

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

July 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 Seven

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God. The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, then there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problem we could possibly have.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pg. 76)

Tradition Seven

“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions”

Probably no A.A. Tradition had the labor pains this one did. In early times, we were all broke. When you add to this the habitual supposition that people ought to give money to alcoholics trying to stay sober, it can be understood why we thought we deserved a pile of folding money. What great things A.A. would be able to do with it! But oddly enough, people who had money thought otherwise. They figured that it was high time we now-sober-paid our own way. So our Fellowship stayed poor because of it.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 160)

7th Step Prayer

My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character, which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen.

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 76)

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

Boyertown AA Groups
Robersonia Fellowship Group
Springview Group

Announcements

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 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 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

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, July 25th, 2023 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.

Summer Sober Fun

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

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

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. volleyball | 2. golf | 3. untypicnic | 4. concerts |
| 5. baseball | 6. memorialday | 7. lawndarts | 8. innertube |
| 9. boat | 10. tent | 11. towel | 12. fourthofjuly |
| 13. motorcycling | 14. laborday | 15. sun | 16. waves |
| 17. waterskiing | 18. bicycling | 19. vacation | 20. waterpark |
| 21. cornhole | 22. beach | 23. swimming | 24. fishing |
| 25. bonfire | 26. camping | 27. foundersday | 28. poolparty |
| 29. cookout | 30. basketball | | |

Important Dates in A.A. History

July 1-3, 1960 - 8700 attend 25th Anniversary of AA in Long Beach, CA

July 2

1965 - Best of Bill and Pocket-Sized 12 and 12 1st sold

1993 - 50 years of AA celebrated in Canada

2000 - 20 Millionth Big Book given to Al-Anon in Minneapolis

July 2-3, 1955 - Bill W turns "the fellowship over to the fellowship" at 4:00 PM, 5000 attend 20th Anniversary at our St Louis Convention

July 2-4, 1965 - 10,000 attend 30th Anniversary of AA in Toronto. There we came to own our Responsibility Declaration

July 4, 1939 - 1st AA meeting started in Flatbush, NY

July 3-5, 1970 - 10,900 attend 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami. Bill W gave his last talk to AA

July 3-6, 1980 - 22,500 attend 45th Anniversary of AA in New Orleans First true marathon meeting was held here

July 4, 1999 - He who has a fifth on the fourth may not come forth on the fifth...

July 4-6, 1975 - 19,800 attend 40th Anniversary of AA in Denver Worlds largest coffee server serves 1/2 million cups a day

July 5:

1985 - AA gives Ruth Hock 5,000,000th Big Book during 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal, Canada

1990 - AA gives Nell Wing 10,000,000th Big Book during 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle, WA

July 3-6, 1980 - Gay AA's have own program at 40th AA Anniversary in New Orleans

July 5-7, 1985 - 45,000 attend 50th Anniversary of AA in Montreal. House of Seagrams flew their flags at half mast for 3 days

July 7, 1940 - Bill attends 1st Summer Session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University

July 5-8, 1990 - 48,000 attend 55th Anniversary of AA in Seattle. 75 countries were represented as the former Soviet Unions members attended for the first time

July 8, 1940 - 1st AA Group formed in Dayton, Ohio

July 10, 1941 - Texas newspaper publishes anonymous letter from founding member of Texas AA Group

July 20, 1941 - First AA group formed in Seattle, Washington

July 22:

1877 - Willian Duncan Silkworth born in Brooklyn, NY

1980 - Marty M. early AA woman and founder of NCADD dies

July 23:

1940 - Philly AA's send 10% of kitty to Alcoholic Foundation, sets precedent

1943 - Esther C., passed Jan 15, 2005, sober since July 23, 1943.

July 24, 1943 - L.A. press reports formation of all-Mexican AA Group

July 28-30, 1950 - 1st AA Convention celebrates 15th anniversary of AA in Cleveland