

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

November 2019

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

Pete R.	Intergroup Chairperson	Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Clint S.	Intergroup Alt. Chairperson	Alt-Chair@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Tammy G.	Intergroup Treasurer	Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Tom H.	Intergroup Secretary	Secretary@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Chris G.	Hotline Chairperson	Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Dan T.	Archives Chairperson	Archives@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Larry M.	Men's Prison Chairperson	MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Susan W.	Woman's Prison Chairperson	WomansPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Bill C.	Literature Chairperson	Literature@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Tyler J.	Schedules Chairperson	Schedules@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Carl	Institutions Chairperson	Institutions@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Brian L.	Newsletter Chairperson	Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Misty H.	Unity Chairperson	Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Steve M.	Bridging the Gap	BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Greg G.	Website	Info@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Michele H.	Public Information	PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Brandon T.	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 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, Shoey Group, Leesport Group, Kutztown Sober Living, Great Fact Group, Happy Hour Group, Turning Point Group, Just for Today Group, and TLC 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 Volunteers

Contact Steve M. at 610-241-4158 or
BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
“Bridging the Gap”, P.O. Box 2332, Reading, Pa. 19608

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

**Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Assembly 62 Annual Convention and Assembly Nov 1-3
Wyndham Lancaster Resort and Convention Center
2300 Lincoln Highway E, Lancaster, PA 17602**

Includes: GSR orientation, workshops, speaker meetings, Spanish/bilingual meetings, God as I understand Him meeting, and Dance and Ice Cream social

**The Leesport Group Presents the 4th Annual Chili Cookoff 2019
Saturday November 9th at 8 pm at Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church 820 West Leesport Rd**
We are accepting the first 10 competitors only! Please contact the homegroup at
LeesportAA@gmail.com or talk to a home group member.
Cook off will start at 8 pm. Speaker meeting at 9:30 pm. Guest Speaker: Tim McG.

**Bill & Bob’s Book on the Beach
November 1-3, 2019. Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center.
1 Baltimore Ave. Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971**

Conference Registration: \$30 through Oct 1. \$35 between Oct 2nd and Nov 1st.
Make Checks Payable to "We Are Not Saints." Mail to: P.O. Box 293. Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971
Contact Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center (302) 227-2511 or 1 (800) 422-0600.

****Mention Bill and Bob with #9384 for our special rates****

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

Announcements

New Meeting:

The Royersford Big Book Step Study Meeting

Christ's Church of the Valley 1560 Yeager Rd Royersford, PA 19468

Meets Saturday nights 7pm to 8:30pm

New Meeting:

Chick Lit at Six Women's Literature Meeting

St. Peter's UCC 2901 Curtis Rd Reading, PA 19609

Meets Thursdays at 6 pm

Second and Inches Group Needs Support!!

Meets every Sunday at 5 pm at the Atonement Parish Center

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.

"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

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)