

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

April 2025

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 Four

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

The testimony of A.A.’s who have really tried a moral inventory is that pride and fear of this sort turn out to be bogeymen, nothing else. Once we have a complete willingness to take inventory, and exert ourselves to do the job thoroughly, a wonderful light falls upon this foggy scene. As we persist, a brand-new kind of confidence” is born, and the sense of relief at finally facing ourselves is indescribable. These are the first fruits of Step Four.

Tradition Four

“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole”

“Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.”

This meant, of course, that we had been given the courage to declare each A.A. group an individual entity, strictly reliant on its own conscience as a guide to action. In charting this enormous expanse of freedom, we found it necessary to post only two storm signals: A group ought not do anything which would greatly injure A.A. as a whole, not ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. Sobriety had to be its sole objective.

Concept Four

“At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional ‘Right of Participation,’ allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.”

This Concept basically tells us that our trusted servants should have a right to vote and debate and discuss equal to the job they perform. This idea of “participation” can usually stop the misapplication or misuse of final authority, while reminding us at the same time that the “spiritual corporation” of A.A. should never include any members who are regarded as “second class.”

4th Step Prayer

God, please help me show those I resent the same tolerance, pity and patience that I would cheerfully grant a sick friend. Help me to see that this is a sick man. Father, please show me how I can be helpful to him and save me from being angry. Lord, help me to avoid retaliation or argument. I know I can’t be helpful to all people, but at least show me how to take a kindly and tolerant view of each and every one. Thy will be done. Amen.

Reading-Berks Intergroup Thanks Their Groups for their Support:

Advent Men's Group
Boyertown
Come As You Are
Frog Pond
Language of the Heart
Leesport Group
Oley Group & The 24 Hour a Day Group
Reinert/Dengler
Springview
Topton Group
Underground Garage
YASNY

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

District 33 Thanks Their Groups for their Support:

Leesport Group
Topton Group
Underground Garage

(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 67 is hosting the Area's Pre-Conference Sharing Session

April 12th

St Paul's United Church of Christ at 1979 Weavertown Road in Douglasville PA 19518

The Clubhouse Spring Dance

\$5 at door on April 12th at 9:30 PM

645 Walnut St in Reading 19601

***NEW MEETING* Reading Young People Meeting**

For both young people and the young at heart

Thursdays at 7 PM

RISE Center at 702 N 8th St in Reading PA 19604

POSTPONEMENT - New Life Speakers Meeting Anniversary Party

The New Life Speakers Meeting Anniversary Spring Fling which had been scheduled for March 21 has been postponed until further notice.

"Alternative Advertisements"

All A.A. Events, Notifications, Announcements and/or Testimonies are Welcome!

Please email all requests to: Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed for the Prisons Commitment (especially Women's)

Please contact Robbie K (Men's) or Lorraine W (Women's)

Volunteers needed for Bridging the Gap (especially northern Berks County)

Please contact Chris O or 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 Trent B

"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 12th Step Work webpage which is under the Member Services page from the main page of Reading Berks Intergroup.

Recent Meeting Updates and Changes:

Turning Point (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays Noon to 1 PM) **now meeting at Bausman Memorial UCC at 1064 Penn Ave in Wyomissing, PA 19610**

New Life Speakers Group (Fridays 8 PM to 9 PM) **now meeting at West Wyomissing Chapel at 2055 Reading Blvd in West Lawn PA 19609**

The 8:15 AM Group now meeting at Kissinger's Lutheran Church at 715 Berkshire Blvd in Wyomissing PA 19610. (Saturday meetings will continue to meet at Kissinger's and Sunday meetings will continue to meet at EDI Leesport.)

Walk the Walk (Tuesdays 5:45 PM to 6:45 PM) **now meeting at Shillington Church of Christ at 475 Philadelphia Ave (Route 724) in Shillington PA 19607.**

The Wyomissing Group (Thursdays 8 PM to 9 PM) **now meeting at Advent Luthern Church at 16 Telford Ave in West Lawn PA 19609.**

The Nolde Forrest Group has new meeting formats beginning January 1st, 2025. (Wednesdays 7 PM to 8 PM at One United Church of Christ at 1730 New Holland Road in Kenhorst PA 19607.) 1st Wednesday of month is Step Meeting, 2nd Wed. Discussion Meeting, 3rd Wed. Tradition Meeting, 4th Wed. Big Book Study, and 5th Wed. (if applicable) Chairman's Choice (Speaker, Discussion, Other)

"The Tribe" virtual meeting meets Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Wednesdays are speaker meetings, Fridays are Big Book meetings, and Saturdays will be Daily Reflection meetings. (ZOOM ID 370705063; PW 364095)

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, April 22nd, 2025 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.

Visit the Reading Berks Intergroup page (<https://readingberksintergroup.org/>)

Links for activities around our area and beyond

- Printable schedules in 2 different sizes
- AA Hotline tear-off forms for all members to print, use, and distribute
- The Contributions page which lists the most up-to-date addresses for Area and GSO
- The most recent info on Area 59 and on GSO and the General Service Conference
- Link to “We” in both English and Spanish (Your Area 59 quarterly newsletter)
- Information and links for the Grapevine App for your smart phone as well as the Grapevine Podcast
 - Updated and latest version of the RBI Structure Manual

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!

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!

Important Dates in A.A. History

April 1:

1939: Alcoholics Anonymous AA's Big Book was published.

1940: Larry J. of Houston, wrote "The Texas Prayer", used to open AA meetings in Texas.

1966: Sister Ignatia died at the age of 77. She worked with Dr. Bob in treating many early AA members at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron.

1970: GSO moved to 468 Park Ave. South, NYC.

1984: 12 Coconuts Group, Kapiolani Park, Waikiki, Hawaii, was founded.

April 3:

1941: First Florida AA meeting was held.

1960: Fr. Ed Dowling, S.J., died. He was Bill W's "spiritual sponsor."

April 4, 1960 - The Chicago Daily News reported that Fr. Edward Dowling, Jesuit Priest who helped start the first AA group in St. Louis, had died at age 62.

April 7, 1941 - Ruth Hock reported there were 1,500 letters asking for help, as a result of the Saturday Evening Post Article by Jack Alexander.

April 10, 1939 - The first 10 copies of the Big Book arrived at the office Bill shared with Hank Parkhurst in Newark, New Jersey.

April 11, 1938 - Alcoholic Foundation held its first meeting.

April 12, 1942 - The Windsor Daily Star in Ontario, Canada, reported that over 400 AA's attended a testimonial dinner for Dr. Bob.

April 16:

1940: A sober Rollie Helmsley caught the only opening day no-hitter in baseball history since 1909.

1973: Dr Jack Norris Chairman of the AA General Service Board presented President Richard Nixon with the one-millionth copy of the Big Book at the White House.

2005: Nancy Flynn (Independent Blond died in Kennett Square PA)

April 17, 1941 - 2nd group in Los Angeles, the "Hole in the Ground Group" was formed.

April 19, 1940 - First AA group in Little Rock, Arkansas, was formed.

April 22, 1940 - Bill Wilson transferred his Works Publishing Stock to the Alcoholic Foundation.

April 23, 1940 - Dr. Bob wrote the Trustees to refuse Big Book royalties, but Bill Wilson insisted on them for Dr. Bob and Anne.

April 25, 1951 - AA's first General Service Conference was held.

April 26, 1939 - Bill & Lois Wilson moved in with Hank Parkhurst after the bank foreclosed on 182 Clinton St. This was the first of over 50 moves before they acquired Stepping Stones.

April 30, 1989 - The film "My Name is Bill W.," a Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation, was broadcast at 9 p.m. on ABC TV.