

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter March 2021

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 Three

"Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him."

Step Three calls for affirmative action, for it is only by action that we can cut away the self-will which has always blocked the entry of God – or, if you like, a Higher Power – into our lives.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pg. 34)

Tradition Three

“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

This Tradition is packed with meaning. For A.A. is really saying to every serious drinker, “You are an A.A. member if *you* say so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out. No matter who you are, no matter how low you’ve gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications – even your crimes – we still can’t deny you A.A. We don’t *want* to keep you out. We aren’t a bit afraid you’ll harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be. We just want to be sure that you get the same great chance for sobriety that we’ve had. So you’re an A.A. member the minute you declare yourself.”

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 139)

3rd Step Prayer

God, I offer myself to thee-to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 63)

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

Intergroup: End of the Line Group, Underground Garage Group, Time to Start Living Group, and the Shoey 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

Events will be added as they are announced. If you have any announcements or flyers for events, please send the Alternative Chair an email at alternative@readingberksintergroup.org

Announcements

Area 59 Response to COVID-19

In light of the above I am requesting that individual members, groups, and Districts document, record, or in anyway possible preserve the experience of this time. We are living in a unique period - an historical time – and those in the future might benefit from our experiences. It is always best to do this while going through the events as opposed to waiting until it's all over - if possible.

Some suggested topics:

- When was the last “face to face” meeting held? Why was it the last? Personal choice? Group decision? Facility decision?
- Are you holding alternative meetings? What type? If holding alternative meetings how was decision to do so made – group conscience? individual decision? Etc....

I could go on and on, but I trust you get the idea. Please send any collected info to:
archivist@area59aa.org

Thank you, Donald H.

You can now donate to Reading Berks Intergroup through CashApp!

The \$Cashtag ID is **\$RBIntergroup**

****This account can only be used for 7th 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

“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

- March 1, 1941:** Saturday Evening Post article by Jack Alexander created national sensation. AA membership quadrupled in one year from 2000 to 8000.
- March 3, 1947:** Nell Wing, Bill's secretary and first archivist of AA, began her career at Alcoholic Foundation Office at 415 Lexington Avenue.
- March 4, 1891:** Lois Wilson was born.
- March 5, 1945:** Time Magazine reported Detroit radio broadcasts of AA members.
- March 7, 1940:** Bill and Lois visited the Philadelphia AA group.
- March 9, 1941:** Wichita Beacon reported AA member from NY who wanted to form a group in Wichita, Kansas.
- March 10, 1944:** New York Intergroup was established.
- March 11, 1947:** A Priest in St. Paul, Minnesota, founded Calix International. Alcoholics in his parish met after Saturday morning Mass to discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday and how their faith melded with the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- March 12, 1940:** Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's boyhood friend and sponsor, was reported sober again.
- March 14, 1941:** South Orange, NJ, AA held an anniversary dinner at the Hotel Suburban with Bill Wilson as the guest speaker.
- March 15, 1941:** 1st AA group was formed in New Haven, Connecticut.
- March 16, 1940:** Bill moved the Alcoholic Foundation office to 30 Vesey St., NY. (30 Vesey St., NY, was almost destroyed on September 11, 2001.)
- March 18, 1951:** Cliff W. was elected 1st delegate from Southern California.
- March 21, 1966:** Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's sponsor, died sober.
- March 22, 1951:** Dr. William Duncan Silkworth died at Towns Hospital.
- March 23, 1941:** Sybil C.'s sobriety date. She was the first woman to enter AA west of the Mississippi.
- March 25:**
1898: Jim B. ("The Vicious Cycle") was born
1965: Richmond Walker, author of "Twenty-Four Hours a Day" book, died at age 72, almost 23 years sober.
2005: Nancy Olson, Founder of AAHL- See Memorial at: <http://hindsfoot.org/nomem1.htm>
- March 29, 1943:** The Charleston Mail, WV, reported that Bill Wilson had given a talk at St. John's Parish House.
- March 31, 1947:** 1st AA group was formed in London, England.