New Phoenix (5433 S. Staples, Suite F, in Corpus Christi).

District 8E (Saturday, January 16th in CC)

District 8E will meet at 2:00 PM on Saturday, January 16th at the Anchor Club (320 Anchor St. in Corpus Christi).

District 15 Next Meeting (Saturday, January 16th in Rockport)

District 15's next meeting will be at 2:00 PM on Saturday, January 16th at 814 Wharf Street in Rockport.



Bender Bits & Pieces



Save the Dates

*(Future Events - Fliers included for events flagged with an *.)*

- 2016 Coastal Bend Jamboree** *(January 22nd - 24th 2016 in CC) **
- 2016 SW Texas Area 68 Winter Workshop** *(January 29th -31st 2016 in SA) **
- 2016 SW Texas Area 68 Pre-GSC Assembly** *(April 8th -10th in Kerrville)*
- 2016 Texas State AA Convention** *(June 24th – 26th 2016 in Austin) **
- 2016 SW Texas Area 68 Summer Workshop** *(July 8th -10th in Kerrville)*
- 2016 SW Texas Area 68 Fall Voting Assembly** *(October in Corpus Christi)*

AA Meeting Schedules for Our Area

Current AA meeting schedules for areas serviced by the Coastal Bend Intergroup are attached:

- **AA Meetings in Corpus Christi ***
- **AA Meetings in CC Surrounding Area ***
- **AA Meetings in Victoria & Surrounding Area ***

Coastal BENDER Mission Statement

Our primary purpose is to carry the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic. A secondary purpose of The Bender is to keep the CBIA Area of South Texas informed as to the events, meeting changes, Board of Trustee actions / decisions, and other news of interest to AA's in the area. Finally, as a newsletter we provide a forum for the broad spectrum of views held by our members. Publication of any article submitted will be at the discretion of the Bender Editor as advised by the CBIA Board. A controversial subject, as long as it does not concern an outside issue and involves principles and not personalities, will be considered for publication. As a general guideline, any letter or article that is of interest to members of AA and in good taste is worthy of publication. However, an article or letter that advocates ignoring or violating the Traditions, Concepts, or General Service Conference actions will not be considered for publication. All decisions will be made under the direction of God as expressed through our group conscience.



Terry H.	Just For Today Group	01/01/2002	14 Years
Terry K.	Sunset Seven Group	01/01/2000	16 Years
Franz W.	New Life Group	01/01/1983	33 Years
Merced P.	New Phoenix Group	01/01/1986	30 Years
CeCe P.	Bookmarks Group	01/04/2000	16 Years
Pat P.	District 15	01/01/1974	42 Years
Carrie S.	District 15	01/05/2002	14 Years
Frank A.	Hilltoppers Group	01/07/1985	31 Years
John H.	New Phoenix Group	01/07/1985	31 Years
Bobby W.	Weber Nooners Group	01/07/2006	10 Years
Ceil Mc K.	Nueces Bay Group	01/11/1982	34 Years
Doreen H.	Weber Nooners Group	01/11/2006	10 Years
Brad W.	Weber Nooners Group	01/14/1978	38 Years
Franny J.	Turning Point Group	01/15/2008	8 Years
Randy F.	New Life Group	01/20/1999	17 Years
Pat L.	Nueces Bay Group	01/20/2001	15 Years
Sandra E.	Weber Nooners Group	01/20/2011	5 Years
Donna K.	Weber Nooners Group	01/21/1986	30 Years
Michael A.	Calallen Group	01/22/2006	10 Years
George F.	Weber Nooners Group	01/23/1972	44 Years
Jackie B.	Portland Jaywalkers	01/23/1988	28 Years
Rae T.	Bookmarks Group	01/23/2006	10 Years
Pam D.	Hilltoppers Group	01/24/2009	7 Years
Linda M.	Weber Nooners Group	01/25/1991	25 Years
Tom G.	New Phoenix Group	01/26/1986	30 Years
Daniel B.	New Life Group	01/28/2011	5 Years

Don't see your group's birthdays? For best results e-mail your birthday to CBIA at cbia@grandecom.net.

November 2015

	<u>OFFICE HOURS</u>	<u>Dist. 7</u>	<u>AFTER HOURS</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
12TH STEP CALLS	4	0	0/0	52/5
INFORMATIONAL CALLS	172	15	<i>After Hours only tracks 12th Step calls.</i>	

Intergroup Meetings

CBIA Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting will be held Monday January 11th at 6:00 PM in the CBIA Office (3833 S. Staples, Suite S-212).

CBIA Quarterly Association Meeting will be held Monday January 25th 2016 at 6:00 PM at All Saints Episcopal Church (3026 S. Staples in CC). Each group gets a vote at this meeting.

District Meetings

See Bits & Pieces section for information on district meetings in the Coastal Bend area:

- District 7** (Victoria Area)
- District 8C** (Kingsville - Alice Area)
- District 8D** (Corpus Christi Area)
- District 8E** (Corpus Christi Area)
- District 15** (Portland, Port A, AP, Rockport Area)

Group Announcements

New Phoenix Group Conscience is held the last Sunday of the month at 2:00PM. **Birthday Night** is first Saturday of the month at 8:00PM. **Potluck Supper** is second Saturday of the month at 7:00 PM. (5433 S. Staples, Suite F in The Boardwalk.)

Hilltoppers Group Conscience is the 1st Tuesday of the month following the Noon meeting. (First United Methodist Church, 900 S. Shoreline Dr., Room 244)

Weber Road Nooners Group Conscience is held the 1st Saturday of each Quarter (Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct) following the 10:00AM meeting. **Birthdays** are celebrated the first Monday of each month at noon. (Travis Baptist Church, 5802 Weber Road at Schanen, park in rear, meeting upstairs.)

Calallen Group Conscience is held the 3rd Wednesday of each month following the 6:30PM meeting. **Birthday Night** is the 1st Saturday of the month. (Potluck at 6:30PM, Meeting at 8:00PM). (Pass it on Club, 11425 Leopard (Hilltop).

Flour Bluff Unity Group Conscience is held the 2nd Sunday of each month at noon. **Birthday Night** is the 1st Saturday of the month with **Potluck Supper** at 7:00 PM and **Birthday Meeting** at 8:00PM at The Anchor Club (320 Anchor St. in CC).

Turning Point Group Conscience is held the 1st Wednesday of each month. **Birthday Meeting** is last Saturday of the month.

Group Contributions		
GROUP NAME	Dec. 2015	YTD 2015
Alice Group		
Anonymous/Individual Contribution	32.00	471.08
Aransas Pass Group		76.82
Beeville-Freedom Group		
Beeville-Hope Group		
Beeville-Serenity Group		
Beeville-Shepherd's Group		
CC-Alanos		300.00
CC-Bookmarks Group		123.00
CC-Calallen Group		
CC-Clean & Serene Group		
CC-Crosstown Group		
CC-Cullen Mall Group		490.00
CC-Daily Reprieve Group		100.00
CC-Day of AA		100.00
CC-Early Morning Fellowship		
CC-Fellowship Group at Charlie's Place		
CC-Fifth Tradition Group	209.23	618.92
CC-Flour Bluff Unity Group		
CC-Friday Night Speaker Meeting		
CC-Hilltoppers Group		969.45
CC-Humility Group		
CC-Just for Today Group		
CC-Mountain Toppers		100.00
CC-Newcomers Meeting		
CC-New Life Group		85.00
CC-New Phoenix Group	39.00	381.00
CC-New Women's Group	93.37	906.16
CC-Oso Group		840.00
CC-Primary Purpose Group		
CC-Rodd Field Group		239.00
CC-Sunset 7 Group (N Padre Island)		558.55
CC-Turning Point Group		
CC-Weber Road Nooners Group		3,372.00
CC-Wenholz Women's Group		
District7	81.19	974.28
Falfurrias-2nd Chance Group		80.00
Goliad-Open Arms Group		90.00
Ingleside-Living Sober Group		
Karnes City-Mayfield Group		261.25
Kingsville-AL-K Group		
Mathis -Crossroads Group		140.00
Port Aransas -Port A Day Tripper's Group		
Port Aransas Group		500.00
Port Aransas-Serenity Sisters		10.00
Port Lavaca Group	60.94	134.95
Port O'Connor Group		100.00
Portland -Jaywalkers Group		150.00
Portland -Nueces Bay Group		
Riviera-SASTO Group		18.00
Robstown Group		
Rockport-Anything Goes Group		
Rockport-Happy Hour Group		160.00
Rockport-Fellowship Group		
Sandia Group		19.00
Sinton-Grupo Secunda Chanza		30.00
Skidmore Group		50.00
Three Rivers-Choke Canyon Group		100.00
Victoria-Back to Basics Group		451.00
Victoria-High Nooners Group	50.00	150.00
Victoria-Main Stream Group		225.00
Victoria-Men's Group		75.00
Victoria-Unity Group		75.00
Victoria-Women's Group		45.00
Yorktown Group		123.60
TOTAL	\$565.73	\$13,693.06

Coastal Bend Intergroup Association Mission Statement

The mission of the Coastal Bend Intergroup Association is to provide the vital first contact to the alcoholic seeking help. The CBIA office must be maintained for the benefit of those still suffering. Of primary importance to this goal, the CBIA Office is to

- Establish a 24-hour help-line;
- Print meeting schedules; and
- Maintain a 12-Step list

whereby AA groups and individuals are enabled to conduct 12-Step calls which are essential to the growth of AA in the Coastal Bend area.

Coastal Bend Intergroup Association Services Provided

1. Maintains an office which is open Monday through Friday from 07:30AM to 11:30AM & 1:30PM to 05:30PM.
2. Provides information and referrals for A.A. inquiries.
3. Maintains a 12 Step listing and calls individuals for 12 Step work.
4. Provides an A.A. listing in the Telephone directory.
5. Provides a 24 hour volunteer phone answering during hours when the office is closed.
6. Publishes meeting schedules of all groups in the Coastal Bend Area at no charge.
7. Publishes a monthly newsletter, the "Coastal Bender", to keep A.A. members informed of local A.A. affairs and special events.
8. Purchases and sales "CONFERENCE APPROVED" literature, and non-conference approved Anniversary Medallions, Sobriety Chips.
9. Conducts monthly Trustee meetings. All members of Alcoholics Anonymous are welcome at these meetings and Group Input is essential.
10. Conducts Quarterly Meetings to keep groups apprised of Intergroup activities, and to seek group participation in CBIA affairs.
11. Maintains service committees for service work in the Coastal Bend Area.