

# ENFOQUE D-13

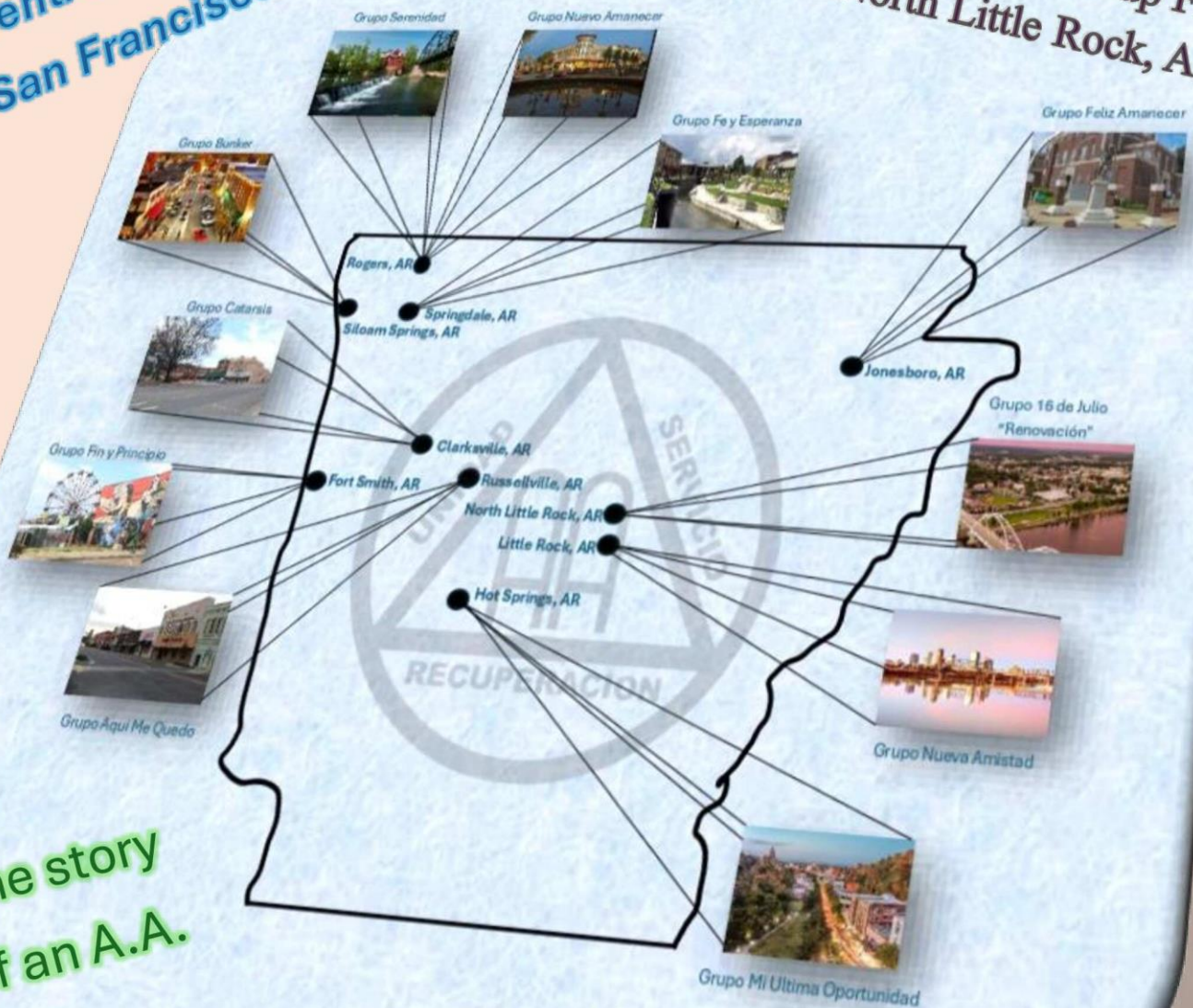
## Alcoholics Anonymous



National Hispanic  
Convention of A.A.  
in San Francisco

THE GROUP AND ITS GENERAL  
SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE (GSR)

History of 16 de Julio  
Renovación Group From  
North Little Rock, AR.



The story  
of an A.A.

2nd Step and 2nd Tradition

In the words of an A.A.



# ENFOQUE D-13

## THE GROUP AND ITS GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR)

### WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GSR

For most A.A.s, membership in a home group is one of the keys to continuing sobriety. In a home group, they accept service responsibilities and learn to sustain connections with other recovering alcoholics. The home group affords individual A.A.s the privilege of voting on issues that affect the Fellowship as a whole; it is the very basis of the service structure. While many A.A. members attend other groups as well, the home group is where they participate in business meetings and cast their vote as part of the group conscience of the Fellowship as a whole. As with all group conscience matters, each member has one vote. The role of the general service representative, or GSR, is essential to the purpose of general service. Bill W. wrote in Concept I of The Twelve Concepts for World Service: "The A.A. groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services." The role of the GSR is essential to ensuring that groups can fulfill that responsibility. Only when a GSR keeps the group informed and communicates the group conscience can the Conference truly act for A.A. as a whole. This communication is a two-way street, making the GSR responsible not only for bringing forward the group's voice, but for taking back to the group Conference actions that affect the Fellowship's unity, health and growth.

### So, what is the role of a GSR?

The GSR is the link between the group and "A.A. as a whole." This link becomes a channel through which news, information, opinions and ideas can flow back and forth. Importantly, this also gives the group a voice in the affairs of the Fellowship. The GSR is that voice.

There is more than one way for GSRs to express their group's thoughts and wishes — their conscience — in general service.

When the GSR is **present** at assemblies, the group's voice is heard. The presence of a GSR says their group cares about what is going on in the Fellowship and wants to learn and make its concerns and suggestions known.

When the GSR **participates**, the group's voice is heard. It can be through a GSR sharing the group's concerns across a conference table from other GSRs in a district meeting. It can be through questioning a budget item or proposing an idea important to the group at an area assembly. It can be through making an impassioned plea about an agenda item to the delegate on the eve of the annual General Service Conference meeting.

When the GSR **votes**, the group's voice is heard. The GSR votes on the trusted servants to lead the district and the area as well as the delegate to represent the area at the annual General Service Conference meeting. The group's voice is heard when the GSR votes on how best to use Seventh Tradition contributions to carry out Twelfth Step services.

What is important is to participate. This manual is intended to help

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR GSR

Experience of the Fellowship suggests that the most effective GSRs:

- Have at least two years of continuous sobriety
  - Are familiar with their group's history, priorities, traditions and procedures
  - Are able to listen to all points of view
- The Group and Its General Service Representative
- Have the time to regularly attend district meetings and area assemblies and the group's business meetings
  - Have a working familiarity with the Twelve Traditions and A.A. recovery and service literature
  - Have an email address or other easy way of maintaining contact with group members
  - Are familiar with the G.S.O. and area websites

### G.S.R GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE



GSR serve two-  
year terms

represents the  
conscience of his  
group

### TERM OF OFFICE

GSRs serve two-year terms. In many areas GSR terms coincide with those of the "panel" covering the area delegate's term of service. (See Glossary for a definition of "Panel.")

### DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Regularly attend area assemblies. General Service Conference. You have a voice and a vote.
2. Regularly attend district meetings.
3. Regularly make reports to the group. These reports serve as an important link to A.A. as a whole.
4. Participating in district and area service meetings is a great way to learn about all that A.A. and general service has to offer to help carry the A.A. message.
5. Work with the group treasurer to develop Seventh Tradition support for the General Service Board, the area and the district.
6. Keep the group up to date on the latest A.A. literature and service material.
7. Supply the DCM or district registrar with up-to-date group information, which is relayed to G.S.O.
8. Serve as the mail contact with the General Service Office (and as the contact in the A.A. directory if your group is listed there)
9. Keep the alternate GSR informed and involved with all the latest information for the group.

## HISTORY OF THE ARKANSAS STATE CONVENTION (OLDGRANDAD)

Back in the 1940's the early Arkansas groups attended a dinner held at Cummins Prison, the groups competed for possession of a brown jar, which was awarded each year at the dinner, the group with the most members in attendance got to take the brown jar home to their group until the following year, the jar served as a visible symbol of the contribution of the members of that group in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic, the original jar can be found in the Arkansas area archives and remains a testament to the vital twelve step work accomplished by these early groups, the Old Grandad convention was held in Little Rock until about 1969 then moved to the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs in late 1971/early 1972 and is the oldest convention west of the Mississippi River.

Rudy, Fin y Principio Group  
Fort Smith, AR.



**Fellow District 13 members at the  
Old Grandad 2024 Convention  
Hot Springs, AR**



## HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL HISPANIC CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS UNITED STATES AND CANADA

The first United States-Canada convention in Spanish was held in Akron, Ohio in 1973 and began celebrating on a Saturday from 11am to 6pm on the same Saturday the second host city was Washington DC, to date 51 conventions have been held, the last one being held in the city of San Francisco, CA with an attendance of more than eight thousand alcoholics, the convention is held every year at the end of August and the first days of September the weekend that Labor Day is celebrated in the United States of North America, it lasts 3 days Friday, Saturday and Sunday, for the purpose of assigning the host cities of this convention the areas and states are divided into four zones: northwest, southwest, northeast and southeast. It has an organizing committee (host city) and many subcommittees: reception, hospitality, themes, oratory, and finances to name a few. At the beginning of the convention, the organizing committee hands over the entire development and operation of the convention to the Board of Directors and the Advisory Committee, both committees made up of delegates and alternate delegates who represent the conscience of all the groups from the different states and areas.

The Board of Directors committee is the highest-ranking committee within the convention, it chooses the cities to host the conventions and holds general meetings for the good operation of the convention, receives all the suggestions from the participating states and areas and chooses the slogans for the next convention.

The Advisory Committee (agenda) is the one in charge of the good operation and management of the convention according to the agenda and programming (worktables, public meetings) and is in constant observation of all the events at the convention. At the closing of each convention, the Board of Directors committee announces the venue for the next convention and hands over the gavel. The purpose of this convention is to fulfill the sole objective of AA, to carry the message to those who suffer from the disease of alcoholism and to strengthen the service entities and groups of the host city.

# ENFOQUE D-13

## THE STORY OF AN ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS



My first sips of beer were when I was a child, usually at parties in my town in Guatemala, without worrying about what fate had in store for me later with the drink. When I was 13 years old, for Christmas, it was my first official binge, and from there my drinking career began. Every time I had the opportunity to drink, I did so with more enthusiasm and each time I increased my doses of beer and then moved on to hard liquor. Of course, with all this came family, economic and social problems. During my last binges, I had auditory and visual delusions on three occasions, meaning I heard voices and saw people who offended me.

My father had stopped drinking in an A.A. group. and that is why I knew there was a solution to my problem that I did not accept at that time. Thus, on October 11, 1992, I arrived at the door of the traditional 24 Hours group, and they had a service meeting. One of those alcoholics referred me to the Santiago de Coatepeque group, a pioneer group from the city of Coatepeque Quetzaltenango, receiving 5 members in that group.

In 1997 I emigrated to the United States where I continued searching for A.A. groups. Firstly, in Texas and then in Arkansas where I currently live with part of my family, Alcoholics Anonymous gave me the opportunity to live a wonderful life and family without the need for alcohol. Today I enjoy my wife, 7 children and 14 grandchildren.

Among many determining things to stay within A.A. groups. This is believing in a higher power and perseverance within groups. For me, Alcoholics Anonymous is A THOUSAND WONDERS.

Henry E. 16 de Julio Renovación Group  
North Little Rock, AR.



**16 de Julio "Renovación"**  
**North Little Rock, AR.**

## Hiatory of 16 de julio Renovación Group North Little Rock, AR

In 1997, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous arrived in the United States to the city of McAllen, TX and arrived looking for A.A. groups. To continue his recovery from alcoholism, 2 months later he arrived in North Little Rock, AR where there was very little Spanish-speaking population, therefore there were no A.A. groups. in Spanish, but at that time I was going back and forth to Guatemala and attending my A.A. meetings. no problem, then I stopped those trips and out of necessity I approached a Christian church with the desire to find comfort as in an A.A. group. but I realized that an alcoholic needs another alcoholic to survive, and so I began to travel to Houston, TX looking for alcoholics and found a group Los Dos in 2004 making trips to attend my meetings

on Friday afternoons and returning on Monday mornings, I was at the opening of the Los Buenos Veteranos Group and in the end, they would give us our first platform from the group that was about to flourish in Arkansas. During that period, I met Rafael Castro, a friend of alcoholics in Arkansas, and thus the first A.A. group began to be planned. in central Arkansas that would open its doors on JULY 16, 2006 AT 2 P.M. at the San Eduardo Church in Little Rock with the assistance of Henry E., Tacho B. (New in A.A.), Salvador (RIP), Rafael Castro (friend of alcoholics) and two more members from Pine Bluff, AR, from there his pilgrimage through different places where they gradually join new colleagues such as Julio G., Julio, Amílcar, Bonifacio (RIP) Mauro and Rafael to mention just a few, then they move to North Little Rock where the group begins to take shape with more membership and in 2008 some colleagues left to form a new group in Hot Springs, AR. That would later close, in 2011 other colleagues left to open a group in Little Rock and later in 2021 another member left to open another group in Hot Springs, AR. and so by the grace of God being a hotbed of alcoholic leaders in the community of central Arkansas.

Today the 16 de Julio Renovación Group continues to have its doors open to extend that helping hand to people who continue to suffer from the disease of alcoholism.

Henry E. del Grupo 16 de Julio Renovación Group  
North Little Rock, AR.

## Second Step, in the words of Alcoholic Anonymous

“We came to be aware that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

The Second Step opens the way for us towards the faith which we had put aside due to our condition of rebellion and the philosophy of our life was based on vainglory. Now this philosophy is threatened through the admission of our alcoholism to work with this Second Step we must take into account these three statements.

1-A.A. It does not require you to believe in anything, all its 12 steps are nothing if not suggestions.

2-To achieve and maintain sobriety you do not have to assimilate everything in the Second Step at this precise moment.

3-We must always have an open mind.

Upon arriving at A.A. we had to identify what kind of problems had diverted us from our faith; We were perhaps agnostics, atheists or religious people who resented God. Intellect and self-sufficiency had taken over us and we were full of prejudices towards people who practiced any religion. Many of us even challenged God since, according to us, he had not pleased our demands.

By joining A.A. We realized that this attitude had served to inflate our ego. We realized that no one could believe in God and defy Him at the same time.

It is not about the quantity of Faith but rather the quality of faith and that our good intentions were not enough and that a faith, even if it was in the group at first was of some use, but then through the second step we understood that a Faith without works is a dead faith.

Let us remember that true humility and an open mind can lead us to true faith, and A.A. meetings. They are a testimony that God will restore sanity if you have a proper relationship with Him.

Ricardo M.  
Fin y Principio Group, Fort Smith, AR.

## Second tradition, in the word of Alcoholic Anonymous

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

For many of us when we come to A.A. It causes us great amazement to know that there are no bosses, nor any government that can demand assistance from us, give orders or demand fees as some other institutions or associations do; also, that both the newcomer and the founder have the same equality within A.A.

This tradition allows the fellowship to reach all members, regardless of education, background, or professional experience. In this way, an environment of belonging is created for all members.

As far as people are concerned, most of the time we are dominated by our personal desires, but in A.A. The only authority is a loving God who expresses himself in the group conscience, that is, in the group's companions.

Many times, we can get carried away by the personal cries that we believe we deserve, whether for power, money or also for our time within A.A. This tradition reminds us that we are only trusted servants and do not rule, but rather lead by example. Many times, we believe that the good is the enemy of the best, tradition also protects us from the power struggle and from becoming a dictator so as not to deviate from our purpose "which is to bring the message to those who are still suffering."

From experience it has been seen that the founder or the one with the longest stay wants to impose or give orders to the newcomers, but he experiences a process that has two paths.

1.- Being a resentful old man seems nothing to him and he is always grunting.

2.- An elder statesman sits and listens to meetings and only gives his opinion when he believes it is truly necessary or even better when asked. The group conscience is taking the wisdom of the elder statesmen since they are very necessary due to their experience to form a well-informed conscience and take the best course as one of the co-founders of that tempting monetary offer experienced (Bill W. was offered be part of a hospital for a juicy sum of money) reinforcing the idea that we cannot do it alone, and that an alcoholic always needs another alcoholic.

Omar S.  
Grupo Renovación 16 de Julio, NLR, AR.

## ARKANSAS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GROUPS IN SPANISH

### **GRUPO 16 DE JULIO**

#### **“RENOVACION”**

4720 Camp Robinson Rd. Suite C  
North Little Rock, AR 72118  
Miércoles a Lunes

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

(501) 563-0700 / (501) 952-5034 / (501) 413-3284

(501) 838-4322 / (501) 347-9663

### **GRUPO NUEVA AMISTAD**

6602 Baseline Rd. Suite A  
Little Rock, AR 72209

Lunes a Domingo

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

(501) 707-8146 / (501) 213-9666

(501) 478-8630 / (501) 336-1291

### **GRUPO NUEVO AMANECER**

1803 S. 8th St. Suite 2  
Rogers, AR 72756

Lunes a Domingo

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(479) 270-8039 / (479) 721-1623 / (479) 276-0104

### **GRUPO SERENIDAD**

2505 N. 17TH St. Suite 403  
Rogers, AR 72756

Lunes a Domingo

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

(479) 270-9370 / (479) 295-6923 / (479) 899-7993

### **GRUPO FE Y ESPERANZA**

402 S Thompson St. suite 5B  
Springdale, AR 72764

Lunes a Domingo

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

(479) 770-3140 / (479) 790-7295

### **GRUPO FIN Y PRINCIPIO**

1121 North S St. Fort Smith, AR 72904  
Lunes - Sábado 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Domingo 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(479) 414-8405 / (516) 524-1193 / (479) 650-2487

### **GRUPO AQUÍ ME QUEDO**

1019 S Arkansas Av.  
Russellville, AR 72904

Viernes - Sábado 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Domingo 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

(479) 477-2719 / (479) 280-8734

### **GRUPO CATARSIS**

207 E. Main St. Clarksville, AR 72830

Viernes y Sábado 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Domingo 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

(479) 647-1817 / (479) 774-3230

### **GRUPO MI ULTIMA OPORTUNIDAD**

2000 Central Ave. Hot Springs,  
AR 71901

Lunes - Miércoles - Viernes

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

(501) 412-6720 / (501) 276-9338

(501) 681-0856

### **GRUPO FELIZ AMANECER**

3816 E Highland Dr. Jonesboro, AR  
72941

Martes - Jueves

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

(870) 243-7484

### **GRUPO BUNKER**

105 E Alpine U24 (Segunda planta)  
Siloam Springs, AR 72209

Martes - Jueves - Domingo

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

(479) 320-9098

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

### *XIV Aniversario*

*Distrito 13 Lingüístico Arkansas  
9/28*

*Southwest Community Center  
6401 Baseline Rd, Little Rock, AR  
72209*

### *Plenaria del Área 4*

*10/5/2024 y 10/6/2024*

*Russellville, AR.*

### *I Aniversario*

*Grupo Bunker*

*10/12/2024*

*Siloam Springs, AR.*

### *XXVI Aniversario*

*Grupo Fe y Esperanza*

*11/16/2024 Springdale, AR.*

**MY SERENITY DEPENDS ON  
ACCEPTING WHAT I CANNOT CHANGE**

- The behavior of others.
- The mistakes of others.
- What others talk and think.
- What others murmur.
- Codependency on others.
- The addiction of others.
- The mood of others.
- The disorder of others.
- The tastes of others.
- The tardiness of others.
- The strange behaviors of others.
- The music that others like.

**I LIKE TO REMEMBER THE THINGS  
THAT I CANNOT CHANGE SO AS  
NOT TO LOSE MY SERENITY.**

**FOR SUGGESTIONS OR COLLABORATIONS**

**Carlos G. (501) 347-9663 / cagz74@sbcglobal.net**

**Rudy V. (479) 414-8405 / cusuco59@gmail.com**