

# *The Alternative*

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

March 2025

[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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### INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

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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.”*

## **3rd 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.*

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

Alpha Group  
Bernville Group  
Courage to Change  
Hilltop Group  
Leesport Group  
On Awakening  
Time to Start Living  
Twin Valley Group  
Walk the Walk  
Wilshire Fellowship  
-  
Come As You Are  
Congo Group  
Bottom of the Barrel  
Great Fact  
Just For Today  
Turning Point  
Women Living Sober

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

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

Bottom of the Barrel Group  
Kutztown Friday Night Group  
Leesport Group  
Time to Start Living

(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*

### **\*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

### **District 67 is hosting the Area's Pre-Conference Sharing Session**

April 12<sup>th</sup>  
St Paul's United Church of Christ at 1979 Weavertown Road in Douglasville PA 19518

### **"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)

## *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 12<sup>th</sup> Step Work webpage which is under the Member Services page from the main page of Reading Berks Intergroup.

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

Plenty to check out:

- 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

## **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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.**

## *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

### **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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## *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.