

# The Alternative

Intergroup newsletter for the Reading-Berks County Area  
February 2012

[ReadingBerksIntergroup.org](http://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.  
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[Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org](mailto:Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org)

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## Announcements:

**Frog Pond Group is MOVING: join us at our NEW location FRIDAYS @ 7pm  
@ Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church → 820 West Leesport Rd., Leesport, PA  
19533**

**611 Washington St. Group NEEDS SUPPORT!!!! We will be having a Valentine's  
Day Lunch on Thursday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 11:30am-1pm FOOD-FUN-SPEAKER!!  
At 1<sup>st</sup> United Church of Christ, 611 Washington Str**

**BOOKS and PEOPLE's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Hampden Blvd. and Perry St. Monday  
January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 6:30 pm----- Speaker followed by FOOD and FELLOWSHIP!!**

**Mustard Seed Group NEEDS SUPPORT!!!! Saturday nights @ 6:30pm  
At St. Mark's Church, 10<sup>th</sup> & Windsor Sts.**

**The New Millenium Group 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary January 29, 2012  
Food at 6PM followed by Speaker @ 7PM , St. Paul's UCC in Birdsboro  
This is an open meeting—please bring a covered dish, if possible**

**Share-a-day: May 6, 2012 –Joint workshop with Area, Intergroup and District  
33,66, & 67!! Great info, fellowship & (hopefully) food—stay tuned for 1<sup>st</sup>  
planning meeting: MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> @ 2900 GRANDVIEW BLVD. 1:00 PM**

**Circle of Hope Round-Up: May 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Speakers Conference here in the  
Reading Area—registrations NOW available @ [www.CircleofHopeRoundup.com](http://www.CircleofHopeRoundup.com)**

**NEW MEETING: "Seconds and Inches" will be meeting Sunday nights @ 5PM at  
Wyomissing Church of the Brethern 2200 State Hill Road, Wyo. PA starting  
February 26<sup>th</sup>. This is a CLOSED meeting.**

**Next Intergroup Meeting: February 28, 2012**

***\*\*Reading Intergroup has no outside affiliations. We exist as a central office to  
serve Alcoholics Anonymous groups in the Reading area\*\*ALL MEMBERS ARE  
WELCOME TO ATTEND INTERGROUP MEETINGS. Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
of each month, at 7:30pm, at Calvary Baptist Church 510 Park Ave. (intersection of Grace &  
Park). See your group's representative for Intergroup meeting minutes. See you at the  
NEXT MEETING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***

## 12<sup>th</sup> Step Commitments

Caron Adolescent Extended Care – <b>MEN</b> Sunday @ 7:00 PM		Caron Adolescent Extended Care – <b>WOMEN</b> Sunday @ 7:00 PM		St. Joe's Hosp. MH Unit 3 <sup>rd</sup> FL Reed & Walnut Entrance Mondays @ 7:30 PM	
2/5	Advent Men's Group	2/5	Women Living Sober	2/6	Sunday AM Spkrs
2/12	Advent Men's Group	2/12	Time to Start Living	2/13	Lng of Heart Spoken Here
2/19	New Life Group	2/19	Nolde Forest	2/20	Jacksonwald Group
2/26	Happy Hour Group	2/26	Happy Hour	2/27	Shoey Group
3/4	Reading BB SS	3/4	Women Living Sober	3/5	611 Washington
Wernersville State Hosp. See Guard in Building 34 Monday @ 7:00 PM		Reading Detox Unit Every OTHER Tuesday Tuesday @ 8:00 PM		Reading Detox Unit Thursday @ 8:00 PM	
2/6	Alpha Group	2/7	Atonement 8:15	2/2	Congo Group
2/13	Jacksonwald Group		-----	2/9	Oley Group
2/20	--CLOSED---	2/21	Time to Start Living	2/16	Lng of Heart Spoken Here
2/27	New Millenium Group		-----	2/23	Language of the Heart
3/5	Leesport Group	3/6	Walnut St. Recovery	3/1	Twin Valley
Caron Foundation Young Adult <b>Female</b> Friday @ 7:00PM					
2/3	Congo Group				
2/10	French Creek Group				
2/17	Sat. Women's				
2/24	Boyertown Group				
3/2	Reading BB SS				

**Step Two: Came to believe in a Higher Power who could restore us to sanity.** A.A. does not demand belief; Twelve Steps are only suggestions. Importance of an open mind....Defiance is an outstanding characteristic of alcoholics. Step Two is a rallying point to sanity. Right relation to God.

Twelve years ago I sat new in a clubhouse, at a speaker's meeting; this guy shared his experience on where he obtained this strength.

He drank like I did, he hurt and felt and inflicted pain like I did. The hope he shared came to my mind and into me. If he could obtain this new life, then maybe, just maybe I could too.

**Hope** defined from the oldest dictionary I could find (1940 Webster's): *noun*: the desire of good accompanied by expectation, anticipation, and confidence; to expect with confidence.

To obtain this I must no longer really on what is of this world or what is human.

It started for me this way when an old timer said to me "if you want the obsession of drinking to stop, pray, and ask God to remove the obsession."

I flat out told him I don't believe in God.

He was bold but very kind when he looked straight through me and said, "Kid, that doesn't matter."

He was right, so out of desperation, out of need, I came to believe.

**Tradition Two:** "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority---a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.



### Member's corner:

Having remembered AA being there for me when I first walked into the rooms is what I do for the alcoholic who still suffers. With my mind racing and not knowing where to turn I always heard from people in AA that it would be OK and that I don't have to live like this anymore. Well at the Hope Rescue Mission, myself and two other guys are doing just that. (Being there) **On Thursday nights at 7:00 pm we go to 645 North 6th Str. Reading, Pa. 19601 (Hope Rescue Mission) and share our experience, strength and hope with these troubled homeless men.**

In Chapter 2 of the Big Book on page 17 it says: The tremendous fact for every one of us is that we have discovered a common solution. We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree, and upon which we can join in brotherly and harmonious action. Any male member of AA wishing to join us is welcome. Just show up and be there to give back what was so freely given to you. **Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.**  
Thanks so much for giving me the opportunity to do this, Willy W.

### Circle of Hope Winter Dance

I'm very happy to report on the events that transpired during our Circle of Hope Winter Dance that took place on Sat. 12/17. Obviously, this, an opportunity to get together as sober people in recovery and have fun. But, there are a few other reasons that have ultimately prompted this dance over the years. For starters, what a great way to show our gratitude during the holiday season and share the true meaning of being sober during this special time of the year. Also, this dance serves as a fund raiser for the Circle of Hope Conference, which this year will be held in May.

Beginning in the early evening, people began arriving at EDI up on the hill and mingled, found their tables/ seats. Sometime after 6:00, a wonderful buffet dinner was served by the caterer, Clint, and his crew, all in the fellowship. They did a fantastic job and I'm not just saying that for fluff- it was truly that good. Afterward, everyone found room for dessert and coffee before our speaker took the podium. Shortly after 7:00 pm, Bill M. (yes, that Bill M.) stepped up and shared his experience, strength and hope acquired from over 26 years in Alcoholics Anonymous and stressed the importance of our third legacy- service. It was definitely good to here his message. For the rest of the night, the music was turned up and people danced. The DJ did a great job of playing a variety of music.

It was good to be involved in this year's event and I really appreciate the committee's hard work. More importantly, I appreciate the 130 individuals who attended and, as a result, contributed to the conference coming up in May.

Sincerely,

John H.

Circle of Hope Committee Chairperson

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group purpose  
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 loving god

Victor E. (Feb 1965)

