

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

December 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 Twelve

“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is *our twelfth suggestion*: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail. Remember they are very ill.

Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends-this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 89)

Tradition Twelve

“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because of A.A.’s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that sacrificial spirit-well symbolized by anonymity-is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.’s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 184)

Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity.

We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 187)

Morning Prayer

“God, please direct my thinking and keep my thoughts divorced from self-pity, dishonest or self seeking motives. Please keep my thought life clear from wrong motives and help me employ my mental faculties, that my thought – life might be placed on a higher plane, the plan of inspiration.”

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 86)

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

K&N Sober Living
Happy Hour
8:15 AM Mon-Fri Group
Turning Point Group
Teathyme Group of AA

Announcements

***** Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting location has changed *****

Starting with the November RBI Meeting the new location is:
One United Church of Christ
1730 New Holland Rd
Reading PA 19607

2022 Alcathon is happening New Year's Eve December 31st

Meetings start at 5:00 PM and will run until midnight
Atonement Community Center (5 Wyomissing Blvd, Wyomissing PA 19610)
Doors open for set up at 2:00 PM (***) Help is needed and welcome! (***)

Food donations are needed and welcome

(Please check the events page on <https://readingberksintergroup.org/> to see what is needed and sign up to bring something.)

If your group wants to host a meeting, please also check the events page on the website to see what time spots are still available.

Any questions please email Jen at unity@readingberksintergroup.org

The Walnut St Recovery Group is having a candlelight meeting Christmas Eve

Saturday December 24th
8 PM to 2 AM
All are Welcome!
Former EDI Clubhouse (647 Walnut St, Reading PA 19601)

Visit the Reading Berks Intergroup page (<https://readingberksintergroup.org/>) for information on Area Business (like thre results of the recent EPGSA 2022, 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@ReadingBerksIntergrop.Org

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!

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

Service Commitments (Continued)

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

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. (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.

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

December 1, 1940 - Chicago Daily Tribune begins a series of articles on AA by Nall Hamilton

December 2, 1943 - Bill speaks to 300 at meeting inside San Quentin

December 5, 1985 - Dave B, founder of Montreal Group dies weeks before 50th anniversary Now his story is in the 4th Edition Big Book.

December 6:

1939 - Bert the Tailor lends Works Publishing \$1000

1979 - Akron Beacon reports death of Henrietta Sieberling

December 7, 1949 - Sister Ignatia accepts Poverello Medal of St Francis on AA's behalf

December 8, 1997 - "As We See It" emailing list started December 8, 1997

December 10:

1975 - "Birds of a Feather" AA group for pilots is formed

1934 - Bill admitted to Towns Hosp 4th/last time (fall '33, '34 in summer, midsummer and final admittance).

1941 - Dallas Morning News reports 1st AA group formed in Dallas

December 12:

1934 - Bill has Spiritual Experience at Towns Hospital

1937 - Bill meets with Rockefeller Foundation and tries to get money

December 13:

1934 - Ebby visited Bill at hospital brought William James's book, "Varieties of Religious Experience".

1937 - Rockland State Mental Hospital takes patients to meeting in New Jersey

December 19, 1939 - Drunks in Los Angeles hold their 1st AA meeting there

December 20, 1945 - Rowland Hazard dies (he carried the Oxford Group message to Ebby)

December 27, 1893 - Rev Samuel Shoemaker is born

Other significant events in December for which we have no specific date:

1934 - Bill & Lois start attending Oxford Group meetings.

1938 - Using Oxford Group principles, Bill closes the loopholes and changes the 6 steps to 12.

1939 - First AA group in mental institution, Rockland State Hospital, NY.

1939 - 1st home meeting in Los Angeles at Kaye M.'s house.

1940 - 1st AA group formed in St. Louis, Missouri

1948 - Dr. Bob's last major talk, in Detroit.

1950 - Grapevine article signed by both Bill & Dr Bob recommend establishing AA General Service Conference.

1955 - 'Man on the Bed' painting by Robert M. 1st appeared in Grapevine. Painting called 'Came to Believe'

1982 - Nell Wing retires from GSO after 35 years of service