



# District 81

## March 2023!!



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**Workshop:** open



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**Alt:** Bill

### Step 3:

*Made a decision to turn  
our will and our lives  
over to the care of God  
as we understood Him.*

### Tradition 3:

*The only requirement for  
A.A. membership is a  
desire to stop drinking.*

### Concept 3:

*To insure effective leadership, we  
should endow each element of A.A.  
– the Conference, the General  
Service Board and its service  
corporations, staffs, committees,  
and executives—with a traditional  
“Right of Decision”.*



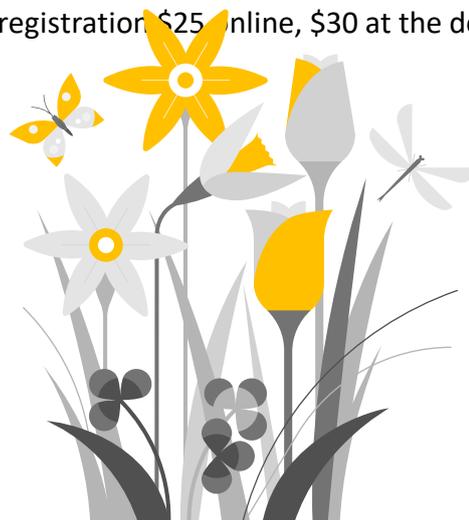
*When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for  
help; I want the hand of AA always to be  
there. And for that: I am responsible.*

# District 81 March 2023

## Upcoming Events & Committee Meetings



- March 1** District 81 meeting 7pm at Kelley's in La Marque 4604 Gulf Fwy, La Marque, TX 77568
- March 5** Service Workshop Noon to 3pm, hosted by the Atascocita Group at 2805 S. Houston Ave, Humble, TX 77338; see flyer!
- March 8** Correctional Facilities Committee meeting 6:30pm at the Bay Area Club
- March 11** 3<sup>rd</sup> Step 3<sup>rd</sup> Tradition Workshop 3-4:30pm hosted by the Tri-Cities Group at 2425 FM 1092 Rd, Missouri City, TX 77459; see flyer!
- March 15** Literature Committee meeting 7:30pm at the Bay Area Club, room E/F
- March 22** Finance & Budget meeting 6:30pm at Jason's Deli in League City 2755 Gulf Fwy S, League City, TX 77573
- March 22** Treatment Facilities Committee meeting 6:30pm via Zoom: 868-5564-9879; passcode: 06-10-1935
- March 23** PI/CPC Committee meeting 5pm at the Bay Area Club
- March 15** Website Committee meeting 6pm send email to [john.a@aa-seta.org](mailto:john.a@aa-seta.org) to be added to the Google Meet invite
- March 24** Archives Committee meeting 2pm at the Alvin Taylor Street Club 204 S Taylor Street, Alvin, TX 77511
- March 28** Grapevine Committee meeting 6pm at the Texas City Group; 518 6<sup>th</sup> Ave North, Texas City, TX 77590
- April 1-2** SETA Assembly at the DoubleTree Hotel Houston Intercontinental Airport 15747 John F Kennedy Blvd, Houston, TX 77573
- May 5-7** Mouth of the Brazos Conference at the Lake Jackson Civic Center 333 Highway 332, Lake Jackson, TX 77566; see flyer for details and registration info!
- June 9-11** 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas State A.A. Convention at the Westin San Antonio North 9821 Colonnade Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78230; registration \$25 online, \$30 at the door; see flyer for details!



## Flyers



*I am responsible,  
Whenever anyone,  
anywhere,  
Reaches out for help.  
I want the hand of A.A.  
Always to be there.  
And for that,  
I Am Responsible*



### SERVICE WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY THE ATASCOCITA GROUP  
AT 2805 S. HOUSTON AVE HUMBLE, TX 77338

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2023  
FROM NOON TO 3:00 PM

QUESTIONS? JOIN US  
AND GET SOME ANSWERS



Snacks and drinks will be provided.

For more information contact Don M at don.m@aa-seta.org

### 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Mouth of the Brazos Conference

*"Have you a sufficient substitute?"*

Friday, May 5th, 2023 - Sunday, May 7th, 2023

#### Friday, May 5th, 2023

5:00 pm Registration Opens  
5:00 - 7:30 pm Food & Fellowship  
7:30 - 8:00 pm Welcome  
Pre-Registration Door Prizes  
Mini Raffle  
8:00 - 9:00 pm AA Speaker  
Tracie J., Dallas, TX  
10:00 - 11:00 pm Discussion Meeting

#### Location

Lake Jackson Civic Center  
333 Highway 332  
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566  
(979) 415-2600

#### Hospitality Room

Friday: 5:00 pm - 11:30 pm  
Saturday: 8:00 am - 11:00 pm  
Sunday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Hospitality Room will be closed during all Speaker Meetings & Workshop**

#### Nearby Hotels

Comfort Suites (979) 297-5545  
Towneplace Suites (979) 388-9300  
Quality Inn (979) 265-8460  
Texas Inn & Suites (979) 266-7774

#### Registration

AA / Al-Anon Pre-Registration \$20.00  
AA / Al-Anon On-Site Registration \$25.00  
Al-ATeen On-Site Registration \$ 5.00

Pre-Registration Cutoff Date: 5/01/2023

For further information e-mail:  
Corey.c@aa-seta.org

#### Saturday, May 6th, 2023

8:00 am Registration Opens, Breakfast  
8:30 - 9:30 am Early Bird Meeting  
10:00 - 11:30 am Workshop-Friendships in AA  
11:45 - 1:00 pm Lunch  
1:00 - 1:45 pm Al-Anon meeting  
2:00 - 3:00 pm Al-Anon Speaker  
Cindy K., Fort Worth, Tx  
4:00 - 5:00 pm Old Timer's Meeting (25+ years)  
5:00 - 6:30 pm Food & Fellowship  
6:40 - 7:00 pm Skit  
7:00 - 8:00 pm Raffle, Sobriety Countdown  
8:00 - 9:00 pm AA Speaker  
Georgia B., Los Angeles, CA  
9:15 - 9:45 pm Ice Cream Social  
10:00 - 11:00 pm Discussion Meeting

#### Sunday, May 22, 2022

8:00 am Breakfast  
8:30 - 9:30 am Early Bird Meeting  
10:00 - 11:00 am AA Speaker  
Gary K., Sulphur Spring, TX  
12:00 pm Closing

#### Pre-Registration Mail-In Form

Name: _____	Name: _____
Badge Name: _____	Badge Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City: _____	City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
HOME GROUP: _____	HOME GROUP: _____

( ) AA, \$20.00 ( ) Al-Anon, \$20.00 ( ) AA, \$20.00 ( ) Al-Anon, \$20.00

Make Checks Payable to: Mouth of the Brazos Conference  
P.O. Box 1641 Clute, TX 77531

Tri-Cities Group

## WORKSHOP

### 3rd Step 3rd Tradition

March 11, 2023 | 3pm - 4:30pm

Guest Speakers  
In-Person 2425 FM 1092 Rd,  
Missouri City, TX 77459



### 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas State AA Convention

San Antonio, Texas

June 9 - 11, 2023

*"The age of miracles is still with us. Our own recovery proves that!"*

#### Scheduled AA Speakers

Willard M. Austin, TX  
Gary K. Sulphur Springs, TX  
Tisa B. Sheep Springs, NM  
Jackie K. Granbury, TX  
Chris R. Ingram, TX  
Old Timers Panel  
Texas Panel 71 and 72, Delegates  
G.S.O.: Jimmy D. Dallas, TX  
Al-Anon: Stephanie B. Granite Shoals, TX

#### Hotel Information

The Westin San Antonio North  
9821 Colonnade Boulevard  
San Antonio, Texas 78230  
210-691-8888  
Room Rates \$125 - \$145  
Booking Code: (Texas State AA Convention)

Registration Fee: \$30.00 at the door; early online registration \$25.00

## Features



### I Finally Got the Message

After 16 years of coming in and out of the AA program, I finally received the GOD (Gift of desperation). I got busy by taking the 12 Steps, learning the 12 Traditions, making meetings on a regular basis, and taking the suggestions that were given to me back in 1976. One of the most important things that happened to me was my sponsor told me to go to a group conscience. My question was “what’s a group conscience?” He told me to attend and let him know what I learned. At 47 days of sobriety, I attended the very first ever group conscience of the New Day Group of Galveston, Texas. A few members of the 33rd St group wanted to have an early morning meeting. These members had been attending a 7:30 am meeting held at 33rd and Ave P, and they wanted to have their own group, separate from the 33rd Street group. Co-founders were Jenny S. and Jan M.

The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer and the next order of business was to elect trusted servants. About that time, I needed to go to the bathroom. I went to the bathroom and when I came back into the main room, everyone started clapping and said “congrats”!!!! I said Dammit, what’s going on. They informed me that I had been elected secretary of the group. My comment was “I have no idea what the secretary of an A.A. group does?” Jenny S. said “sit down and shut up. We will tell you what to do”. As it turned out, that was the one of the best things that happened to me.

Jenny knew that I worked in Houston and my office was about 5 minutes from Houston Intergroup. My job was to go by intergroup and pick up books, chips, and all kinds of items that our group needed. There were a few other duties such as chairing the group conscience meeting, keeping the chip container up to date, and ordering literature. Eventually, a few other groups heard about me being an errand boy, so they would have me pick up various items for them. For the first time in my A.A. history, I finally felt part of the fellowship that saved

my life.

A few years later, the group needed a treasurer and willingly stood for the position and held that position for a couple of years.

Over the years, I have participated in various group service positions. After retiring from the pump business in June of 2002, I became the GSR of the group and that was my introduction to general service. I had heard the term “general service”, but I knew very little about it. My step sponsor suggested that I get a “service sponsor” that had the experience and knowledge of this type of service. I did, and eventually my service sponsor also became my step sponsor due to my other sponsor moving off the island.

At the end of my 2-year term of being GSR of New Day Group, I attended SWAARSA (Southwest Alcoholic Anonymous Regional Service Assembly) that was held in Houston in late 2004. I learned a lot in those first 2 years of general service and made the decision that there was a lot of work to be done in general service and A.A. is always looking for volunteers. Over the last 20 years, I have attended many area assembly meetings, many district meetings, many various committee meetings, SWAARSA, and regional forum meetings. I’ve also learned a lot more about the 12 Traditions and 12 Service Concepts.

I have been a sober member of A.A. for 30 years and I cannot begin to tell you what A.A. has meant to me. I don’t care if it’s group service or general service, it’s a great way to show our gratitude. I also have met so many A.A. members that have become very close friends.

I would also like to thank our meeting in print (Grapevine) because in my first 10 years of the program, I was a traveling salesman that did a lot of traveling and was on the road a lot. No matter if I was on the plane or car, I also had a Grapevine with me. I have men that I sponsor that are in jail and prison that love the Grapevine and I am grateful that

## Features

was able to get them a Grapevine subscription.

There is an article on page S19 in our service manual written by Bernard Smith, Class A non-alcoholic trustee about “Why We Have a Conference” that is one of the best articles that I have ever read, I highly recommend our members read it. To briefly summarize a few points of that article, Bernard Smith explains that it is important because A.A. ensures the recovery of the child that’s being born today, ensures that power and prestige never enter A.A. and that our fellowship is always inclusive, never exclusive. Those are only a few things that he points out and you can read the complete article.

In closing I want to thank all A.A.s for showing me how to have a relationship with a power greater than myself that loves me and forgives “unconditionally” and gives me the honesty, open mindedness, and willingness to align my will with God’s will and to serve my fellow man. God Bless A.A. and I hope these few words may encourage some of you get a service position, take a newcomer through the steps, or do any kind of service that that will help another person stay sober and have a great life.

**A Grateful member of A.A.**

**-Tom B.**



### **“Our Imaginations Will Be Fired”**

I could share about my drinking career, or the long and bumpy road that brought me to A.A. for good. But I would like to share a bit about how I obtained a spiritual experience through service work.

I have always had depression and social anxiety. I had very few friends growing up. During my drinking days I preferred to get drunk alone every day than go to bars and “make a fool of myself”. I reasoned that no one was being hurt by my drinking except me, and who cared about me anyway. I had long since resigned myself to thinking that I was just no good at making friends, and worse I was oblivious to the lost opportunities to be with my own family.

At a pivotal point in my journey, I got desperate and realized that I needed to get honest with myself, with God, and with another human being, or I would ruin my life. Getting a sponsor, working the steps with all my might and heart, and practicing rigorous honesty saved my life. But I kept waiting for that spiritual experience I kept hearing about.

It wasn’t long before I started resting on my laurels. I shudder to think what danger that could have led me to, had I not been just prideful enough to think, “How will A.A. survive the pandemic if I don’t chair a meeting every day?” How arrogant of me! Of course, A.A. didn’t need me! Blessedly stubborn people never stopped showing up at my home club even as I was afraid to leave my apartment. As it turned out, I needed A.A., and I needed A.A. far more badly than I realized.

Because I hadn’t had a spiritual awakening, I had been basically spiritually asleep up to that point. I had experienced a few Promises, but not what I know now is a vital spiritual experience, a psychic change. I didn’t know that I was in danger of a relapse, that one meeting every couple of weeks was not cutting it for this alcoholic. Suddenly I was attending a meeting every day, chairing multiple meetings a week, meeting new people on a regular

## Features

basis, and making friends for the first time in my adult life! I found *release from care, boredom, and worry*, even in the middle of a pandemic! My *imagination was fired!* I made connections, grew closer with my husband and my sponsor, and met my first sponsee! It is strange to say that during one of the most stressful times in world history, I was experiencing one of the best years of my whole life.

However, the thing I have learned about having a spiritual awakening is that I can fall back asleep. For me, this is all too easy. I have heard it said that I cannot stay sober on yesterday's program; that I must grow, or I go. I try to stay busy in A.A. Working a newsletter, for example, keeps me on my toes! It forces me to be in contact with more alcoholics than I ever have before, making even more connections, challenging my social anxiety a little every day. It helps me carry the message, keeps me sober, and keeps *my imagination fired!* That's one of my new favorite phrases in the Big Book.

For me fellowship and service work go hand-in-hand. I cannot be there for my family and not help out in any way I can, doing the dishes for my brother, or taking my dad to a doctor appointment. It's what you do for those you love. I try to be there for the fellowship because it is always there for me. That means finding a new comfort zone and thriving in it!

Besides, I know what it's like to be *stupid, boring and glum*. That was me dry and not sober. That was me apart from A.A., not a part of A.A. I used to self-medicate my depression and anxiety with alcohol. Thank God I have found a sufficient substitute, and more!

-Gwen R.



### The Third Step Prayer

God, I offer myself to Thee—

to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt.

Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will.

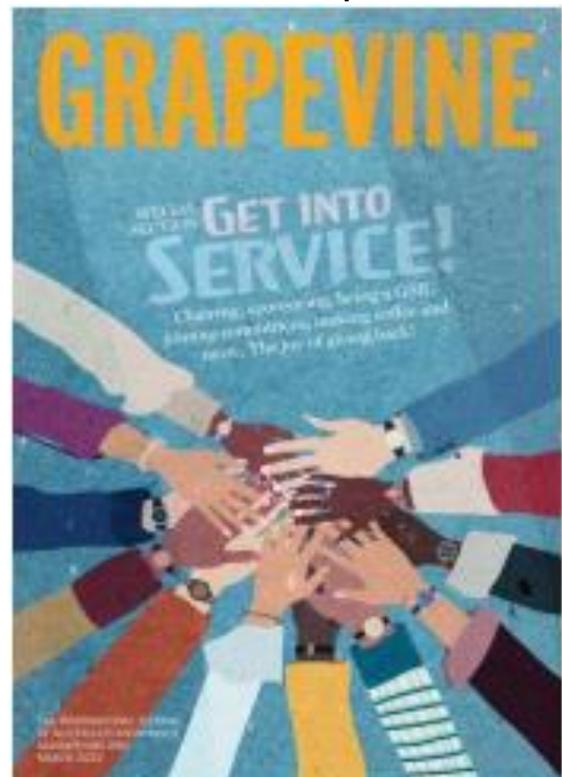
Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to thos I would Help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life.

May I do Thy will always!

AMEN.



### March 2023 Grapevine:



## Features



### IMPORTANT UPDATES

VERSION 2.7 IMPORTANT UPDATES

#### Vacancy for Non-trustee Director of AA Grapevine Board in 2023

The AA Grapevine Corporate Board is actively seeking candidates to fill a vacancy for the position of non-trustee Director at the General Service Conference in April 2023.

Learn more [here!](https://aagrapevine.org/vacancy-NTD-AAGV-Board-2023)



[aagrapevine.org/vacancy-NTD-AAGV-Board-2023](https://aagrapevine.org/vacancy-NTD-AAGV-Board-2023)

# AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

### Does your home group have a Grapevine Rep?

*"Grapevine Representatives are the link between AA Grapevine and the groups. It's a fun way to get involved! All you have to do is announce the latest issue at your meeting, let people know how they can participate by sending in stories, or jokes. It's easy to get started. Simply let your homegroup know that you are interested. Register with us online and you will receive a complete information kit from the Grapevine office."*

[aagrapevine.org/get-involved/become-grapevine-rep](https://aagrapevine.org/get-involved/become-grapevine-rep)



### The Chinese Farmer

I had never heard the story of the "Chinese Farmer" until I heard Sandy Beach tell it on a speaker tape. It reminds me that more will be revealed. It reminds me that god has a plan for me and that I will not always know what it is or how it will unfold. Some of my worst moments have turned out to be most valuable.

Trust god!

*A farmer and his son had a beloved horse who helped the family earn a living. One day, the horse ran away and their neighbours exclaimed, "Your horse ran away, what terrible luck!" The farmer replied, "Maybe so, maybe not."*

*A few days later, the horse returned home, leading a few wild horses back to the farm as well. The neighbours shouted out, "Your horse has returned, and brought several horses home with him. What great luck!" The farmer replied, "Maybe so, maybe not."*

*Later that week, the farmer's son was trying to break one of the horses and she threw him to the ground, breaking his leg. The neighbours cried, "Your son broke his leg, what terrible luck!" The farmer replied, "Maybe so, maybe not."*

*A few weeks later, soldiers from the national army marched through town, recruiting all boys for the army. They did not take the farmer's son, because he had a broken leg. The neighbours shouted, "Your boy is spared, what tremendous luck!" To which the farmer replied, "Maybe so, maybe not. We'll see."*

**Keith Montague**

**District 81 DCM**

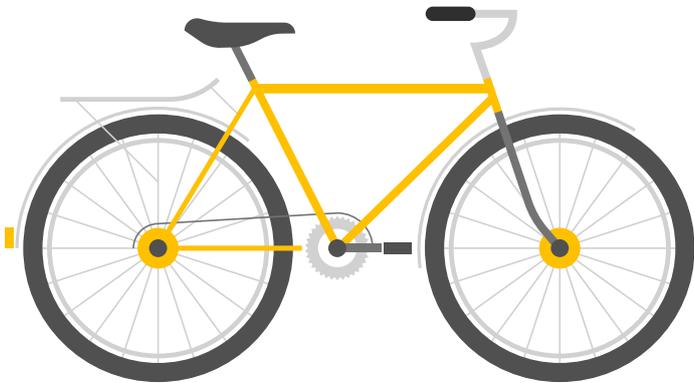
# February in Review



## “A Vision for You” Word Search

E O K T A F N W A N I C O G B  
 J C W C V H O C C O R Q Z F T  
 P O I C T R S S S I F U R L H  
 V A Y V G O M D J T V E L B B  
 N G T O R D X N R A E Z E Z I  
 V G J I U E F E D N K X Y K I  
 T L Q N E S S I H I O U T I S  
 Q P Q E V N J R P G B Q P N E  
 A Q K F W X C F Z A R Z V T D  
 H R P K M R A E W M M G W I E  
 V Y G W P O U W B I Y D F M S  
 C O M P A N I O N S H I P A T  
 Y P I H S W O L L E F G S C I  
 W I L L I N G N E S S O D Y N  
 T B J H H M Y Q I E Z L S O Y

- companionship
- destiny
- fellowship
- free
- friends
- grow
- imagination
- intimacy
- joyous
- patience
- service
- willingness



## February Finance & Budget Report

Opening Checkbook Balance:  
\$15,123.45

Group Contributions:  
\$1,120.01

Other Contributions:  
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Less Expenses:  
886.52

Net Income:  
\$233.49

**Ending Checkbook Balance:**  
**\$15,356.94**

Prudent Reserve Emergency Funds:  
(\$2,000.00)

Restricted Budget Deficit:  
(\$10,918.44)

**Available Funds:**  
**\$2,438.50**

For more information on the Finance & Budget Report, contact

**debra.s@aa-seta.org**

- AA World Services: [aa.org](http://aa.org)
- Southeast TX Area 67: [aa-seta.org](http://aa-seta.org)
- Area 67 Delegate: **Rick M.**
- District 81: [aadistrict81.org](http://aadistrict81.org)
- Houston AA intergroup: [aahouston.org](http://aahouston.org)
- Houston AI-Anon intergroup: [houstonalanon.org](http://houstonalanon.org)
- AA Grapevine: [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org)

Want to see your article, flyer, joke, quote, favorite prayer, artwork, or AA member shout-out featured in next month’s issue? **Send it on in!** → [gwen.r@aa-seta.org](mailto:gwen.r@aa-seta.org)

Please keep submissions relevant to AA and free of profanity. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. *Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.*