

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

April 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

Jen P.	Intergroup Chairperson	Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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J. C.	Bridging the Gap Chairperson	BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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Sharon B.	Public Information Chairperson	PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Abe K.	Visitation Chairperson	Visitation@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Lindsey K.	Virtual Committee	Virtual@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

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 Four

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

The testimony of A.A.'s who have really tried a moral inventory is that pride and fear of this sort turn out to be bogeymen, nothing else. Once we have a complete willingness to take inventory, and exert ourselves to do the job thoroughly, a wonderful light falls upon this foggy scene. As we persist, a brand-new kind of confidence” is born, and the sense of relief at finally facing ourselves is indescribable. These are the first fruits of Step Four.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pgs. 49-50)

Tradition Four

“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole”

“Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.”

This meant, of course, that we had been given the courage to declare each A.A. group an individual entity, strictly reliant on its own conscience as a guide to action. In charting this enormous expanse of freedom, we found it necessary to post only two storm signals: A group ought not do anything which would greatly injure A.A. as a whole, not ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. Sobriety had to be its sole objective.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pgs. 146-147)

4th Step Prayer

God, please help me show those I resent the same tolerance, pity and patience that I would cheerfully grant a sick friend. Help me to see that this is a sick man. Father, please show me how I can be helpful to him and save me from being angry. Lord, help me to avoid retaliation or argument. I know I can't be helpful to all people, but at least show me how to take a kindly and tolerant view of each and every one. Thy will be done. Amen.

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 67)

*A Special Thanks to the Following Groups for their Contributions to Support
Reading-Berks Intergroup:*

Happy Hour Group
Alpha Group
Brandon
Turning Point Group
Frog Pond
Nolde Forest Group

Meetings in Need of Support

“What Women Need”
Women Only, In Person
Every Tuesday @ 7 PM
St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
117 E. Arch St., Fleetwood PA 19522

"Books and People Group"
In Person
Every Monday @ 6:30 PM
Mountain View Church of God
1255 Hampden Blvd, Reading PA 19602

Announcements

Your Reading-Berks Intergroup is Conducting an Inventory

“ A business which takes no regular inventory usually goes broke” (Pg 64 of the Big Book)

Come Join us May 15th, 2022 from 10 AM to 2 PM

Location: EDI Inc. in Leesport, PA.

Registration starts at 9:30 AM

FYI, as of March 19th 2022 EDI requires masks inside their facility.

The next organization, planning, and proposal meeting for the Inventory
TO BE DETERMINED

Please watched the website for information on next planning meeting.

Announcements (Continued)

District 66 is having a “Traditions” Workshop

Sunday March 27th

10 AM to 2 PM

Speaker: Jay K. from Fleetwood

No registration, no fees

Coffee, donuts, and lunch included

Location: EDI (Easy Does It)

1300 Hilltop Road, Leesport PA 19533

District 33 is holding a Sponsorship Rodeo and Chili Cook-Off

Saturday May 21st

Rodeo Starts at 10 AM (*set up starts at 9 AM*)

Finished Chili should be on premises by 11:00 AM

Location: Fleetwood Park, Pavilion #1

334 W Main St, Fleetwood PA 19522

Contact Michael L if you would like to enter your chili or have any other questions at
33workshop@readingberksintergroup.org

“Alternative Advertisements”

All A.A. Events, Notifications, Announcements and/or Testimonies are Welcome!
Please email all requests to: Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergrop.Org

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

Service Commitments (continued)

“Bridging the Gap” Needs Volunteers

Please contact J. C. or
BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org or
“Bridging the Gap”, PO 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
*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

Haven Behavioral Health

145 North 6th Street
Reading, PA 19601
484-256-9068

Monday and Wednesday 7:30pm *in person only*

Call 1 hour prior to commitment to confirm a staff member will be attending an ENTIRE meeting with you. If they do not have staff to attend please let them know you will not be attending, if you get there and they have no staff available please do not stay if you will be unattended in the meeting.

Tower Health Behavioral/Detox

Wednesday 7:30pm

In person needs Background check and urine screening or it can be done via zoom with no background

Clair of Asi Asi House - Women’s only - ON HOLD -no commitment at this time

Wernersville ON HOLD - no commitment as this time

Teen Challenge ON HOLD -no commitment at this time

Hannah’s Hope - Women’s only - ON HOLD -no commitment at this time

Recent Meeting Updates and Changes:

- District 67 is now a HYBRID meeting effective February 2022. Masks are required to attend in person!
- The Glenside Group is back on the schedule! Come and say “Hello” Sundays at 7 PM. Christ Lutheran Church, 1301 Luzerne St, Reading PA 19601.
- The I Am A Miracle Group in Boyertown has updated their location information: St. Columbkil's Church, 200 Indian Spring Rd, Boyertown, PA 19512.
- The Blandon Meeting is now the “Easy Does It But Do It” Group. Say “Hello” every Tuesday 7:30 PM and every Friday 8 PM. Maiden creek Church, 261 Main St, Blandon PA 19510.
- The Bernville Group has updated their meeting format in January. Thursdays 7 PM: 1st & 3rd literature/chairperson's choice, 2nd & 4th-discussion. Evangelical Lutheran Frieden's Church, 537 N Main St, Bernville PA 19506.
- There is a new Zoom meeting available locally. Visit “The Tribe” at 12 noon every day. Meeting ID# 370-705-063; PW 364095.
- FYI, The ZOOM information for the Saturday 8:15 Meeting at Kissinger’s Church has changed (Meeting ID# 87155503164; PW 815815)

The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday April 26th, 2022 at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church at 16 Fleetwood Rd, Fleetwood, PA 19522.

The Winter Edition of Box 459 is now available in English & Espanola on the Communication Corner Page of the Reading Berks Intergroup website!

Important Dates in A.A. History

April 1:

1939: Alcoholics Anonymous AA's Big Book was published.

1940: Larry J. of Houston, wrote "The Texas Prayer", used to open AA meetings in Texas.

1966: Sister Ignatia died at the age of 77. She worked with Dr. Bob in treating many early AA members at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron.

1970: GSO moved to 468 Park Ave. South, NYC.

1984: 12 Coconuts Group, Kapiolani Park, Waikiki, Hawaii, was founded.

April 3:

1941: First Florida AA meeting was held.

1960: Fr. Ed Dowling, S.J., died. He was Bill W's "spiritual sponsor."

April 4, 1960 - The Chicago Daily News reported that Fr. Edward Dowling, Jesuit Priest who helped start the first AA group in St. Louis, had died at age 62.

April 7, 1941 - Ruth Hock reported there were 1,500 letters asking for help, as a result of the Saturday Evening Post Article by Jack Alexander.

April 10, 1939 - The first 10 copies of the Big Book arrived at the office Bill shared with Hank Parkhurst in Newark, New Jersey.

April 11, 1938 - Alcoholic Foundation held its first meeting.

April 12, 1942 - The Windsor Daily Star in Ontario, Canada, reported that over 400 AA's attended a testimonial dinner for Dr. Bob.

April 16:

1940: A sober Rollie Helmsley caught the only opening day no-hitter in baseball history since 1909.

1973: Dr Jack Norris Chairman of the AA General Service Board presented President Richard Nixon with the one-millionth copy of the Big Book at the White House.

2005: Nancy Flynn (Independent Blond died in Kennett Square PA)

April 17, 1941 - 2nd group in Los Angeles, the "Hole in the Ground Group" was formed.

April 19, 1940 - First AA group in Little Rock, Arkansas, was formed.

April 22, 1940 - Bill Wilson transferred his Works Publishing Stock to the Alcoholic Foundation.

April 23, 1940 - Dr. Bob wrote the Trustees to refuse Big Book royalties, but Bill Wilson insisted on them for Dr. Bob and Anne.

April 25, 1951 - AA's first General Service Conference was held.

April 26, 1939 - Bill & Lois Wilson moved in with Hank Parkhurst after the bank foreclosed on 182 Clinton St. This was the first of over 50 moves before they acquired Stepping Stones.

April 30, 1989 - The film "My Name is Bill W.," a Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation, was broadcast at 9 p.m. on ABC TV.