

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter April 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.	Newsletter Chairperson	Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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Terry Mc F.	Bridging the Gap	BridgingGap@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 Four

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

The testimony of A.A.’s who have really tried a moral inventory is that pride and fear of this sort turn out to be bogeymen, nothing else. Once we have a complete willingness to take inventory, and exert ourselves to do the job thoroughly, a wonderful light falls upon this foggy scene. As we persist, a brand-new kind of confidence” is born, and the sense of relief at finally facing ourselves is indescribable. These are the first fruits of Step Four.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pgs. 49-50)

Tradition Four

“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole”

“Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.”

This meant, of course, that we had been given the courage to declare each A.A. group an individual entity, strictly reliant on its own conscience as a guide to action. In charting this enormous expanse of freedom, we found it necessary to post only two storm signals: A group ought not do anything which would greatly injure A.A. as a whole, not ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. Sobriety had to be its sole objective.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pgs. 146-147)

4th Step Prayer

God, please help me show those I resent the same tolerance, pity and patience that I would cheerfully grant a sick friend. Help me to see that this is a sick man. Father, please show me how I can be helpful to him and save me from being angry. Lord, help me to avoid retaliation or argument. I know I can't be helpful to all people, but at least show me how to take a kindly and tolerant view of each and every one. Thy will be done. Amen.

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 67)

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

Intergroup: Muhlenberg Sunday Speaker Meeting; Alpha Group; and YASNY

Service Commitments

“Become Your Home Groups 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

”How to Carry the Message, Not the Alcoholic”

Saturday, April 7th 2018

Hosted by District 39

Moosic Alliance Church, 608 Rocky Glen Road, Moosic, PA 18641.

Registration 9:30 AM. Workshop from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Free food and fellowship. Open to all members. No fees. Contact: daveydamage@gmail.com

”Pre-Conference Sharing Session”

Sunday, April 8th, 2018

Hosted by Districts 27 and 60

University of the Sciences, Alumni Hall, 600 43rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Registration opens 9:00 AM. Meeting from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Lunch provided.

Open to all members. No fees. Contact: chairperson@area59aa.org

“SEPIA Roundup”

Friday, April 13th – Sunday, April 15th, 2018

Grand Hotel of Cape May, 1045 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ

Contact: vicechairperson@aasepia.org

“Our Primary Purpose Workshop”

Saturday, April 14th, 2018

Faith Lutheran Church, 2349 Old Turnpike Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Lunch at 12 PM. Workshop from 1 PM to 4 PM. No Fees.

Contact: david@davidlathamcsween.com

“Basket Bingo”

Fundraiser for York Area Intergroup

Saturday, April 14th, 2018

Convent Moravian Church, 901 Cape Horn Road, York, PA

Gourmet coffee and snacks (available for a donation) 2 PM to 5 PM

Contact: yorkintergroupbookstore@gmail.com

“Walnut Street Recovery Group 75th Anniversary Celebration”

Saturday, April 21st, 2018

EDI Walnut Street, Reading, PA 19601.

12:00 PM – 3:00PM. Speaker Willie C.

Food, Fun & Fellowship. Bring a covered dish, dessert, etc.

”Unity Breakfast”

Saturday, April 21st, 2018

Presented by District 49. Breakfast, two speakers and basket raffle.

Capriotti's, McAdoo, PA 18237. 8 AM to 12 PM. \$12 Fee

Events Continued

“Big Book Step Discussion”

Saturday, April 28th, 2018

309 Unity Clubhouse, 445 Bethlehem Pike, Colmar, PA.

Workshop from 9 AM to 4 PM. No Fees. Contact: sherry9898@hotmail.com

“(YPAA) Young People in AA & General Service Workshop”

Hosted by Cumberland Valley Host Committee for PENNSCYPAA XXX and District 35

Saturday, May 5th, 2018

1535 Mont Alto Rd, Chambersburg, PA 17202

9 AM to 1 PM. No fees. Contact: Cvypaa@gmail.com

“PA State Convention Planning Meetings & Conference Call In”

Saturday, May 12th 2018

Red Lion Inn, 4751 Lindle Rd, Harrisburg; PA 17111

12 PM to 2 PM. No fees. Contact: info@aapastateconvention.com

“Big Book Weekend” A Journey Through The Steps

Friday May 18th – Sunday May 20th, 2018

St. Nicholas Church, 226 S. Washington St, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

5:30 PM on May 18 to 9 PM on May 19.

Registration \$20. Contact: keystonewb@gmail.com

“Combined Intergroup & EPGSA Share-A-Day”

Saturday, May 19th, 2018

2400 Butter Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601

“All AA members, Intergroup reps, DCMs associated with Lancaster, York, Reading-Berks, Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Hanover, Cumberland Valley, Pocono and Northeast PA are welcome to attend”

1 PM to 4 PM. No fees

Contact: chairperson@area59aa.org or xbaseballer024@gmail.com

“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

“General Service Office Bus Trip to New York City”

Friday, June 22nd, 2018

First Come First Served!

Trip is limited to the first 34 people to submit their payment!

\$40 per person includes driver's tip. Trip 6:30AM – 7PM

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

Contact Cris M. to register or call 610-790-7510 or email crism40@hotmail.com

Events Continued

“Annual Grapevine Picnic”

Saturday, July 14th, 2018

High Acres Park, 110 High Acres Drive Route 447, Canadensis, PA18325

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

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

“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

Announcements

“Alternative Advertisements”

All A.A. Events, Notifications, and/or Announcements 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 Time Change:

”Time To Start Living”

Beginning January 1st 2018 Every Wednesday & Friday

The group will start their meeting at 6:30 PM ending at 7:30 PM

Wednesdays’ (Beginners) & Fridays’ 1st-Step, 3rd-Living Sober, 5th-Traditions

Good Shepherd Church, 170 Tuckerton Rd., Reading, PA 19605

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 ****

Announcements Continued

New Meeting:

Nueva Vida

Sunday 6 - 7 PM (Spanish/English) Big Book

Monday 6 – 7 PM (Spanish/English) 12 & 12

Easy Does It Clubhouse, 647 Walnut St., Reading, PA

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)

Meeting Needs Support:

The Wires Meeting

(Now Open to Men & Women**)**

Zion U.C.C. Church, 2nd & High Sts., Womelsdorf, PA 19567

Closed Meeting (Step Discussion, Big Book, Speaker)

Sunday's, 6:45-8:00 PM

Recovery Quotes

"If you want, you can sit on your pity pot but eventually you have to get up and flush or you are gonna drink"

"If 'God' scares you out, Jim Beam will scare you back in."

"If you feel like you don't belong, volunteer."

"A treatment center is where you go and pay \$15,000 to find out that AA meetings are free"

"At some point in my life, I told God to go to hell, but he stayed where he was and I went there instead"

"You can't live one way and pray another"

"It's not the meetings you make, it's the steps you take"

"If drinking is interfering with your work, you're probably a heavy drinker. If work is interfering with your drinking, you're probably an alcoholic"

Newcomer: "How do I know how many meetings I should attend each week?" Old-timer: "Gradually cut back until you drink. Then, you'll know."

"Resentments are like stray cats: if you don't feed them, they'll go away"

(<https://www.soberrecovery.com/forums/alcoholism-12-step-support/159088-heard-meetings-unofficial-aa-sayings.html>)

Step One: There's a problem

Step Two: There's a solution

Step Three: I get to Choose which I want...problem? or solution?

(Father Martin)

Making A Contribution To Intergroup

Because of our Tradition of self-support, it is very important to be sure that only contributions from members of Alcoholics Anonymous are sent to Intergroup.

Contributions are accepted from AA Groups/Meetings and can be designated for two specific funds:

1) **General Fund:** This is the 7th Tradition Fund. Monies in this account are used to "carry the message" of recovery to the suffering alcoholic. This fund is used to purchase literature, pay for the Hotline phone service, print AA schedules, pay for phone book listings, rent for achieves storage, Intergroup meeting & Post Office Box rent, printing of the Alternative, postage and supplies, Insurance and internet Hosting and Domain registration. Average expenses are approximately \$850/month.

2) **Activities Fund:** Monies contributed to this fund are used for social activities associated with Intergroup sponsored gatherings. Historically this money has been used to finance the Summer Picnic, a New Year's Eve Alcathon, Unity Events and other activities decided on by the Intergroup membership.

A complete financial report is given each month at the Intergroup Meeting and all expenditures are subject to review and approval by the elected Intergroup Representatives.

When sending contributions, please make the check payable to "Reading-Berks Intergroup" and indicate General Fund or Activities Fund on the bottom of the check in the memo section. Checks without this note will be deposited in the General Fund.

Contributions can be mailed to:

**Reading-Berks Intergroup
P.O. Box 12157
Reading, PA 19612**

Important Dates in A.A. History

April 1:

1939: Alcoholics Anonymous AA's Big Book was published.

1940: Larry J. of Houston, wrote "The Texas Prayer", used to open AA meetings in Texas.

1966: Sister Ignatia died at the age of 77. She worked with Dr. Bob in treating many early AA members at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron.

1970: GSO moved to 468 Park Ave. South, NYC.

1984: 12 Coconuts Group, Kapiolani Park, Waikiki, Hawaii, was founded.

April 3:

1941: First Florida AA meeting was held.

1960: Fr. Ed Dowling, S.J., died. He was Bill W's "spiritual sponsor."

April 4, 1960 - The Chicago Daily News reported that Fr. Edward Dowling, Jesuit Priest who helped start the first AA group in St. Louis, had died at age 62.

April 7, 1941 - Ruth Hock reported there were 1,500 letters asking for help, as a result of the Saturday Evening Post Article by Jack Alexander.

April 10, 1939 - The first 10 copies of the Big Book arrived at the office Bill shared with Hank Parkhurst in Newark, New Jersey.

April 11, 1938 - Alcoholic Foundation held its first meeting.

April 12, 1942 - The Windsor Daily Star in Ontario, Canada, reported that over 400 AA's attended a testimonial dinner for Dr. Bob.

April 16:

1940: A sober Rollie Helmsley caught the only opening day no-hitter in baseball history since 1909.

1973: Dr Jack Norris Chairman of the AA General Service Board presented President Richard Nixon with the one-millionth copy of the Big Book at the White House.

2005: Nancy Flynn (Independent Blond died in Kennett Square PA)

April 17, 1941 - 2nd group in Los Angeles, the "Hole in the Ground Group" was formed.

April 19, 1940 - First AA group in Little Rock, Arkansas, was formed.

April 22, 1940 - Bill Wilson transferred his Works Publishing Stock to the Alcoholic Foundation.

April 23, 1940 - Dr. Bob wrote the Trustees to refuse Big Book royalties, but Bill Wilson insisted on them for Dr. Bob and Anne.

April 25, 1951 - AA's first General Service Conference was held.

April 26, 1939 - Bill & Lois Wilson moved in with Hank Parkhurst after the bank foreclosed on 182 Clinton St. This was the first of over 50 moves before they acquired Stepping Stones.

April 30, 1989 - The film "My Name is Bill W.," a Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation, was broadcast at 9 p.m. on ABC TV.