

# *The Alternative*

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

August 2022

[ReadingBerksIntergroup.org](http://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](mailto:Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org)

**HELP IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK CALL 610-373-6500**

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### INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

Jen P.	Intergroup Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Mark S.	Intergroup Alt. Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Alt-Chair@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Alt-Chair@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Tammy G.	Intergroup Treasurer	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Tom H.	Intergroup Secretary	<a href="mailto:Secretary@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Secretary@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Bill M.	Hotline Representative	<a href="mailto:Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
David G.	Archives Representative	<a href="mailto:Archives@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Archives@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Larry M.	Men's Prison Chairperson	<a href="mailto:MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Susan W.	Woman's Prison Chairperson	<a href="mailto:WomansPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">WomansPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Abe K.	Literature Representative	<a href="mailto:Literature@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Literature@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Rachael H.	Schedules Representative	<a href="mailto:Schedules@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Schedules@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Michelle H.	Institutions Representative	<a href="mailto:Institutions@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Institutions@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
George "Stu" S.	Newsletter Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Jen P.	Unity Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Kent	Bridging the Gap Chairperson	<a href="mailto:BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Steve P.	Website Representative	<a href="mailto:Website@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Website@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Sharon B.	Public Information Chairperson	<a href="mailto:PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Robbi	Visitation Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Visitation@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Visitation@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Lindsey K.	Virtual Committee	<a href="mailto:Virtual@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Virtual@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Intergroup	General Contact	<a href="mailto:Info@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Info@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>

The Reading Berks Intergroup meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month in person at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church at 16 Fleetwood Rd., Fleetwood PA 19522 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:*

Advent Mens Group  
Alpha Group  
Bandon Group  
Glenside Group  
Time To Start Living Group  
Walk The Walk Group

*Meetings in Need of Support*

**"Books and People Group"**

In Person  
Every Monday @ 6:30 PM  
Mountain View Church of God  
1255 Hampden Blvd, Reading PA 19602

*Announcements*

**2022 Summer Unity Picnic**

Presented by Reading-Berks Intergroup & Districts 33-66-67

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday September 25th, 2022

Jim Dietrich Park

4899 Stoudts Ferry Bridge Rd, Reading PA 19605

Look for updates every month at the Intergroup meeting or on [ReadingBerksIntergroup.org/event](http://ReadingBerksIntergroup.org/event)  
There are plans for an online spreadsheet to be made available to enter and coordinate food donations

**Time To Start Living Group 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Friday July 29<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Food, fellowship, and fun

6:30 PM – AA Speaker

Good Shepherd UCC Church

170 Tuckerton Rd, Reading PA 19605

**Happy Hour Group Annual A.A. Picnic**

Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup> 2022

12 noon to 5:00 PM

Mohnton Picnic Grounds

Please bring a covered dish; open to all A.A. members, family, and friends

Speaker meeting at 4:00 PM

Hot dogs, Hamburgers, coffee, and bottled water provided

## *Announcements (Continued)*

### **8:15 Atonement Picnic**

Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup>

11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

3:00 PM – Speaker Meeting Matt O. and Judy O.

Shillington Park Pavilion #2

E. Broad St., Shillington PA 19607

Food, Fun, Fellowship: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Coffee, Water, Soda.

Bring your favorite covered dish.

Volleyball, Playground, Baseball; use of all ground's activities EXCEPT the pool unless you are a member of the pool already.

Visit the Reading Berks Intergroup page (<https://readingberksintergroup.org/>) for information on Area Business (like the latest edition of “We”, your Area59 quarterly news letter, and the results document from the 2022 General Services Conference); workshops (EPGSA is hosting a Literature / Accessibilities workshop August 6<sup>th</sup> in Frazer PA); and a link to the newly available Grapevine Podcast.

### **“Alternative Advertisements”**

All A.A. Events, Notifications, Announcements and/or Testimonies are Welcome!

Please email all requests to: [Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto: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 Christ Mertz Luthern Church at 16 Fleetwood Rd., Fleetwood PA 19522 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](mailto:Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org)

### **“Bridging the Gap” Needs Volunteers**

Please contact Kent or

[BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org) or

“Bridging the Gap”, PO Box 2332, Reading PA 19608

## *Service Commitments (Continued)*

### **Need Male Volunteers for the Prison Commitment**

\*Suspended until further notice

Please Contact Larry M. at [MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org)

### **Need Female Volunteers for Prison Commitment**

\*Suspended until further notice

Please Contact Susan W. at [SanLee715@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### **Tower Health Behavioral/Detox**

Bernville Rd

Wednesdays 7:30 PM

We are still doing Zoom only commitments but they are opening In-Person commitments  
However, In-Person commitments will require a background check, a brief on-line orientation, urine screening, and fingerprinting

### **Clair of Asi Asi House**

325 S. 12<sup>th</sup> 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

Can do once a year without background check and volunteer paperwork, but those are required for persons doing more frequent commitments than that (forms are available from Intergroup)

**Teen Challenge** ON HOLD -no commitment at this time

**Hannah's Hope** - Women only - ON HOLD -no commitment at this time

## *Recent Meeting Updates and Changes:*

The Oley Group (Tuesdays 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM) and the 24 Hour A Day Group (Saturdays 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM) is meeting in the Child Care Area again effective 7/14/22 - both at Frieden's Lutheran Church, 1076 Memorial Hwy, Oley PA 19547

Sadly, the Tuesday 7PM "What Women Need" group is no longer meeting as of 6/27/22 due to lack of attendance.

The **Just for Today Group** has moved their meeting outside. Thursdays, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. St. Benedicts Church Picnic Grounds, 4341 Morgantown Rd, Mohnton PA 19540.

The **Saturday Morning Women's Group** has altered their format. 1st Saturday of each month is a Beginner's Meeting where we read from the Living Sober book. Saturdays 10:30 to 11:30 AM. St. Peters Church (UCC), 2901 Curtis Rd., West Lawn PA.

The I AM A Miracle Group is now "**You Are a Miracle**". Mondays 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. St. Columbkil's Church, 200 Indian Spring Rd, Boyertown PA 19512.

The **French Creek Group** has a new location: St Peter United Church of Christ, 1890 Ridge Rd, Pottstown PA 19465. Thursdays 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The **Underground Group** has moved to Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, 550 Fleetwood Rd, Bowers PA 19511. Wednesdays and Sundays 7 PM to 8 PM.

New Meeting in Our Area: **Off The Beaten Path** - Tuesdays, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Mount Carmel Methodist Church, 2203 Harmonyville Rd, Elverson PA 19520.

**The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church at 16 Fleetwood Rd, Fleetwood, PA 19522.**

**The Winter Edition of Box 459 is now available in English & Espanola on the Communication Corner Page of the Reading Berks Intergroup website!**

## *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