

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter June 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

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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 Six

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

Since most of us are born with an abundance of natural desires, it isn't strange that we often let these far exceed their intended purpose. When they drive us blindly, or we willfully demand that they supply us with more satisfactions or pleasures than are possible or due us, that is the point at which we depart from the degree of perfection that God wishes for us here on earth. That is the measure of our character defects, or, if you wish, of our sins.

If we ask, God will certainly forgive our derelictions. But in no case does He render us white as snow and keep us that way without our cooperation. That is something we are supposed to be willing to work toward ourselves. He asks only that we try as best we know how to make progress in the building of character.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 65)

Tradition Six

“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose”

We tried A.A. hospitals—they all bogged down because you cannot put an A.A. group into business; too many busybody cooks spoil the broth. A.A. groups had their fling at education, and when they began to publicly whoop up the merits of this or that brand, people became confused. Did A.A. fix drunks or was it an educational project? Was A.A. spiritual or was it medical? Was it a reform movement? In consternation, we saw ourselves getting married to all kinds of enterprises, some good and some not so good. Watching alcoholics committed willy-nilly to prisons or asylums, we began to cry, “There oughtta be a law!” A.A.'s commenced to thump tables in legislative committee rooms and agitated for legal reform. That made good newspaper copy, but little else. We saw we'd soon be mired in politics. Even inside A.A. we found it imperative to remove the A.A. name from clubs and Twelfth Step houses.

These adventures implanted a deep-rooted conviction that in no circumstances could we endorse any related enterprise, no matter how good. We of Alcoholics Anonymous could not be all things to all men, nor should we try.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 156-157)

6th Step Prayer

God, thank you for removing my fear and for showing me the truth about myself. I need your help to become willing to let go of the things in me which continue to block me off from you. Please grant me your grace and remove these objectionable characteristics, defects and shortcomings from me. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 76)

A Special Thanks to the following groups for their contributions to support Reading-Berks

Intergroup: Kutztown Friday Night Group; Advent Men's Group; Leesport Group and Sober At Six-Thirty Group.

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

“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

“X Spanish Pennsylvania State A.A. Convention”

Saturday, May 26th – Sunday, May 27th, 2018

TriCounty Active Adult Center, 288 Moser Rd, Pottstown, PA 19464

Registration \$20 & Sunday Banquet \$30 Contact: emd@gmail.com

“Three Legacies and the Home Group Workshop”

Saturday, June 9th, 2018

Co-Sponsored by Chester Springs Speaker Group and Ludwig’s Corner Group of AA

Saint Elizabeth, 110 St Elizabeth Drive, Chester Springs, PA.

9:30 AM to 5:00 PM. No fees. Contact: alkiechris@gmail.com

“Women’s Hope with AA 3 Year Anniversary Celebration”

Friday, June 15th, 2018

St. Gabriel’s Church (Rear Entrance), 1188 Benjamin Franklin Highway, Douglasville, PA 19518

Food, Fun and Fellowship 6:30 P.M., Speaker at 7 PM (2 Speakers)

All are Welcome – Bring Your Family – Men & Children are Welcome!

Volunteers are needed for setup at 6 PM & Food Donations are appreciated!

“General Service Office Bus Trip to New York City” SOLD OUT

Friday, June 22nd, 2018

Trip 6:30AM – 7PM

See <http://www.readingberksintergroup.org> for Itinerary

Call Cris M. with questions at 610-790-7510 or email crism40@hotmail.com

“District 67 Annual AA Picnic”

Sunday, June 24th, 2018

Happy Landings at Exeter Community Park, Elm Street, St. Lawrence, PA 19606

Fun, Fellowship, Food from 12:30 – 5:30 P.M. Bring a Dish.

AA & Al-Anon Speakers from 3 – 4 P.M.

Playground for Children, Restrooms, Handicap Accessible

No Pets Allowed – Park Rules

“Annual Grapevine Picnic”

Saturday, July 14th, 2018

High Acres Park, 110 High Acres Drive Route 447, Canadensis, PA 18325

\$7.00 per ticket in advance. \$10.00 per ticket at the door

10 AM to 4 PM; Contact: ilaw61@hotmail.com

Events Continued

“12th Annual Campout at Hickory Run State Park”

Friday, July 20th – Sunday, July 22nd, 2018

Hickory Run, Camp Daddy Allen

3613 State Route 534, White Haven, PA 18661-9712

Fun, Fellowship, Workshops, Campfire Meetings & More

For fees visit www.hickoryruncampout.com

“Reading – Berks Intergroup Annual Picnic”

Saturday, July 21st, 2018

Mohnton Playground, 202 E. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

Bring a Dish, Fun, Fellowship, Food & More - 11 A.M. – 6 P.M.

Volunteers Needed for Setup & Cleanup

Contact Misty H. at 484-818-1350 or email: Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org

“Summer Workshop – Carrying the Message”

Saturday, July 28th, 2018

Hosted by District 58 - SAPA (Hydro-Extrusions) Group,

53 Pottsville St, Cressona PA 17929. 9 AM to 3 PM.

Food, Fun and Fellowship - No fees

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 Location:

”End of the Line Group”

Beginning Wednesday, May 2nd 2018

The group will begin meeting at their new location at 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday – Closed Meeting Format

Fleetwood New Jerusalem UCC, 27 Lyons Rd., New Jerusalem, PA 19522

**** Please Note: Meeting Day & Time has not changed – only the location ***

Announcements Continued

Existing Meeting Time Change:

"Shoey Big Book Study"

Beginning Now the group will meet at 7:00 PM Saturday Nights
Zion Lutheran Church, 354 Zion Church Road, Shoemakersville, PA 19555

**** Please Note: Meeting Location & Day has not changed – only the Time ***

Existing Meeting New Location:

"Great Fact Big Book"

Beginning Wednesday, January 3rd 2018

The group will begin meeting at their new location from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Wyomissing Church of the Brethren, 2200 State Hill, Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610

**** Please Note: Meeting Day & Time has not changed – only the location ***

New Meeting:

Coffee & Donuts

Saturday 10 – 11 A.M. Open Discussion Meeting – Smoking Permitted Outside
87 Main Street, Strausstown, PA 19559

Meeting Needs Support:

Stouchburg Group

Marion Twp. Municipal Bldg., 420 Water St., Womelsdorf, PA 19567

Monday's & Thursday's at 7:00 PM

Meeting Needs Support:

Spirit of Recovery

Holy Spirit Church, 423 Windsor St., Reading, PA

Monday's at 7:00 PM

Meeting Needs Support:

5th Street Recovery

Pennsylvania Counseling Building, 125 South 5th Street, Reading, PA , PA

Tuesday's at 6:30 PM

Meeting Needs Support:

Nolde Forest Group

1 United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd., Kenhorst, PA

Wednesday 7:30 PM (2 Meetings Upstairs and Downstairs)

Recovery Quotes

“If you know someone who tries to drown their sorrows, you might tell them that sorrows know how to swim.”

Ann Landers

“Sometimes you’ve just got to give yourself what you wish someone else would give you.”

Dr. Phil

“You can come out of the furnace of trouble two ways: if you let it consume you, you come out a cinder; but there is a kind of metal which refuses to be consumed, and comes out a star.”

Jean Church

“We honor ourselves when we speak out for recovery. We show the world that recovery matters because it brings hope and peace into the lives of individuals and their loved ones.”

Beth Wilson

“Sometimes we motivate ourselves by thinking of what we want to become. Sometimes we motivate ourselves by thinking about who we don’t ever want to be again.”

Shane Niemeyer

“When I focus on what’s good today, I have a good day. When I focus on what’s bad, I have a bad day. If I focus on the problem, the problem increases. If I focus on the answer, the answer increases.”

Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous

“You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it.”

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

"I drank for happiness and became unhappy. I drank for joy and became miserable. I drank for sociability and became argumentative. I drank for sophistication and became obnoxious. I drank for friendship and made enemies. I drank for sleep and woke up tired. I drank for strength and felt weak. I drank for relaxation and got the shakes. I drank for courage and became afraid. I drank for confidence and became doubtful. I drank to make conversation easier and slurred my speech. I drank to feel heavenly and ended up feeling like hell."

Author Unknown

Important Dates in A.A. History

June 1, 1949 - Anne Smith, Dr. Bob's wife, died.

June 4, 2002- Caroline Knapp, author of "Drinking: A Love Story" died sober of lung cancer.

June 5, 1940 - Ebby Thatcher took a job at the NY Worlds Fair.

June 6:

1940 - The first AA Group in Richmond, VA, was formed.

1979 - AA gave the two-millionth copy of the Big Book to Joseph Califano, then Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. It was presented by Lois Wilson, Bill's wife, in New York.

June 7:

1939 - Bill and Lois Wilson had an argument, the first of two times Bill almost slipped.

1941 - The first AA Group in St. Paul, Minnesota, was formed.

June 8, 1941 - Three AA's started a group in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

June 10, 1935 - The date that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding date of AA. There is some evidence that the founders, in trying to reconstruct the history, got the date wrong and it was actually June 17.

June 11, 1945 - Twenty-five hundred attend AA's 10th Anniversary in Cleveland, Ohio.

June 13, 1945 - Morgan R. gave a radio appearance for AA with large audience. He was kept under surveillance to make sure he didn't drink.

June 15, 1940 - First AA Group in Baltimore, MD, was formed.

June 16, 1938 - Jim Burwell, "The Vicious Cycle" in Big Book, had his last drink.

June 17, 1942 - New York AA groups sponsored the first annual NY area meeting. Four hundred and twenty-four heard Dr. Silkworth and AA speakers.

June 18, 1940 - One hundred attended the first meeting in the first AA clubhouse at 334-1/2 West 24th St., New York City.

June 19, 1942 - Columnist Earl Wilson reported that NYC Police Chief Valentine sent six policemen to AA and they sobered up. "There are fewer suicides in my files," he commented.

June 21, 1944 - The first Issue of the AA Grapevine was published.

June 24, 1938 - Two Rockefeller associates told the press about the Big Book "Not to bear any author's name but to be by 'Alcoholics Anonymous.'"

June 25, 1939 - The New York Times reviewer wrote that the Big Book is "more soundly based psychologically than any other treatment I have ever come upon."

June 26, 1935 - Bill Dotson. (AA #3) entered Akron's City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.

June 28, 1935 - Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson visited Bill Dotson at Akron's City Hospital.

June 30:

1941 - Ruth Hock showed Bill Wilson the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.

2000 - More than 47,000 from 87 countries attended the opening meeting of the 65th AA Anniversary in Minneapolis, MN.

MEMO FROM GOD

TO: You

FROM: The Boss

DATE: Today

REFERENCE: Life

SUBJECT: Yourself

I am God.

Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do box).

It will be addressed in My time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold on to it.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic; Don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work; Think of the man who has been out of work for years.

Should you despair over a relationship gone bad, think of the person who has never know what it's like to love and be loved in return.

Should you grieve the passing of another weekend, think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance; Think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new gray hair in the mirror; Think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose? Be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other peoples' bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities; Remember, things could be worse You could be them!!!

GOD!