

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

November 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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Intergroup	General Contact	Info@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

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 Eleven

“Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.”

We ask simply that throughout the day God place in us the best understanding of His will that we can have for that day, and that we be given the grace by which we may carry it out.

As the day goes on, we can pause where situations must be met and decisions made, and renew the simple request “Thy will, not mine, be done.” If at these points our emotional disturbance happens to be great, we will more surely keep our balance, provided we remember, and repeat to ourselves, a particular prayer or phrase that has appealed to us in our reading or meditation. Just saying it over and over will often enable us to clear a channel choked up with anger, fear, frustration, or misunderstanding, and permit us to return to the surest help of all—our search for God’s will, not our own, in the moment of stress. At these critical moments, if we remind ourselves that “it is better to comfort than to be comforted, to understand than to be understood, to love than to be loved,” we will be following the intent of Step Eleven.

Tradition Eleven

“Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.”

This Tradition is a constant and practical reminder that personal ambition has no place in A.A. In it, each member becomes an active guardian of our Fellowship.

Concept Eleven

“The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.”

Prayer of Saint Francis

“Lord, make me a channel of thy peace; that where there is hatred, I may bring love; that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness; that where there is discord, I may bring harmony; that where there is error, I may bring truth; that where there is doubt, I may bring faith; that where there is despair, I may bring hope; that where there are shadows, I may bring light; that where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted; to understand, than to be understood; to love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life. Amen.”

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

Advent Men's Group
Congo Group
Leesport Group
Plowville
Walnut St Recovery Group
GSO ID# 103296

Announcements

Spooky Spaghetti and Song Trivia hosted by RBI's Unity Committee

Friday October 27th

Dinner at 6 PM with Trivia from 7 PM to 9 PM

Atonement Church – Lundin Hall, 5 N Wyomissing Blvd, Wyomissing PA 19610

The Great Fact Group is celebrating their 10th Anniversary

Wednesday November 15th

Food and Fellowship starts 5:30 PM with Speaker Meeting at 7 PM

Wyomissing Church of the Brethren, 2200 State Hill Rd, Wyomissing PA 19610

Female volunteers needed for the Prisons Commitment

There were only 3 women volunteers signed up as of the last Intergroup meeting

EPGSA 2023 is in Lancaster PA, November 10-12

(Registration is open)

**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)

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 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:

Tuesday Meeting “**Off the Beaten Path**” has been removed from the meeting schedule effective September 26th

The Friday Kutztown Group is now a Grapevine discussion meeting
(Fridays at 7 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church at 357 W Main St, Kutztown PA 19530)

Women’s Hope with AA now meets at 7 PM every Friday night at the same location in Douglassville,
downstairs in the chorus room
(Fridays at 7 PA at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church at 1188 Benjamin Franklin Hwy, Douglassville PA 19518)

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)

The Nolde Forest Group in Kenhorst is changing their meeting time on November 8th to 7:00 PM
(normally Wednesdays at 7:30 PM at One United Church of Christ at 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607)

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

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

**The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday,
November 28th, 2023 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd,
Reading PA 19607.**

Fall Into Recovery

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

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

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. gsr | 2. assembly | 3. grapevine | 4. unity |
| 5. twelfthstep | 6. committees | 7. structure | 8. dcm |
| 9. epgsa | 10. archives | 11. btg | 12. recovery |
| 13. meetings | 14. voting | 15. cpc | 16. service |
| 17. finance | 18. delegate | 19. panels | 20. concepts |
| 21. areaofficer | 22. accessibility | 23. workshop | 24. digitalcomm |
| 25. corrections | 26. treatment | 27. convention | 28. traditions |
| 29. publicinfo | | | |

Important Dates in A.A. History

November 1:

1947 - 1st AA Group in Anchorage, Alaska

1963 - Reverend Sam Shoemaker dies

November 3, 2001 - J.P. Miller, wrote screenplay for "The Days of Wine and Roses" died

November 9, 1966 - President Johnson appoints Marty M to the 1st National Advisory Committee on Alcoholism

November 10:

1940 - 1st AA group formed in Minneapolis

2001 - 1st of 400,000 4th Edition Big Books arrives in the mail

November 11, 1934 - Bill W's final drunk begins on Veterans Day and lasts about a month

November 12, 1940 - 1st AA meeting is held in Boston

November 13, 1939 - Bill wants to go back to work, NY drunks want him to stay on as head of the movement

November 14, 1940 - Alcoholic Foundation publishes 1st AA Bulletin

November 15, 1949 - Bill W suggests that groups devote Thanksgiving week to discussions of the 12 Traditions

November 16, 1950 - Dr Bob S dies in Akron, Ohio

November 18, 1946 - 1st Dublin Ireland group met.

November 21:

1939 - AA's in San Francisco hold 1st California AA meeting in the Clift Hotel -

1952 - Willard Richardson, past Treasurer/Chairman of Alcoholic Foundation, dies

November 26:

1895 - William Griffith W. born, East Dorset, VT

1939 - Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups

November 28

1934 - Ebby T. carries message to Bill.

1937 - Bill and Dr. Bob compare notes in Akron. Count forty cases staying sober. Meeting of the Akron Group to consider Bill's ideas for how to expand the movement ... a book, AA hospitals, paid missionaries. Passed by a majority of 2.

1939 - Akron group withdrawals from Oxford Group. Meetings moved to Dr Bob and other members homes.

1939 - Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups.

1943 - Bill guest speaker San Quentin Penitentiary. (sometimes dated Dec 2, 1943)