

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

September 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. 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:*

YASNY
Freedom From Bondage
Walnut Street Recovery Group

Announcements

**Recovery Awareness Night at the Reading Phils, intra-recovery event, AA members
hosted by the RBI PI committee**

Thursday August 31st
4:30 PM to 5 PM, gates open
5 PM to 5:45 PM, speaker and former Philadelphia Flyer Chris Therien
6:45 PM, game followed by post-game fireworks
First Energy Stadium, 1900 Centre Ave, Reading PA 19601

Reading Berks Intergroup's Unity Picnic

Sunday September 10th
12 PM to 5 PM
Jim Dietrich Park Pavilion 2, 4899 Stouts Ferry Bridge Rd, Reading PA 19605

Combined Workshop hosted by Districts 33, 66 & 67

Saturday September 16th
10 AM to 3:30 PM
Panel Speakers at 11 AM, Lunch 12:30 PM, Main Speaker 1:15 PM, Dessert 2:30 PM
EDI, 1300 Hilltop Rd, Leesport PA 19533

Frog Pond is celebrating their group's 22nd Anniversary

Friday September 8th
Food, fun and fellowship starts at 6 PM
Speaker Tressa T at 7 PM
Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church, 820 W Leesport Rd, Leesport PA 19533

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 Gougler'sville Fire Company, 475 Mohns Hill Rd, Reading PA 19608

Announcements (continued)

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

Visit the Reading Berks Intergroup page (<https://readingberksintergroup.org/>)

Plenty to check out:

- Updated and latest version of the RBI Structure Manual
- New AA Hotline tear-off forms available for all members to print, use, and distribute
 - Link to AA World Service's new digital presence on LinkedIn
- 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

Mustard Seed Group

In Person

Saturdays at 6 PM

St Mark's Lutheran Church

1015 Windsor St, Reading PA 19604

They are looking for new members to share their Experience, Strength, and Hope with them!

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 Tipton Group

In Person

Tuesdays at 7 PM

Saint Peter Church

122 West Franklin St, Tipton PA 19562

Open Discussion / Speaker meeting

Recent Meeting Updates and Changes:

The Sunday Morning Speaker Group has relocated to EDI in Leesport.
(Sundays at 11 AM at EDI at 1300 Hilltop Rd, Leesport PA 19533)

Women's Courage to Change has relocated.
(Mondays at 6:30 PM - hybrid at Advent Lutheran Church at 16 Telford Ave, West Lawn PA 19609; Zoom meeting ID 357 377 581, password 756726
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, September 26th, 2023 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.

The 3 Legacies of AA

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

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

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. concepts | 2. twelve | 3. conscience | 4. program |
| 5. responsibility | 6. contact | 7. service | 8. prayer |
| 9. contribution | 10. others | 11. unity | 12. steps |
| 13. trusted | 14. anonymity | 15. servant | 16. principles |
| 17. altruism | 18. traditions | 19. spiritual | 20. recovery |
| 21. trustees | 22. group | 23. vision | 24. inventory |
| 25. fellowship | 26. aacomessofage | 27. meditation | |

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