

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

July 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

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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 Seven

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God. The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, then there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problem we could possibly have.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pg. 76)

Tradition Seven

“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions”

Probably no A.A. Tradition had the labor pains this one did. In early times, we were all broke. When you add to this the habitual supposition that people ought to give money to alcoholics trying to stay sober, it can be understood why we thought we deserved a pile of folding money. What great things A.A. would be able to do with it! But oddly enough, people who had money thought otherwise. They figured that it was high time we now-sober-paid our own way. So our Fellowship stayed poor because of it.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 160)

7th Step Prayer

My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character, which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen.

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 76)

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

Intergroup: New Berlinville, YASNY Group, Walk the Walk Group, Coffee and Donuts, Alpha Group, and Glenside 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

Updates to new events will be provided as soon as they are available. Stay safe everyone!

Announcements

New Meeting:

Interview with an Alcoholic

Kissinger’s Church, 715 Berkshire Blvd. Wyomissing, PA.
Meets Thursday nights at 7:30pm.

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

“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

July 1-3, 1960 - 8700 attend 25th Anniversary of AA in Long Beach, CA

July 2

1965 - Best of Bill and Pocket-Sized 12 and 12 1st sold

1993 - 50 years of AA celebrated in Canada

2000 - 20 Millionth Big Book given to Al-Anon in Minneapolis

July 2-3, 1955 - Bill W turns "the fellowship over to the fellowship" at 4:00 PM, 5000 attend 20th Anniversary at our St Louis Convention

July 2-4, 1965 - 10,000 attend 30th Anniversary of AA in Toronto. There we came to own our Responsibility Declaration

July 4, 1939 - 1st AA meeting started in Flatbush, NY

July 3-5, 1970 - 10,900 attend 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami. Bill W gave his last talk to AA

July 3-6, 1980 - 22,500 attend 45th Anniversary of AA in New Orleans First true marathon meeting was held here

July 4, 1999 - He who has a fifth on the fourth may not come forth on the fifth...

July 4-6, 1975 - 19,800 attend 40th Anniversary of AA in Denver Worlds largest coffee server serves 1/2 million cups a day

July 5:

1985 - AA gives Ruth Hock 5,000,000th Big Book during 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal, Canada

1990 - AA gives Nell Wing 10,000,000th Big Book during 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle, WA

July 3-6, 1980 - Gay AA's have own program at 40th AA Anniversary in New Orleans

July 5-7, 1985 - 45,000 attend 50th Anniversary of AA in Montreal. House of Seagrams flew their flags at half mast for 3 days

July 7, 1940 - Bill attends 1st Summer Session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University

July 5-8, 1990 - 48,000 attend 55th Anniversary of AA in Seattle. 75 countries were represented as the former Soviet Unions members attended for the first time

July 8, 1940 - 1st AA Group formed in Dayton, Ohio

July 10, 1941 - Texas newspaper publishes anonymous letter from founding member of Texas AA Group

July 20, 1941 - First AA group formed in Seattle, Washington

July 22:

1877 - William Duncan Silkworth born in Brooklyn, NY

1980 - Marty M. early AA woman and founder of NCADD dies

July 23:

1940 - Philly AA's send 10% of kitty to Alcoholic Foundation, sets precedent

1943 - Esther C., passed Jan 15, 2005, sober since July 23, 1943.

July 24, 1943 - L.A. press reports formation of all-Mexican AA Group

July 28-30, 1950 - 1st AA Convention celebrates 15th anniversary of AA in Cleveland