

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

January 2022

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 PO 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 in person at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church at 16 Fleetwood Rd., Fleetwood PA 19522 at 7:00 PM AND via Zoom at ID 95087075328, Password SoberRBI.. 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 One

“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol ~ that our lives had become unmanageable.”

No other kind of bankruptcy is like this one. Alcohol, now become the rapacious creditor, bleeds us of all self-sufficiency and all will to resist its demands. Once this stark fact is accepted, our bankruptcy as going human concerns is complete.

But upon entering A.A. we soon take quite another view of this absolute humiliation. We perceive that only through utter defeat are we able to take our first steps toward liberation and strength. Our admissions of personal powerlessness finally turn out to be firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives may be built.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 21)

Tradition One

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”

Those who look closely soon have the key to this strange paradox. The A.A. member has to conform to the principles of recovery. His life actually depends upon obedience to spiritual principles. If he deviates too far, the penalty is sure and swift; he sickens and dies. At first he goes along because he must, but later he discovers a way of life he really wants to live. Moreover, he finds he cannot keep this priceless gift unless he gives it away. Neither he nor anybody else can survive unless he carries the A.A. message. The moment this Twelfth Step work forms a group, another discovery is made – that most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group. Realization dawns that he is but a small part of a great whole; that no personal sacrifice is too great for preservation of the Fellowship. He learns that the clamor of desires and ambitions within him must be silenced whenever these could damage the group. It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 130)

1st Step Prayer

Dear Lord, Help me to see and admit that I am powerless over my alcoholism. Help me to understand how my alcoholism has led to unmanageability in my life. Help me this day to understand the true meaning of powerlessness. Remove from me all denial of my alcoholism.

Friends of Bill W. (http://friendsofbillw.net/twelve_step_prayers)

A Special Thanks to the Following Groups for their Contributions to Support

Reading-Berks Intergroup:

Alpha Group
Walnut Street Recovery Group
Frog Pond
Experienced, Strength and Hope
Time To Start Living 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 Alternative, who participate in the monthly Intergroup business meetings with other elected Representatives. These meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Christ Mertz Luthern Church at 16 Fleetwood Rd., Fleetwood PA 19522 at 7:00 PM and accessible via Zoom at ID 95087075328 with Password SoberRBI. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM and is usually over by 8:00 PM.

“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

“Bridging the Gap” Needs Volunteers

Please contact Steve M. or
BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org or
“Bridging the Gap”, PO Box 301, Blandon PA 19510

Need Male Volunteers for the Prison Commitment

Meetings are Saturday Nights from 7-8 PM
Please Contact Larry M. at MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
*Suspended until further notice

Need Female Volunteers for Prison Commitment

Meetings are Tuesday Nights from 7-8 PM
Please Contact Susan W. at SanLee715@gmail.com
*Suspended until further notice

Events

2021 Alcathon

Doors will open for set up at 3:00 PM
Meetings will start 5:00 PM to 12:00 AM

Place: Atonement and via Zoom

Food donations are welcome!

Food, Fun, Fellowship – Come Check Out the Game Romm and Play Some Charades
Hope to See You All There :)

District 33 Sponsorship Rodeo and Chili Cook-off

Saturday February 19th, 2022

St. Paul's UCC at 5 W Arch St, Fleetwood PA 19522

Tentative time 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Announcements

“Alternative Advertisements”

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

Please email all requests to: Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergrop.Org

Check out the Updated Flyer and Meeting Schedule for Alcathon 2021!!

“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

The Fall Edition of Box 459 is now available in English & Espanola on the Communication Corner Page!

Recent Meeting Updates and Changes:

- The Frog Pond Group WILL NOT OCCUR 12/31/21
- The 11AM Sunday Morning Speakers Group on River Rd WILL NOT MEET on 1/23/22 and 2/6/22
- A Fresh Start Meeting has a new location effective 12/7/21
- The Monday Sober Living Group HYBRID meeting in Kutztown has a new ZOOM ID 385 423 2810
- The Kutztown Step Meeting on Thursday is no longer HYBRID as of 11/25. Come join us in person!
- NEW TIME! Check out the MUSTARD SEED GROUP in Reading meeting Saturday at 6 PM
- There is a new meeting in Blandon Friday night at 8PM and Tuesday night at 7:30PM
- Both Tuesday & Saturday Meetings in Oley are now held exclusively inside the Multi-Purpose room in the back.
- The District 33 monthly meeting time has changed to 6:30 PM. The next meeting is Thursday Jan. 20, 2022
- NEW TIME & format for the E,S, & H ZOOM meeting, it is now at 7PM on Wednesdays
- WOMEN LIVING SOBER has a new location, Bausman Memorial Church. They meet Thursday 1030 AM
- THE KUTZTOWN GROUP has a new time effective 9/17/21, Friday nights at 7PM
- The BOOKS & PEOPLE MEETING is in need of support, they meet every Monday at 630 PM

The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday January 25, 2022 at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church at 16 Fleetwood Rd, Fleetwood, PA 19522.

Important Dates in A.A. History

January 1:

1943: Columbus Dispatch reports 1st Anniversary of Columbus AA

1948: First A.A. meeting was held in Japan, (English speaking.)

1988: West Virginia A.A. began first statewide toll-free telephone hotline.

January 2, 2003: Mid-Southern California Archives moved to new location in Riverside.

January 3, 1941: Jack Alexander told Bill Wilson the Oxford Group would be in his Saturday Evening Post.

January 4:

1939: Dr. Bob stated in a letter to Ruth Hock that A.A. had to get away from the Oxford Group atmosphere.

1940: First A.A. group was founded in Detroit, Michigan.

1941: Bill and Lois Wilson drove to Bedford Hills, NY to see Stepping Stones.

January 5, 1941: Bill Wilson told Jack Alexander that Jack was "the toast of A. A. -- in Coca Cola, of course."

January 8, 1938: New York A.A. split from the Oxford Group.

January 10, 1940: 1st AA meeting not in a home meets at King School, Akron, Ohio.

January 13:

1988: Jack Norris, M.D., Chairman/Trustees of A.A. for 27 yrs. died.

2003: Dr. Earle Marsh, author of "Physician Heal Thyself," sober 49 years, died

January 15:

1937: Fitz M brings AA meetings to Washington DC.

1945: First AA meeting held in Springfield, Missouri.

January 17, 1919: 18th amendment, "Prohibition," became law.

January 19:

1943: 1st discussion for starting AA group in Toronto.

1943: Wilson's returned from 1st major A.A. tour started in Oct 24 1943.

1999: Frank M., A.A. Archivist since 1983, died.

January 21, 1951: A.A. Grapevine published memorial issue on Dr. Bob.

January 23, 1961: Bill W. sent an appreciation letter to Dr. Carl Jung for his contribution to A.A.

January 24:

1945: 1st black group St. Louis

1971: Bill Wilson died in Miami, Florida.

January 26, 1971: *New York Times* published Bill Wilson's obituary on page 1.

January 27, 1971: The Washington Post published an obituary of Bill Wilson

January 30, 1961: Dr. Carl Jung answers Bill's letter with "Spiritus Contra Spiritum."