

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

February 2023

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

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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 Two

“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

Step Two is the rallying point for all of us. Whether agnostic, atheist, or former believer, we can stand together on this Step. True humility and an open mind can lead us to faith, and every A.A. meeting is an assurance that God will restore us to sanity if we rightly relate ourselves to Him.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pg. 33)

Tradition Two

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

If the founder and his friends have served well, they may – to their surprise – be reinstated for a time. If, however, they have heavily resisted the rising tide of democracy, they may be summarily beached. In either case, the group now has a so-called rotating committee, very sharply limited in its authority. In no sense whatever can its members govern or direct the group. They are servants. Theirs is the sometimes thankless privilege of doing the group’s chores. Headed by the chairman, they look after public relations and arrange meetings. Their treasurer, strictly accountable, takes money from the hat that is passed, banks it, pays the rent and other bills, and makes a regular report at business meetings. The secretary see that literature is on the table, looks after the phone-answering service, answers the mail, and sends out notices of meetings. Such are the simple services that enable the group to function. The committee gives no spiritual advice, judges no one’s conduct, issues no orders. Every one of them may be promptly eliminated at the next election if they try this. And so they make the belated discovery that they are really servants, not senators. These are universal experiences. Thus throughout A.A. does the group conscience decree the terms upon which its leaders shall serve.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 134)

2nd Step Prayer

Heavenly Father, I am having trouble with personal relationships. I can't control my emotional nature. I am prey to misery and depression. I can't make a living. I feel useless. I am full of fear. I am unhappy. I can't seem to be of real help to others. I know in my heart that only you can restore me to sanity if I am just willing to stop doubting your power. I humbly ask that you help me to understand that it is more powerful to believe than not to believe and that you are either everything or nothing.

(A.A. Big Book pgs. 52:2, 52:3, 53:1, 53:2)

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

Brandon
On Awakening Group
Women Living Sober
Leesport Group

Announcements

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

Having started with the November 2022 RBI Meeting the new location is:
One United Church of Christ
1730 New Holland Rd
Reading PA 19607

Reading Berks Intergroup is hosting a workshop:

E3: Engage – Energize – Entertain

Sunday February 5th, 2023
1 to 3 PM

Easy Does It – 1300 Hilltop Rd, Leesport PA 19533

*** Please RSVP with Chris by call or text at (610) 301-9126 ***

All RBI representatives and officer / chair positions are invited to attend

Attendees are also encouraged to bring a + 1, so bring a sponsee, sponsor, or someone from your home group
It's a free afternoon event sponsored by Intergroup – Food, Games, Fellowship, and Fun!!!

The Bernville Group is having their 7th Anniversary

Thursday February 16th, 2023

Doors open at 5:30 PM, meeting starts at 7 PM

Friedens Lutheran Church – 537 N Main St, Bernville PA 19506 (Lower Level)

Covered dishes are welcome! Guest speaker is lined up. Come join them for food, fellowship, and fun

THANK YOU!!!

A sincere “thank you” to all who participated and / or attended Alcathon 2022! It could not have been successful without you! This year 211 people attended the hourly meetings, and more than \$350 was collected during the event. Thanks to all that brought food and the group members that hosted one of the meetings.

Announcements (continued)

***** IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL GROUPS / MEETINGS / MEMBERS!!! *****

***** The address to send contributions to Area 59 (EPGSA) has changed *****

The new address is: EPGSA Treasurer, 306 W King St Apt 2, Shippensburg, PA 17257

(As a reminder, the address to send contributions to GSO in NY was also changed last year.)



Visit the Reading Berks Intergroup page (<https://readingberksintergroup.org/>) for information on Area Business (like the latest edition of “We” your Area59 quarterly news letter) and general AA information and links (like the Grapevine Podcast and Box 459 - the GSO quarterly newsletter).

“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.

Service Commitments (continued)

“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 S. or
BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org or
“Bridging the Gap”, PO Box 2332, Reading PA 19608

Need Male Volunteers for the Prison Commitment

***** OPENING UP *****

Robby has applications – 2 forms that must be completed
All questions must be completed even if with “None” or “N/A”
If you get one and fill it out, please make a copy for yourself that can be referenced later
More information as this gets finalized
Contact will be Robby K. at MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

Need Female Volunteers for Prison Commitment

***** OPEN *****

Will require application and attending a training course.
Will need 1 year of sobriety and to be out of jail 2 years and out of probation for 1 year.
Contact will be 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

Service Commitments (continued)

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

***** NOW OPEN *****

Women Tuesdays at 7 PM

Men Thursdays at 7 PM

Hannah's Hope - Women only - ON HOLD -no commitment at this time

Recent Meeting Updates and Changes:

On Wednesday February 1st, 2023, **The Birdsboro Group** meeting time will change to a 7 PM start time (previously was 7:30 to 8:30 PM).

(Wednesdays at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 5 Brooke Manor, Birdsboro PA 19508.)

On Friday February 3rd, 2023, **The Gibraltar Group** meeting time will change to a 7 PM start time (previously was 8 PM to 9 PM).

(Fridays at St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church at 1035 Old River Rd, Birdsboro PA 19508.)

On Monday February 6th, 2023, **The Language of the Heart Group** meeting time will change to a 6:30 PM start time (previously was 7 to 8 PM).

(Mondays at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church at 1188 Benjamin Franklin Hwy, Douglassville PA 19518.)

The **Topton Meeting IS IN NEED OF SUPPORT** and has changed their meeting time effective 9/20/22.

(Tuesdays and now from 7 PM to 8 PM at St. Peter Church, 122 West Franklin St, Topton PA 19562.)

“**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 February 28th, 2023 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.

Meetings & Groups-1

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

Q V A A W H E I Y A S N Y D F Q D Z I B
Z V O K C V E P O H S N E M O W W F K T
L Z O L X T R E V E W O R S Z X K Q W B
T X Q A K U O S I S D V A W B Z W Y V E
C E G W H N B B R G Z I D P B G O C L F
U F R E V D E G Q N H S S O U M C C T R
W I U H T E S B Z R Q T Y N I S A E X R
V L Y T U R O M V R I E F S E R A M D F
O W E K R G N Y T B R C S I I L Z Y O S
L E L L N R I G X T H I A M F G G H P C
E N L A I O A Y O P N A A S D T P T N L
Y G A W N U X W K G F E M V E B E A X T
O I V F G N N Y N M R R S B T N T E M S
K B N R P D J T Q A Q D W L U W V T N N
B R I O O G G D U V N C Y O X R E J G E
A A W G I A W O H T Q B G T R O G H S M
M L T P N R Y M O Q J N D L L K J E M N
Q T Z O T A O T L L O K U D C R A T S M
H A A N R G V M H C H I L L T O P Z A F
G R A D Z E D N Z C B Q R I R R P Y F V

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. congo | 2. teathyme | 3. twinvalley | 4. boyertown |
| 5. turningpoint | 6. frogpond | 7. wyomissing | 8. hamburg |
| 9. eightfifteen | 10. glenside | 11. menstlc | 12. hilltop |
| 13. yasny | 14. newlife | 15. wsrq | 16. oley |
| 17. walkthewalk | 18. smsg | 19. womenshope | 20. robesonia |
| 21. gibraltar | 22. undergroundgarage | 23. youaremiracle | |

Important Dates in A.A. History

February 1, 1918: Original date set for Bill Wilson's marriage to Lois Burnham. The date was moved up because of the war.

February 2, 1942: Bill Wilson paid tribute to Ruth Hock, AA's first paid secretary, who resigned to get married. She had written approximately 15,000 letters to people asking for help.

February 5, 1941: Pittsburgh Telegram ran a story on the first AA group's Friday night meeting of a dozen "former hopeless drunks."

February 8:

1940: Bill W., Dr. Bob, and six other AA's asked 60 rich friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr., for money at the Union Club, NY. They got \$2,000.

February 10, 1922: Harold E. Hughes was born on a farm near Ida Grove, Iowa. After his recovery from alcoholism, he became Governor of Iowa, a United States Senator, and the leading dark horse for the Presidential Democratic nomination in 1972, until he announced he would not run. He authored the legislation which created the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and other legislation to help alcoholics and addicts.

February 11, 1938: Clarence Snyder ("Home Brewmeister" in 1st, 2nd & 3rd editions) had his last drink.

February 12, 1945: World War II paper shortage forced reduction in size of the Big Book.

February 13, 1940: With about two years of sobriety, Jim Burwell ("The Vicious Cycle") moved to the Philadelphia area and started the first Philadelphia A.A. group.

February 14, 1971: AA groups worldwide held a memorial service for Bill Wilson.

February 15, 1946: AA Tribune, Des Moines, IA, reported 36 new members since Marty Mann had been there.

February 16, 1941: Baltimore Sunday Sun reported city's first AA group begun in 1940 had grown from 3 to 40 members, with five being women.

February 18, 1943: AA's were granted the right to use cars for 12th step work in emergency cases, despite gas rationing.

February 19, 1967: Father "John Doe" (Ralph Pfau), 1st Catholic Priest in AA, died.

February 20, 1941: The Toledo Blade published first of three articles on AA by Seymour Rothman.

February 21, 1939: 400 copies of the Big Book manuscript were sent to doctors, judges, psychiatrists, and others for comment.

February 22, 1842: Abe Lincoln addressed the Washington Temperance Society in Springfield, IL.

February 23, 1959: AA granted "Recording for the Blind" permission to tape the Big Book.

February 24, 2002: Hal Marley, "Dr. Attitude of Gratitude," died. He had 37 years of sobriety. Hal testified, anonymously, before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse on December 3, 1970.

February 28, 1940: 1st organization meeting of Philadelphia AA was held at McCready Huston's room at 2209 Delancy Street.