

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

May 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 Five

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

If we have swept the searchlight of Step Four back and forth over our careers, and it has revealed in stark relief those experiences we'd rather not remember, if we have come to know how wrong thinking and action have hurt us and others, then the need to quit living by ourselves with those tormenting ghosts of yesterday gets more urgent than ever. We have to talk to somebody about them.

Until we actually sit down and talk aloud about what we have so long hidden, our willingness to clean house is still largely theoretical. When we are honest with another person, it confirms that we have been honest with ourselves and with God.

Tradition Five

“Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers”

Just as firmly bound by obligation are the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who have demonstrated that they can help problem drinkers as others seldom can. The unique ability of each A.A. to identify himself with, and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and of recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates A.A.'s all around the globe.

There is another reason for this singleness of purpose. It is the great paradox of A.A. that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless we give it away.

Concept Five

“Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.”

Every member of A.A.'s world service structure has the right to state a minority opinion when they feel the majority has crossed over to the dark side. We have to recognize that there are times when the minority can be right and it is our responsibility to listen to their petition. We have seen many examples where a well stated and well-crafted minority opinion can change the outcome entirely. In the spirit of democracy, allowing the minority opinion to be heard is vital to the unity we profess we must have in Tradition 1. Being able to balance the right of appeal with majority decision ensures we will never be subjected to the tyranny of either the majority or the minority.

5th Step Prayer

God, please remove my fear and help me to be completely honest in what I am about to do. Please give me the courage, faith and strength I need to share with this person my whole truth, especially the things I swore I'd take with me to the grave. Amen

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

Oley Group

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

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

Topton Group, Spirit of Recovery, Leesport 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

District 33 has rescheduled their District Inventory

Saturday April 27th

11 AM to 2 PM

All members of Alcoholics Anonymous are welcome to attend.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 117 E Arch St in Fleetwood PA 19522

The Leesport Group is Celebrating Their 42nd Anniversary

Saturday May 18th

Food, Fun, and Fellowship start at 8 PM

Open Speaker meeting from 9:30 PM to 10:30 PM

102 Apple Street, Leesport PA

The Come As You Are Group is hosting a Summer Kickoff Picnic

Sunday May 26th

Food, Fun, and Fellowship start at 3 PM with Speaker at 5 PM; Bring a dish
Pavilion 1, Fleetwood Park on Main Street in Fleetwood PA

(This day ONLY there WILL NOT be a 7 PM meeting at the church)

Announcements (continued)

The Springview Group is having their 53rd Anniversary Celebration

Sunday June 9th

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

The Boyertown Inn Group is having their 33rd Anniversary Picnic

Saturday June 22nd

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 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:

- 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 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 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)

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)

The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday, May 28th, 2024 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.

May Flowers Word Search

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

1. pilgrims 2. peonies 3. iris 4. poppies 5. geranium 6. lilyofthevalley 7. tulips
8. miniassembly 9. area59delegate 10. gscresults 11. trustgod 12. cleanhouse
13. helpothers 14. twelve 15. steps 16. traditions 17. concepts 18. unity
19. recovery 20. service 21. inventory 22. members 23. groups 24. meetings
25. intergroup 26. district 27. area 28. region 29. generalserviceboard
30. generalserviceconference 31. plantyourgarden 32. flowers 33. annual 34. perennial
35. prune 36. fertilizer 37. weed 38. plant

Important Dates in A.A. History

May 1:

1939 - Lois and Bill Wilson left their home at 182 Clinton St., Brooklyn.

1941 - First Wisconsin AA meeting was held in a Milwaukee hotel.

May 2:

1941 - Jacksonville, FL, newspaper reported start of a new AA group.

1941 - First meeting was held in San Bernardino, California.

1941 - The first AA group in New Orleans, Louisiana, was formed.

May 4, 1946 - Marty Mann explained Alcoholics Anonymous and the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism on the "We the People" radio show.

May 5, 1940 - Washington, DC, Sunday Star reported formation of first AA group in the D.C..

May 6:

1939 - Clarence S of Cleveland told Dr. Bob, his sponsor, he would not be back to Oxford Group meetings in Akron and would start an "AA" meeting in Cleveland.

1946 - The long form of the "Twelve Traditions" was published in the AA Grapevine.

May 7, 1956 - The first English AA Convention was held in Cheltenham, England.

May 8:

1943 - Akron AA group had its 8th anniversary celebration with 500 present and sober.

1971 - Bill Wilson was buried in private ceremony, East Dorset, Vermont.

May 11, 1939 - First group to officially call itself Alcoholics Anonymous met at Abby G's house in Cleveland.

May 12, 1935 - Mothers' Day - Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith met for the first time in Akron, Ohio, at the home of Henrietta Seiberling.

May 14:

1948 - Long Beach, California. Central Office was opened.

1998 - Sybil C., first woman to enter A.A. west of the Mississippi, died. Her date of sobriety was March 23, 1941. Her name at the time was Sybil Maxwell, though she later opened her talks by saying, "My name is Sybil Doris Adams Stratton Hart Maxwell Willis C., and I'm an alcoholic."

May 16, 1941 - Ruth Hock learned that Joe W. (credited with coming up with the name Alcoholics Anonymous) had a "wet brain."

May 19, 2000 - Dr. Paul Ohliger died at the age of 83. His story, "Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict," was retitled "Acceptance Was the Answer," in the 4th edition.

May 22, 1948 - Atlantic City Group celebrated its second anniversary with Dr. C. Nelson Davis of St. Luke's Hospital, Philadelphia, and other A.A.s speaking.

May 28, 1974 - The first World Service meeting of AA outside of America was held in London.

May 31, 1938 - Bill and other AA's began writing the Big Book.