



THE BENDER

CBIA, 3833 S. Staples Suite S-212, Corpus Christi, TX 78411

(361) 992- 8911 or Toll Free 1-866-672-7029

www.cbias.org

Humility Group

Group History

Randy O. founded the Humility Group in Corpus Christi in 1981. Some say it was over controversy about the rules at 18th Street. Others say Randy just wanted to start a new group. The first couple of meetings were held in Alice D's trailer, until the house on Woods Street was found. They met there until 1991 when fire destroyed the house on Woods Street.

From 1991 to 1994 they met next door to the Saratoga Lanes Bowling Alley. During this period the Bay Club was formed by Don F, Don E, and David Z at the same location. In 1994, Humility severed all ties with the Bay Club and moved to Way Out Weber for about two months, after which they moved to Pharoah Plaza on Ayers Street where they remained until 1997 when they relocated in Saxet Center (*3918 Leopard Street*). In May 2014, they moved to Suite D in Bel Aire Center (*2777 S Staples at Annapolis*) where they now meet.

Current Meeting Schedule

The Humility Group has meetings at noon, 5:30 PM and 8:00 PM seven days a week. They also have a women's meeting at 3:00 PM on Sunday and 7:00 AM meetings on Saturday and Sunday at 2777D S. Staples at Annapolis in Bel Aire Center. The 8:00 PM meeting on Saturdays is a Birthday meeting the last Saturday of the month. All other Saturdays, it is a Candlelight meeting.

Memorable Early Members

- Marvin D "Pops" M. died at age 71 on February 12, 2003 with 30 years of sobriety.
- James C. "Jim" W. died in 2000 with 16 years of sobriety. Jim loved children and horses and had a business providing pony rides at children's birthday parties.
- Bill R. died 5.23.2005 with 36 years of sobriety.

- Robert “Bob” Coral B. died 6.4.2006. He started the 7:00 AM “Early Bird” meetings that continue today on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- Mike W. died with 53 years of sobriety.
- Freddy F., the Tejano musician, died in 2006 with 13 years of sobriety.

- The Historical Committee of the Humility Group, Corpus Christi, TX

Editor's Note: This is the seventh of a series of articles on the history of AA Groups in the Coastal Bend Area. If your group's history has not been documented and submitted to the CBIA and you would like to have your history published, send it to cbia@grandecom.net.

Step 2 - Hope

Step 2: Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

The principle behind Step 2 is HOPE. At the end of my drinking, I thought my best days were behind me. I was desperately trying to hold on in a last ditch effort to slow down the rate at which my life was going down the toilet. Nothing I tried was working. Through my drinking, I'd gotten myself into a deep hole and I couldn't get out. I was utterly hopeless.

In my drinking days, I had mistaken wishful thinking for HOPE. Examples of my wishful thinking -

- I will have only two drinks;
- I will win the Power Ball Lottery;
- The Connecticut State Trooper will not notice that I am drunk.

Today, I think hope is about God doing for me what I cannot do for myself. (*Being able to say no to the first drink comes to mind.*) While I had never stopped believing in God, I didn't think HE believed in me. While I thought he could restore someone to sanity, I didn't think he would do that for me. Today, I believe that, with the Grace of God, the best is yet to come.

A phrase in Chapter 5, How It Works, in the Big Book changed my life: "GOD COULD AND WOULD IF HE WERE SOUGHT." That meant I just had to seek God. I did not have to go to THAT church or be like THOSE people. (*Been THERE, tried THAT, DO NOT WANT what they have.*) I just have to seek God as best I can with the help of AA.

The truth is when I started using alcohol to cope, when I started treating alcohol as THE ANSWER, there was no room for God in my life.

When I was three months sober, I realized that just before my first AA meeting I had cried out 'GOD HELP ME.' Help had come immediately. I was in AA a few days later and I had my last drink a few weeks later. God had been there for me all along. It was I who had been unavailable to God. I believe that the objective of all the work I've done in AA has been to make me available to the Grace of God.

I thought being "restored to sanity" meant I wouldn't have crazy thoughts any more. I have been waiting 30 years for that to happen. Just before my 10th Anniversary a friend who ran a treatment center told me that if someone has a slip after 10 years they have only a 3% chance of achieving long term sobriety again. The first thought through my mind was "Perhaps I should drink now while the odds are better." Being restored to sanity, meant that the second thought was "Right, Robert, maybe you'd have a 4% chance of not destroying your life." Sometimes it seems like my mind thinks it can kill me and get away with it.

At its simplest: in order to stay sober, I have to have enough sanity to not act on the insane thought that it would be a good idea to take the first drink -- in spite of a long history which has taught me that every time I started drinking again, it was a disaster. God has done that for me, on a daily basis, for 30 years.

I'm still crazy after all these years. AA is the only place where a crazy person can talk to another crazy person and we both get better. Today, I try to be responsible for my craziness, so I don't hurt myself or other people like I used to. Most of the time, I can recognize a crazy thought as a crazy thought and not be run by it. Sometimes, I can just identify a thought as questionable and I need another recovering alcoholic to help me see how crazy it is.

I found hope at my first AA meeting. Without hope, I would not have come back. It was hope that got me moving on my recovery journey and Step 2 introduced me to the profound truth that **GOD IS ALWAYS THE ANSWER.**

~ Rob M. (2.24.1985) 5th Tradition Group, Corpus Christi, TX

MINUTES

CBIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

December 8th 2014

I. OPENING: (6:00PM)

- **Ron** opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.
- **Joe R.** read the CBIA Mission Statement.
- **Mike** read the 12 Traditions.

II. ATTENDANCE

- **Ron S.** (*Chair*), **Andrea G.** (*Vice Chair*), **George D.** (*Treasurer*), **A.J. A.** (*Trustee*), **Joe R.** (*Trustee*), **Johnie S.** (*Trustee*), **Mike B.** (*Trustee*), **Rob M.** (*Office Manager*), and **Ed B.** (*Trustee-elect*) were present. **Kelly J.** (*Asst Office Manager*) was not present.

III. MINUTES:

- Minutes of the November 10th Board Meeting were reviewed.
 - **Johnie** moved to approve the minutes as corrected. **A.J.** seconded. Motion carried.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- **George** presented the November Financial Report.
- **Balance Sheet:** Total CBIA funds as of November 30th were \$17,038.84; \$50.00 in Petty Cash; \$3,236.61 in Checking; \$12,599.62 in Prudent Reserve and \$1,152.61 in the Jamboree Account.
- **Profit & Loss** for the month of November: Contributions \$1,002.03; Gross Sales (*Books, Chips & Medallions*) \$575.50 (*less Cost of Goods Sold \$371.29*); Gross Gain for the month \$1,538.24; Total Expenses were \$2,307.90 for a Net Loss of \$769.66 for the month.
 - **Mike** moved to approve the Financial Report as presented. **A.J.** seconded. Motion carried.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **12th Step:** **A.J.** stated that the Helpline is running well. We can always use more volunteer on the 12 Step list, especially in remote areas, particularly women in remote areas.
- **PI/CPC:** **Andrea** stated that the local districts (*8C, 8D, 8E and 15*) are hosting the Area 68 PI/CPC Conference in Corpus Christi in September of 2015
- **Corrections:** **Joe** said that other AA members showed up to support the men's meeting at SATF. He asked about AA's pen pal / sponsor program for incarcerated alcoholics. Rob said he would send Joe the article written by the Past Area 68 Corrections Chair (run in the BENDER last year) describing the program, as well as the AA pamphlet on the program which was attached to the BENDER.
- **Coastal Bender:** **Mike** said the December BENDER looks good.
- **Bilingual:** **Andrea** stated that she had nothing to report.
- **Nominations:** **Mike** stated that his work was completed at the October board meeting.
- **Social:** **Johnie** reported that the New Year's Eve Dance will be held at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church on Airline Road in CC. She requested a check from CBIA for \$300 to St

Bart's to cover the rent and to herself for \$35 to cover food expenses from the Halloween Dance which were incurred but not reimbursed. There was no objection to issuing the requested checks.

- **Jamboree:** **Ron S.** stated that the CBJ Committee will meet on Saturday. We continue to encourage people to register early to help with cash flow. We had to make a deposit on the Holiday Inn Marina which was not required when the Jamboree was held at the Omni. Rob stated that we have not received a signed copy of our request to James Tapes to not sell copyrighted DVD's at the CBJ.
- **Archives:** **Ron S.** said he continues to update the archives each month. Rob said he ran an article on the history of the Cullen Mall Group and past Office Manager Randy F's reflections on being CBIA Office Manager (1995 -2006). He asked Ed to write a history of the Goliad Open Arms Group.

VI. OFFICE REPORT

- **Office Update** – **Rob** stated that he has been diagnosed with Stage 1 Lung Cancer and will schedule surgery to remove the tumor as soon as possible. He expects to be out of the office for several weeks after the operation. **Kelly** has agreed to work full time while he is out.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

- **None.**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- **None.**

IX. NEXT MEETINGS

- Next Monthly **CBIA Board of Trustees Meeting** is scheduled for Monday, January 12th at 6:00 PM in the CBIA Office.
- Next **CBIA Quarterly Association Meeting** is scheduled for 6:00 PM on Monday, January 26th 2015 at All Saints Episcopal Church (3026 S Staples, where the last quarterly meeting was held).

XI. CLOSING: Close the meeting with prayer.

- **A.J.** moved to adjourn. **Johnie** seconded. Motion carried.
- **Ron** closed the meeting with prayer at 6:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Marek
Office Manager



Bender Bits & Pieces



Special Events

District 8D Workshop on the Area Proposal for ASL (February 14th in CC) *

District 8D is hosting a workshop led by Area 68 Treatment Chair Michael D. on a proposal on American Sign Language being considered at the area level. The workshop will be at 3:15 PM on Saturday, February 14th (after the monthly District 8D Meeting) at New Phoenix (5433 S. Staples Suite F in Corpus Christi.)

2015 International Convention (July 2-5, 2015 in Atlanta, GA) *

Every five years AA has an international convention. The last one was in San Antonio in 2010. The next one will be in Atlanta, GA July 2nd thru July 5th, 2015.

The four-page registration form attached provides a wealth of information about the conference, the city and the registration and hotel reservation process. Forms are available in the intergroup office and at many meetings. The registration form is attached in PDF format.

On-line registration started September 3rd. You must register (at www.aa.org under "Online Registration") in order to make a hotel reservation at the conference rate. If you know you will be attending, you should register and make hotel reservations as soon as possible in order to reserve a room convenient to the convention.



Bender Bits & Pieces



Jamboree Silent Auction Unclaimed Merchandise

Attached is a list of unclaimed merchandise from the Silent Auction at the 2015 Jamboree. We will hold these items for the winning bidder until February 15th. After that date, we will sell these items to the first person willing to pay the winning bid.



Bender Bits & Pieces



Service Opportunities

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. In these situations, men work with men and women work with women.

SATF – Corpus Christi

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

Reality Ranch – Corpus Christi

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

Live Oak County Jail – George West

1. 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 call District 8D Corrections Chair Joyce T. at (361) 549-9321.
- Men should call CBIA Corrections Trustee Joe R. at (361) 510-9509 for facilities in Corpus Christi.
- Men should call Dist 8E Corrections Chair Jesse T. at (361) 815-3239 for Live Oak County Jail.



Bender Bits & Pieces



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

Where clearance is required, provide Joyce or Joe 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.

Local Stories Wanted for the BENDER

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

Volunteers Needed for PI/CPC Conference (September 2015 in CC) *

There are many diverse service opportunities for AA members (*including newcomers*) for the Area 68 Public Information / Cooperation with the Professional Community Conference which will be held in Corpus Christi in September of next year. We will need:

- Meeting Chairs
- Hospitality
- Bilingual
- Registration
- Special Needs
- Audio / Visual
- General Volunteers

Enclosed is a volunteer sign-up sheet. GSR's & DCM's gathering names of volunteers for their group or district, should submit the forms for new (*additional*) volunteers at least monthly (*e.g. August 1st; September 1st; and October 1st etc.*) so the volunteers can be contacted. Refer any questions to John W. at (361) 877-1642 or jmwatson52@gmail.com.

Volunteers will be invited to attend the final committee meeting in August 2015 to meet with their respective Sub-Committee Chairs.



Bender Bits & Pieces



Service Opportunities (Continued)

February Helpline Schedule / 12 Step List *

Attached is the Helpline schedule for February. These are the 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 8AM 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



Group / Meeting Changes

Humility Candlelight Meeting

The Humility Group has discontinued its 10:00 PM Friday Candlelight meeting. The 8:00 PM Saturday meeting is now a Candlelight meeting, except for the last Saturday of the month when it is a birthday meeting.

Sunset 7 Group – No Tuesday or Thursday Noon Meetings at NAS-CC

The Sunset 7 Group has discontinued its Tuesday and Thursday noon meetings at Naval Air Station – Corpus Christi.

Three Rivers – Choke Canyon Group – No Friday Night Meeting

The Choke Canyon Group in Three Rivers has discontinued its 8:00 PM Friday meeting.



Bender Bits & Pieces



District Meetings

District 7

District 7's next meeting will be held at 9:30 AM on Saturday, February 21st at Grace Presbyterian Church (3604 N. Ben Jordan in Victoria). There will be Service Manual Study at 9:00 AM.

District 8C Next Meeting (Saturday, February 21st in Kingsville) *

District 8C's next meeting will be at 1:30 PM on Saturday, February 21st at the Serenity Club (819 N. Third Street in Kingsville).

District 8D Next Meeting (Saturday, February 14th in CC)

District 8D's next will be at 2:00 PM on Saturday, February 14th at New Phoenix (5433 S. Staples, Suite F, in Corpus Christi). There will be an ASL workshop after the district meeting at 3:15. (See Special Events above for details.)

District 8E Next Meeting (Saturday, February 21st in CC)

District 8E's next meeting will be at 2:00 PM on Saturday, February 21st at the Anchor Club (320 Anchor Street in Corpus Christi).

District 15 Next Meeting (Saturday, February 21st in Portland)

District 15's next meeting will be at 2:00 PM on Saturday February 21st at the Trident Club (822 Denver Street in Portland).



Bender Bits & Pieces



Save the Dates

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

SWT Area 68 Winter Workshop (*January 30th – February 1st 2014 in Fulton*) *

District 8D Workshop on the Area Proposal for ASL (*February 14th in CC*) *

2015 International Convention (*July 2-5, 2015 in Atlanta*) *

2015 Area 68 SW Texas PI/CPC Conference (*September 2015 in CC*)

2016 Coastal Bend Jamboree (*January 22-24, 2016 in CC*)

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 and Surrounding Area ***

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.



Adrian V.	Weber Nooners	02/01/2008	7 Years
Shirley B.	Hilltoppers Group	02/02/1994	21 Years
Susan N.	New Women	02/10/1988	27 Years
Frank	District 15	02/05/1980	35 Years
Sam G.	District 15	02/06/2002	13 Years
Liz L.	Turning Point	02/07/1984	31 Years
Chip P.	Weber Nooners	02/08/1990	25 Years
Jim K	Oso Group	02/09/1986	29 Years
Jason Y.	District 15	02/10/2000	15 Years
Leo J.	Weber Nooners	02/12/1985	30 Years
Bob B.	Weber Nooners	02/15/1996	19 Years
Gerry K.	Bookmarks	02/16/1984	31 Years
Lane S.	Weber Nooners	02/16/1985	30 Years
Rob M.	Fifth Tradition	02/24/1985	30 Years
Angela F.	Weber Nooners	02/24/2000	15 Years
Henry	District 15	02/27/1984	31 Years

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

January 2015

	<u>OFFICE HOURS/District 7</u>		<u>AFTER HOURS</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
12TH STEP CALLS	1	0	0/0	1/0
INFORMATIONAL CALLS	125	10	<i>After Hours only tracks 12th Step calls.</i>	

Intergroup Meetings

CBIA Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting will be held Monday February 9th at 6:00 PM in the CBIA Office (3833 S. Staples, Suite S-212).

CBIA Quarterly Association Meeting will be held Monday, April 27th 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	Jan. 2015	YTD 2015
ICYPAA		
Alanos		
Alice		
Alive & Free		
Aransas Pass		
Beeville - Hope Group		
Beeville - Serenity Group		
Beeville - Shepherd's Group		
Beeville - Freedom Group		
Bookmarks Group		
Calallen Group (Pass It On)		
Clean & Serene Group		
Crosstown Group		
Cullen Mall Group		
Daily Reprieve Group		
District7		
District 8D		
District 8E		
Early Morning Fellowship		
Falfurrias - 2nd Chance Group		
Fellowship Group @ Charlie's Place		
Fifth Tradition Group		
Flour Bluff Unity Group		
Friday Night Speaker Meeting		
Goliad Open Arms Group	50.00	50.00
Hilltoppers Group		
Humility Group		
Ingleside Living Sober Group		
Just for Today Group		
Karnes City - Mayfield Group	108.75	108.75
Kingsville - AL-K Group		
Mathis-Crossroads Group	60.00	60.00
Mountain Toppers		
Newcomers Meeting		
New Life Group	15.00	15.00
New Phoenix Group	26.00	26.00
New Women's Group	74.98	74.98
Oso Group	210.00	210.00
Port Aransas Day Tripper's Group		
Port Aransas Group		
Port O'Connor Group	100.00	100.00
Portland - Jaywalkers Group		
Portland - Nueces Bay Group		
Primary Purpose Group		
Riviera Group		
Robstown Group		
Rockport - Anything Goes Group		
Rockport - Happy Hour Group	40.00	40.00
Rockport - Fellowship Group		
Rodd Field Group	114.00	114.00
Rx for Sobriety		
Sandia Group		
Sinton - Secunda Chanza	30.00	30.00
Skidmore Group	50.00	50.00
Sunset 7 Group (N Padre Island)		
Three Rivers - Choke Canyon Group		
Turning Point Group		
Victoria Main Stream Group		
Victoria Women's Group	15.00	15.00
Weber Road Nooners Group	800.40	800.40
Wenholz Women's Group		
Anonymous/Individual Contribution		
TOTAL	1,694.13	1,694.13