

Reading Berks Intergroup 2022 Inventory Questions

1. What is the basic purpose of Reading Berks Intergroup?

- Dave from Interview with Alcoholic spoke to his thoughts of intergroup as a big resource to his homegroup. The website is well maintained. Intergroup does a great job to give information to all the groups.
- Chair spoke to the information that GSO has on Intergroup duties
- Mark from Alpha group- discussed intergroups and levels of AA, Central office. RBI has 3 districts and RBI handles items that would be impractical for the individual group to handle. Such as schedules, hotline, outreach.
- Kay from Saturday Morning Women. We need to do a better job explaining to homegroups what RBI is. Maybe have special events that show what intergroup is and does to each group. Concern that not many people know what we do or the resources available.
- Jen recalls that RBI would visit her group once a month. RBI would talk to group members and highlight what we do. Seems there is a gap from RBI to the groups.
- Sue from Underground meeting thinks RBI should just continue to carry the message and spreading the word of hope.
- Jay (co-chair) believes central office is a good way to describe intergroup. A place where people can get in touch with members. We receive requests from institutions and process these requests. Distribute information to the members of all the groups. RBI handles the workload that a group would have a tough time doing by itself.

2. What more can RBI do to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous?

- Mark from Alpha Group- we need to figure out who has PI/CPC responsibilities: who is supposed to be visiting who- coordinate services with the districts.
- Kay from Saturday Morning Women- Suggested QR codes in place or in addition to pamphlets and paper information. This has helped her homegroup reach younger people.
- Jen- RBI chairperson- Grapevine brings a meeting to people who can't get to a meeting. Suggested a Grapevine representative so we can provide Grapevine to nursing homes, jails, teen challenge. This would help get meetings to people who can't get to physical meetings.
- Bill Springview and Hotline rep- suggestion to add Meeting Guide App to the schedules.
- Jay (co-chair)- Districts 66/67 do not have Grapevine committees, 33 does have a Grapevine rep.. Districts to not individually have PI/CPC
- Mike-district 33- Does utilize sending out Grapevine information to Teen challenge and other places. It is a meeting in print and a great resource. People who can't have meetings come into their facilities- Grapevine is useful. Mike asked for help and support with Grapevine.
- Stu- Asked about social media presence. GSO does have information on social media platforms and guidelines. Stu requested to have us look into social media for AA.

3. What more can we do to efficiently utilize our resources to carry the message and educate the groups on Reading Berks Intergroup?

- Tammy G. (Treasurer - RBI) Nolde HG, We should educate homegroups regarding intergroup. Maybe we need a committee for the visitation position. Our visitation is lacking and we do not have a presence at the individual meetings. The position is underutilized. The website is the best it has been in years but it is our responsibility for groups to know who we are and what we do.
- Kay suggested posting a resource sign that can be printed out from our website for groups to print out and post at their meetings.
- Stu recommends a homegroup night out where RBI would show up to a meeting once a month that is silent at RBI.
- Steve (Chair), How can we coordinate more information between all the districts and groups? No other communication between the districts other than once a month with the district liaisons. Stresses importance of visitation chair. However, the current person has another position. 100% focus on the website is putting useful information that a member would want to know.
- Janette, Each homegroup has a rep. And should take a minute at each meeting to explain what they do.

4. Are the monthly Intergroup meetings informative and efficient? Are the issues being brought to Intergroup clear so all know what they are voting for or against to arrive at an effective group conscience?

- Kay- shared experience as a new RBI rep- overwhelmed at her first RBI meeting. She was unaware of the Structure manual and wished there would have been more support for new RBI reps.
- David- RBI representative for his homegroup and Archives position for RBI. Suggested first 3-5 minutes of RBI meeting to go through the structure manual at our monthly meetings to keep reinforcing an understanding of positions. Expressed concern about lack of attendance at today's meeting.
- Mark- was an alternate RBI for his homegroup when he was new to AA. Suggested- Sponsors should talk with sponsees about RBI and positions, service.
- Jay- supported the idea of having someone being a new RBI Rep. orientation. People do not fulfill 2 year terms and there is a break in service. Packet of materials to give to new RBI reps. If you are a chair- you need to organize sub committees to encourage participation in service/positions. Do not need to be RBI reps to help with committees.
- Steve (chari)- create a service position orientation page on the website to help with service positions. AA.org has this information. On the RBI website, there is a sitemap page, an alphabetical listing of information available, links to documents and resources.

- Tammy- newcomer packet has fallen to the wayside. New representatives used to have welcome packets/welcome committee/person. This helps with the understanding of the position and expectations of the RBI representative position. This would benefit RBI and homegroups business meetings (sharing of RBI information).
- Sue- structure manual should be given to RBI representatives to take to homegroups.

5. Is adequate opportunity given to all members to speak and participate in Intergroup activities?

- Kay reviewed how the meeting used to be over 90 minutes long and where mind numbing. Now, the meetings are more concise and believes everyone has time to share.
- Steve (Chair), People may be unaware that people may bring up new business and speak on a topic regardless of if you have a position or not. Maybe this can be explained during the meeting.
- Jen (RBI Chair), Asked the zoom members if they feel like they are being heard. Response is that they are, even though they are not in person.
- Jenette, Was unaware she could attend intergroup without being a rep. She zooms in to the RBI meeting. How much time is needed for their group members to be an intergroup chair.

6. What additional activities can Intergroup engage in to help those that hold Service positions?

- Jeanette- idea to recognize the anniversary of homegroups. RBI visits the homegroup on their anniversaries.
- Tim- RBI rep. For Great Fact- Served at Area level- held workshops and trainings for DCM and GSRs. Reaching out to other intergroups or intergroup offices in NY to see about training, outlines, orientation for new RBI reps., suggestions of once a year workshop or orientation, RBI sponsored workshops for officers and chairs.
- Bill- RBI rep.- Create and use committees to help with greater projects/events. Lack of RBI reps/ service positions being fulfilled effectively.
- Abe- Challenges with technology/zoom proposing opportunities and challenges. Zoom is appreciated to keep staying connected during these times. Maybe a video/recording for orientation purposes.
- Steve (chair)- communication, collaboration, coordination with districts to help all service positions. Trainings for secretaries, treasurers etc. (?). There is literature but we are not aware of training. This can be considered at the RBI level but we need support and participation.

7. What steps (actions) can RBI take to increase involvement from groups in the area in Intergroup?

- Jenette, RBI could have a telemarketing night and call the reps and remind them the importance of them showing up. Promote the intergroup meeting and try to get members to come.
- Sue, Calls each member of her homegroup to remind people they have a meeting. She supports calling all RBI members to come to intergroup. Break up the call list between members so each person only calls a few.
- Kay, Supports above ideas but suggests texting. RBI should have a speaker or bowling night. Can use this event to advertise what RBI does.
- Mark (Alt Chair), post intergroup info on bulletin boards and reminding people that we do have meetings coming up. It's on the website and continues to inform people and get the word out.
- Tammy, We have intergroup reps come from each HG and if they cannot attend, the alt should come. Does not see that happening all the time. If the meeting is not attending, should we call the main rep and inform them nobody showed up for the RBI meeting.
- Bill, the Spanish speaking side of the hotline is weak. We need to do more to have people speak spanish and also the spanish meetings are not represented at RBI. Also, increase the number of visitation reps and have 1 person speak spanish.
- Steve, Have a sign in sheet where people just put a checkbox on the list. (Maybe reformat the sign in sheet)
- Jen, Who is the someone that would reach out to people and remind them to come to intergroup. The reps should be responsible to be at the meeting. Ad hoc committees should be formed for a position like this to see if it could work. The visitation position is to visit silent groups not represented at RBI and not to call and remind people to go to the RBI meeting.
- Tim M., Do we track how many times a group is represented at RBI. We could post the past attendance. Would be nice to have a list of all intergroup reps in our intergroup. Can we have a list available?
- Rachael (schedules), Advises she is accountable for her service position. Thinks there should be more accountability. We could have a better handoff when a new position is filled.
- Jay, Would hate to add extended minutes to the current meeting in fear it would be longer. Maybe a roll call could assist in the beginning of the RBI meeting. This would work for zoom and in person.
- Kay, Perhaps we need a subcommittee of visitation. Look at what groups do not always show up. Could have zoom people sent to the secretary.
- Jen, Loves zoom attendance idea but not a roll call because it would take us at least 20 minutes. Also, we should have attendance sent to the secretary.
- David, Are all the groups recorded other than what's on the meeting schedule? He believes there are so many groups that are not being represented at RBI.
- Rose (Office at large District), Roll call is done at district. Whatever groups that do not show up, she visits those meetings. People seem to not want to volunteer their time.

Finds it difficult for her homegroup to volunteer some time even to take commitments. We can spread the word but it doesn't mean people will show up.

- Mark, Speaking of what Rose said, 20% of people do 80% of the work. The group list gets contacted monthly by the secretary. Word is getting out to almost 300 people. This goes back to getting your sponsees involved.
- Abe, Same as what Mark said. You get 80% of business from 20% of your customer list. Abe has not done anything with visitation yet. He holds 2 positions. May be of interest to explore the goal of 100% representation. Have a challenge of getting people to the RBI meeting in and out in the allotted time. Do we want 100% people involved? Does this effort align our goal to helping the alcoholic. Will redouble his efforts on visitation.

8. Does our group do its fair share toward participating in the purpose of A.A.—as it relates to our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service?

- Jeanette- Yes, RBI does well overall w/ exception of Unity. Feels that Unity “comes and goes.” Unity is forgotten, Service does a lot, Recovery is great. She emailed other groups about today’s meeting. Groups were not aware of this meeting. She doesn’t get information from her homegroup, she uses websites and resources.
- Jay asked if anyone wants to share what Unity means.
- David- Unity is meant to bring together and unify. COVID has played a big part in dividing our members. No suggestions on how to bring the unity back. Need more promotion. David’s homegroup parted ways and dispersed. Need a way to unify our community.
- Kay- disappointed at the lack of attendance today. Approximately 100 groups in RBI. 45-60 reps at RBI monthly meetings. Event sponsored by RBI. Groups who don’t have representatives, RBI should send someone to their group about RBI event. RBI is current but is misconceived as not up to date. We need to engage people with food and entertainment. RBI month- getting into meetings and zooms.
- Mark- Jen is Unity chair and does well. Alcahthon, picnic are a part of Unity. We advertise and promote but that doesn't mean we get people to meetings.
- Steve- Unity means one. We come to solve a common problem. We are fractured when it comes to a way to get a common solution. First Tradition is based on common welfare. Our common welfare comes first, not individual welfare.

9. Are the RBI Officer’s/Committee’s fulfilling their roles as outlined in the structure manual?

General statements:

Kay- need a group of people to help with forming a sub committee for visitation to help with RBI involvement.

Tim- all positions are doing well.

Jen- please reach out to her with ideas. Spoke about today being an open forum to help with solutions.

Jennette - are there open positions in RBI?- not at this time. Votes are in November for new positions.

David - Looking for suggestions on how to improve as Archive Chair.

Stu- all positions- doing well, great.

Jen (RBI chairperson)- explained chairpersons can have committees for their duties/projects/responsibilities.

Kay- talked about committees needing to be created w/ service positions. Bridging the Gap- is one person right now but could use help.

Jeanette- encouraging people to come to RBI to help and get involved. RBI is doing great.

Steve- NERASA conference- learned that we are doing well at RBI. Encouraged people to get involved with RBI and service positions in general. Lead by example, get involved.

Chairperson- Navigating well w/ zoom, dedicated chairperson, well-organized

Alternate Chairperson-

Secretary-

Treasurer-

Schedules-

Hotline-

Alternative-

Stu- wants to do digital articles. Can't use non-AA information. Digitize more AA items and include articles.

Jen- suggested a vote/motion to add articles to Alternative.

Literature-

Corrections- yes, if/when we are allowed back in the jails

Men

Women

Archives-

Jay- Archives at area level- received copies of meeting minutes from groups, and filed all of those. Lots of sorting and organizing. Goal was to digitize archives. Historical things like flyers, schedules, speakers, recommend reaching out to Area Archivists.

David- working with Steve to digitize information

Steve- David is doing stellar with Archives, can digitize the archives. Conferences and GSR have archives, reach out and see how people are doing the archives. There are conferences and informational sessions about archives. 9/22/22-9/25/22- in North Little Rock, Arkansas for the National AA Archives workshop.

Sue- Question about homegroups sending information to RBI archives. Confirmed- yes, groups should share archive information with RBI.

Unity-

Jeanette- bringing homegroups to RBI.

Website-

Bridging The Gap-

Mark- Bridging the Gap- nothing going on right now- BtG is having contact with someone institutionalized via mail. Main purpose- get that person to a meeting once they leave the facility, not necessarily a sponsor to this person but to connect them with AA.

PI/CPC-

Jeanette- took pamphlets to wawa, police stations in Hamburg.

Visitation-

Institutions-

Virtual (ad hoc)-1 person- yes. Jen(RBI chairperson)- explained ad-hoc is a temporary position to resolve a situation then it will dissolve.

District 33-

District 66-

District 67-

General discussion: Open for questions and concerns not covered in the agenda questions.

Jen (RBI chairperson) encouraged people to share if they did not share today. RBI workshop about positions and service. Would like to come up with a packet of information to share with new RBI members. Thanked attendees for being here today.

Jeanette- What is the take on Zoom and virtual meetings? We are back to live meetings, zoomers, hybrids and groups that are breaking up. How will that be addressed?

Jay- HG was zoom now they are hybrid. Pandemic has provided tools to stay connected. Members of that homegroup need to address "break up issues" or when not following format.

Steve- tradition 4 about a group being autonomous- meaning they govern themselves. Purpose for today is to make a 4th step list for RBI. The items provided today are on the RBI website. AA-intergroup.org

Tom- informative meeting today. Updated the attendance for RBI into a matrix format. Need people who are passionate about their positions and excited to be a part of RBI.

Tammy- HG is in charge of running their formats- not RBI responsibilities. HG is autonomous. Zoom and live meetings- concerns about going to live meetings, enjoyed zoom meetings, we need virtual meetings to help carry the message. Talked about her position as treasurer- takes accountability for her service position, if someone doesn't have a report- we need to ask people if they need help in their position or with services, we need to be held accountable. Everyone does their part at RBI and within homegroups. ACCOUNTABILITY. Activities and general fund- there is also a workshop fund- we can help pay for your workshop. Activities fund- picnics, alcathon. HG can write notes on checks about going to specific funds, if desired. Everything goes into the general fund unless specified otherwise.

Tim- Structure manual has statements about removing a person for not holding responsibilities or duties.

Steve- closing remarks- Goal to improve our services at RBI. Appreciated everyone's attendance. Please check out our website. 9/25/22 Unity Picnic.