

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

April 2024

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

Kay L.	Intergroup Chair	Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Dave K.	Intergroup Alternate Chair	Alt-Chair@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Gregg G.	Intergroup Secretary	Secretary@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Tammy G.	Intergroup Treasurer	Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Mark S.	Institutions Servant	Institutions@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Bill M.	Hotline Servant	Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Tim M.	Schedules Servant	Schedules@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Steve P.	Website Servant	Website@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Shirl O.	Archives Servant	Archives@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Bill C.	Literature Servant	Literature@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
George "Stu" S.	"The Alternative" Chair	Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Jen L.	Unity Chair	Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Robby K.	Men's Corrections Chair	MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Susan W.	Women's Corrections Chair	WomensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Kent S.	Bridging The Gap Chair	BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Tim M.	Visitation Chair	Visitation@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Jen P.	CPC and Public Information Chair	PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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 Four

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

The testimony of A.A.’s who have really tried a moral inventory is that pride and fear of this sort turn out to be bogeymen, nothing else. Once we have a complete willingness to take inventory, and exert ourselves to do the job thoroughly, a wonderful light falls upon this foggy scene. As we persist, a brand-new kind of confidence” is born, and the sense of relief at finally facing ourselves is indescribable. These are the first fruits of Step Four.

Tradition Four

“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole”

“Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.”

This meant, of course, that we had been given the courage to declare each A.A. group an individual entity, strictly reliant on its own conscience as a guide to action. In charting this enormous expanse of freedom, we found it necessary to post only two storm signals: A group ought not do anything which would greatly injure A.A. as a whole, not ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. Sobriety had to be its sole objective.

Concept Four

“At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional ‘Right of Participation,’ allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.”

This Concept basically tells us that our trusted servants should have a right to vote and debate and discuss equal to the job they perform. This idea of “participation” can usually stop the misapplication or misuse of final authority, while reminding us at the same time that the “spiritual corporation” of A.A. should never include any members who are regarded as “second class.”

4th Step Prayer

God, please help me show those I resent the same tolerance, pity and patience that I would cheerfully grant a sick friend. Help me to see that this is a sick man. Father, please show me how I can be helpful to him and save me from being angry. Lord, help me to avoid retaliation or argument. I know I can't be helpful to all people, but at least show me how to take a kindly and tolerant view of each and every one. Thy will be done. Amen.

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

Advent Mens Group
Come As You Are
Friday Night Beginners Meeting
Great Fact
Just For Today Plowville
Leesport Group
Springview Group
Topton Group
Walnut St Recovery Group

Announcements

Walnut Street Recovery Group is celebrating their 82nd Anniversary

Saturday April 20th

12 PM to 4 PM

Speaker from 12 PM to 1:15 PM with Food, Fun, and Fellowship following speaker meeting

(Please bring a covered dish)

647 Walnut St, Reading PA 19601

District 33 has rescheduled their District Inventory

Saturday April 27th

11 AM to 2 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 117 E Arch St in Fleetwood PA 19522



**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

“Alternative Advertisements”

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

Please email all requests to: Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

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

Plenty to check out:

- Information and links for the New Grapevine App for your smart phone
 - Updated and latest version of the RBI Structure Manual
- New AA Hotline tear-off forms available for all members to print, use, and distribute
 - Printable schedules in 2 different sizes
 - Links for activities around our area and beyond
- Link to “We” in both English and Spanish (Your Area 59 quarterly newsletter)
 - Link to the Grapevine Podcast
- The Contributions page which lists the most up-to-date addresses for Area and GSO
- Plus the most recent info on Area 59 and on GSO and the General Service Conference including the Advisory Actions to be addressed at the upcoming at 2023 General Service Conference.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed for the Prisons Commitment (especially Women’s)

Please contact Robbie K (Men’s) or Susan W (Women’s)

Volunteers needed for Bridging the Gap (especially northern Berks County)

Please contact Kent S plus there is a flyer with a QR code that will get you signed up

Volunteers needed for the AA Hotline (especially female Spanish Speaking volunteers)

Please contact Bill M

Service Commitments

NOTICE: Unfortunately, Clare of Assisi has closed

“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.

Service Commitments (continued)

Please use this QR code to access the most current listing for commitments:



Current Active Commitments:

The Haven, Wernersville, Teen Challenge (Women and Men)

You can also access information for Institution Commitments as well as Prison Commitments on the RBI 12th Step Work webpage which is under the Member Services page from the main page of Reading Berks Intergroup.

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!

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!

The Bottom of the Barrel Group

In Person

Tuesdays at 7:30 PM

Maidencreek Church

261 Main St, Blandon PA 19510

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

Women's Courage to Change

Zoom and In Person

Mondays at 6:30 PM - Hybrid (physical: Advent Lutheran Church, 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)

They have a Flyer reaching out to women in recovery

Meetings in Need of Support (continued)

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

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!



Recent Meeting Updates and Changes:

The Blandon Group has changed their name to “**The Bottom of the Barrel Group**” and has discontinued their Friday meetings and now meet only on Tuesdays
(Tuesdays at 7:30 PM at Maiden creek Church at 261 Main St in Blandon PA 19510)

Friends of Bill W Group in Bechtelsville has added a meeting to the schedule on Monday nights at 5:30 PM
(Mondays 5:30 PM at St. Andrew's Methodist Church at 611 Swamp Creek Rd in Bechtelsville PA 19505)

You Are A Miracle will NOT meet on the following dates in 2024: April 1st, May 27th, and September 2nd
(normally Mondays at 5:30 PM at St. Columbkil Church at 200 Indian Spring Rd, Boyertown PA 19512)

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

The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.

Spring into Recovery 2024

F Y S E H F 7 P S P C O R R E C T I O N S X O 3 Z F T T Z R
I Y T I L I B A S E C C A T N E M T A E R T Z R J P M 9 5 7
G G N I R A H S E C N E R E F N O C E R P R G E H Q B L A R
Y K N D X Y Q L Z Y J A Q T P B O Q M F N P X G P B D O K I
L E P S N U D 9 D M Y D M A X 3 J I A R J 6 P X N G I 7 7 N
A 3 5 Z P X N L D I M V N I R P H 5 T F W Q F L U R S 5 L V
W E I D E T G A 5 C S C 3 E N Y O F 9 C F I N R W O T E G F
S S C 7 7 O K S N J P T C Q U O L L 6 9 A G J C 5 U R P G 3
Y X K N M 5 9 K R Y R R R L J G R B I M T R H C C P I G E L
Q L W 6 A 9 B 5 9 F M L V I A H I I M C T O O U Y S C S N E
S C X T T N L K A Q X I F 7 C S U H T E Y Y J O 5 T T A E E
E O H X A P I N 6 E I V T X Y T S G B Y S Z 7 5 L R 6 P R T
V 5 J C C 3 A F W I R P H Y Z Y 3 A M 7 O S I E T F 7 L A S
I 6 6 T C I R T S I D A C Y Z M Z 3 T Q I P A P M O H A L U
H T K S Z O I 3 C Y A I H P D C A L T R O R I I C W 7 N S R
C G R 3 V P W J J Q 6 J A H R H 3 M O I U M Y N N P E N E T
R 6 W Z O F N I D N U O R G K C A B 6 O Y S 7 W I I C I R B
A R U G V O M J 3 P A 6 T 9 I M Q A T M 3 3 T H U O M N V S
O T V Z 3 P S G G Q M H E C T X Y 3 C F W E Q E 6 6 N G I S
E B G Q E V U J O H K B R 5 Y S K B W S S O A U E E 9 I C A
6 Y K Z 7 A G J G I J E U L B N Q D M Z J Z G G Z R A A E L
T D R E C M P E R U T A R E T I L G G G 9 V 7 R S U N D B C
Z G 3 7 6 P O 6 R E G I O N A L F O R U M S D W Y T I B O K
Y E C N E R E F N O C E C I V R E S L A R E N E G C V A A G
D 3 S C A S N O I T C A Y R O S I V D A H 7 L R Z U A M R R
J E 5 6 X P M C K 5 V T K X 7 D A C H Q Q 3 A 6 R R L 9 D N
S H L C 5 U X E C O M M I T T E E S X V 5 P U T G T K 3 F E
7 X R E 3 B S L T C R Z R U S X 6 6 M N E W S X A S Z F X V
E W 6 M G M 9 V B I 7 D I Y D L G Q W V 7 S Y H K E A 6 W 9
7 R R X X A Q H R V A L J L L M 5 Z I E P B 6 B 3 C L C X D
J S F O S D T Y F 6 P D F W Z Q H N V M X V A K H I H U N S
P X X B R 6 N E U N Y M N T 5 W E I U 5 P X A L R V N Z 7 U
O 9 H R D V D O S A L L O E D D H T B 7 Z A M S J R Y R N W
U Y T I C K R O Y W E N 5 H G O O Q J H T W C B O E T B P 6
S E R V I C E S P O N S O R A A G W A T A H D 9 M S F U Y L

1. generalserviceconference
2. generalserviceboard
3. agendaitems
4. backgroundinfo
5. advisoryaction
6. minorityopinion
7. unanimity
8. flooraction
9. regionalforum
10. classatrustee
11. classbtrustee
12. delegates
13. newyorkcity
14. miniassembly
15. epgsaplanning
16. prepreferencesharing
17. servicestructure
18. groups
19. district33
20. district66
21. district67
22. area59
23. dcm
24. gsr
25. servicesponsor
26. cpcpi
27. corrections
28. finance
29. grapevine
30. lavina
31. literature
32. policy
33. charter
34. treatmentaccessability
35. archives
36. committees

Important Dates in A.A. History

April 1:

1939: Alcoholics Anonymous AA's Big Book was published.

1940: Larry J. of Houston, wrote "The Texas Prayer", used to open AA meetings in Texas.

1966: Sister Ignatia died at the age of 77. She worked with Dr. Bob in treating many early AA members at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron.

1970: GSO moved to 468 Park Ave. South, NYC.

1984: 12 Coconuts Group, Kapiolani Park, Waikiki, Hawaii, was founded.

April 3:

1941: First Florida AA meeting was held.

1960: Fr. Ed Dowling, S.J., died. He was Bill W's "spiritual sponsor."

April 4, 1960 - The Chicago Daily News reported that Fr. Edward Dowling, Jesuit Priest who helped start the first AA group in St. Louis, had died at age 62.

April 7, 1941 - Ruth Hock reported there were 1,500 letters asking for help, as a result of the Saturday Evening Post Article by Jack Alexander.

April 10, 1939 - The first 10 copies of the Big Book arrived at the office Bill shared with Hank Parkhurst in Newark, New Jersey.

April 11, 1938 - Alcoholic Foundation held its first meeting.

April 12, 1942 - The Windsor Daily Star in Ontario, Canada, reported that over 400 AA's attended a testimonial dinner for Dr. Bob.

April 16:

1940: A sober Rollie Helmsley caught the only opening day no-hitter in baseball history since 1909.

1973: Dr Jack Norris Chairman of the AA General Service Board presented President Richard Nixon with the one-millionth copy of the Big Book at the White House.

2005: Nancy Flynn (Independent Blond died in Kennett Square PA)

April 17, 1941 - 2nd group in Los Angeles, the "Hole in the Ground Group" was formed.

April 19, 1940 - First AA group in Little Rock, Arkansas, was formed.

April 22, 1940 - Bill Wilson transferred his Works Publishing Stock to the Alcoholic Foundation.

April 23, 1940 - Dr. Bob wrote the Trustees to refuse Big Book royalties, but Bill Wilson insisted on them for Dr. Bob and Anne.

April 25, 1951 - AA's first General Service Conference was held.

April 26, 1939 - Bill & Lois Wilson moved in with Hank Parkhurst after the bank foreclosed on 182 Clinton St. This was the first of over 50 moves before they acquired Stepping Stones.

April 30, 1989 - The film "My Name is Bill W.," a Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation, was broadcast at 9 p.m. on ABC TV.