

# The Alternative

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter March 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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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 Three**

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him.”

Step Three calls for affirmative action, for it is only by action that we can cut away the self-will which has always blocked the entry of God – or, if you like, a Higher Power – into our lives.

## **Tradition Three**

“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

This Tradition is packed with meaning. For A.A. is really saying to every serious drinker, “You are an A.A. member if *you* say so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out. No matter who you are, no matter how low you’ve gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications – even your crimes – we still can’t deny you A.A. We don’t *want* to keep you out. We aren’t a bit afraid you’ll harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be. We just want to be sure that you get the same great chance for sobriety that we’ve had. So you’re an A.A. member the minute you declare yourself.”

## **Concept Three**

To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

## **Third Step Prayer**

*God, I offer myself to thee—to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always. Amen.*

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

Bernville AA Group  
Bottom of the Barrel Group  
Coffee & Donuts Strausstown  
French Creek Group of AA  
Happy Hour Group  
Turning Point Group  
Underground Garage Group  
Walnut St Recovery Group  
Women Living Sober

*Announcements*

**Sober at Six Thirty is celebrating their 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup>

6 PM – Coffee and Cupcakes; 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM – Speaker meeting; Fun and Fellowship to follow  
St. Paul's UCC Church in the Christian Education Building at 235 W 2nd St, Birdsboro PA 19508

**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



**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
- 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*

### **Intergroup is looking for an Archives Representative**

Are You Looking to do some Service Work in 2024? Or, know a history buff in your home group?

### **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*

### **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)

## *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 (NOTE New Name, formerly the Blandon Group)**

In Person

Tuesdays at 7:30 PM and 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

## *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:*

**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)

**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, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.**

# D66 Puzzle

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

Rectangular 30x17

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

## Word Bank

- |                    |                      |                 |                    |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. greatfact       | 2. hilltop           | 3. adcm         | 4. alpha           |
| 5. robesonia       | 6. menstlc           | 7. agsr         | 8. bernville       |
| 9. turningpoint    | 10. afreshstart      | 11. happyhour   | 12. onawakening    |
| 13. wyomissing     | 14. springview       | 15. wilshire    | 16. adventmens     |
| 17. eightfifteen   | 18. noldeforest      | 19. walkthewalk | 20. coffeanddonuts |
| 21. booksandpeople | 22. womenlivingsober |                 |                    |

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

- March 1, 1941:** Saturday Evening Post article by Jack Alexander created national sensation. AA membership quadrupled in one year from 2000 to 8000.
- March 3, 1947:** Nell Wing, Bill's secretary and first archivist of AA, began her career at Alcoholic Foundation Office at 415 Lexington Avenue.
- March 4, 1891:** Lois Wilson was born.
- March 5, 1945:** Time Magazine reported Detroit radio broadcasts of AA members.
- March 7, 1940:** Bill and Lois visited the Philadelphia AA group.
- March 9, 1941:** Wichita Beacon reported AA member from NY who wanted to form a group in Wichita, Kansas.
- March 10, 1944:** New York Intergroup was established.
- March 11, 1947:** A Priest in St. Paul, Minnesota, founded Calix International. Alcoholics in his parish met after Saturday morning Mass to discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday and how their faith melded with the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- March 12, 1940:** Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's boyhood friend and sponsor, was reported sober again.
- March 14, 1941:** South Orange, NJ, AA held an anniversary dinner at the Hotel Suburban with Bill Wilson as the guest speaker.
- March 15, 1941:** 1st AA group was formed in New Haven, Connecticut.
- March 16, 1940:** Bill moved the Alcoholic Foundation office to 30 Vesey St., NY. (30 Vesey St., NY, was almost destroyed on September 11, 2001.)
- March 18, 1951:** Cliff W. was elected 1st delegate from Southern California.
- March 21, 1966:** Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's sponsor, died sober.
- March 22, 1951:** Dr. William Duncan Silkworth died at Towns Hospital.
- March 23, 1941:** Sybil C.'s sobriety date. She was the first woman to enter AA west of the Mississippi.
- March 25:**  
**1898:** Jim B. ("The Vicious Cycle") was born  
**1965:** Richmond Walker, author of "Twenty-Four Hours a Day" book, died at age 72, almost 23 years sober.  
**2005:** Nancy Olson, Founder of AAHL- See Memorial at: <http://hindsfoot.org/nomem1.htm>
- March 29, 1943:** The Charleston Mail, WV, reported that Bill Wilson had given a talk at St. John's Parish House.
- March 31, 1947:** 1st AA group was formed in London, England. .