

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter November 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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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 Eleven

“Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.”

We ask simply that throughout the day God place in us the best understanding of His will that we can have for that day, and that we be given the grace by which we may carry it out.

As the day goes on, we can pause where situations must be met and decisions made, and renew the simple request “Thy will, not mine, be done.” If at these points our emotional disturbance happens to be great, we will more surely keep our balance, provided we remember, and repeat to ourselves, a particular prayer or phrase that has appealed to us in our reading or meditation. Just saying it over and over will often enable us to clear a channel choked up with anger, fear, frustration, or misunderstanding, and permit us to return to the surest help of all—our search for God’s will, not our own, in the moment of stress. At these critical moments, if we remind ourselves that “it is better to comfort than to be comforted, to understand that to be understood, to love than to be loved,” we will be following the intent of Step Eleven.

(Twelve Steps & Twelve Tradition pg. 102-103)

Tradition Eleven

“Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.”

This Tradition is a constant and practical reminder that personal ambition has no place in A.A. In it, each member becomes an active guardian of our Fellowship.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 183)

Prayer of Saint Francis

“Lord, make me a channel of thy peace; that where there is hatred, I may bring love; that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness; that where there is discord, I may bring harmony; that where there is error, I may bring truth; that where there is doubt, I may bring faith; that where there is despair, I may bring hope; that where there are shadows, I may bring light; that where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted; to understand, than to be understood; to love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life. Amen.”

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 99)

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

Intergroup: Bernville Group; Experienced Strength & Hope; Hilltop Group; Freedom from Bondage; Great Fact Group; Turning Point Group; and YASNY 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

“Reading Berks Intergroup Chair Position Elections”

Tuesday, November 27th, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Elections will be held during the Intergroup Meeting
Calvary Baptist Church, 510 Park Ave., Reading, PA

“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

“The Courage to Change 20 Years of Recovery Celebration”

Monday, October 29th, 2018

Saint Peters UCC, 2901 Curtis Road, West Lawn, PA
6:00 PM – 7 PM Food and Fellowship; 7:00 – 8:00 PM Speakers
Open Meeting & All are Welcome!
Need more information call 610-763-0425

61st Annual E.P.G.S.A. Convention

Friday, November 2nd – Sunday, November 4th 2018

GSR's & DCM's should attend. All are welcome. Fees

Contact: convention@area59aa.org

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

Important Dates in A.A. History

November 1:

1947 - 1st AA Group in Anchorage, Alaska

1963 - Reverend Sam Shoemaker dies

November 3, 2001 - J.P. Miller, wrote screenplay for "The Days of Wine and Roses" died

November 9, 1966 - President Johnson appoints Marty M to the 1st National Advisory Committee on Alcoholism

November 10:

1940 - 1st AA group formed in Minneapolis

2001 - 1st of 400,000 4th Edition Big Books arrives in the mail

November 11, 1934 - Bill W's final drunk begins on Veterans Day and lasts about a month

November 12, 1940 - 1st AA meeting is held in Boston

November 13, 1939 - Bill wants to go back to work, NY drunks want him to stay on as head of the movement

November 14, 1940 - Alcoholic Foundation publishes 1st AA Bulletin

November 15, 1949 - Bill W suggests that groups devote Thanksgiving week to discussions of the 12 Traditions

November 16, 1950 - Dr Bob S dies in Akron, Ohio

November 18, 1946 - 1st Dublin Ireland group met.

November 21:

1939 - AA's in San Francisco hold 1st California AA meeting in the Clift Hotel -

1952 - Willard Richardson, past Treasurer/Chairman of Alcoholic Foundation, dies

November 26:

1895 - William Griffith W. born, East Dorset, VT

1939 - Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups

November 28

1934 - Ebby T. carries message to Bill.

1937 - Bill and Dr. Bob compare notes in Akron. Count forty cases staying sober. Meeting of the Akron Group to consider Bill's ideas for how to expand the movement ... a book, AA hospitals, paid missionaries. Passed by a majority of 2.

1939 - Akron group withdrawals from Oxford Group. Meetings moved to Dr Bob and other members homes.

1939 - Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups.

1943 - Bill guest speaker San Quentin Penitentiary. (sometimes dated Dec 2, 1943)