

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

April 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 Four

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

The testimony of A.A.'s who have really tried a moral inventory is that pride and fear of this sort turn out to be bogeymen, nothing else. Once we have a complete willingness to take inventory, and exert ourselves to do the job thoroughly, a wonderful light falls upon this foggy scene. As we persist, a brand-new kind of confidence” is born, and the sense of relief at finally facing ourselves is indescribable. These are the first fruits of Step Four.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pgs. 49-50)

Tradition Four

“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole”

“Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.”

This meant, of course, that we had been given the courage to declare each A.A. group an individual entity, strictly reliant on its own conscience as a guide to action. In charting this enormous expanse of freedom, we found it necessary to post only two storm signals: A group ought not do anything which would greatly injure A.A. as a whole, not ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. Sobriety had to be its sole objective.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pgs. 146-147)

4th Step Prayer

God, please help me show those I resent the same tolerance, pity and patience that I would cheerfully grant a sick friend. Help me to see that this is a sick man. Father, please show me how I can be helpful to him and save me from being angry. Lord, help me to avoid retaliation or argument. I know I can't be helpful to all people, but at least show me how to take a kindly and tolerant view of each and every one. Thy will be done. Amen.

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 67)

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

Hilltop Group
Just For Today Plowville
Turning Point Group
Advent Men's Group

Announcements

1st Annual Spring Speaker hosted by The Freedom from Bondage Group

Sunday, April 23rd, 2023

Free Food and Fellowship

Speakers: Mike F., Aurora CO and Jen L., West Lawn PA

2:30 PM to 7:30 PM, Speakers begin at 3 PM

Easy Does It, 1300 Hilltop Rd, Leesport PA 19533

**The Reading-Berks Intergroup Public Information committee is looking for
volunteers to help in their mission**

Email the chairperson for info at PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org or join us the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6 PM at One United Church of Christ before the monthly Intergroup meeting

***** 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

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**Visit the Reading Berks Intergroup page (<https://readingberksintergroup.org/>)**

There are links and guidelines for what is appropriate content for the Reading-Berks Intergroup website.

The 12th Step page is back! Check out the current commitments and opportunities for service.

Up-to-date and printable meeting schedules are available in 2 different sizes on the Meeting Info page.

Plus there are links for activities around our area, the current addresses for contributions to Area 59 / EPGSA and GSO (both of which changed last year!), results and details for EPGSA 2022 plus updates on the most current GSO conference (the next one will be this April), latest edition of "We" your Area 59 quarterly news letter, 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

Mondays at 6:30 PM

Mountain View Church of God

1255 Hampden Blvd, Reading PA 19602

Change up your routine and check out a new meeting!

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

In Person

8:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Former EDI Clubhouse

647 Walnut St, Reading PA 19601

Please bring your Experience, Strength, and Hope!

### **The Tipton Group**

In Person

Tuesdays at 7 PM

Saint Peter Church

122 West Franklin St, Tipton PA 19562

Open Discussion / Speaker meeting

## *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

# *Service Commitments (continued)*

**Interested in attending AA inside BCP? Jail meetings are returning in 2023!**

## **Need Male Volunteers for the Prison Commitment**

**\*\*\* OPEN \*\*\***

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

Contact Robby K. at [MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org) for additional information

## **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 Asissi 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:*

“**The Tribe**” virtual meeting has updated their format. Monday is a Step meeting, Tuesday is a literature (chair’s choice) meeting, Wednesday is a speaker meeting, Thursday is Big Book stories, Friday is a Big Book meeting (first 164 pages), and Saturday is open discussion.

On line Monday through Saturday at noon, ZOOM ID 370705063; PW 364095

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 next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.**

# D33

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

Rectangle 3x3

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

## Word Bank

- |                       |                  |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. newlife            | 2. shoey         | 3. neraasa            | 4. endoftheline    |
| 5. msg                | 6. leesport      | 7. hamburg            | 8. adcm            |
| 9. epsa               | 10. kutztown     | 11. mustardseed       | 12. glenside       |
| 13. blandon           | 14. soberliving  | 15. spiritofrecovery  | 16. liveandletlive |
| 17. timetostartliving | 18. comeasyouare | 19. undergroundgarage |                    |

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

### **April 1:**

**1939:** Alcoholics Anonymous AA's Big Book was published.

**1940:** Larry J. of Houston, wrote "The Texas Prayer", used to open AA meetings in Texas.

**1966:** Sister Ignatia died at the age of 77. She worked with Dr. Bob in treating many early AA members at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron.

**1970:** GSO moved to 468 Park Ave. South, NYC.

**1984:** 12 Coconuts Group, Kapiolani Park, Waikiki, Hawaii, was founded.

### **April 3:**

**1941:** First Florida AA meeting was held.

**1960:** Fr. Ed Dowling, S.J., died. He was Bill W's "spiritual sponsor."

**April 4, 1960** - The Chicago Daily News reported that Fr. Edward Dowling, Jesuit Priest who helped start the first AA group in St. Louis, had died at age 62.

**April 7, 1941** - Ruth Hock reported there were 1,500 letters asking for help, as a result of the Saturday Evening Post Article by Jack Alexander.

**April 10, 1939** - The first 10 copies of the Big Book arrived at the office Bill shared with Hank Parkhurst in Newark, New Jersey.

**April 11, 1938** - Alcoholic Foundation held its first meeting.

**April 12, 1942** - The Windsor Daily Star in Ontario, Canada, reported that over 400 AA's attended a testimonial dinner for Dr. Bob.

### **April 16:**

**1940:** A sober Rollie Helmsley caught the only opening day no-hitter in baseball history since 1909.

**1973:** Dr Jack Norris Chairman of the AA General Service Board presented President Richard Nixon with the one-millionth copy of the Big Book at the White House.

**2005:** Nancy Flynn (Independent Blond died in Kennett Square PA)

**April 17, 1941** - 2nd group in Los Angeles, the "Hole in the Ground Group" was formed.

**April 19, 1940** - First AA group in Little Rock, Arkansas, was formed.

**April 22, 1940** - Bill Wilson transferred his Works Publishing Stock to the Alcoholic Foundation.

**April 23, 1940** - Dr. Bob wrote the Trustees to refuse Big Book royalties, but Bill Wilson insisted on them for Dr. Bob and Anne.

**April 25, 1951** - AA's first General Service Conference was held.

**April 26, 1939** - Bill & Lois Wilson moved in with Hank Parkhurst after the bank foreclosed on 182 Clinton St. This was the first of over 50 moves before they acquired Stepping Stones.

**April 30, 1989** - The film "My Name is Bill W.," a Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation, was broadcast at 9 p.m. on ABC TV.