

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

July 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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Intergroup	General Contact	Info@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 Seven

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God. The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, then there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problem we could possibly have.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pg. 76)

Tradition Seven

“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions”

Probably no A.A. Tradition had the labor pains this one did. In early times, we were all broke. When you add to this the habitual supposition that people ought to give money to alcoholics trying to stay sober, it can be understood why we thought we deserved a pile of folding money. What great things A.A. would be able to do with it! But oddly enough, people who had money thought otherwise. They figured that it was high time we now-sober-paid our own way. So our Fellowship stayed poor because of it.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 160)

7th Step Prayer

My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character, which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen.

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 76)

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

Happy Hour
Off The Beaten Path
Hamburg Big Book
YASNY Group
Robesonia Fellowship 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

2022 Summer Unity Picnic

Presented by Reading-Berks Intergroup & Districts 33-66-67

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday September 25th, 2022

Jim Dietrich Park

4899 Stoudts Ferry Bridge Rd, Reading PA 19605

Look for updates every month at the Intergroup meeting or on ReadingBerksIntergroup.org/event

Visit the Reading Berks Intergroup page (<https://readingberksintergroup.org/>)
for information on Area Business (like the results document from the 2022 General Services Conference);
workshops (EPGSA is hosting a Literature / Accessibilities workshop August 6th in Frazer PA);
and also the minutes from the Reading-Berks Intergroup inventory held May 15th 2022.

Announcements (Continued)

Boyertown Inn Picnic

Sunday July 10th 2022

12:00 PM to 5 PM

Boyertown Park – First Pavilion

Happy Hour Group Annual A.A. Picnic

Saturday August 13th 2022

12 noon to 5:00 PM

Mohnton Picnic Grounds

Please bring a covered dish; open to all A.A. members, family, and friends

Speaker meeting at 4:00 PM

“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

****ESPECIALLY SPANISH SPEAKING 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 Kent or

BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org or

“Bridging the Gap”, PO Box 2332, Reading PA 19608

Service Commitments (Continued)

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:

New Meeting in Our Area: **Off The Beaten Path** - Tuesdays, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Mount Carmel Methodist Church, 2203 Harmonyville Rd, Elverson PA 19520.

The **Just for Today Group** has moved their meeting outside. Thursdays, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. St. Benedicts Church Picnic Grounds, 4341 Morgantown Rd, Mohnton PA 19540.

The **Saturday Morning Women's Group** has altered their format. 1st Saturday of each month is a Beginner's Meeting where we read from the Living Sober book. Saturdays 10:30 to 11:30 AM. St. Peters Church (UCC), 2901 Curtis Rd., West Lawn PA.

Women Living Sober conducted its last hybrid meeting on 5/14/2022, now just In-person. Thursdays 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Bausman Memorial Church, 1064 Penn Ave, Wyomissing PA 19610.

The I AM A Miracle Group is now "**You Are a Miracle**". Mondays 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. St. Columbkil's Church, 200 Indian Spring Rd, Boyertown PA 19512.

The **French Creek Group** has a new location: St Peter United Church of Christ, 1890 Ridge Rd, Pottstown PA 19465. Thursdays 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The **Underground Group** has moved to Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, 550 Fleetwood Rd, Bowers PA 19511. Wednesdays and Sundays 7 PM to 8 PM.

The **Glenside Group** is back on the schedule. Sundays 7 PM to 8 PM. Christ Lutheran Church, 1301 Luzerne St, Reading PA 19601.

The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday July 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

July 1-3, 1960 - 8700 attend 25th Anniversary of AA in Long Beach, CA

July 2

1965 - Best of Bill and Pocket-Sized 12 and 12 1st sold

1993 - 50 years of AA celebrated in Canada

2000 - 20 Millionth Big Book given to Al-Anon in Minneapolis

July 2-3, 1955 - Bill W turns "the fellowship over to the fellowship" at 4:00 PM, 5000 attend 20th Anniversary at our St Louis Convention

July 2-4, 1965 - 10,000 attend 30th Anniversary of AA in Toronto. There we came to own our Responsibility Declaration

July 4, 1939 - 1st AA meeting started in Flatbush, NY

July 3-5, 1970 - 10,900 attend 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami. Bill W gave his last talk to AA

July 3-6, 1980 - 22,500 attend 45th Anniversary of AA in New Orleans First true marathon meeting was held here

July 4, 1999 - He who has a fifth on the fourth may not come forth on the fifth...

July 4-6, 1975 - 19,800 attend 40th Anniversary of AA in Denver Worlds largest coffee server serves 1/2 million cups a day

July 5:

1985 - AA gives Ruth Hock 5,000,000th Big Book during 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal, Canada

1990 - AA gives Nell Wing 10,000,000th Big Book during 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle, WA

July 3-6, 1980 - Gay AA's have own program at 40th AA Anniversary in New Orleans

July 5-7, 1985 - 45,000 attend 50th Anniversary of AA in Montreal. House of Seagrams flew their flags at half mast for 3 days

July 7, 1940 - Bill attends 1st Summer Session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University

July 5-8, 1990 - 48,000 attend 55th Anniversary of AA in Seattle. 75 countries were represented as the former Soviet Unions members attended for the first time

July 8, 1940 - 1st AA Group formed in Dayton, Ohio

July 10, 1941 - Texas newspaper publishes anonymous letter from founding member of Texas AA Group

July 20, 1941 - First AA group formed in Seattle, Washington

July 22:

1877 - Willian Duncan Silkworth born in Brooklyn, NY

1980 - Marty M. early AA woman and founder of NCADD dies

July 23:

1940 - Philly AA's send 10% of kitty to Alcoholic Foundation, sets precedent

1943 - Esther C., passed Jan 15, 2005, sober since July 23, 1943.

July 24, 1943 - L.A. press reports formation of all-Mexican AA Group

July 28-30, 1950 - 1st AA Convention celebrates 15th anniversary of AA in Cleveland