

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

May 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 Five

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

If we have swept the searchlight of Step Four back and forth over our careers, and it has revealed in stark relief those experiences we'd rather not remember, if we have come to know how wrong thinking and action have hurt us and others, then the need to quit living by ourselves with those tormenting ghosts of yesterday gets more urgent than ever. We have to talk to somebody about them.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pg. 55)

Until we actually sit down and talk aloud about what we have so long hidden, our willingness to clean house is still largely theoretical. When we are honest with another person, it confirms that we have been honest with ourselves and with God.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pg. 60)

Tradition Five

“Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers”

Just as firmly bound by obligation are the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who have demonstrated that they can help problem drinkers as others seldom can. The unique ability of each A.A. to identify himself with, and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and of recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates A.A.'s all around the globe.

There is another reason for this singleness of purpose. It is the great paradox of A.A. that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless we give it away.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 150-151)

5th Step Prayer

God, please remove my fear and help me to be completely honest in what I am about to do. Please give me the courage, faith and strength I need to share with this person my whole truth, especially the things I swore I'd take with me to the grave. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 73)

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

Shoey Group
Kutztown Friday Night Group
Oley Group
You Are A Miracle
Interview With An Alcoholic

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 21st , masks are not required inside the facility. This is subject to change at the request of the facility owner. Check readingberksintergroup.org for updates prior to the event.

For more details & answers to questions like:

- What it is
- Why it's being done it
- Who should attend
- The agenda/items of discussion, and what's for lunch!

Please visit your website: ReadingBerksIntergroup.org

The next organization, planning, and proposal meeting for the Inventory is April 30th at 3:00 PM
at the Atonement Parish Center

Announcements (Continued)

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

There will be 3 speaker sessions: A generational group (4 sponsors / spondees), A speaker on service sponsorship, and A speaker of spiritual sponsorship

The Leesport Group is celebrating an Anniversary

Saturday May 21st

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, 102 Apple St, Leesport

Doors and food open at 8 PM

Will be an Open meeting with a speaker

The Congo Saturday Group is celebrating their 50th Anniversary

Saturday June 4th

Shepherd of the Hills UCC, 527 Hoffmansville Rd, Bechtelsville PA

Two Speakers

Meeting begins at 10 AM with food and fellowship to follow

Food donations are Welcome!

Questions call Mic M. at (610) 401-5013

New Meetings in Our Area:

Off The Beaten Path

Tuesday, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, In-person

Mount Carmel Methodist Church

2203 Harmonyville Rd, Elverson PA 19520

Boonies

Monday, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, In-person

Allegheny UCC

1219 Kurtz Mill Rd, Mohnton PA 19540

Meeting is in Basement of the church

“Alternative Advertisements”

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

Please email all requests to: Alternative@ReadingBerksInterprop.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

“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

*Suspended until further notice
Please Contact Larry M. at MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

Need Female Volunteers for Prison Commitment

*Suspended until further notice
Please Contact Susan W. at SanLee715@gmail.com

Haven Behavioral Health

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

Wednesdays and Fridays 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

Bernville Rd
Wednesdays 7:30 PM

We are still doing Zoom only commitments but they are opening In-Person commitments
However, In-Person commitments will require a background check, a brief on-line orientation, urine screening, and fingerprinting

Clair of Asi Asi House

Sundays 7 PM
Women only

Wernersville

Open but we are reviewing; we are looking for a different day than Wednesday
Will require background check and volunteer paperwork, forms are available from Intergroup
Will also require proof of COVID vaccination and to wear a mask.

Teen Challenge ON HOLD -no commitment at this time

Hannah’s Hope - Women 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 May 24th, 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

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.