

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

December 2018

ReadingBerksIntergroup.org

The Alternative is published monthly by the Reading-Berks Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous. Serving Districts 33, 66, and 67 of Delegate Area 59—Eastern Pennsylvania. Reach us by mail at P.O. Box 12157, Reading, PA 19612, or you can email us at Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org

HELP IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK CALL 610-373-6500

INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

Mike M.	Intergroup Chairperson	Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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Tammy G.	Intergroup Treasurer	Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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Pete R.	Public Information	PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Tyler J.	Visitation	Visitation@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

The Reading Berks Intergroup meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Calvary Baptist Church, 510 Park Ave., Reading, PA at 7:30 P.M. All members of Alcoholics Anonymous are welcome and encouraged to attend.

“Responsibility Declaration”

“I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that, I am responsible.”

Step Twelve

“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is *our twelfth suggestion*: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail. Remember they are very ill.

Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends-this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 89)

Tradition Twelve

“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because of A.A.’s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that sacrificial spirit-well symbolized by anonymity-is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.’s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 184)

Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity.

We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 187)

Morning Prayer

“God, please direct my thinking and keep my thoughts divorced from self-pity, dishonest or self seeking motives. Please keep my thought life clear from wrong motives and help me employ my mental faculties, that my thought – life might be placed on a higher plane, the plan of inspiration.”

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 86)

A Special Thanks to the following groups for their contributions to support Reading-Berks Intergroup: Topton Group; Leesport Group; Muhlenberg Sunday Speaker Meeting; Glenside Group; New Millennium Group; TLC Group; Anonymous; Sober At Six-Thirty; Walk The Walk; Frog Pond; Advent Men's Group; and Beginner's Meeting.

Service Commitments

“Become Your Home Group’s Intergroup Representative (IGR)”

In areas where Intergroups have been formed such as Berks County, the AA Groups elect an Intergroup Representative and an Alternate, who participate in the monthly Intergroup business meetings with other elected Representatives. These meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Calvary Baptist Church, [510 Park Avenue, Reading PA](#). The meeting starts at 7:30 PM and is usually over by 9:00PM

“AA HOTLINE” Needs Volunteers

AA members with some accumulated sobriety are always needed to join up to take calls from individuals who are reaching out for one reason or another. Contact the Intergroup Hotline Chairperson at Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org and sign up sheets are available at http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/Getting_Involved.htm#HOTLINE_SIGN-UP_SHEET

Need Volunteers for Alcathon

Please Contact Misty H. at Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

“Bridging The Gap” – Needs Chairperson & Volunteers

Contact Terry Mc F. at 610-944-3167 or BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org or bridgingthegap@comcast.net or “Bridging the Gap”, P.O. Box 301, Blandon, Pa. 19510

Need Male Volunteers for the Prison Commitment

Meetings are Saturday Nights from 7-8 PM
Please Contact Al S. at MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Applications are available on the Reading Berks Intergroup Website @ <http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/Prison%20Volunteer%20App-2015.pdf>

Need Female Volunteers for Prison Commitment

Meetings are Tuesday Nights from 7-8 PM
Please Contact Susan W. at SanLee715@gmail.com
Applications are available on the Reading Berks Intergroup Website @ <http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/2015%20PrisonVolunteerApp%20Female.pdf>

Events

“Nolde Forest Group Christmas & Anniversary Party”

Wednesday, December 19th, 2018

One United Church of Christ 1730 New Holland Road Kenhorst, PA 19607

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM Food, Fun and Fellowship

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM Speaker Meeting (2 Speakers Nolde Past & Nolde Present)

Bring a Dish or Just Bring Yourself – All are Welcome!

“Hilltop Group Anniversary Party”

Tuesday, January 8th, 2019

The Bridge Church Route 724 Shillington, PA 19607

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Food, Fun and Fellowship

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM AA Speaker – Open Meeting

“Books and People Group Anniversary Meeting”

Monday, January 28th, 2019

First Church of God

1128 Hampden Boulevard, Reading, PA

6:30 PM - Food and Speaker T.B.A.

“55th International Women’s Conference”

Thursday, February 7th thru Sunday, February 10th, 2019

The Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites

404 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071

Call 213-624-1000 or visit: womensinternationalconference.org

“EACYPAA XV11 2019 Pre-Conference Event”

“A Taste of Sobriety”

Thursday, March 7th, 2019

Bally’s Hotel Atlantic City

1900 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ

Food Hunt 6 – 8 PM; Bull Rides 7 – 9 PM; Dance Party 9 – 10 PM

\$20 per Person - Limited Tickets Available @ NJYPAA.org

“EACYPAA XV11 Conference”

Thursday, March 7th thru Sunday, March 10th, 2019

Bally’s Hotel Atlantic City

1900 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ

Recovery, Service and Unity

Register and Book Your Room @ NJYPAA.org

Questions Email: NJHOSTCOMMITTEE@gmail.com

Announcements

“Alternative Advertisements”

All A.A. Events, Notifications, Announcements and/or Testimonies are Welcome!

Please email all requests to: Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

“New AA Meeting Guide Mobile App”

Free mobile app for IOS and Android. Google: <https://meetingguide.org/>

Designed to be simple, fast, and help you find AA meetings

All are Invited to Attend:

District 66 Area 59 Meeting

2nd Thursday each month at 7 - 8 PM

St. Peters UCC, Dwight St. & Curtis Rd., West Lawn, PA

Existing Meeting New Meeting Time:

”Congo Big Book Study Group”

Beginning Saturday, October 3rd 2018 will begin meeting at 7:00 PM

Shepherd of the Hills Church, 527 Hoffmansville Rd., Bechtelsville, PA 19505

****Note Meeting Format and Location are not changing****

New Meeting:

”Primary Purpose”

Monday 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. - Big Book Study

Bausman Memorial UCC, 1064 Penn St., Wyomissing, PA 19610

New Meeting:

Coffee & Donuts

Saturday 10 – 11 A.M. Open Discussion Meeting – Smoking Permitted Outside

87 Main Street, Strausstown, PA 19559

New Location:

Leesport Group

Saturday 9:30 PM – 10:30 Closed Discussion Meeting

Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church, 820 West Leesport Rd., Leesport, PA

Important Dates in A.A. History

December 1, 1940 - Chicago Daily Tribune begins a series of articles on AA by Nall Hamilton

December 2, 1943 - Bill speaks to 300 at meeting inside San Quentin

December 5, 1985 - Dave B, founder of Montreal Group dies weeks before 50th anniversary Now his story is in the 4th Edition Big Book.

December 6:

1939 - Bert the Tailor lends Works Publishing \$1000

1979 - Akron Beacon reports death of Henrietta Sieberling

December 7, 1949 - Sister Ignatia accepts Poverello Medal of St Francis on AA's behalf

December 8, 1997 - "As We See It" emailing list started December 8, 1997

December 10:

1975 - "Birds of a Feather" AA group for pilots is formed

1934 - Bill admitted to Towns Hosp 4th/last time (fall '33, '34 in summer, midsummer and final admittance).

1941 - Dallas Morning News reports 1st AA group formed in Dallas

December 12:

1934 - Bill has Spiritual Experience at Towns Hospital

1937 - Bill meets with Rockefeller Foundation and tries to get money

December 13:

1934 - Ebby visited Bill at hospital brought William James's book, "Varieties of Religious Experience".

1937 - Rockland State Mental Hospital takes patients to meeting in New Jersey

December 19, 1939 - Drunks in Los Angeles hold their 1st AA meeting there

December 20, 1945 - Rowland Hazard dies (he carried the Oxford Group message to Ebby)

December 27, 1893 - Rev Samuel Shoemaker is born

Other significant events in December for which we have no specific date:

1934 - Bill & Lois start attending Oxford Group meetings.

1938 - Using Oxford Group principles, Bill closes the loopholes and changes the 6 steps to 12.

1939 - First AA group in mental institution, Rockland State Hospital, NY.

1939 - 1st home meeting in Los Angeles at Kaye M.'s house.

1940 - 1st AA group formed in St. Louis, Missouri

1948 - Dr. Bob's last major talk, in Detroit.

1950 - Grapevine article signed by both Bill & Dr Bob recommend establishing AA General Service Conference.

1955 - 'Man on the Bed' painting by Robert M. 1st appeared in Grapevine. Painting called 'Came to Believe'

1982 - Nell Wing retires from GSO after 35 years of service