

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter September 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
Robert D.	Intergroup Alt. Chairperson	Alt-Chair@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Rol S.	Intergroup Treasurer	Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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Tammy G.	Newsletter Chairperson	Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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Terry Mc F.	Bridging the Gap	BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Greg G.	Website	Info@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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 Nine

“Made a direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

As soon as we begin to feel confident in our new way of life and have begun, by our behavior and example, to convince those about us that we are indeed changing for the better, it is usually safe to talk in complete frankness with those who have been seriously affected, even those who may be only a little or not at all aware of what we have done to them. The only exceptions we will make will be cases where our disclosure would cause actual harm. These conversations can begin in a casual or natural way. But if no such opportunity presents itself, at some point we will want to summon all our courage, head straight for the person concerned, and lay our cards on the table. We needn't wallow in excessive remorse before those we have harmed, but amends at this level should always be forthright and generous.

For the readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine.

(Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions pg. 85-87)

Tradition Nine

“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

It is clear now that we ought never to name boards to govern us, but it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us. It is the difference between the spirit of vested authority and the spirit of service, two concepts which are sometimes poles apart. It is in this spirit of service that we elect the A.A. group's informal rotating committee, the intergroup association for the area, and the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous for A.A. as a whole. Even our Foundation, once an independent board, is today directly accountable to our Fellowship. Its trustees are the caretakers and expeditors of our world services.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 174-175)

9th Step Prayer

God, with regard to this amend, please remove my fear and give me strength, courage and direction to do the right thing, no matter what the personal consequences may be. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 79)

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

“Intergroup Secretary Chairperson Needed”

Contact Mark S. at 610-698-6464 or Secretary@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org
Requirements: 5 Years Sobriety, experience with Electronic Banking & Microsoft Excel

“Intergroup Treasury Chairperson Needed”

Contact Rol S. at 610-698-6464 or Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org
Requirements: 5 Years Sobriety, experience with Electronic Banking & Microsoft Excel

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

“Shillington Lifeline Group 28th Anniversary Party”

Tuesday, September 11th, 2018

Shillington Church of Christ, 475 Philadelphia Ave., Shillington, PA 19607

Guest Speakers Jess & Jillian R. 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Food & Fellowship start at 6:30 PM – Bring a Dish or Come as You Are

“Frog Pond 17 Year Anniversary Party”

Friday, September 14th, 2018

Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church, 820 W Leesport Rd, Leesport PA

Food, Fun & Fellowship start at 6:00 PM to ?

Guest Speaker at 7:00PM to 8:00 PM

“33 Years of Women Living Sober”

Thursday, September 20th, 2018 (Women Only)

Atonement Church, 5 Wyomissing Blvd., Wyomissing, PA 19610

Guest Speaker Meeting 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Followed by Light Fare & Fellowship

Refreshments & Cake Provided – Bring a Friend & Dish

“Spiritual Principles Behind The Steps Workshop”

Sunday, September 30th, 2018

Hosted by District 45

Flinchbaughs Orchard, 110 Ducktown Rd, York, PA: 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM

No fees. Contact: ralpho226@gmail.com

“Area Day – A.A. – A Solution For All Generations”

Sunday, October 14th, 2018

Hosted by District 55

Brookhaven Borough Hall, 2 Cambridge Rd., Brookhaven, PA 19015

Open to All Fellowship Members. Registration at 9:00 AM. Starts at 10:00 AM

No fees. Contact: chairperson@area59aa.org

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

Intergroup: Alpha Group, Leesport Group, Saturday AM Women’s Group, TLC Group and Happy Hour Group

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 Format:

”Shoey Group”

Beginning Saturday, August 4th 2018 &

Every 1st Saturday thereafter will be a Speaker Meeting

All other Saturday’s will continue to be a Big Book Study

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 ***

Existing Meeting New Location:

”Leesport Group of Alcoholics Anonymous”

Beginning June 30th 2018 will meet at 9:30 PM Saturday Nights

Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church, 820 W. Leesport Rd., Leesport, PA 19533

**** Please Note: Day has not changed – only the location – Closed Discussion Meeting ****

New Meeting:

Women’s Sharing Our Strength (S.O.S.) Group

Monday 7 P.M. Open Discussions Meeting – 12 Steps & 12 Traditions

St. Columbkil Church, 200 Indian Spring Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512 (2nd Floor)

No Day Care

New Meeting:

Coffee & Donuts

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

87 Main Street, Strausstown, PA 19559

Recovery Quotes

“I hated every minute of training, but I said, ‘Don’t quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.’”

Muhammad Ali

“Nothing is impossible; the word itself says, ‘I’m possible!’”

Audrey Hepburn

“When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.”

Henry Ford

“Sometimes you can only find Heaven by slowly backing away from Hell.”

Carrie Fisher

“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

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”

Chinese Proverb

“What progress, you ask, have I made? I have begun to be a friend to myself.”

Hecato

“Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It’s perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we’ve learned something from yesterday.”

John Wayne

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.”

Albert Einstein

Important Dates in A.A. History

September 1, 1939 - 1st AA group founded in Chicago

September 5, 1907 - Nancy Flynn, author of "Independent Blond" born

September 11, 2001 - 30 Vesey St, New York, AA's first Office is damaged during the World Trade Center attack

September 12, 1942 - U.S. Assist. Surgeon General Kolb speaks at dinner for Bill and Dr Bob

September 13, 1937 - Florence R, 1st female in AA in NY

September 13, 1941 - WHJP in Jacksonville, FL airs Spotlight on AA

September 17, 1954 - Bill D, AA #3 dies.

September 18, 1947 - Dallas Central Office opens its doors

September 19, 1965 - The Saturday Evening Post publishes article "Alcoholics Can Be Cured - Despite AA"

September 21, 1938 - Bill W & Hank P form Works Publishing Co

September 24, 1940 - Bill 12 steps Bobbie V who replaced Ruth Hock as his secretary in NY

September 30, 1939 - Morris Markey runs story on AA, Alcoholics and God in Liberty Magazine

September 30, 1975 - Bill W a biography by Robert T is published

September 30, 2003 - Searcy W. died today, sober 20,962 days in a row

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

1930: Bill wrote 4th (last) promise in family Bible to quit drinking.

1939: Group started by Earl T in Chicago.

1940: Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases gives Big Book unfavorable review.

1946: Bill & Dr. Bob both publicly endorsed National Committee Education Alcoholism founded by Marty M.

1948: 1st issue of Grapevine published in "pocketbook" size