

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

August 2020

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 Eight

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.”

When listing the people we have harmed, most of us hit another solid obstacle. We got a pretty severe shock when we realized that we were preparing to make a face-to-face admission of our wretched conduct to those we had hurt. It had been embarrassing enough when in confidence we had admitted these things to God, to ourselves, and to another human being. But the prospect of actually visiting or even writing the people concerned now overwhelmed us, especially when we remembered in what poor favor we stood with most of them. There were cases, too, where we had damaged others who were still happily unaware of being hurt. Why, we cried, shouldn't bygones be bygones? Why do we have to think of these people at all? These were some of the ways in which fear conspired with pride to hinder our making a list of *all* the people we had harmed.

(Twelve Steps & Twelve Tradition pg. 78-79)

It is the beginning of the end of isolation from our fellows and from God.

(Twelve Steps & Twelve Tradition pg. 82)

Tradition Eight

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers”

At the Foundation, the same story repeats itself. Eight tons of books and literature per month do no package and channel themselves all over the world. Sacks of letters on every conceivable A.A. problem ranging from a lonely-heart Eskimo to the growing pains of thousands of groups must be answered by people who *know*. Right contacts with the world outside have to be maintained. A.A.'s lifelines have to be tended. So we hire A.A. staff members. We pay them well, and they earn what they get. They are professional secretaries,* but they certainly are not professional A.A.'s.

* The work of present-day staff members has no counterpart among the job categories of commercial organizations. These A.A.'s bring a wide range of business and professional experience to their service at The General Service Office.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 169)

8th Step Prayer

God, please remove my fears and show me your truth. Show me ALL the harms I have caused with my behavior. Lord, make me willing to make amends to one and all. Amen.

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 76)

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

Intergroup: ELH, Frog Pond and Fleetwood Sunday, Morgantown Saturday Night Group, and Courage to Change 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

The Unity and Service Conference Committee presents the
5th Annual Unity and Service Virtual Conference!
September 5th and 6th 2020 Labor Day Weekend ****Pacific Standard Time****
Saturday Sept 5th 8:45am to 6pm (PST) and Sunday Sept 6th 8:45am to 3pm (PST)
Registration Link and Conference Info: Unityandserviceconference.org (925) 222-5639

Announcements

Meeting Reopening announcements will be provided when available! Stay safe everyone!

“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

August 1, 1946 - Washington Times-Herald (DC) reports on AA clubhouse, to protect members anonymity, withholds address

August 3, 1954 - Brinkley S. gets sober at Towns Hosp after 50th detox

August 3, 1989 - Liberty Bell Group founded in Lake Elsinore, CA - August 3, 1989

August 8, 1879 - Dr Bob S. is born in St Johnsbury, Vermont

August 11, 1938 - Akron & NY members begin writing stories for Big Book

August 16, 1939 - Dr Bob and Sister Ignatia admit 1st alcoholic to St Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio

August 18, 1988 - 1st Canadian National AA Convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia

August 19, 1941 - 1st AA Meeting in Colorado is held in Denver

August 25, 1943 - AA group donates Big Book to public library in Quincy, MA

August 26, 1941 - Bill writes Dr Bob to tell him Works Publishing has been incorporated

August 28, 1954 - 24 Hours a Day is published by Richmond Walker

Other significant events in August for which there is no specific date:

1934: Rowland H and Cebra persuade court to parole Ebby T. to them.

1939: Dr. Bob wrote & may have signed article for Faith magazine.

1941 - 1st meeting in Orange County, California held in Anaheim

1981 - Sales of the Big Book passes 3,000,000