

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

May 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 Five

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

If we have swept the searchlight of Step Four back and forth over our careers, and it has revealed in stark relief those experiences we'd rather not remember, if we have come to know how wrong thinking and action have hurt us and others, then the need to quit living by ourselves with those tormenting ghosts of yesterday gets more urgent than ever. We have to talk to somebody about them.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 55)

Until we actually sit down and talk aloud about what we have so long hidden, our willingness to clean house is still largely theoretical. When we are honest with another person, it confirms that we have been honest with ourselves and with God.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 60)

Tradition Five

“Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers”

Just as firmly bound by obligation are the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who have demonstrated that they can help problem drinkers as others seldom can. The unique ability of each A.A. to identify himself with, and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and of recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates A.A.'s all around the globe.

There is another reason for this singleness of purpose. It is the great paradox of A.A. that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless we give it away.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 150-151)

5th Step Prayer

God, please remove my fear and help me to be completely honest in what I am about to do. Please give me the courage, faith and strength I need to share with this person my whole truth, especially the things I swore I'd take with me to the grave. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 73)

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

Happy Hour Group
Oley Group & 24 Hour A Day Group
Leesport Group

Announcements

Leesport Group is having their Anniversary

Saturday May 20th at 8:00 PM

Open meeting

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, 102 Apple St, Leesport PA 19533

The Underground Garage is celebrating 1 Year at their current location

Sunday May 21st at 5 PM

Speaker at 7 PM

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

Women's Hope With AA will be celebrating their 8th Anniversary

Thursday June 8th at 7 PM

Food & Fellowship begins at 7 PM downstairs in the basement with 2 speakers starting at 7:30 PM
St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, 1188 Benjamin Franklin Hwy, Douglassville PA 19518



**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

Announcements (continued)

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

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 Topton Group

In Person

Tuesdays at 7 PM

Saint Peter Church

122 West Franklin St, Topton 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

“Bridging the Gap” Needs Volunteers

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

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 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

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.

Clare of Assisi 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

Service Commitments (continued)

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 Coffee & Donuts Thursday 7 PM meeting has been cancelled. Sunday, Monday, and Saturday meetings are unaffected at this location.

(Sundays, Mondays, and Saturdays at 7 PM at 87 Main Street Clubhouse, 87 Main St, Strausstown PA 19559)

The Congo Big Book Study Group has returned as **The Big Book Study Group** as of 4/12/23 in a new location (Wednesdays at 7 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1809 Hoffmansville Rd, Sassamansville PA 19472)

"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 1st, 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 3rd, 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 6th, 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 May 23rd, 2023 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.

D66 Puzzle

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

Rectangular 30x17

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

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. greatfact | 2. hilltop | 3. adcm | 4. alpha |
| 5. robesonia | 6. menstlc | 7. agsr | 8. bernville |
| 9. turningpoint | 10. afreshstart | 11. happyhour | 12. onawakening |
| 13. wyomissing | 14. springview | 15. wilshire | 16. adventmens |
| 17. eightfifteen | 18. noldeforest | 19. walkthewalk | 20. coffeanddonuts |
| 21. booksandpeople | 22. womenlivingsober | | |

Important Dates in A.A. History

May 1:

1939 - Lois and Bill Wilson left their home at 182 Clinton St., Brooklyn.

1941 - First Wisconsin AA meeting was held in a Milwaukee hotel.

May 2:

1941 - Jacksonville, FL, newspaper reported start of a new AA group.

1941 - First meeting was held in San Bernardino, California.

1941 - The first AA group in New Orleans, Louisiana, was formed.

May 4, 1946 - Marty Mann explained Alcoholics Anonymous and the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism on the "We the People" radio show.

May 5, 1940 - Washington, DC, Sunday Star reported formation of first AA group in the D.C..

May 6:

1939 - Clarence S of Cleveland told Dr. Bob, his sponsor, he would not be back to Oxford Group meetings in Akron and would start an "AA" meeting in Cleveland.

1946 - The long form of the "Twelve Traditions" was published in the AA Grapevine.

May 7, 1956 - The first English AA Convention was held in Cheltenham, England.

May 8:

1943 - Akron AA group had its 8th anniversary celebration with 500 present and sober.

1971 - Bill Wilson was buried in private ceremony, East Dorset, Vermont.

May 11, 1939 - First group to officially call itself Alcoholics Anonymous met at Abby G's house in Cleveland.

May 12, 1935 - Mothers' Day - Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith met for the first time in Akron, Ohio, at the home of Henrietta Seiberling.

May 14:

1948 - Long Beach, California. Central Office was opened.

1998 - Sybil C., first woman to enter A.A. west of the Mississippi, died. Her date of sobriety was March 23, 1941. Her name at the time was Sybil Maxwell, though she later opened her talks by saying, "My name is Sybil Doris Adams Stratton Hart Maxwell Willis C., and I'm an alcoholic."

May 16, 1941 - Ruth Hock learned that Joe W. (credited with coming up with the name Alcoholics Anonymous) had a "wet brain."

May 19, 2000 - Dr. Paul Ohliger died at the age of 83. His story, "Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict," was retitled "Acceptance Was the Answer," in the 4th edition.

May 22, 1948 - Atlantic City Group celebrated its second anniversary with Dr. C. Nelson Davis of St. Luke's Hospital, Philadelphia, and other A.A.s speaking.

May 28, 1974 - The first World Service meeting of AA outside of America was held in London.

May 31, 1938 - Bill and other AA's began writing the Big Book.