

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

November 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

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The Reading Berks Intergroup meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month in person at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607 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 Eleven

“Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.”

We ask simply that throughout the day God place in us the best understanding of His will that we can have for that day, and that we be given the grace by which we may carry it out.

As the day goes on, we can pause where situations must be met and decisions made, and renew the simple request “Thy will, not mine, be done.” If at these points our emotional disturbance happens to be great, we will more surely keep our balance, provided we remember, and repeat to ourselves, a particular prayer or phrase that has appealed to us in our reading or meditation. Just saying it over and over will often enable us to clear a channel choked up with anger, fear, frustration, or misunderstanding, and permit us to return to the surest help of all—our search for God’s will, not our own, in the moment of stress. At these critical moments, if we remind ourselves that “it is better to comfort than to be comforted, to understand that to be understood, to love than to be loved,” we will be following the intent of Step Eleven.

(Twelve Steps & Twelve Tradition pg. 102-103)

Tradition Eleven

“Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.”

This Tradition is a constant and practical reminder that personal ambition has no place in A.A. In it, each member becomes an active guardian of our Fellowship.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 183)

Prayer of Saint Francis

“Lord, make me a channel of thy peace; that where there is hatred, I may bring love; that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness; that where there is discord, I may bring harmony; that where there is error, I may bring truth; that where there is doubt, I may bring faith; that where there is despair, I may bring hope; that where there are shadows, I may bring light; that where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted; to understand, than to be understood; to love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life. Amen.”

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 99)

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

Just For Today Plowville
The Tribe
Walk The Walk
Boyertown AA Groups

Meetings in Need of Support

"Books and People Group"

In Person
Every Monday at 6:30 PM
Mountain View Church of God
1255 Hampden Blvd, Reading PA 19602

The "Walnut Street Group" is in need of support at their 8 PM meetings every day of the week

8:00 pm to 9:00 pm
In-person
Former EDI Clubhouse
647 Walnut St, Reading PA 19601
Please bring your Experience, Strength, and Hope!

Announcements

**Reading Berks Intergroup elections for open service positions will happen at the
11/22/22 meeting**

We need your help to serve the AA community.

**District 33 held its elections for the next panel of service position holders at the
monthly meeting on Thursday October 20th.**

Thank you to the few that attended and accepted service positions for the next 2 years so
we can continue to carry the message!

Visit the Reading Berks Intergroup page (<https://readingberksintergroup.org/>)
for information on Area Business (like the GSO call for new stories in the next edition of the big book in English
and Spanish, the latest edition of "We" your Area59 quarterly news letter, and the Grapevine Podcast)

"Alternative Advertisements"

All A.A. Events, Notifications, Announcements and/or Testimonies are Welcome!

Please email all requests to: Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.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 One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607 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

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.

Clair of Asi Asi House

325 S. 12th Street, Reading PA 19602
484-869-5483
Sundays 7 PM
Women only commitment

Wernersville

Wernersville State Hospital, see guard in Building 37
Mondays 6:45 PM
Required to bring proof of COVID vaccination and to wear a mask

Service Commitments (Continued)

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:

Sadly, effective 9/25/22, the **Monday Congo Bigbook** meeting is discontinued because of poor attendance.

The **Topton Meeting** has changed their meeting time effective 9/20/22. Tuesdays and now 7 PM to 8 PM. St Peter Church, 122 West Franklin St, Tipton PA 19562. Open Discussion / Speaker meeting.

The **Boyertown Group** meeting formats have changed effective 9/22/22. Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Boyertown Inn, 1 S Reading Ave, Boyertown PA 19512.

“**The Tribe**” Virtual meeting now meets Monday thru Saturday at Noon. Noon Monday to Saturday.

ZOOM ID 370705063; PW 364095

Monday is a Step meeting, Friday is a Big Book discussion. Other literature discussed on other days and a monthly Speaker is planned. Check us out!

The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday November 22nd, 2022 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.

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

November 1:

1947 - 1st AA Group in Anchorage, Alaska

1963 - Reverend Sam Shoemaker dies

November 3, 2001 - J.P. Miller, wrote screenplay for "The Days of Wine and Roses" died

November 9, 1966 - President Johnson appoints Marty M to the 1st National Advisory Committee on Alcoholism

November 10:

1940 - 1st AA group formed in Minneapolis

2001 - 1st of 400,000 4th Edition Big Books arrives in the mail

November 11, 1934 - Bill W's final drunk begins on Veterans Day and lasts about a month

November 12, 1940 - 1st AA meeting is held in Boston

November 13, 1939 - Bill wants to go back to work, NY drunks want him to stay on as head of the movement

November 14, 1940 - Alcoholic Foundation publishes 1st AA Bulletin

November 15, 1949 - Bill W suggests that groups devote Thanksgiving week to discussions of the 12 Traditions

November 16, 1950 - Dr Bob S dies in Akron, Ohio

November 18, 1946 - 1st Dublin Ireland group met.

November 21:

1939 - AA's in San Francisco hold 1st California AA meeting in the Clift Hotel -

1952 - Willard Richardson, past Treasurer/Chairman of Alcoholic Foundation, dies

November 26:

1895 - William Griffith W. born, East Dorset, VT

1939 - Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups

November 28

1934 - Ebby T. carries message to Bill.

1937 - Bill and Dr. Bob compare notes in Akron. Count forty cases staying sober. Meeting of the Akron Group to consider Bill's ideas for how to expand the movement ... a book, AA hospitals, paid missionaries. Passed by a majority of 2.

1939 - Akron group withdrawals from Oxford Group. Meetings moved to Dr Bob and other members homes.

1939 - Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups.

1943 - Bill guest speaker San Quentin Penitentiary. (sometimes dated Dec 2, 1943)