

# The Alternative

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

January 2021

[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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|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
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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 One

“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol ~ that our lives had become unmanageable.”

No other kind of bankruptcy is like this one. Alcohol, now become the rapacious creditor, bleeds us of all self-sufficiency and all will to resist its demands. Once this stark fact is accepted, our bankruptcy as going human concerns is complete.

But upon entering A.A. we soon take quite another view of this absolute humiliation. We perceive that only through utter defeat are we able to take our first steps toward liberation and strength. Our admissions of personal powerlessness finally turn out to be firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives may be built.

*(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pg. 21)*

## Tradition One

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”

Those who look closely soon have the key to this strange paradox. The A.A. member has to conform to the principles of recovery. His life actually depends upon obedience to spiritual principles. If he deviates too far, the penalty is sure and swift; he sickens and dies. At first he goes along because he must, but later he discovers a way of life he really wants to live. Moreover, he finds he cannot keep this priceless gift unless he gives it away. Neither he nor anybody else can survive unless he carries the A.A. message. The moment this Twelfth Step work forms a group, another discovery is made – that most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group. Realization dawns that he is but a small part of a great whole; that no personal sacrifice is too great for preservation of the Fellowship. He learns that the clamor of desires and ambitions within him must be silenced whenever these could damage the group. It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not.

*(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 130)*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Step Prayer

*Dear Lord, Help me to see and admit that I am powerless over my alcoholism. Help me to understand how my alcoholism has led to unmanageability in my life. Help me this day to understand the true meaning of powerlessness. Remove from me all denial of my alcoholism.*

*Friends of Bill W. ([http://friendsofbillw.net/twelve\\_step\\_prayers](http://friendsofbillw.net/twelve_step_prayers))*

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

**Intergroup:** Underground Garage Group, Leesport Group, 8:15 A.M. Mon-Fri Group, and the Happy Hour 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)  
“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](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***

**The Alcathon is Back!!**

**December 31<sup>st</sup> At the Atonement Community Center**

**Doors Open at 2pm and Meetings begin at 4pm!**

**Meetings will be 45 minutes to allow for cleaning between meetings**

**Face Masks are Required! Face Covering Contest with a Prize at every Meeting!**

**Hope to see you there!**

**For more information click on the Alcathon Info Tabs on [Readingberksintergroup.org](http://Readingberksintergroup.org)**

## ***Announcements***

**You can now donate to Reading Berks Intergroup through CashApp!**

**The \$Cashtag ID is [\\$RBIntergroup](#)**

**\*\*This account can only be used for 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Contributions\*\***

**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](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

## *Important Dates in A.A. History*

### **January 1:**

**1943:** Columbus Dispatch reports 1st Anniversary of Columbus AA

**1948:** First A.A. meeting was held in Japan, (English speaking.)

**1988:** West Virginia A.A. began first statewide toll-free telephone hotline.

**January 2, 2003:** Mid-Southern California Archives moved to new location in Riverside.

**January 3, 1941:** Jack Alexander told Bill Wilson the Oxford Group would be in his Saturday Evening Post.

### **January 4:**

**1939:** Dr. Bob stated in a letter to Ruth Hock that A.A. had to get away from the Oxford Group atmosphere.

**1940:** First A.A. group was founded in Detroit, Michigan.

**1941:** Bill and Lois Wilson drove to Bedford Hills, NY to see Stepping Stones.

**January 5, 1941:** Bill Wilson told Jack Alexander that Jack was "the toast of A. A. -- in Coca Cola, of course."

**January 8, 1938:** New York A.A. split from the Oxford Group.

**January 10, 1940:** 1st AA meeting not in a home meets at King School, Akron, Ohio.

### **January 13:**

**1988:** Jack Norris, M.D., Chairman/Trustees of A.A. for 27 yrs. died.

**2003:** Dr. Earle Marsh, author of "Physician Heal Thyself," sober 49 years, died

### **January 15:**

**1937:** Fitz M brings AA meetings to Washington DC.

**1945:** First AA meeting held in Springfield, Missouri.

**January 17, 1919:** 18th amendment, "Prohibition," became law.

### **January 19:**

**1943:** 1st discussion for starting AA group in Toronto.

**1943:** Wilson's returned from 1st major A.A. tour started in Oct 24 1943.

**1999:** Frank M., A.A. Archivist since 1983, died.

**January 21, 1951:** A.A. Grapevine published memorial issue on Dr. Bob.

**January 23, 1961:** Bill W. sent an appreciation letter to Dr. Carl Jung for his contribution to A.A.

### **January 24:**

**1945:** 1st black group St. Louis

**1971:** Bill Wilson died in Miami, Florida.

**January 26, 1971:** *New York Times* published Bill Wilson's obituary on page 1.

**January 27, 1971:** The Washington Post published an obituary of Bill Wilson

**January 30, 1961:** Dr. Carl Jung answers Bill's letter with "Spiritus Contra Spiritum."