

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

September 2022

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

Jen P.	Intergroup Chairperson	Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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Kent	Bridging the Gap Chairperson	BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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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 Christ Mertz Lutheran Church at 16 Fleetwood Rd., Fleetwood PA 19522 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 Nine

“Made a direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

As soon as we begin to feel confident in our new way of life and have begun, by our behavior and example, to convince those about us that we are indeed changing for the better, it is usually safe to talk in complete frankness with those who have been seriously affected, even those who may be only a little or not at all aware of what we have done to them. The only exceptions we will make will be cases where our disclosure would cause actual harm. These conversations can begin in a casual or natural way. But if no such opportunity presents itself, at some point we will want to summon all our courage, head straight for the person concerned, and lay our cards on the table. We needn't wallow in excessive remorse before those we have harmed, but amends at this level should always be forthright and generous.

For the readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine.

(Twelve Steps & Twelve Tradition pg. 85-87)

Tradition Nine

“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

It is clear now that we ought never to name boards to govern us, but it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us. It is the difference between the spirit of vested authority and the spirit of service, two concepts which are sometimes poles apart. It is in this spirit of service that we elect the A.A. group's informal rotating committee, the intergroup association for the area, and the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous for A.A. as a whole. Even our Foundation, once an independent board, is today directly accountable to our Fellowship. Its trustees are the caretakers and expeditors of our world services.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 174-175)

9th Step Prayer

God, with regard to this amend, please remove my fear and give me strength, courage and direction to do the right thing, no matter what the personal consequences may be. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 79)

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

Turning Point Group
The Beginners Meeting
Courage To Change Group
Women's Hope with AA
Underground Garage
Walnut Street Recovery Group

Meetings in Need of Support

"Books and People Group"
In Person
Every Monday @ 6:30 PM
Mountain View Church of God
1255 Hampden Blvd, Reading PA 19602

Announcements

2022 Summer Unity Picnic
Presented by Reading-Berks Intergroup & Districts 33-66-67
Sunday September 25th, 2022
Noon to 5 PM
Jim Dietrich Park
4899 Stoudts Ferry Bridge Rd, Reading PA 19605

Frog Pond Group 21st Anniversary
Friday September 2nd, 7:00 PM
Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church
820 W Leesport Rd, Leesport PA 19533

8:15 Atonement Picnic
Saturday August 27th
11:00 AM to 7:00 PM
3:00 PM – Speaker Meeting Matt O. and Judy O.
Shillington Park Pavilion #2
E. Broad St., Shillington PA 19607
Food, Fun, Fellowship: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Coffee, Water, Soda.
Bring your favorite covered dish.
Volleyball, Playground, Baseball; use of all ground's activities EXCEPT the pool unless you are a member of the pool already.

Announcements (Continued)

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 the results document from the 2022 General Services Conference)

“Alternative Advertisements”

All A.A. Events, Notifications, Announcements and/or Testimonies are Welcome!

Please email all requests to: Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

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 Christ Mertz Luthern Church at 16 Fleetwood Rd., Fleetwood PA 19522 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

*Suspended until further notice

Please Contact Susan W. at SanLee715@gmail.com

Service Commitments (Continued)

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.

Tower Health Behavioral/Detox

Bernville Rd

Wednesdays 7:30 PM

We are still doing Zoom only commitments but they are opening In-Person commitments
However, In-Person commitments will require a background check, a brief on-line orientation, urine screening, and fingerprinting

Clair of Asi Asi 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

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 Oley Group (Tuesdays 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM) and the 24 Hour A Day Group (Saturdays 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM) is meeting in the Child Care Area again effective 7/14/22 - both at Frieden's Lutheran Church, 1076 Memorial Hwy, Oley PA 19547

Sadly, the Tuesday 7PM "What Women Need" group is no longer meeting as of 6/27/22 due to lack of attendance.

The **Just for Today Group** has moved their meeting outside. Thursdays, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. St. Benedicts Church Picnic Grounds, 4341 Morgantown Rd, Mohnton PA 19540.

The **Saturday Morning Women's Group** has altered their format. 1st Saturday of each month is a Beginner's Meeting where we read from the Living Sober book. Saturdays 10:30 to 11:30 AM. St. Peters Church (UCC), 2901 Curtis Rd., West Lawn PA.

The I AM A Miracle Group is now "**You Are a Miracle**". Mondays 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. St. Columbkil's Church, 200 Indian Spring Rd, Boyertown PA 19512.

The **French Creek Group** has a new location: St Peter United Church of Christ, 1890 Ridge Rd, Pottstown PA 19465. Thursdays 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The **Underground Group** has moved to Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, 550 Fleetwood Rd, Bowers PA 19511. Wednesdays and Sundays 7 PM to 8 PM.

New Meeting in Our Area: **Off The Beaten Path** - Tuesdays, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Mount Carmel Methodist Church, 2203 Harmonyville Rd, Elverson PA 19520.

The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday September 27th, 2022 at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church at 16 Fleetwood Rd, Fleetwood, PA 19522.

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

September 1, 1939 - 1st AA group founded in Chicago

September 5, 1907 - Nancy Flynn, author of "Independent Blond" born

September 11, 2001 - 30 Vesey St, New York, AA's first Office is damaged during the World Trade Center attack

September 12, 1942 - U.S. Assist. Surgeon General Kolb speaks at dinner for Bill and Dr Bob

September 13, 1937 - Florence R, 1st female in AA in NY

September 13, 1941 - WHJP in Jacksonville, FL airs Spotlight on AA

September 17, 1954 - Bill D, AA #3 dies.

September 18, 1947 - Dallas Central Office opens its doors

September 19, 1965 - The Saturday Evening Post publishes article "Alcoholics Can Be Cured - Despite AA"

September 21, 1938 - Bill W & Hank P form Works Publishing Co

September 24, 1940 - Bill 12 steps Bobbie V who replaced Ruth Hock as his secretary in NY

September 30, 1939 - Morris Markey runs story on AA, Alcoholics and God in Liberty Magazine

September 30, 1975 - Bill W a biography by Robert T is published

September 30, 2003 - Searcy W. died today, sober 20,962 days in a row

Other significant events in September for which we have no specific date:

1930: Bill wrote 4th (last) promise in family Bible to quit drinking.

1939: Group started by Earl T in Chicago.

1940: Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases gives Big Book unfavorable review.

1946: Bill & Dr. Bob both publicly endorsed National Committee Education Alcoholism founded by Marty M.

1948: 1st issue of Grapevine published in "pocketbook" size