

# The Alternative

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

November 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 Eleven**

*“Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.”*

We ask simply that throughout the day God place in us the best understanding of His will that we can have for that day, and that we be given the grace by which we may carry it out.

As the day goes on, we can pause where situations must be met and decisions made, and renew the simple request “Thy will, not mine, be done.” If at these points our emotional disturbance happens to be great, we will more surely keep our balance, provided we remember, and repeat to ourselves, a particular prayer or phrase that has appealed to us in our reading or meditation. Just saying it over and over will often enable us to clear a channel choked up with anger, fear, frustration, or misunderstanding, and permit us to return to the surest help of all—our search for God’s will, not our own, in the moment of stress. At these critical moments, if we remind ourselves that “it is better to comfort than to be comforted, to understand that to be understood, to love than to be loved,” we will be following the intent of Step Eleven.

## **Tradition Eleven**

*“Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.”*

This Tradition is a constant and practical reminder that personal ambition has no place in A.A. In it, each member becomes an active guardian of our Fellowship.

## **Concept Eleven**

*“The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern..”*

The Trustees Cannot Do It Alone. The success of our Trustees relies heavily on those they work with to get the job done. Whether it is Non-Trustee Committee Members, Our Corporation’s Directors (A.A. World Services, Inc. / A.A. Grapevine, Inc.), Executives or Staff Members at the General Service Office (GSO), our Board of Trustees needs a strong dedication and quality of work to fulfill the actions given them by A.A. Groups (via the General Service Conference) in the U.S. and Canada.

## **Prayer of Saint Francis**

*Lord, make me a channel of thy peace; that where there is hatred, I may bring love; that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness; that where there is discord, I may bring harmony; that where there is error, I may bring truth; that where there is doubt, I may bring faith; that where there is despair, I may bring hope; that where there are shadows, I may bring light; that where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted; to understand, than to be understood; to love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life. Amen.*

**Reading-Berks Intergroup Thanks Their Groups for their Support:**

Underground Garage  
8:15 Monday to Friday Group  
YASNY  
Bernville AA Group  
Happy Hour  
Walk the Walk  
Steven Groff

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

**District 33 Thanks Their Groups for their Support:**

(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)

**“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

# *Announcements*

## **Reading Berks Intergroup Elections are in November**

November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607

A lot of current trusted servants are rotating off and multiple positions will be open

## **67th Annual Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Convention & Assembly (EPGSA)**

November 8<sup>th</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

This is a voting year, please register before November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Wyndham Lancaster Resort & Convention Center

2300 Lincoln Highway Hwy E., Lancaster PA 17602

## **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

# *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)

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!

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## Recent Meeting Updates and Changes:

**Come and check out a NEW campfire meeting: Rising Phoenix AA Campfire Meeting** started 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 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)

**The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.**

# Fall Into Recovery

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

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

## Word Bank

- |                 |                   |                |                 |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. gsr          | 2. assembly       | 3. grapevine   | 4. unity        |
| 5. twelfthstep  | 6. committees     | 7. structure   | 8. dcm          |
| 9. epgsa        | 10. archives      | 11. btg        | 12. recovery    |
| 13. meetings    | 14. voting        | 15. cpc        | 16. service     |
| 17. finance     | 18. delegate      | 19. panels     | 20. concepts    |
| 21. areaofficer | 22. accessibility | 23. workshop   | 24. digitalcomm |
| 25. corrections | 26. treatment     | 27. convention | 28. traditions  |
| 29. publicinfo  |                   |                |                 |

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

November 1:

1947 - 1st AA Group in Anchorage, Alaska

1963 - Reverend Sam Shoemaker dies

November 3, 2001 - J.P. Miller, wrote screenplay for "The Days of Wine and Roses" died

November 9, 1966 - President Johnson appoints Marty M to the 1st National Advisory Committee on Alcoholism

November 10:

1940 - 1st AA group formed in Minneapolis

2001 - 1st of 400,000 4th Edition Big Books arrives in the mail

November 11, 1934 - Bill W's final drunk begins on Veterans Day and lasts about a month

November 12, 1940 - 1st AA meeting is held in Boston

November 13, 1939 - Bill wants to go back to work, NY drunks want him to stay on as head of the movement

November 14, 1940 - Alcoholic Foundation publishes 1st AA Bulletin

November 15, 1949 - Bill W suggests that groups devote Thanksgiving week to discussions of the 12 Traditions

November 16, 1950 - Dr Bob S dies in Akron, Ohio

November 18, 1946 - 1st Dublin Ireland group met.

November 21:

1939 - AA's in San Francisco hold 1st California AA meeting in the Clift Hotel -

1952 - Willard Richardson, past Treasurer/Chairman of Alcoholic Foundation, dies

November 26:

1895 - William Griffith W. born, East Dorset, VT

1939 - Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups

November 28

1934 - Ebby T. carries message to Bill.

1937 - Bill and Dr. Bob compare notes in Akron. Count forty cases staying sober. Meeting of the Akron Group to consider Bill's ideas for how to expand the movement ... a book, AA hospitals, paid missionaries. Passed by a majority of 2.

1939 - Akron group withdrawals from Oxford Group. Meetings moved to Dr Bob and other members homes.

1939 - Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups.

1943 - Bill guest speaker San Quentin Penitentiary. (sometimes dated Dec 2, 1943)