

# Coastal Bend Intergroup Association (CBIA)

## The 12<sup>th</sup> Step Volunteer (1.31.24)

### Requirements:

A willingness to help another alcoholic suffering from our disease is the most essential requirement.

We recommend at least 2 years of continuous sobriety.

We also recommend talking with your sponsor and perhaps others on our list before making the decision that this is something for which you'd like to volunteer.

### From Helpline Volunteer To 12<sup>th</sup> Step Volunteer:

The CBIA maintains a 24/7 Volunteer Helpline each month. Usually, a caller is simply requesting meeting information which the Helpline Volunteer will provide.

However, there are those times when a caller needs additional help because they are concerned about their drinking, and/or have never been to an AA meeting before and have questions/concerns, and/or are new to the area and would like help getting reconnected. In these instances, the Helpline Volunteer would offer to have a 12<sup>th</sup> Step Volunteer call them back for additional help.

If the caller wishes to have a 12<sup>th</sup> Step Volunteer call them back, then the Helpline Volunteer will tell them another sober member of AA will be calling them within 30 minutes. The HL Volunteer will instruct them to call back if they are not contacted by another AA member.

The Helpline Volunteer would then look at the list of men & women in the caller's area and begin calling to find a 12<sup>th</sup> Step List Volunteer available. There are 3 lists: Corpus Christi Area, Victoria Area, and Corpus Surrounding Area. The lists are separated by men and women, and the Helpline Volunteer will choose 12<sup>th</sup> Step List Volunteers to call based on location and gender, as well as availability.

**HELPLINE VOLUNTEERS WILL NEVER GIVE A MEMBER'S PHONE # TO A CALLER AND WILL ALWAYS CHOOSE A SAME SEX 12<sup>th</sup> STEPPER.**

Once an available 12<sup>th</sup> Step Volunteer is found, they will be asked if they can contact the caller within 10 minutes and will be given the caller's name and phone number.

### The 12<sup>th</sup> Step Call:

Type in \*67 before the caller's number if you wish to conceal your personal phone number.

Most times a phone call is sufficient. At other times the prospect might want to meet & talk with the volunteer in person. If so, the volunteer should always take another AA member along if they are meeting the prospect at their private residence and/or picking them up to take them to a meeting. It's always good to have another AA member along if possible whether or not the meeting is in a public place such as a hospital, meeting, coffee shop, etcetera...; but never meet the prospect at a bar.

Keep in mind that some callers will be drunk. In this case, the volunteer can make the decision to offer to call the prospect later when they have sobered up.

**The volunteer should keep the following in mind when meeting with the caller on the phone or in person:**

**If going to the caller's residence, try to talk to the prospect alone, away from emotional family influences.**

**When meeting in person, take a Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, if possible, and a meeting schedule or a card with the QR Code for the Meeting Guide App to give to the prospect.**

**Be patient, compassionate and listen.**

**Share freely of your experience; especially your feelings of loneliness, hopelessness and fear before coming to AA.**

**Explain the three-fold aspect of the disease being physical, mental & spiritual; stressing that alcoholism is a progressive and often fatal disease.**

**Determine the willingness of the prospect to do something about their condition.**

**Suggest taking action and suggest a time to take the newcomer to a meeting.**

**Give the prospect your number, if you are willing, and encourage them to call you.**

**Don't make any promises you cannot keep.**

**Be familiar with Chapter 7, "Working With Others," in the Big Book since it contains a wealth of practical experience in 12 Step Work.**

**Never give medical advice.**

**In case your prospect expresses a need for medical detox, give them the number of a treatment center. Cenikor is in Corpus and that # is 361-561-1420 or 361-826-5350.**

**In case of emergencies, DT's, convulsions, suicide threats or violence, call 911 and follow their directions.**

**Remember: you are the example of Alcoholics Anonymous, and as such you carry the AA message.**

### **Success:**

**When the 12<sup>th</sup> Stepper makes that call, they are successful. *Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive Twelve Step work with other alcoholics.***