



# The Alternative

Intergroup newsletter for the Reading-Berks County Area  
SEPTEMBER 2014

[ReadingBerksIntergroup.org](http://ReadingBerksIntergroup.org)

The Alternative is published monthly by the Reading-Berks Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous.  
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## **Announcements:**

The Wilshire group is having their annual picnic on Saturday August 30th from 12:30 to 7:30p at the Mohton Community Park located at East Wyomissing Ave. and Walnut St. in Mohnton PA. an open meeting from 6 to 7p. Please note there will NOT be a meeting held that night at their regular location.

Our annual Reading/Berks Intergroup picnic will be held on Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 6p at the Red Caboose Park located at 2430 Girard Ave, West Lawn PA. 19609. lots of fun and fellowship. Donations are accepted or you are welcome to bring a covered dish.

Apologies go out to the Glenside group Sunday night at 7p meeting. Somehow they were removed from the online schedule and also the downloadable small version. Not sure how and when it occurred but I am responsible for the schedules. Corrections were made to resolve this and I will be more diligent in the future.

**Next Intergroup Meeting:** August 26th, 2014

*\*\*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!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## **Step Nine. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.**

I am always learning as I continue on this journey of recovery and one of the most important and hardest things I learn is humility. What it is and how do I acquire it? My experience has taught me that when I work any of the twelve steps I will gain some amount of humility. Whether or not I see it. And the more I work the steps the stronger my humility becomes. You don't just become humble once and done. It's a lifetime lesson that if working for it will become stronger in time but needs to continuously be sought after. One way I can tell that it's working in me is how I handle life's daily situations. But when I'm working step nine, Or when the amends arises when I am least expecting it. This is when I really get to learn what kind of a person I am. Have I followed the steps to the best of my ability to this point? Am I looking at my wrongs and not there's? And last but not least. When I have made an amends and it isn't received the way I hoped. Do I become resentful or do I except it just the way it is and leave the rest to my higher power. You know what I'm saying. Two steps forward and three steps back. Life is full of humility. And I know how to give my suffering to my higher power but why is it so hard to do sometimes. Especially when I know that it will lead me to peace and serenity. But I am human and I will continue to struggle at times for humility. So that is why I need to always be striving for it. And not think that now I have it I'm done.

Chris A.

## **Tradition Nine. A.A. as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.**

by Bill Wilson, from the August, 1948 A.A. Grapevine:

“The least possible organization, that's our universal ideal. No fees, no dues, no rules imposed on anybody, one alcoholic bringing recovery to the next; that's the substance of what we most desire, isn't it? But how shall this simple ideal best be realized? Often a question, that.

We have, for example, the kind of A.A. who is for simplicity. Terrified of anything organized, he tells us that A.A. is getting too complicated. He thinks money only makes trouble, committees only make dissension, elections only make politics, paid workers only make professionals and that clubs only coddle slipees.”

“Quite opposed to such halcyon simplicity is the A.A. promotor. Left to himself he would "bang the cannon and twang the lyre" at every crossroad of the world. Millions for drunks, great A.A. hospitals, batteries of paid organizers and publicity experts wielding all the latest paraphernalia of sound and script; such would be our promoters dream.”

“We shall, naturally, take the firm and safe middle course. A.A. has always violently resisted the idea of any general organization. Yet, paradoxically, we have ever stoutly insisted upon organizing certain *special services*; mostly those absolutely necessary to effective and plentiful 12th Step work.”

## Concept IX

**Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.**

“No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure . . . . Weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures.”

Due to A.A.’s principle of rotation, furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous effort. The base of the service structure — and the source of our leadership — is the General Service Representative. The G.S.R. is the service leader for his or her group, the indispensable link between the group and A.A. as-a-whole. Together the G.S.R.s are A.A.’s group conscience — and together, in their areas, they elect the area committee members and ultimately the delegates and the area’s candidates for trustee. Groups who have not named G.S.R.s should be encouraged to do so. And as the G.S.R.s meet in area assemblies, care and dedication are required. Personal ambitions should be cast aside; feuds and controversies forgotten. “Who are the best qualified people?” should be the thought of all.

“No society can function well without able leadership in all its levels, and A.A. can be no exception. Fortunately, our Society is blessed with any amount of *real* leadership — the active people of today and the potential leaders of tomorrow as each new generation of able members swarms in. We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us.

“A leader in A.A. service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him and help him with his job.

“Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source.

“Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can, obtain sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided of course that such actions be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility.

“Another qualification for leadership is ‘give and take,’ the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction . . . . We cannot, however, compromise always. Now and then, it is truly necessary to stick flat-footed to one’s convictions about an issue until it is settled.

“Our leaders do not drive by mandate, they lead by example. We say to them, ‘Act for us, but do not boss us.’ ”

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## BILLS STORY

T R F D P S T N P S J M C P C S N U X F  
 J O G Q W F B X S A U P F T Y U W W A M  
 H B H P V Y R D J M B M W R G Q I X B U  
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 A H V N G I C R E I D A N E R G L W X K  
 E M P H A S I Z E D S A S H J M I X N E  
 B G A R G S R B G H E U S U S N O H T  
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LIQUOR  
 GRENADIER  
 MUSKET  
 POTENTIAL  
 EXHILARATING  
 SCOFFERS  
 SUMPTUOUS  
 FOUNDATION  
 HUMILITY  
 UNRESERVEDLY  
 DEFICIENCIES  
 GOD  
 CONSCIOUSNESS  
 WILLINGNESS  
 HONESTY  
 ESSENTIAL  
 REQUIREMENTS  
 EMPHASIZED  
 WORK  
 ALCOHOLIC

### EXPLAIN THAT TO THE WIFE

