

# The Alternative

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

June 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**

---

### INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

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

*“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”*

Since most of us are born with an abundance of natural desires, it isn't strange that we often let these far exceed their intended purpose. When they drive us blindly, or we willfully demand that they supply us with more satisfactions or pleasures than are possible or due us, that is the point at which we depart from the degree of perfection that God wishes for us here on earth. That is the measure of our character defects, or, if you wish, of our sins.

If we ask, God will certainly forgive our derelictions. But in no case does He render us white as snow and keep us that way without our cooperation. That is something we are supposed to be willing to work toward ourselves. He asks only that we try as best we know how to make progress in the building of character.

## Tradition Six

*“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”*

We tried A.A. hospitals—they all bogged down because you cannot put an A.A. group into business; too many busybody cooks spoil the broth. A.A. groups had their fling at education, and when they began to publicly whoop up the merits of this or that brand, people became confused. Did A.A. fix drunks or was it an educational project? Was A.A. spiritual or was it medical? Was it a reform movement? In consternation, we saw ourselves getting married to all kinds of enterprises, some good and some not so good. Watching alcoholics committed willy-nilly to prisons or asylums, we began to cry, “There oughtta be a law!” A.A.'s commenced to thump tables in legislative committee rooms and agitated for legal reform. That made good newspaper copy, but little else. We saw we'd soon be mired in politics, Even inside A.A. we found it imperative to remove the A.A. name from clubs and Twelfth Step houses.

These adventures implanted a deep-rooted conviction that in no circumstances could we endorse any related enterprise, no matter how good. We of Alcoholics Anonymous could not be all things to all men, nor should we try.

## Concept Six

*“On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.”*

## 6th Step Prayer

*God, thank you for removing my fear and for showing me the truth about myself. I need your help to become willing to let go of the things in me which continue to block me off from you. Please grant me your grace and remove these objectionable characteristics, defects and shortcomings from me. Amen.*

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

8:15 AM Monday to Friday Group  
Boyertown AA Groups  
Congo  
Great Fact Group  
Kutztown Friday Night Group  
Leesport Group  
Teathyme Group of AA  
Turning Point Group  
Twin Valley Group AA  
Walk The Walk  
Walnut Street Recovery Group  
YASNY Group

(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

(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 Springview Group is having their 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>

7 PM to 9 PM; Speakers: Nicole B & Avery R

(Serving the Best Coffee in Berks County)

St. John's Lutheran Church at 4125 Penn Ave, Sinking Spring PA

## *Announcements (continued)*

### **The Underground Garage Group is having a Pancake Breakfast**

Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>

\$5 per person

Pancakes \* Sausages \* Eggs \* Coffee \* Jucie

Speaker at 10:30 AM with games at 11:30 AM

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church at 550 Fleetwood Rd, Bowers PA 19511

### **The Boyertown Inn Group is having their 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Picnic**

Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup>

Begins 1 PM with Speaker at 4 PM

Fellowship and Fun, Games for all ages, and award-winning BBQ by Mark H, PaPa Smokin' Again

First Pavilion at the Boyertown Community Park on Madison Ave

~~~~~

### **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

# *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.

## **NOTICE: Unfortunately, Clare of Assisi has closed**

**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 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!

## Meetings in Need of Support (continued)

### **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

### **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 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)

**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 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, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.**

# D67 Puzzle

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

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

## Word Bank

- |                      |                   |                 |                 |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. justfortoday      | 2. friendsofbillw | 3. teathyme     | 4. oley         |
| 5. yasny             | 6. gsr            | 7. walnutst     | 8. loth         |
| 9. twinvalley        | 10. gso           | 11. fridaynight | 12. rbi         |
| 13. boyertown        | 14. congo         | 15. brownbag    | 16. gibraltar   |
| 17. birdsboro        | 18. womenshope    | 19. jacksonwald | 20. frenchcreek |
| 21. offthebeatenpath | 22. newmillenium  |                 |                 |

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

**June 1, 1949** - Anne Smith, Dr. Bob's wife, died.

**June 4, 2002**- Caroline Knapp, author of "Drinking: A Love Story" died sober of lung cancer.

**June 5, 1940** - Ebby Thatcher took a job at the NY Worlds Fair.

### **June 6:**

**1940** - The first AA Group in Richmond, VA, was formed.

**1979** - AA gave the two-millionth copy of the Big Book to Joseph Califano, then Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. It was presented by Lois Wilson, Bill's wife, in New York.

### **June 7:**

**1939** - Bill and Lois Wilson had an argument, the first of two times Bill almost slipped.

**1941** - The first AA Group in St. Paul, Minnesota, was formed.

**June 8, 1941** - Three AA's started a group in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**June 10, 1935** - The date that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding date of AA. There is some evidence that the founders, in trying to reconstruct the history, got the date wrong and it was actually June 17.

**June 11, 1945** - Twenty-five hundred attend AA's 10th Anniversary in Cleveland, Ohio.

**June 13, 1945** - Morgan R. gave a radio appearance for AA with large audience. He was kept under surveillance to make sure he didn't drink.

**June 15, 1940** - First AA Group in Baltimore, MD, was formed.

**June 16, 1938** - Jim Burwell, "The Vicious Cycle" in Big Book, had his last drink.

**June 17, 1942** - New York AA groups sponsored the first annual NY area meeting. Four hundred and twenty-four heard Dr. Silkworth and AA speakers.

**June 18, 1940** - One hundred attended the first meeting in the first AA clubhouse at 334-1/2 West 24th St., New York City.

**June 19, 1942** - Columnist Earl Wilson reported that NYC Police Chief Valentine sent six policemen to AA and they sobered up. "There are fewer suicides in my files," he commented.

**June 21, 1944** - The first Issue of the AA Grapevine was published.

**June 24, 1938** - Two Rockefeller associates told the press about the Big Book "Not to bear any author's name but to be by 'Alcoholics Anonymous.'"

**June 25, 1939** - The New York Times reviewer wrote that the Big Book is "more soundly based psychologically than any other treatment I have ever come upon."

**June 26, 1935** - Bill Dotson. (AA #3) entered Akron's City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.

**June 28, 1935** - Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson visited Bill Dotson at Akron's City Hospital.

### **June 30:**

**1941** - Ruth Hock showed Bill Wilson the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.

**2000** - More than 47,000 from 87 countries attended the opening meeting of the 65th AA Anniversary in Minneapolis, MN.