



DISTRICT 81

MARCH 2026

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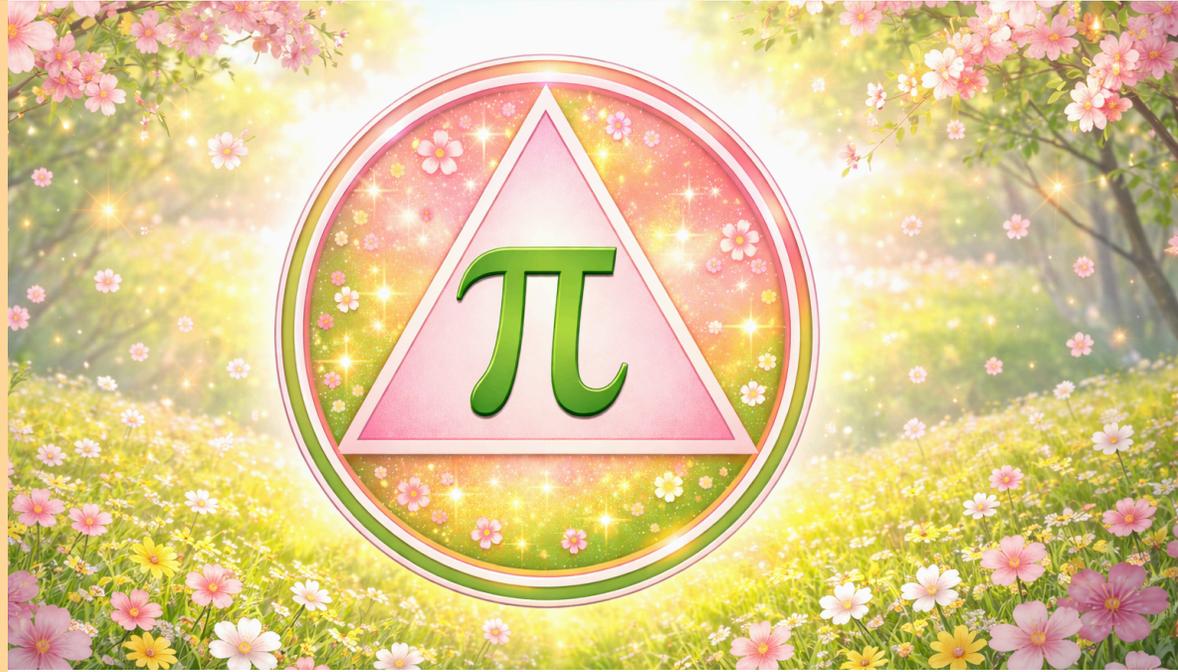
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STEP 3:

"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 ensure 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.**

UPCOMING EVENTS & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

March 4: District 81 meeting - 7pm at Kelley's in La Marque 4604 Gulf Fwy, La Marque, TX 77568 (1st Wednesday)

March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29: Newsletter Committee meeting - 4:30pm at Dawn F.'s house. (every Sunday)

March 11: Accessibility Committee meeting - 6:30pm online via Google Meet
<https://meet.google.com/qvk-rjzk-nad> (2nd Wednesday)

March 11: Correctional Facilities meeting - 6:30pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573 (2nd Wednesday)

March 14: Live at 5 speaker meeting - 5pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573 (2nd Saturday)

March 16: Workshop Committee meeting - 6:30pm Jason's Deli in League City (3rd Monday)

March 18: Website Committee meeting - 6pm online; send email to john.aeaa-seta.org to be added to the Google Meet invite. (3rd Wednesday)

March 18: Literature Committee meeting - 5:30pm via Google Meets (3rd Wednesday)
<https://meet.google.com/qcp-purn-rvt>

March 19: Grapevine Committee meeting - 5:30pm via Google Meets, send email to Grapevine committee chair to receive meeting info (3rd Thursday)

March 22: Archives Committee meeting - 1:00pm at the Bay Area Club, 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573 Rm E or F (3rd Sunday)

March 25: Treatment Facilities Committee meeting - 7:00pm at the Bay Area Club RM E & F 2111 Webster St, League City, TX 77573 and via Zoom: 868-5564-9879; passcode: 06-10-1935 (last Wednesday)

March 25: Finance & Budget meeting - 7pm via Google Meets, send email to F & B committee chair to receive meeting info (last Wednesday)

March 26: PI/CPC Committee meeting - 6:30pm via Zoom meeting ID 868-5564-9879; PW 06101935 (last Thursday)

May 16: Bridging the Gap Workshop - 1pm to 4pm - 2670 Ave D, San Leon, TX 77539

October 9-11: SWRAASA - Hyatt Regency Baytown-Houston 100 Convention Center Way, Baytown, TX 77520



BRIDGING THE GAP WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY:
D81 WORKSHOP COMMITTEE
 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TFC AND CFC

MAY 16, 2026

1PM - 4PM
2670 AVENUE D, SAN LEON, TX 77539

- WHAT IS BRIDGING THE GAP?
- WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRIDGING THE GAP?
- HOW CAN I BRIDGE THE GAP?

**JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE
 BRINGING THE GAP**

HOSTED BY SOUTHEAST TEXAS, AREA 67

SWRAASA
 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL AA SERVICE ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 9-11, 2026
HOUSTON, TX

A.A. A SOCIETY OF RECOVERED
 ALCOHOLICS IN ACTION



HYATT REGENCY BAYTOWN-HOUSTON
 100 CONVENTION CENTER WAY
 BAYTOWN, TX 77520



PRE-REGISTER BY 9/25/2026

MAIL TO: 148 S DOWLEN RD., PMB 21
 BEAUMONT, TX 77707

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SWRAASA

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY & STATE: _____
 DISTRICT: _____
 EMAIL: _____

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY & STATE: _____
 DISTRICT: _____
 EMAIL: _____

WWW.SWRAASA2026.ORG

Grapevine Subscription Contest



- 🌐 Online access to both website & App
- 📖 A year of Grapevine online
- 📖 8-10 new online stories monthly
- 📖 Access to vast Story Archive
- 🎧 Audio Grapevine & Podcast
- 🎧 Read or listen to every issue
- 🌐 Find meetings, connect to aa.org

How to Enter:

Send confirmation of subscription to district-81-grapevine@aa-seta.org with your group's name.

The Prize:

Group with the most subscriptions at the end of June will be the keeper of the traveling trophy.

SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE



They're All Third Step Problems

I've been around this thing of ours for a little while. I'd love to tell you that the desire chip that I picked up in November of 1991 was my last; but it wasn't. Perhaps some of you that are faced with the misfortune of reading this article have had to pick up a desire chip or two or ten. I once heard an alcoholic share that they had picked up enough desire chips to shingle a dog house. I don't remember who it was and I wish I had thanked them for the laugh.

Why is it that some wander into the rooms, get sober and stay that way, while others struggle over a period of months, years or even decades to get a firm grasp on that flimsy reed?

The Book is clear on these matters

In The Doctor's Opinion, Dr. Silkworth emphasizes the importance of an "entire psychic change." Chapter 2 of our book devotes several pages to illustrating the powerlessness of the alcoholic, suggesting that we have placed ourselves beyond human aid and are faced with two alternatives: To go on to the bitter end and the other to accept spiritual help. There are other familiar clues in the book, such as "there is no middle of the road solution" or "half measures avail us nothing" and many other warnings to alcoholics like me who would like to order a la carte and avoid those items on the menu that are heavy or not aligned with my tastes.

The God Problem

For those who didn't quit reading when you read the title of this article, thanks for hanging in there. Please hang in there just a little bit longer – I sure had to.

We all managed to survive our childhood and upbringing. Some of those experiences were horrific, some of them were unpleasant and some of them were actually pretty good. I can only speak to my own experience and if I'm being honest, I walked into AA with a "God problem."

In my case, it wasn't necessarily that I didn't believe or didn't want to believe, although I had some doubts. Having grown up Catholic and having been pressured to consider joining the clergy I had a hard time reconciling what I wanted out of my life with God's expectations. Poverty, chastity and obedience sounded like a real drag and I always kind of thought that I could live life on my terms and apologize or repent later.

I also routinely had the experience of watching people of faith, who seemed happy and prosperous. I had a strange mixture of admiration and contempt for these people. Have you ever known someone who was just an amazing and indisputably admirable human being and then decided that you didn't like them? Yeah, me too.....

Relapse is not a requirement

When I had my first relapse, I hadn't had a drink in 23 years. I also hadn't been sponsored or set foot in a meeting for the last ten. I was a little dry. There was a very brief period where I thought I may be able to control and enjoy this. Within a few weeks, I was convinced that I was powerless over alcohol and that my life had become unmanageable. The second time I relapsed, I wasn't confused about who or what I am and I had no illusions about what was to come.

The bedevilmments seem to be my factory settings, and when I'm in my disease, I am going to experience all of those sensations full blast. But when I am sober, and I have "worked 12 steps" and I am continuing to have trouble with my personal relationships, can't control my emotional nature, am a prey to misery and depression, can't make a living, have a feeling of uselessness, am full of fear, am unhappy and can't be of real help to other people.....that is a truckload of red flags. How am I to live up to that decision I made to turn my will and my life over to the care of God as I understand him?

The Book is clear about that too

On page 84, it says, "When these things crop up..." Then it proceeds to explain how to practically apply the Third Step to all of my worldly problems:

1. We ask God at once to remove them.
2. We discuss them with someone immediately. (keyword – immediately)
3. Make amends quickly if we have harmed anyone.
4. Then we resolutely turn our thoughts to someone we can help.

Rinse and repeat; over and over until it becomes second nature. We are called to be of service; to be useful. The more we condition ourselves to rely upon God and our fellows and the more reliable we become, the easier it gets to find relief from life on life's terms through service, usefulness and productivity. It will not happen overnight, but with a good sponsor, a good home group and repeated willingness, it will come.

-Dan H. (Happy Hour Group)

The Care of God

She grew up in unsafe environments with people who could not care for her properly, where trusting and allowing others to be in control was not something she learned to do. From an early age she felt like she was on her own to figure things out and to protect herself. The only person she could trust was herself. She was a child filled with tenacity and strength took her a long way, and made her believe that she had it all figured out.

But then one day, her childlike mind and strength were no longer big enough for adult things. She had responsibilities, fears, and experiences that could not comprehend nor conquer with a child's thinking. Her life was unmanageable, scary, and out of control. Drugs and alcohol seemed to be the solution to the worries and heartbreak that continued for years and years.

But one day, she lost hope and could no longer manage her life, and tried to stop the pain once and for all. She felt she could never be forgiven for her childlike choices, the pain she caused others and herself, and the disappointment life had brought her was too much.

Then something miraculous happened. *She woke up*. At first in a hospital and then again in a treatment center. And then, to God. AA and its principles began to blink light back in. Then another miracle happened--she started to listen.

When she opened her eyes and looked around, she saw people who not only cared about her, but were just like her that learned to grow up. She trusted. She believed. She saw for the very first time in her life that there were people and a place where she could grow up - and feel safe.

Then an awakening happened that changed her life forever. Her ability to be honest and vulnerable among these people allowed her to surrender. She connected. She found God.

I am *her*. I am growing up because God is holding my hand. I am no longer afraid, not because I found Him, but because I know He will always be there, even when I let go of His hand. I understand no matter what I go through, He will be there when I reach out again, through those in the fellowship and in all those I meet now in perfect timing, with God working through them.

AA allowed me to start growing up, and collect tools for adult decisions and experiences. I understand what to do when life happens. I have gratitude and hope for my life, and now know that God is always going to keep His promise to keep me safe. I am forever grateful.

-Ingrid K (District 81 Member)

What conscious contact with my higher power feels like:



You Pick

The Third Step of Alcoholics Anonymous —“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him”—marks a profound shift from self-reliance to trust in something greater. While the wording refers to “God,” the program emphasizes personal interpretation, allowing each member to define a higher power in a way that feels authentic. This flexibility makes the step approachable for people of all belief systems.

At its core, the Third Step is about surrender, not in the sense of defeat, but in releasing the illusion of total control. For many struggling with addiction, rigid self-management has repeatedly led to pain, confusion, and relapse.

The Third Step encourages humility: a willingness to admit that old ways of thinking have not worked and that guidance is needed. This decision becomes a cornerstone for the rest of recovery.

Practicing the Third Step often involves daily reflection, prayer or meditation, and a conscious effort to let go of fear and self-centered decision-making. It invites trust—trust in the process, in support from others, and in a power beyond one’s own will. Ultimately, the Third Step offers freedom: the chance to live with greater clarity, stability, and purpose by no longer facing addiction alone.

-Submitted Anonymously

Poetry Corner

Outright

You’re new to me.
Ain’t seen a smile so sly, shiny-
styled and clean.
Guess some things do turn out right,
ain’t that a thing.

-Gabriel Z (Nite Owls)



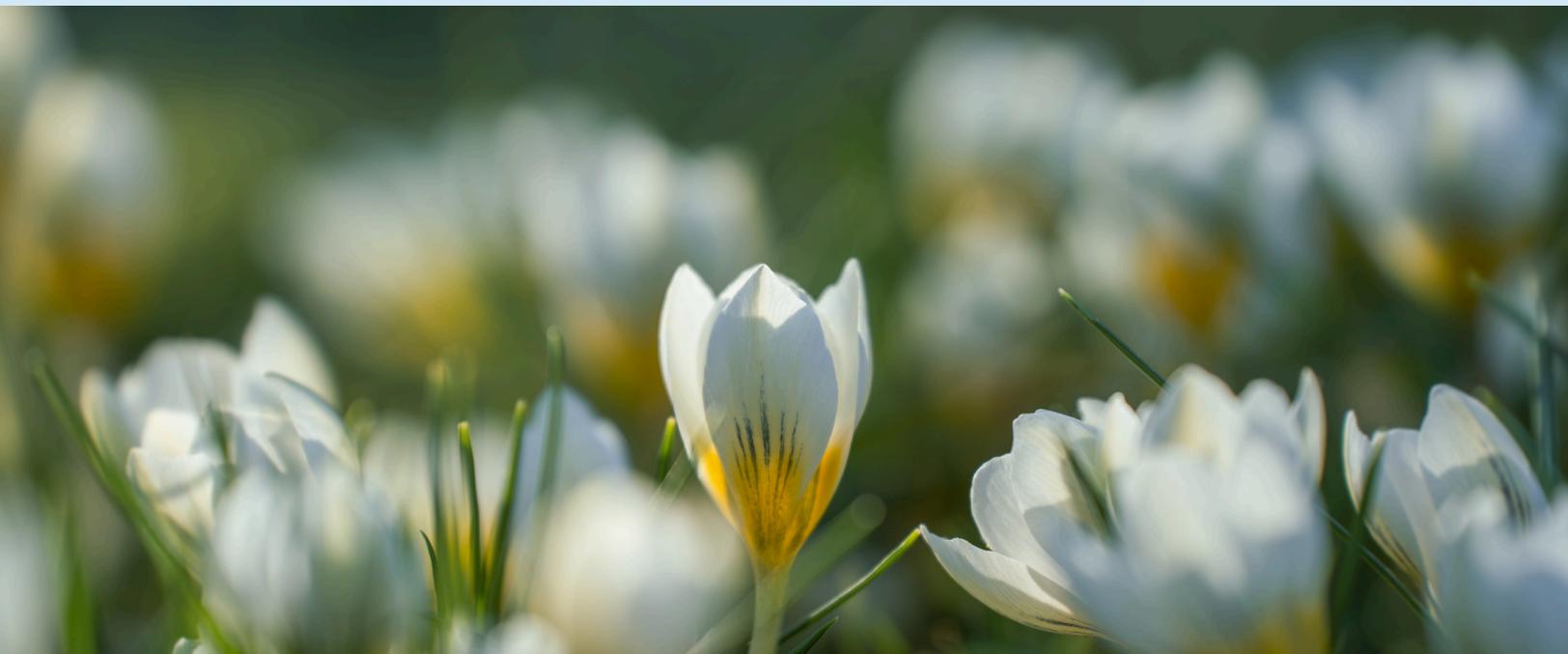
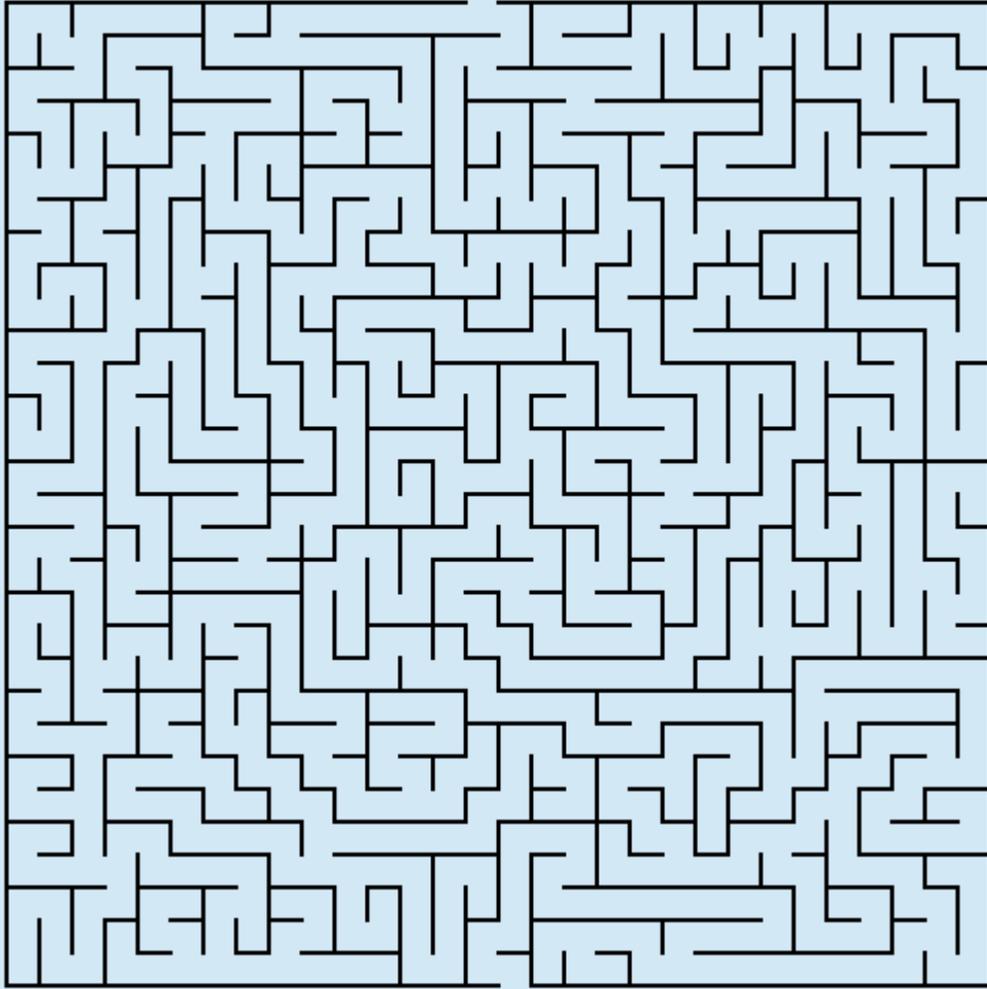
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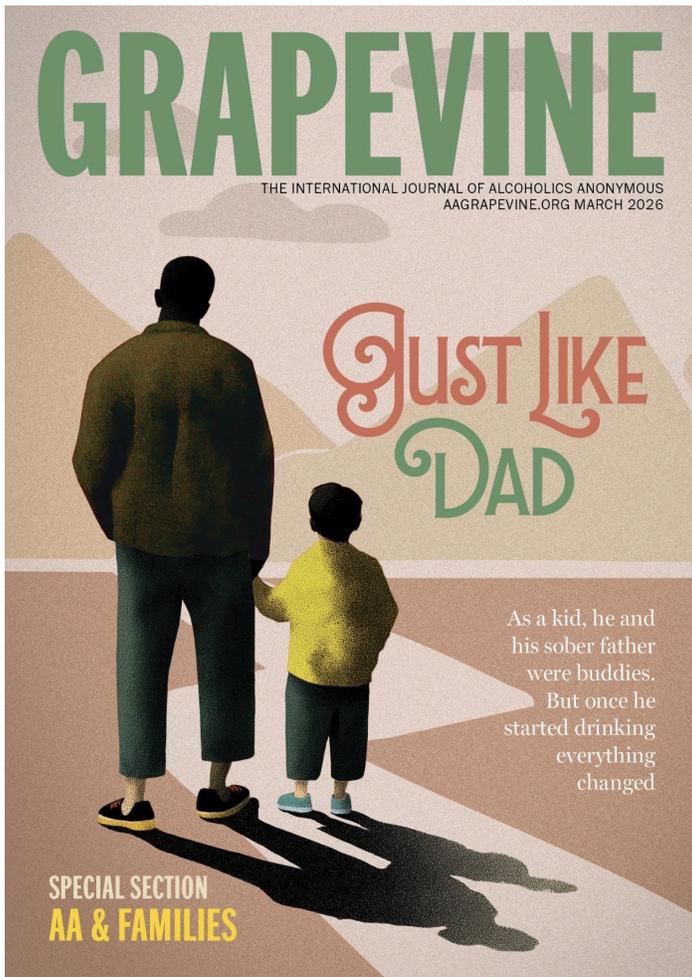
90 days today
tomorrow will be 91
but tomorrow isn't here yet
one day at a time this journey I'm on

So thank you, God, for 90
And I pray for the strength to stay sober
So 91 can make its way
When 90 days are over.

-JJ D.

MARCH MAZE PUZZLE





MARCH GRAPEVINE

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www.aagrapevine.org/store/us-subscriptions



FEB F&B REPORT D81



Scan QR code to access the District 81 website and archived issues of the newsletter!

D81 Budget Summary	
Opening Checkbook Balance	\$ 10,691.56
Group Contributions	\$ 1,144.04
Other Contributions	
Less Expenses	\$ 810.25
Net Income	\$ 333.79
Ending Checkbook Balance	\$ 11,025.35
Prudent Reserve Emergency Funds	\$ (2,000.00)
Unused Budget (Restricted Deficit)	\$(10,517.35)
Available Funds	\$ (1,492.00)