

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

July 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

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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 Seven

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God. The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, then there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problem we could possibly have.

Tradition Seven

“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

Probably no A.A. Tradition had the labor pains this one did. In early times, we were all broke. When you add to this the habitual supposition that people ought to give money to alcoholics trying to stay sober, it can be understood why we thought we deserved a pile of folding money. What great things A.A. would be able to do with it! But oddly enough, people who had money thought otherwise. They figured that it was high time we now-sober-paid our own way. So our Fellowship stayed poor because of it.

Concept Seven

“The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.”

The charter and bylaws of the General Service Board (GSB) are legal documents. The charter of the General Service Conference (GSC) is not. The Trustees have “legal authority,” where the Conference only has “moral authority.”

7th Step Prayer

My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character, which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen.

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

Advent Men's Group
"Alcoholics Anonymous"
Alpha Group
Bernville AA Group
Courage to Change Group
Happy Hour Group
Hilltop Group
"Hjune"
Jacksonwald Group
Saturday Women's Group
Turning Point Group
Women Living Sober

(Address for contributions: Reading-Berks Intergroup, PO Box 12157, Reading PA 19612)

District 33 Thanks the Following Groups for their Contributions and Support:

Leesport Group
Kutztown Thursday / Friday Group
End of the Line Group
Spirit of Recovery

(Address for contributions: D33 Treasurer, PO Box 452, Fleetwood PA 19522)

District 66 Thanks Their Groups for their Support:

(Address for contributions: District 66, PO Box 152, Mohnton PA 19540)

District 67 Thanks Their Groups for their Support:

(Address for contributions: D67 Treasurer, PO Box 73, Birdsboro PA 19508)

Announcements

The Nolde Forest Group is having a Summer Party

Wednesday June 26th

Food and fun start at 6 PM with Speaker meeting at 7 PM

(Be sweet, bring a treat)

One United Church of Christ at 1730 New Holland Rd in Reading PA 19508

Announcements (continued)

Women's Hope with AA is celebrating their 9th Anniversary

Friday June 28th

Open Meeting

Food and fellowship at 7 PM with Speakers at 7:30 PM

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, 1188 Benjamin Franklin Hwy, Douglassville (at the rear of the building)

The Leesport Group is hosting an open Freedom Celebration event

Saturday July 20th

Doors open and Food, Fun, and Fellowship begin at 8 PM with Open Speaker Meeting at 9:30 PM

With some pulled pork and smoked mac & cheese!

Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity at 102 Apple St. in Leesport PA 19533

Freedom From Bondage is Celebrating their 10th Anniversary with a Picnic

Sunday July 21st

Doors open at 3 PM; Dinner at 5:45 PM

Speakers: Rob M (Seattle WA) at 3:30 PM, Sharon B (Seattle WA) at 4:45 PM, and Stephanie K-R (Maine) at 6:30 PM

The Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead at 1700 Tulpehocken Rd in Wyomissing PA 19610

The 8:15 Atonement Group is having a Picnic

Saturday August 24th

11 AM start with speakers at 1:30 PM (Ron S and a mystery speaker!)

Hamburgers, hot dogs, soda, water, and coffee provided. Please bring a favorite covered dish or desert.

Funs and games including a CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT starting at 12:30 PM.

Bring a chair.

Maidencreek Community Park at 753 Park Rd in Blandon PA (turn left at Lords and Ladies)

The Happy Hour Group is having a Picnic

Saturday August 24th

12 noon to 5 PM with Speaker at 4 PM

Please bring a covered dish

Mohnton Playground

Wilshire Fellowship's 2024 Annual Summer Picnic

Saturday September 14th

Food & Fellowship 3 PM to 6 PM with Speaker from 6 PM to 7 PM

Hotdogs, hamburgers, soda, and water provided. Feel free to bring covered dishes or desserts.

Bring a chair. Games will be available.

At the pavilions behind Gouglersville Fire Company at 475 Mohns Hill Rd in Reading PA 19608
(They will NOT hold their regular meeting at St. Peters on September 14th)

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**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:

- OLD COPIES OF THE ALTERNATIVE going back 2 and even 3 decades!
  - 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

***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 Hotline (especially female Spanish Speaking volunteers)**

Please contact Bill M

**“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*

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



## **Current Active Commitments:**

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

NOTICE: Unfortunately, Clare of Assisi has closed

You can also access information for Institution Commitments as well as Prison Commitments on the RBI 12<sup>th</sup> 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 at 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:

**Come and check out a NEW campfire meeting: Rising Phoenix AA Campfire Meeting** starts June 22, 2024 (Saturdays 9 PM. Location CP Tactical 2 Caramist Drive in Sinking Spring PA 19608. Meeting will be behind the main building. Please park in the parking lot and bring a chair or blanket. Closest bathroom will be the Redner's Quick Stop.)

**The Hilltop Group** will not hold a meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup> due to the church being unavailable. (Tuesdays at 6:30 PM at The Bridge (in basement) at 902 Philadelphia Ave in Reading PA 19607)

**"The Tribe"** virtual meeting is now meeting only Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays effective the last week in April. Wednesdays are speaker meetings, Fridays are Big Book meetings, and Saturdays will be Daily Reflection meetings. (ZOOM ID 370705063; PW 364095)

**Women's Courage to Change** has a new location as of May 6<sup>th</sup>. They are now meeting at St. John's Lutheran Church at 4125 Penn Ave in Sinking Spring, PA 19608. (Mondays at 6:30 PM, both in-Person and Online; ZOOM Meeting ID: 357 377 581, PW 756726)

**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 next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.**

# Summer Sober Fun

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

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

## Word Bank

- |                  |                |                 |                  |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. volleyball    | 2. golf        | 3. untypicnic   | 4. concerts      |
| 5. baseball      | 6. memorialday | 7. lawndarts    | 8. innertube     |
| 9. boat          | 10. tent       | 11. towel       | 12. fourthofjuly |
| 13. motorcycling | 14. laborday   | 15. sun         | 16. waves        |
| 17. waterskiing  | 18. bicycling  | 19. vacation    | 20. waterpark    |
| 21. cornhole     | 22. beach      | 23. swimming    | 24. fishing      |
| 25. bonfire      | 26. camping    | 27. foundersday | 28. poolparty    |
| 29. cookout      | 30. basketball |                 |                  |



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

**July 1-3, 1960** - 8700 attend 25th Anniversary of AA in Long Beach, CA

### **July 2**

**1965** - Best of Bill and Pocket-Sized 12 and 12 1st sold

**1993** - 50 years of AA celebrated in Canada

**2000** - 20 Millionth Big Book given to Al-Anon in Minneapolis

**July 2-3, 1955** - Bill W turns "the fellowship over to the fellowship" at 4:00 PM, 5000 attend 20th Anniversary at our St Louis Convention

**July 2-4, 1965** - 10,000 attend 30th Anniversary of AA in Toronto. There we came to own our Responsibility Declaration

**July 4, 1939** - 1st AA meeting started in Flatbush, NY

**July 3-5, 1970** - 10,900 attend 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami. Bill W gave his last talk to AA

**July 3-6, 1980** - 22,500 attend 45th Anniversary of AA in New Orleans First true marathon meeting was held here

**July 4, 1999** - He who has a fifth on the fourth may not come forth on the fifth...

**July 4-6, 1975** - 19,800 attend 40th Anniversary of AA in Denver Worlds largest coffee server serves 1/2 million cups a day

### **July 5:**

**1985** - AA gives Ruth Hock 5,000,000th Big Book during 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal, Canada

**1990** - AA gives Nell Wing 10,000,000th Big Book during 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle, WA

**July 3-6, 1980** - Gay AA's have own program at 40th AA Anniversary in New Orleans

**July 5-7, 1985** - 45,000 attend 50th Anniversary of AA in Montreal. House of Seagrams flew their flags at half mast for 3 days

**July 7, 1940** - Bill attends 1st Summer Session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University

**July 5-8, 1990** - 48,000 attend 55th Anniversary of AA in Seattle. 75 countries were represented as the former Soviet Unions members attended for the first time

**July 8, 1940** - 1st AA Group formed in Dayton, Ohio

**July 10, 1941** - Texas newspaper publishes anonymous letter from founding member of Texas AA Group

**July 20, 1941** - First AA group formed in Seattle, Washington

### **July 22:**

**1877** - William Duncan Silkworth born in Brooklyn, NY

**1980** - Marty M. early AA woman and founder of NCADD dies

### **July 23:**

**1940** - Philly AA's send 10% of kitty to Alcoholic Foundation, sets precedent

**1943** - Esther C., passed Jan 15, 2005, sober since July 23, 1943.

**July 24, 1943** - L.A. press reports formation of all-Mexican AA Group

**July 28-30, 1950** - 1st AA Convention celebrates 15th anniversary of AA in Cleveland