

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

June 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 Six

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

Since most of us are born with an abundance of natural desires, it isn't strange that we often let these far exceed their intended purpose. When they drive us blindly, or we willfully demand that they supply us with more satisfactions or pleasures than are possible or due us, that is the point at which we depart from the degree of perfection that God wishes for us here on earth. That is the measure of our character defects, or, if you wish, of our sins.

If we ask, God will certainly forgive our derelictions. But in no case does He render us white as snow and keep us that way without our cooperation. That is something we are supposed to be willing to work toward ourselves. He asks only that we try as best we know how to make progress in the building of character.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 65)

Tradition Six

“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose”

We tried A.A. hospitals-they all bogged down because you cannot put an A.A. group into business; too many busybody cooks spoil the broth. A.A. groups had their fling at education, and when they began to publicly whoop up the merits of this or that brand, people became confused. Did A.A. fix drunks or was it an educational project? Was A.A. spiritual or was it medical? Was it a reform movement? In consternation, we saw ourselves getting married to all kinds of enterprises, some good and some not so good. Watching alcoholics committed willy-nilly to prisons or asylums, we began to cry, “There oughtta be a law!” A.A.'s commenced to thump tables in legislative committee rooms and agitated for legal reform. That made good newspaper copy, but little else. We saw we'd soon be mired in politics, Even inside A.A. we found it imperative to remove the A.A. name from clubs and Twelfth Step houses.

These adventures implanted a deep-rooted conviction that in no circumstances could we endorse any related enterprise, no matter how good. We of Alcoholics Anonymous could not be all things to all men, nor should we try.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 156-157)

6th Step Prayer

God, thank you for removing my fear and for showing me the truth about myself. I need your help to become willing to let go of the things in me which continue to block me off from you. Please grant me your grace and remove these objectionable characteristics, defects and shortcomings from me. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 76)

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

YASNY Group
Bernville AA Group
Sunday Morning Speaker Meeting

Announcements

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 Springview Group is having their 52nd Anniversary

Sunday June 11th from 7 PM to 9 PM

Two speakers: Scott G and Nicole B

St. John's Lutheran Church, 4125 Penn Ave, Sinking Spring PA 19608

The Reading Berks Intergroup Unity committee is planning a Tacos & Trivia Night

Saturday June 17th

Flyer to Come!

EDI, 1300 Hilltop Rd, Leesport PA 19533

The Nolde Forest Group is having their first Spring/Summer Party since COVID

Wednesday June 28th with food and fellowship starting at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM

At least 1 speaker is planned. Please bring a covered dish or dessert if you can, and if not, just yourself.

One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Road, Kenhorst PA 19607

Time to Start Living Group is having their Anniversary

Friday July 28th with meeting at 6:30 PM and food and fellowship before

Speaker is planned

Good Shepherd Church, 170 Tuckerton Rd, Reading PA 19605

**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

Announcements (continued)

***** 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

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 Sunday Morning Speaker Group will relocate to EDI in Leesport starting 11 AM July 2nd. (Sundays at 11 AM at Muhlenberg Recreation Center at 3025 River Rd, Reading PA 19605 through June 25th and at EDI at 1300 Hilltop Rd, Leesport PA 19533 starting July 2nd.)

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, June 27th, 2023 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.

D67 Puzzle

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

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

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. justfortoday | 2. friendsofbillw | 3. teathyme | 4. oley |
| 5. yasny | 6. gsr | 7. walnutst | 8. loth |
| 9. twinvalley | 10. gso | 11. fridaynight | 12. rbi |
| 13. boyertown | 14. congo | 15. brownbag | 16. gibraltar |
| 17. birdsboro | 18. womenshope | 19. jacksonwald | 20. frenchcreek |
| 21. offthebeatenpath | 22. newmillenium | | |

Important Dates in A.A. History

June 1, 1949 - Anne Smith, Dr. Bob's wife, died.

June 4, 2002- Caroline Knapp, author of "Drinking: A Love Story" died sober of lung cancer.

June 5, 1940 - Ebby Thatcher took a job at the NY Worlds Fair.

June 6:

1940 - The first AA Group in Richmond, VA, was formed.

1979 - AA gave the two-millionth copy of the Big Book to Joseph Califano, then Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. It was presented by Lois Wilson, Bill's wife, in New York.

June 7:

1939 - Bill and Lois Wilson had an argument, the first of two times Bill almost slipped.

1941 - The first AA Group in St. Paul, Minnesota, was formed.

June 8, 1941 - Three AA's started a group in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

June 10, 1935 - The date that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding date of AA. There is some evidence that the founders, in trying to reconstruct the history, got the date wrong and it was actually June 17.

June 11, 1945 - Twenty-five hundred attend AA's 10th Anniversary in Cleveland, Ohio.

June 13, 1945 - Morgan R. gave a radio appearance for AA with large audience. He was kept under surveillance to make sure he didn't drink.

June 15, 1940 - First AA Group in Baltimore, MD, was formed.

June 16, 1938 - Jim Burwell, "The Vicious Cycle" in Big Book, had his last drink.

June 17, 1942 - New York AA groups sponsored the first annual NY area meeting. Four hundred and twenty-four heard Dr. Silkworth and AA speakers.

June 18, 1940 - One hundred attended the first meeting in the first AA clubhouse at 334-1/2 West 24th St., New York City.

June 19, 1942 - Columnist Earl Wilson reported that NYC Police Chief Valentine sent six policemen to AA and they sobered up. "There are fewer suicides in my files," he commented.

June 21, 1944 - The first Issue of the AA Grapevine was published.

June 24, 1938 - Two Rockefeller associates told the press about the Big Book "Not to bear any author's name but to be by 'Alcoholics Anonymous.'"

June 25, 1939 - The New York Times reviewer wrote that the Big Book is "more soundly based psychologically than any other treatment I have ever come upon."

June 26, 1935 - Bill Dotson. (AA #3) entered Akron's City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.

June 28, 1935 - Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson visited Bill Dotson at Akron's City Hospital.

June 30:

1941 - Ruth Hock showed Bill Wilson the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.

2000 - More than 47,000 from 87 countries attended the opening meeting of the 65th AA Anniversary in Minneapolis, MN.