

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

May 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

INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

Gregg G.	Intergroup Chair	Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Mike L.	Intergroup Alternate Chair	Alt-Chair@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Zach L.	Intergroup Secretary	Secretary@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Kay L.	Intergroup Treasurer	Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Mark S.	Institutions Servant	Institutions@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Trent B.	Hotline Servant	Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Tim M.	Schedules Servant	Schedules@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Sam D.	Website Servant	Website@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Bob P.	Archives Servant	Archives@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Bill C.	Literature Servant	Literature@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
George "Stu" S.	"The Alternative" Chair	Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Matt K.	Unity Chair	Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Robby K.	Men's Corrections Chair	MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Lorraine W.	Women's Corrections Chair	WomensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Chris O.	Bridging The Gap Chair	BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Tim M.	Visitation Chair	Visitation@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Larry M.	CPC and Public Information Chair	PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Intergroup	General Contact	Info@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

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.

Reading-Berks Intergroup Thanks Their Groups for their Support:

Leesport Group
Turning Point

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

District 33 Thanks Their Groups for their Support:

End of the Line 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

***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 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, May 27th, 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

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
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 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

Meetings in Need of Support

The Gibraltar Group

Fridays at 7 PM

St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church
1035 Old River Rd, Birdsboro PA 19508

Mustard Seed Group

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

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

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

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

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

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.