

# The Alternative

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter June 2019

[ReadingBerksIntergroup.org](http://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](mailto:Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org)

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

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### INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Reading Berks Intergroup meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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:** New Millennium Group, YASNY Group, Stouchburg Group, Come As You Are, Leesport Group, Walk the Walk, Live and Let Live, Hilltop Group, and Bernville 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](mailto:Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org) and sign up sheets are available at [http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/Getting\\_Involved.htm#HOTLINE\\_SIGN-UP\\_SHEET](http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/Getting_Involved.htm#HOTLINE_SIGN-UP_SHEET)

### **“Bridging The Gap” – Needs Volunteers**

Contact Steve M. at 610-241-4158 or [BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org) or [bridgingthegap@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:SanLee715@gmail.com)  
Applications are available on the Reading Berks Intergroup Website @ <http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/2015%20PrisonVolunteerApp%20Female.pdf>

## **Events**

### **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Lancaster County AA Campout**

Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:00pm through Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Pequea Creek Campground 86 Fox Hollow Road Pequea, PA 17565  
Contact Zane E: (717) 615 9626. Cost is \$8.00 per person.

### **Women’s Hope with A.A. 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party.**

**Friday June, 21, 2019**

**Food and Fellowship 7:00pm-7:30pm. Speaker: Anylise C. 7:30pm-8:30pm**  
St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church 1188 East Benjamin Franklin Hwy Douglassville, PA 19518  
\*In rear of building near daycare entrance and men are welcome\*

**“The Camping Trip”**  
**Memorial Day Weekend May 24-27, 2019 and July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend July 4-7, 2019**  
**Labor Day Weekend August 30 to September 2, 2019**  
Camp Charles Campground 1077 Blue Mountain Dr. Bangor, PA 18013  
Questions Contact Mike Westervelt. Phone: (609) 213-1015

**Save The Date!!! May 8-9 2020**  
Through the Steps with.....**Katie and Charlie P.**  
Austin, Texas. Coming to Berks County  
*A Design for Living Big Book Workshop*  
Presented by District 66  
Details to follow shortly.....For info and to get on mailing list  
Contact Alan F. [Fertela7@gmail.com](mailto:Fertela7@gmail.com)

## **Announcements**

**Shillington Lifeline Group Needs Support!!**  
Meets every Tuesday night at 7:30 pm at Shillington Church of Christ  
475 Philadelphia Ave Reading, PA 19607

**New Publication:**  
**Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W's General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970**  
Cost is \$10.00. Place your orders direct from A.A.W.S. or Intergroup.

**New Meeting:**  
**Young People's Fourth Dimension Group of Alcoholics Anonymous**  
Tuesday 7:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M  
Exeter Bible Fellowship Church 926 Philadelphia Terrace Birdsboro, PA 19508

**“Alternative Advertisements”**  
**All A.A. Events, Notifications, Announcements and/or Testimonies are Welcome!**  
Please email all requests to: [Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto: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

**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

## **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.

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