

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter August 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
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RBI	General Contact	Info@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

The Reading Berks Intergroup meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Christ Mertz Church 16 Fleetwood Rd, Fleetwood Pa at 7:30 P.M. All members of Alcoholics Anonymous are welcome and encouraged to attend. Zoom ID: 950 8707 5328 password: SoberRBI

“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:

YASNY, Walnut St. Recovery Group, Sunday Morning Speaker's Group, Walk the Walk, Hamburg Big Book Study, UGG.

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 16 Fleetwood Rd, Fleetwood Pa at 7:30 P.M. 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 Larry M. 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

2021 Unity Picnic Sunday Sept. 26, 2021

Jim Dietrich Park 4899 Stoudts Ferry Bridge RD. Reading PA 19605
Presented by Districts 33, 66, 67 along with Reading Berks Intergroup
Food & Drink donations are needed and can be coordinated by contacting
Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org

District 33 Workshop Saturday August 21, 2021 10AM-2PM

“Circles of Love and Service”
Fleetwood Park 334 W Main St Pavilion #3 Fleetwood PA

Events will be added as they are received. If you have announcements or flyers for events, please send to 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....

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 can be listed here. If you have any announcements or flyers for events, please send them to alternative@readingberksintergroup.org Stay safe everyone!

RECENT MEETING REOPENINGS-

Frog Pong Friday night at 7 PM-----Live & Let Live Sunday night at 7 PM
New Life Speakers Meeting Friday at 8 PM-----Books & People Monday night at 630 PM
A Fresh Start Meeting Tuesday at 7 PM-----Topton Group Meeting Tuesday at 8 PM
NOTE: Congo Big Book Study now meets Monday @ 6PM

All A.A. Events, Notifications, Announcements and/or Testimonies are Welcome!

Please email all requests to: Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

Meetings Needing Support

Books and People Group Mondays @ 6:30

Mountain View of God Church
1255 Hampden Blvd. Reading, PA 19602

A Fresh Start Tuesday @ 7 PM
Albright College Sylvan Chapel
1621 N 13th St. Reading PA 19604

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