

# *The Alternative*

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

February 2024

[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

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The Reading Berks Intergroup meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Two**

“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

Step Two is the rallying point for all of us. Whether agnostic, atheist, or former believer, we can stand together on this Step. True humility and an open mind can lead us to faith, and every A.A. meeting is an assurance that God will restore us to sanity if we rightly relate ourselves to Him.

## **Tradition Two**

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

If the founder and his friends have served well, they may – to their surprise – be reinstated for a time. If, however, they have heavily resisted the rising tide of democracy, they may be summarily beached. In either case, the group now has a so-called rotating committee, very sharply limited in its authority. In no sense whatever can its members govern or direct the group. They are servants. Theirs is the sometimes thankless privilege of doing the group’s chores. Headed by the chairman, they look after public relations and arrange meetings. Their treasurer, strictly accountable, takes money from the hat that is passed, banks it, pays the rent and other bills, and makes a regular report at business meetings. The secretary see that literature is on the table, looks after the phone-answering service, answers the mail, and sends out notices of meetings. Such are the simple services that enable the group to function. The committee gives no spiritual advice, judges no one’s conduct, issues no orders. Every one of them may be promptly eliminated at the next election if they try this. And so they make the belated discovery that they are really servants, not senators. These are universal experiences. Thus throughout A.A. does the group conscience decree the terms upon which its leaders shall serve.

## **Concept Two**

“The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.”

## **2nd Step Prayer**

*Heavenly Father, I am having trouble with personal relationships. I can't control my emotional nature. I am prey to misery and depression. I can't make a living. I feel useless. I am full of fear. I am unhappy. I can't seem to be of real help to others. I know in my heart that only you can restore me to sanity if I am just willing to stop doubting your power. I humbly ask that you help me to understand that it is more powerful to believe than not to believe and that you are either everything or nothing.*

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

8:15 AM Monday - Friday Group  
Alpha Group  
Boyertown AA Groups  
Language Of The Heart  
Nolde Forest Group  
On Awakening Group  
Time To Start Living Group  
Walnut St Recovery Group  
-donation from group with Service no. 717500, GSO no. 103796

*Announcements*

**Come as You Are Group will be hosting a Winter Fellowship Event**

Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>

Food and Fellowship start at 5:30 PM with speaker at 7:00 PM  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 117 E Arch St in Fleetwood PA 19522

**The District 33 District Inventory was canceled due to weather**

Saturday January 6<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM to 2 PM

Look for a new date soon

All will be welcome to attend

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 117 E Arch St, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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
- Plus the most recent info on Area 59 and NERAASA and on GSO and the 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 Spanish Speaking volunteers)**

Please contact Bill M

## ***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.

**For information on commitments, please contact Mark S or visit the 12<sup>th</sup> Step Work Thru RBI section of the RBI website:**

<https://readingberksintergroup.org/12-step-commitments-2/>

(It is under the Member Services section from the main page)

### **Current Active Commitments:**

Haven Behavioral Health, Wernersville, Teen Challenge (Women and Men), Clare of Assisi

(We will be removing the details on commitments from the Alternative due to fact the schedules often change as well as the particulars for access to the facilities. For example, Clare of Assisi is having none this coming month. Mark will provide schedules and the details to the groups that take the commitment in question.)

## 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!

### **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!

### **Women's Courage to Change**

Zoom and In Person

Mondays at 6:30 PM - Hybrid (physical: West Lawn Community Center Building, 103 Woodside 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

### **The Topton Group**

In Person

Tuesdays at 7 PM

Saint Peter Church

122 West Franklin St, Topton PA 19562

Open Discussion / Speaker 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

### **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:*

**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 1<sup>st</sup>, May 27<sup>th</sup>, and September 2<sup>nd</sup> (normally Mondays at 5:30 PM at St. Columbkil Church at 200 Indian Spring Rd, Boyertown PA 19512)

**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, 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, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.**

# D33

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

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

## Word Bank

- |                       |                  |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. newlife            | 2. shoey         | 3. neraasa            | 4. endoftheline    |
| 5. msg                | 6. leesport      | 7. hamburg            | 8. adcm            |
| 9. epsa               | 10. kutztown     | 11. mustardseed       | 12. glenside       |
| 13. blandon           | 14. soberliving  | 15. spiritofrecovery  | 16. liveandletlive |
| 17. timetostartliving | 18. comeasyouare | 19. undergroundgarage |                    |

## *Important Dates in A.A. History*

**February 1, 1918:** Original date set for Bill Wilson's marriage to Lois Burnham. The date was moved up because of the war.

**February 2, 1942:** Bill Wilson paid tribute to Ruth Hock, AA's first paid secretary, who resigned to get married. She had written approximately 15,000 letters to people asking for help.

**February 5, 1941:** Pittsburgh Telegram ran a story on the first AA group's Friday night meeting of a dozen "former hopeless drunks."

**February 8:**

**1940:** Bill W., Dr. Bob, and six other AA's asked 60 rich friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr., for money at the Union Club, NY. They got \$2,000.

**February 10, 1922:** Harold E. Hughes was born on a farm near Ida Grove, Iowa. After his recovery from alcoholism, he became Governor of Iowa, a United States Senator, and the leading dark horse for the Presidential Democratic nomination in 1972, until he announced he would not run. He authored the legislation which created the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and other legislation to help alcoholics and addicts.

**February 11, 1938:** Clarence Snyder ("Home Brewmeister" in 1st, 2nd & 3rd editions) had his last drink.

**February 12, 1945:** World War II paper shortage forced reduction in size of the Big Book.

**February 13, 1940:** With about two years of sobriety, Jim Burwell ("The Vicious Cycle") moved to the Philadelphia area and started the first Philadelphia A.A. group.

**February 14, 1971:** AA groups worldwide held a memorial service for Bill Wilson.

**February 15, 1946:** AA Tribune, Des Moines, IA, reported 36 new members since Marty Mann had been there.

**February 16, 1941:** Baltimore Sunday Sun reported city's first AA group begun in 1940 had grown from 3 to 40 members, with five being women.

**February 18, 1943:** AA's were granted the right to use cars for 12th step work in emergency cases, despite gas rationing.

**February 19, 1967:** Father "John Doe" (Ralph Pfau), 1st Catholic Priest in AA, died.

**February 20, 1941:** The Toledo Blade published first of three articles on AA by Seymour Rothman.

**February 21, 1939:** 400 copies of the Big Book manuscript were sent to doctors, judges, psychiatrists, and others for comment.

**February 22, 1842:** Abe Lincoln addressed the Washington Temperance Society in Springfield, IL.

**February 23, 1959:** AA granted "Recording for the Blind" permission to tape the Big Book.

**February 24, 2002:** Hal Marley, "Dr. Attitude of Gratitude," died. He had 37 years of sobriety. Hal testified, anonymously, before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse on December 3, 1970.

**February 28, 1940:** 1st organization meeting of Philadelphia AA was held at McCready Huston's room at 2209 Delancy Street.