

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

March 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

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 3

“Made a decision to turn our will and out lives over to the care of God as we understand Him.”

Tradition 3

“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

This Tradition is packed with meaning. For A.A. is really saying to every serious drinker, “You are an A.A. member if *you* say so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out. No matter who you are, no matter how low you’ve gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications – even your crimes – we still can’t deny you A.A. We don’t *want* to keep you out. We aren’t a bit afraid you’ll harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be. We just want to be sure that you get the same great chance for sobriety that we’ve had. So you’re an A.A. member the minute you declare yourself.”

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 139)

3rd Step Prayer

God, I offer myself to thee-to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 63)

Step Three calls for affirmative action, for it is only by action that we can cut away the self-will which has always blocked the entry of God – or, if you like, a Higher Power – into our lives.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pg. 34)

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

Springview Group
Twin Valley Group of AA
Boyertown AA Groups
Group 103296

Announcements

Sober at Six Thirty is celebrating their 15th Anniversary

Thursday, March 9th, 2023

6:00 PM: Coffee and Cupcakes; 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM: Speaker Meeting (Speaker - Rob C)
St Paul's UCC Church, Christian Education Building, 235 W. 2nd Street, Birdsboro PA 19508

***** 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

***** 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.)

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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@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.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](mailto:Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org)

### **"Bridging the Gap" Needs Volunteers**

Please contact Kent S. or

[BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto: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](mailto:MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org)

## *Service Commitments (continued)*

### **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](mailto: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. 12<sup>th</sup> 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**

**\*\*\* 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, **The Birdsboro Group** meeting time changed 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, **The Gibraltar Group** meeting time changed 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, **The Language of the Heart Group** meeting time changed 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.)

**Women's Hope with AA** is no longer a virtual meeting. They now meet in person every Thursday at 6:30 PM (Thursdays 6:30 PM at St Gabriel's Episcopal Church, 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 March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.**

# Meetings & Groups 2

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

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

## Word Bank

- |                   |                |                    |                         |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. happyhour      | 2. blandon     | 3. liveandletlive  | 4. coffeeanddonuts      |
| 5. friendsofbillw | 6. greatfact   | 7. leesport        | 8. endoftheline         |
| 9. noldeforest    | 10. alpha      | 11. morgantown     | 12. shoey               |
| 13. frenchcreek   | 14. adventmens | 15. bernville      | 16. spiritofrecovery    |
| 17. justfortoday  | 18. honeybrook | 19. booksandpeople | 20. kutztownlivingsober |

## *Important Dates in A.A. History*

**March 1, 1941:** Saturday Evening Post article by Jack Alexander created national sensation. AA membership quadrupled in one year from 2000 to 8000.

**March 3, 1947:** Nell Wing, Bill's secretary and first archivist of AA, began her career at Alcoholic Foundation Office at 415 Lexington Avenue.

**March 4, 1891:** Lois Wilson was born.

**March 5, 1945:** Time Magazine reported Detroit radio broadcasts of AA members.

**March 7, 1940:** Bill and Lois visited the Philadelphia AA group.

**March 9, 1941:** Wichita Beacon reported AA member from NY who wanted to form a group in Wichita, Kansas.

**March 10, 1944:** New York Intergroup was established.

**March 11, 1947:** A Priest in St. Paul, Minnesota, founded Calix International. Alcoholics in his parish met after Saturday morning Mass to discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday and how their faith melded with the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**March 12, 1940:** Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's boyhood friend and sponsor, was reported sober again.

**March 14, 1941:** South Orange, NJ, AA held an anniversary dinner at the Hotel Suburban with Bill Wilson as the guest speaker.

**March 15, 1941:** 1st AA group was formed in New Haven, Connecticut.

**March 16, 1940:** Bill moved the Alcoholic Foundation office to 30 Vesey St., NY. (30 Vesey St., NY, was almost destroyed on September 11, 2001.)

**March 18, 1951:** Cliff W. was elected 1st delegate from Southern California.

**March 21, 1966:** Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's sponsor, died sober.

**March 22, 1951:** Dr. William Duncan Silkworth died at Towns Hospital.

**March 23, 1941:** Sybil C.'s sobriety date. She was the first woman to enter AA west of the Mississippi.

**March 25:**

**1898:** Jim B. ("The Vicious Cycle") was born

**1965:** Richmond Walker, author of "Twenty-Four Hours a Day" book, died at age 72, almost 23 years sober.

**2005:** Nancy Olson, Founder of AAHL- See Memorial at: <http://hindsfoot.org/nomem1.htm>

**March 29, 1943:** The Charleston Mail, WV, reported that Bill Wilson had given a talk at St. John's Parish House.

**March 31, 1947:** 1st AA group was formed in London, England.