

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter September 2021

<https://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 in Eastern Pennsylvania. Reach us by mail at P.O. Box 12157, Reading, PA 19612, or 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 is a HYBRID event that meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church 16 Fleetwood Rd, Fleetwood PA 19522 at 7:00 P.M. All members of Alcoholics Anonymous are welcome and encouraged to attend either in person, or on line.

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 Nine

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

As soon as we begin to feel confident in our new way of life and have begun, by our behavior and example, to convince those about us that we are indeed changing for the better, it is usually safe to talk in complete frankness with those who have been seriously affected, even those who may be only a little or not at all aware of what we have done to them. The only exceptions we will make will be cases where our disclosure would cause actual harm. These conversations can begin in a casual or natural way. But if no such opportunity presents itself, at some point we will want to summon all our courage, head straight for the person concerned, and lay our cards on the table. We needn't wallow in excessive remorse before those we have harmed, but amends at this level should always be forthright and generous.

For the readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine.

(Twelve Steps & Twelve Tradition pg. 85-87)

Tradition Nine

“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

It is clear now that we ought never to name boards to govern us, but it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us. It is the difference between the spirit of vested authority and the spirit of service, two concepts which are sometimes poles apart. It is in this spirit of service that we elect the A.A. group's informal rotating committee, the intergroup association for the area, and the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous for A.A. as a whole. Even our Foundation, once an independent board, is today directly accountable to our Fellowship. Its trustees are the caretakers and expeditors of our world services.

(Twelve

Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 174-175)

9th Step Prayer

God, with regard to this amend, please remove my fear and give me strength, courage and direction to do the right thing, no matter what the personal consequences may be. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 79)

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

Happy Hour Group
Boyertown AA Group
Come As You Are Group
Walnut Recovery Group
Leesport Group

Bernville AA group
Morgantown Saturday Night Group
Alpha Group
District 66

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. This monthly meeting is the 4th Tuesday of each month at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church 16 Fleetwood Rd. in Fleetwood PA 19522. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM and is usually over by 8:30PM

AA HOTLINE- Needs Volunteers

AA members with some accumulated sobriety are always needed 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 <https://readingberksintergroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Hotline-Sign-Up.pdf>

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

Male Volunteers for the Prison Commitment

~~CURRENTLY SUSPENDED Meetings are Saturday Nights from 7-8 PM~~

For updates please contact Larry M. at MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

Female Volunteers for Prison Commitment

~~CURRENTLY SUSPENDED Meetings are Tuesday Nights from 7-8 PM~~

For updates please contact Susan W. at WomansPrison@readingberksintergroup.org

Events

2021 Fleetwood Come As You Are Group Annual Picnic Sunday September 12

3PM-7 PM in pavilion #3 Speaker at 5 PM.

Fleetwood Community Park 334 W. Main St Fleetwood, PA 19522

Berks County Unity Picnic Sunday September 26, 2021 begins at Noon

Guest Speakers- Area 59 Archivist Donald H. & Area 59 Alternate Delegate Pete B.

1st speaker 3:30-4:15

2nd Speaker 4:30-5:15

Jim Dietrich Park 4899 Stoudts Ferry Bridge RD. Reading PA 19605 pavilion #2

Food & Drink donations are needed and can be coordinated by contacting

Unity@ReadingBerksIntegroup.org

Presented by Districts 33, 66, 67 along with Reading Berks Intergroup

A comprehensive list is on our website-

Local Events- <https://readingberksintergroup.org/events>

Outside of Berks County <https://readingberksintergroup.org/member-services-2/aa-outside-of-berks-county/>

Events will be added as they are announced. If you have any announcements or flyers for events, please send the Alternative Chairperson 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 any way possible preserve the experience of this time. We are living in a unique period - a 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 the decision made to do so – group conscience? Individual decision? Etc....

Please send any collected info to: archivist@area59aa.org

Thank you, Donald H.

Recent Meeting Re-openings and Changes

-Women Living Sober new location-Bausman Memorial Church Wednesday @1030 AM-

---The Mustard Seed Group is reopening Saturday September 18th @ 6PM---

All are invited to attend your local district meeting:

District 33 Monthly Meeting

7PM the 3rd Thursday of the month
@St. Paul's Lutheran Church
117 E. Arch St Fleetwood PA

District 66 Monthly Meeting

7PM the 2nd Thursday of the month
on ZOOM ONLY
ID 856 7342 2422 PW577459

District 67 Monthly Meeting

7PM the 1st Wednesday of the month
on ZOOM ONLY
ID 703 589 4932 PW610582

Meetings Needing Support

Books & People Group Monday @ 6:30 PM

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

“Get the AA Meeting Guide Mobile App”

A free mobile app for IOS and Android. Google: <https://meetingguide.org/>

Important Dates in A.A. History

September 1, 1939 - 1st AA group founded in Chicago

September 5, 1907 - Nancy Flynn, author of "Independent Blond" born

September 11, 2001 - 30 Vesey St, New York, AA's 1st Office is damaged during the World Trade Center attack

September 12, 1942 - U.S. Assist. Surgeon General Kolb speaks at dinner for Bill and Dr Bob

September 13, 1937 - Florence R, 1st female in AA in NY

September 13, 1941 - WHJP in Jacksonville, FL airs Spotlight on AA

September 17, 1954 - Bill D, AA #3 dies.

September 18, 1947 - Dallas Central Office opens its doors

September 19, 1965 - The Saturday Evening Post publishes article "Alcoholics Can Be Cured - Despite AA"

September 21, 1938 - Bill W & Hank P form Works Publishing Co

September 24, 1940 - Bill 12 steps Bobbie V who replaced Ruth Hock as his secretary in NY

September 30, 1939 - Morris Markey runs story on AA, Alcoholics and God in Liberty Magazine

September 30, 1975 - Bill W a biography by Robert T is published

September 30, 2003 - Searcy W. died today, sober 20,962 days in a row

Other significant events in September for which we have no specific date:

1930: Bill wrote 4th (last) promise in family Bible to quit drinking.

1939: Group started by Earl T in Chicago.

1940: Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases gives Big Book unfavorable review.

1946: Bill & Dr. Bob both publicly endorsed National Committee Education Alcoholism founded by Marty M.

1948: 1st issue of Grapevine published in "pocketbook" size

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****