

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

June 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
Mark S.	Intergroup Alt. Chairperson	Alt-Chair@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Tammy G.	Intergroup Treasurer	Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Tom H.	Intergroup Secretary	Secretary@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Bill M.	Hotline Representative	Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
David G.	Archives Representative	Archives@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Larry M.	Men's Prison Chairperson	MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Susan W.	Woman's Prison Chairperson	WomansPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Abe K.	Literature Representative	Literature@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Rachael H.	Schedules Representative	Schedules@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Michelle H.	Institutions Representative	Institutions@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
George "Stu" S.	Newsletter Chairperson	Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Jen P.	Unity Chairperson	Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Kent	Bridging the Gap Chairperson	BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Steve P.	Website Representative	Website@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Sharon B.	Public Information Chairperson	PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Abe K.	Visitation Chairperson	Visitation@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Lindsey K.	Virtual Committee	Virtual@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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 Six

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

Since most of us are born with an abundance of natural desires, it isn't strange that we often let these far exceed their intended purpose. When they drive us blindly, or we willfully demand that they supply us with more satisfactions or pleasures than are possible or due us, that is the point at which we depart from the degree of perfection that God wishes for us here on earth. That is the measure of our character defects, or, if you wish, of our sins.

If we ask, God will certainly forgive our derelictions. But in no case does He render us white as snow and keep us that way without our cooperation. That is something we are supposed to be willing to work toward ourselves. He asks only that we try as best we know how to make progress in the building of character.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 65)

Tradition Six

“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose”

We tried A.A. hospitals-they all bogged down because you cannot put an A.A. group into business; too many busybody cooks spoil the broth. A.A. groups had their fling at education, and when they began to publicly whoop up the merits of this or that brand, people became confused. Did A.A. fix drunks or was it an educational project? Was A.A. spiritual or was it medical? Was it a reform movement? In consternation, we saw ourselves getting married to all kinds of enterprises, some good and some not so good. Watching alcoholics committed willy-nilly to prisons or asylums, we began to cry, “There oughtta be a law!” A.A.'s commenced to thump tables in legislative committee rooms and agitated for legal reform. That made good newspaper copy, but little else. We saw we'd soon be mired in politics, Even inside A.A. we found it imperative to remove the A.A. name from clubs and Twelfth Step houses.

These adventures implanted a deep-rooted conviction that in no circumstances could we endorse any related enterprise, no matter how good. We of Alcoholics Anonymous could not be all things to all men, nor should we try.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 156-157)

6th Step Prayer

God, thank you for removing my fear and for showing me the truth about myself. I need your help to become willing to let go of the things in me which continue to block me off from you. Please grant me your grace and remove these objectionable characteristics, defects and shortcomings from me. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 76)

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

Bernville AA Group
8:15 AM Monday - Friday Group
Great Fact Group
Boyertown AA Groups
Courage to Change Group
Walnut Street Recover Group
Advent Men's Group
Turning Point Group
Off the Beaten Path 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

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

Announcements

Women's Hope with AA (Zoom) is having a co-ed anniversary meeting for their 7th Anniversary!

Friday June 3rd, 2022

Fellowship beginning at 6:30 PM, Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

Speakers Sarah P. & Debbie P.

Zoom Only

Meeting ID: 898 4578 0831, Password: 231480

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

Springview Group of AA is celebrating their 51 Year Anniversary

Sunday June 12th, 2022

7:00 PM to 9:15 PM

4125 Penn Ave, Sinking Springs PA 19608

2 Speakers: Melanie B and Skip M

Boyertown Inn Group is having a Picnic

Sunday July 10th 2022

12:00 PM to 5 PM

Boyertown Park – First Pavilion

RBI and Districts 33, 66, and 67 will be having an Unity Picnic Sunday September 25th at Jim Dietrich Park

Details to follow

“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

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

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 commitments but they are opening In-Person commitments
In-Person commitments will require a background check, a brief on-line orientation, urine screening, and fingerprinting

SPECIAL THANKS TO DAVID AND BILL WHO COMPLETED THESE REQUIREMENTS!!!

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:

Interview With An Alcoholic will conduct its last meeting on Thursday 5/26/22. (7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Zoom only, Meeting ID: 216 177 988, PW: 030084)

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. The entrance is around the back of the church.)

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. They meet Wednesdays and Sundays 7 PM to 8 PM.

The Just for Today meeting has moved outside effective May 5th. Join them in the fresh air! (Thursdays 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, St. Benedicts Church at the church picnic grounds outside the church, 4341 Morgantown Rd, Mohnton PA 19540)

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 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.

There is a new Zoom meeting available locally. Visit "The Tribe" at 12 noon every day. Meeting ID# 370-705-063; PW 364095.

The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday June 28th, 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

June 1, 1949 - Anne Smith, Dr. Bob's wife, died.

June 4, 2002 - Caroline Knapp, author of "Drinking: A Love Story" died sober of lung cancer.

June 5, 1940 - Ebby Thatcher took a job at the NY Worlds Fair.

June 6:

1940 - The first AA Group in Richmond, VA, was formed.

1979 - AA gave the two-millionth copy of the Big Book to Joseph Califano, then Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. It was presented by Lois Wilson, Bill's wife, in New York.

June 7:

1939 - Bill and Lois Wilson had an argument, the first of two times Bill almost slipped.

1941 - The first AA Group in St. Paul, Minnesota, was formed.

June 8, 1941 - Three AA's started a group in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

June 10, 1935 - The date that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding date of AA. There is some evidence that the founders, in trying to reconstruct the history, got the date wrong and it was actually June 17.

June 11, 1945 - Twenty-five hundred attend AA's 10th Anniversary in Cleveland, Ohio.

June 13, 1945 - Morgan R. gave a radio appearance for AA with large audience. He was kept under surveillance to make sure he didn't drink.

June 15, 1940 - First AA Group in Baltimore, MD, was formed.

June 16, 1938 - Jim Burwell, "The Vicious Cycle" in Big Book, had his last drink.

June 17, 1942 - New York AA groups sponsored the first annual NY area meeting. Four hundred and twenty-four heard Dr. Silkworth and AA speakers.

June 18, 1940 - One hundred attended the first meeting in the first AA clubhouse at 334-1/2 West 24th St., New York City.

June 19, 1942 - Columnist Earl Wilson reported that NYC Police Chief Valentine sent six policemen to AA and they sobered up. "There are fewer suicides in my files," he commented.

June 21, 1944 - The first Issue of the AA Grapevine was published.

June 24, 1938 - Two Rockefeller associates told the press about the Big Book "Not to bear any author's name but to be by 'Alcoholics Anonymous.'"

June 25, 1939 - The New York Times reviewer wrote that the Big Book is "more soundly based psychologically than any other treatment I have ever come upon."

June 26, 1935 - Bill Dotson. (AA #3) entered Akron's City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.

June 28, 1935 - Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson visited Bill Dotson at Akron's City Hospital.

June 30:

1941 - Ruth Hock showed Bill Wilson the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.

2000 - More than 47,000 from 87 countries attended the opening meeting of the 65th AA Anniversary in Minneapolis, MN.