

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

January 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

Kay L.	Intergroup Chairperson	Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Dave K.	Intergroup Alt. Chairperson	Alt-Chair@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Tammy G.	Intergroup Treasurer	Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Gregg G.	Intergroup Secretary	Secretary@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Bill M.	Hotline Representative	Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
	Archives Representative	Archives@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Robby K.	Men's Prison Chairperson	MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Susan W.	Woman's Prison Chairperson	WomansPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Bill C.	Literature Representative	Literature@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Tim M.	Schedules Representative	Schedules@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Mark S.	Institutions Representative	Institutions@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
George "Stu" S.	Newsletter Chairperson	Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
	Unity Chairperson	Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Kent	Bridging the Gap Chairperson	BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Steve P.	Website Representative	Website@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Jen P.	Public Information Chairperson	PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Robby K.	Visitation Chairperson	Visitation@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Lindsey K.	Virtual Committee	Virtual@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Intergroup	General Contact	Info@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

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 One

“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol ~ that our lives had become unmanageable.”

No other kind of bankruptcy is like this one. Alcohol, now become the rapacious creditor, bleeds us of all self-sufficiency and all will to resist its demands. Once this stark fact is accepted, our bankruptcy as going human concerns is complete.

But upon entering A.A. we soon take quite another view of this absolute humiliation. We perceive that only through utter defeat are we able to take our first steps toward liberation and strength. Our admissions of personal powerlessness finally turn out to be firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives may be built.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 21)

Tradition One

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”

Those who look closely soon have the key to this strange paradox. The A.A. member has to conform to the principles of recovery. His life actually depends upon obedience to spiritual principles. If he deviates too far, the penalty is sure and swift; he sickens and dies. At first he goes along because he must, but later he discovers a way of life he really wants to live. Moreover, he finds he cannot keep this priceless gift unless he gives it away. Neither he nor anybody else can survive unless he carries the A.A. message. The moment this Twelfth Step work forms a group, another discovery is made – that most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group. Realization dawns that he is but a small part of a great whole; that no personal sacrifice is too great for preservation of the Fellowship. He learns that the clamor of desires and ambitions within him must be silenced whenever these could damage the group. It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 130)

1st Step Prayer

Dear Lord, Help me to see and admit that I am powerless over my alcoholism. Help me to understand how my alcoholism has led to unmanageability in my life. Help me this day to understand the true meaning of powerlessness. Remove from me all denial of my alcoholism.

Friends of Bill W. (http://friendsofbillw.net/twelve_step_prayers)

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

YASNY Group
Courage to Change Group
Jacksonwald Group
Experience Strength and Hope
Bernville AA Group
Frog Pond
Alpha Group
Time To Start Living

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

***** 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.)

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

District 66 is holding a GSR Orientation Workshop

January 7th at EDI in Leesport

Presenter: Alan F., Focus will be on the GSR position and will be very helpful for new GSR's
All are welcome to attend to learn more about being of service as a GSR

No registration, no fees. Coffee, donuts, and snacks

12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM with a Q and A session after

EDI (Easy Does It) at 1300 Hilltop Road in Leesport PA 19533

Announcements (continued)

The Underground Garage Group is having a New Year's Day Speaker Meeting

5:00 PM Sunday January 1st

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church at 550 Fleetwood Rd, Bowers PA 19511

The Hilltop Group is celebrating their 33rd anniversary

5:30 PM Tuesday January 10th

The Bridge (in basement) at 902 Philadelphia Ave, Shillington PA 19607



Visit the Reading Berks Intergroup page (<https://readingberksintergroup.org/>) for information on Area Business (like three 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@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!

The Topton Group

Tuesdays 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM (is relatively new time for them and a little earlier than prior)

St. Peter's Church

122 W Franklin St, Topton PA 19562

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

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

More information to follow. 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 ON HOLD -no commitment at this time

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

Recent Meeting Updates and Changes:

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, Topton PA 19562. Open Discussion / Speaker meeting.

“**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

January 1:

1943: Columbus Dispatch reports 1st Anniversary of Columbus AA

1948: First A.A. meeting was held in Japan, (English speaking.)

1988: West Virginia A.A. began first statewide toll-free telephone hotline.

January 2, 2003: Mid-Southern California Archives moved to new location in Riverside.

January 3, 1941: Jack Alexander told Bill Wilson the Oxford Group would be in his Saturday Evening Post.

January 4:

1939: Dr. Bob stated in a letter to Ruth Hock that A.A. had to get away from the Oxford Group atmosphere.

1940: First A.A. group was founded in Detroit, Michigan.

1941: Bill and Lois Wilson drove to Bedford Hills, NY to see Stepping Stones.

January 5, 1941: Bill Wilson told Jack Alexander that Jack was "the toast of A. A. -- in Coca Cola, of course."

January 8, 1938: New York A.A. split from the Oxford Group.

January 10, 1940: 1st AA meeting not in a home meets at King School, Akron, Ohio.

January 13:

1988: Jack Norris, M.D., Chairman/Trustees of A.A. for 27 yrs. died.

2003: Dr. Earle Marsh, author of "Physician Heal Thyself," sober 49 years, died

January 15:

1937: Fitz M brings AA meetings to Washington DC.

1945: First AA meeting held in Springfield, Missouri.

January 17, 1919: 18th amendment, "Prohibition," became law.

January 19:

1943: 1st discussion for starting AA group in Toronto.

1943: Wilson's returned from 1st major A.A. tour started in Oct 24 1943.

1999: Frank M., A.A. Archivist since 1983, died.

January 21, 1951: A.A. Grapevine published memorial issue on Dr. Bob.

January 23, 1961: Bill W. sent an appreciation letter to Dr. Carl Jung for his contribution to A.A.

January 24:

1945: 1st black group St. Louis

1971: Bill Wilson died in Miami, Florida.

January 26, 1971: *New York Times* published Bill Wilson's obituary on page 1.

January 27, 1971: The Washington Post published an obituary of Bill Wilson

January 30, 1961: Dr. Carl Jung answers Bill's letter with "Spiritus Contra Spiritum."