

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter July 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

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Jen H. | Intergroup Chairperson | Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org |
| Mark S. | Intergroup Alt. Chairperson | Alt-Chair@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org |
| Tammy G. | Intergroup Treasurer | Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org |
| Tom H. | Intergroup Secretary | Secretary@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org |
| Shirl O. | 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 |
| Rachael H. | Schedules Chairperson | Schedules@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org |
| Michelle H. | Institutions Chairperson | Institutions@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org |
| Joe M. | Newsletter Chairperson | Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org |
| Jen H. | Unity Chairperson | Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org |
| Steve M. | Bridging the Gap | BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org |
| Steve P. | Website | Info@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org |
| Sharon | Public Information | PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org |
| Lance | 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 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 Traditions 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:

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

“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

Unity and Service Conference 2021!

Tradition and Concept Focused LIVE Zoom Event! July 9- 11 2021

To register: <https://unityandserviceconference.org/>

Hope to see you there! Stay tuned for announcements regarding our line-up of amazing speakers!!

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! If you have any announcements or flyers for events, please send the Alternative Chair an email at alternative@readingberksintergroup.org 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

May 1:

1939 - Lois and Bill Wilson left their home at 182 Clinton St., Brooklyn.

1941 - First Wisconsin AA meeting was held in a Milwaukee hotel.

May 2:

1941 - Jacksonville, FL, newspaper reported start of a new AA group.

1941 - First meeting was held in San Bernardino, California.

1941 - The first AA group in New Orleans, Louisiana, was formed.

May 4, 1946 - Marty Mann explained Alcoholics Anonymous and the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism on the "We the People" radio show.

May 5, 1940 - Washington, DC, Sunday Star reported formation of first AA group in the D.C..

May 6:

1939 - Clarence S of Cleveland told Dr. Bob, his sponsor, he would not be back to Oxford Group meetings in Akron and would start an "AA" meeting in Cleveland.

1946 - The long form of the "Twelve Traditions" was published in the AA Grapevine.

May 7, 1956 - The first English AA Convention was held in Cheltenham, England.

May 8:

1943 - Akron AA group had its 8th anniversary celebration with 500 present and sober.

1971 - Bill Wilson was buried in private ceremony, East Dorset, Vermont.

May 11, 1939 - First group to officially call itself Alcoholics Anonymous met at Abby G's house in Cleveland.

May 12, 1935 - Mothers' Day - Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith met for the first time in Akron, Ohio, at the home of Henrietta Seiberling.

May 14:

1948 - Long Beach, California. Central Office was opened.

1998 - Sybil C., first woman to enter A.A. west of the Mississippi, died. Her date of sobriety was March 23, 1941. Her name at the time was Sybil Maxwell, though she later opened her talks by saying, "My name is Sybil Doris Adams Stratton Hart Maxwell Willis C., and I'm an alcoholic."

May 16, 1941 - Ruth Hock learned that Joe W. (credited with coming up with the name Alcoholics Anonymous) had a "wet brain."

May 19, 2000 - Dr. Paul Ohliger died at the age of 83. His story, "Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict," was retitled "Acceptance Was the Answer," in the 4th edition.

May 22, 1948 - Atlantic City Group celebrated its second anniversary with Dr. C. Nelson Davis of St. Luke's Hospital, Philadelphia, and other A.A.s speaking.

May 28, 1974 - The first World Service meeting of AA outside of America was held in London.

May 31, 1938 - Bill and other AA's began writing the Big Book.