

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

August 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 Eight

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.”

When listing the people we have harmed, most of us hit another solid obstacle. We got a pretty severe shock when we realized that we were preparing to make a face-to-face admission of our wretched conduct to those we had hurt. It had been embarrassing enough when in confidence we had admitted these things to God, to ourselves, and to another human being. But the prospect of actually visiting or even writing the people concerned now overwhelmed us, especially when we remembered in what poor favor we stood with most of them. There were cases, too, where we had damaged others who were still happily unaware of being hurt. Why, we cried, shouldn't bygones be bygones? Why do we have to think of these people at all? These were some of the ways in which fear conspired with pride to hinder our making a list of *all* the people we had harmed.

(Twelve Steps & Twelve Tradition pg. 78-79)

It is the beginning of the end of isolation from our fellows and from God.

(Twelve Steps & Twelve Tradition pg. 82)

Tradition Eight

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers”

At the Foundation, the same story repeats itself. Eight tons of books and literature per month do no package and channel themselves all over the world. Sacks of letters on every conceivable A.A. problem ranging from a lonely-heart Eskimo to the growing pains of thousands of groups must be answered by people who *know*. Right contacts with the world outside have to be maintained. A.A.'s lifelines have to be tended. So we hire A.A. staff members. We pay them well, and they earn what they get. They are professional secretaries,* but they certainly are not professional A.A.'s.

* The work of present-day staff members has no counterpart among the job categories of commercial organizations. These A.A.'s bring a wide range of business and professional experience to their service at The General Service Office.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 169)

8th Step Prayer

God, please remove my fears and show me your truth. Show me ALL the harms I have caused with my behavior. Lord, make me willing to make amends to one and all. Amen.

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 76)

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

Courage to Change Group
Advent Men's Group

Announcements

Time to Start Living Group is having their 30th Anniversary Celebration

Friday July 28th

Food and Fellowship at 5:30 PM; Meeting and Speaker at 6:30 PM
Good Shepherd Church, 170 Tuckerton Rd, Reading PA 19605

The 8:15 Group is hosting a picnic

Saturday August 12th from 11 AM to 5 PM

Food * Games * Speaker * Friends

Rajah Shrine, 221 Orchard Rd, Reading PA 19608

The Wilshire Fellowship Group is having their Annual Summer Picnic

Saturday September 9th

Food, Fellowship, and games 3 PM to 6 PM; Speaker Meeting 6 PM
Bring your own chair and feel free to bring covered dishes or desserts

Hotdogs, hamburgers, soda and water will be provided

At the pavilions behind Gouglersville Fire Company, 475 Mohns Hill Rd, Reading PA 19608

**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/>)

Plenty to check out:

- 2023 General Service Conference Advisory Actions
- GSO Statement Regarding 7th Tradition Contributions (online contributions now available and cost less yielding another \$2.67 per contribution available to carry the message)
 - Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet (how your 7th Tradition Contributions help carry The Message)
 - The 12th Step page is back! Current commitments and opportunities for service
 - Jail meetings have returned and there are links for details and for contact information
 - Up-to-date and printable meeting schedules are available in 2 different sizes
- Current addresses for contributions to Area 59/EPGSA and GSO (both of which changed last year). But note above, online contributions go further if your group is able
- Links and guidelines for what is appropriate content for the Reading-Berks Intergroup website
 - Links for activities around our area and beyond
 - Link to “We” (English and Spanish), Your Area 59 quarterly newsletter
 - Link to the Grapevine Podcast
- Plus the most recent info on Area 59 and EPGSA and on GSO and the General Service 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 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 email

BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

Service Commitments (continued)

Interested in attending AA inside BCP? Jail meetings have returned!

Need Male Volunteers for the Prison Commitment

***** OPEN *****

Meetings now every Thursday

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 *****

Held their 1st meeting June 5th

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

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

Meetings in Need of Support

Friday Blandon Group

In Person

Fridays at 8 PM

Maidencreek Church

261 Main St, Blandon PA 19510

Has Your Groove Turned Into a Rut? Change your Routine and Join Us!

St Gabriel Beginner Meeting

In Person

Tuesdays at 7 PM

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church

1188 Benjamin Franklin Hwy, Douglassville PA 19518

Come Share Your Experience, Strength, and Hope!

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!

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

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 EDI at 1300 Hilltop Rd, Leesport PA 19533)

Women's Courage to Change has a Flyer reaching out to Women in Recovery.
(Mondays at 6:30 PM - hybrid at West Lawn Community Center Building at 103 Woodside Ave, West Lawn PA 19609 or via Zoom meeting ID 357 377 581, password 756726
plus Fridays at 6:30 PM - Zoom Only, meeting ID 357 377 581, password 756726)

Gibraltar Meeting is outside with a campfire effective Friday June 2nd
(Fridays at 7 PM at St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church at 1035 Old River Rd, Birdsboro PA 19508)

You Are A Miracle WILL NOT MEET Monday September 4th and Monday December 25th. Meetings will resume the following Mondays.
(Mondays at 5:30 PM at St. Columbkil Church at 200 Indian Spring Rd, Boyertown PA 19512)

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

The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.

AA HISTORY

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

AA preamble	Akron Ohio	Alcoholics	Anne smith	Anonymity
Ardmore avenue	Big book	Bill Wilson	Doctor bob	Doctor silkworth
Fellowship	Founders day	Four absolutes	Grapevine	Henrietta Seiberling
Higher power	Honesty	How it works	Keep it simple	Lois Wilson
Love	Malady	Mayflower hotel	One day at a time	Oxford group
Powerless	Primary purpose	Purity	Recovery	Serenity prayer
Service	Sister Ignatia	Sobriety	St Thomas hospital	The man on the bed
Twelve steps	Twelve traditions	Unity	Unselfishness	

Important Dates in A.A. History

August 1, 1946 - Washington Times-Herald (DC) reports on AA clubhouse, to protect members anonymity, withholds address

August 3, 1954 - Brinkley S. gets sober at Towns Hosp after 50th detox

August 3, 1989 - Liberty Bell Group founded in Lake Elsinore, CA - August 3, 1989

August 8, 1879 - Dr Bob S. is born in St Johnsbury, Vermont

August 11, 1938 - Akron & NY members begin writing stories for Big Book

August 16, 1939 - Dr Bob and Sister Ignatia admit 1st alcoholic to St Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio

August 18, 1988 - 1st Canadian National AA Convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia

August 19, 1941 - 1st AA Meeting in Colorado is held in Denver

August 25, 1943 - AA group donates Big Book to public library in Quincy, MA

August 26, 1941 - Bill writes Dr Bob to tell him Works Publishing has been incorporated

August 28, 1954 - 24 Hours a Day is published by Richmond Walker

Other significant events in August for which there is no specific date:

1934: Rowland H and Cebra persuade court to parole Ebby T. to them.

1939: Dr. Bob wrote & may have signed article for Faith magazine.

1941 - 1st meeting in Orange County, California held in Anaheim

1981 - Sales of the Big Book passes 3,000,000