

# *The Alternative*

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

June 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 Six**

***“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”***

Since most of us are born with an abundance of natural desires, it isn't strange that we often let these far exceed their intended purpose. When they drive us blindly, or we willfully demand that they supply us with more satisfactions or pleasures than are possible or due us, that is the point at which we depart from the degree of perfection that God wishes for us here on earth. That is the measure of our character defects, or, if you wish, of our sins.

If we ask, God will certainly forgive our derelictions. But in no case does He render us white as snow and keep us that way without our cooperation. That is something we are supposed to be willing to work toward ourselves. He asks only that we try as best we know how to make progress in the building of character.

## **Tradition Six**

***“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”***

We tried A.A. hospitals—they all bogged down because you cannot put an A.A. group into business; too many busybody cooks spoil the broth. A.A. groups had their fling at education, and when they began to publicly whoop up the merits of this or that brand, people became confused. Did A.A. fix drunks or was it an educational project? Was A.A. spiritual or was it medical? Was it a reform movement? In consternation, we saw ourselves getting married to all kinds of enterprises, some good and some not so good. Watching alcoholics committed willy-nilly to prisons or asylums, we began to cry, “There oughtta be a law!” A.A.'s commenced to thump tables in legislative committee rooms and agitated for legal reform. That made good newspaper copy, but little else. We saw we'd soon be mired in politics. Even inside A.A. we found it imperative to remove the A.A. name from clubs and Twelfth Step houses.

These adventures implanted a deep-rooted conviction that in no circumstances could we endorse any related enterprise, no matter how good. We of Alcoholics Anonymous could not be all things to all men, nor should we try.

## **Concept Six**

***“On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.”***

## **6th Step Prayer**

*God, thank you for removing my fear and for showing me the truth about myself. I need your help to become willing to let go of the things in me which continue to block me off from you. Please grant me your grace and remove these objectionable characteristics, defects and shortcomings from me. Amen.*

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

(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)

**Announcements**

**EDI Men's Spiritual Breakfast**

June 1 from 9:30 AM to noon

\$6 Donation

Easy Does It at 1300 Hilltop Road in Leesport PA 19533

**\*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](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 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.

## *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, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 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

# D67 Puzzle

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

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

## Word Bank

- |                      |                   |                 |                 |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. justfortoday      | 2. friendsofbillw | 3. teathyme     | 4. oley         |
| 5. yasn              | 6. gsr            | 7. walnutst     | 8. loth         |
| 9. twinvalley        | 10. gso           | 11. fridaynight | 12. rbi         |
| 13. boyertown        | 14. congo         | 15. brownbag    | 16. gibraltar   |
| 17. birdsboro        | 18. womenshope    | 19. jacksonwald | 20. frenchcreek |
| 21. offthebeatenpath | 22. newmillenium  |                 |                 |

## *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*

**June 1, 1949** - Anne Smith, Dr. Bob's wife, died.

**June 4, 2002**- Caroline Knapp, author of "Drinking: A Love Story" died sober of lung cancer.

**June 5, 1940** - Ebby Thatcher took a job at the NY Worlds Fair.

### **June 6:**

**1940** - The first AA Group in Richmond, VA, was formed.

**1979** - AA gave the two-millionth copy of the Big Book to Joseph Califano, then Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. It was presented by Lois Wilson, Bill's wife, in New York.

### **June 7:**

**1939** - Bill and Lois Wilson had an argument, the first of two times Bill almost slipped.

**1941** - The first AA Group in St. Paul, Minnesota, was formed.

**June 8, 1941** - Three AA's started a group in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**June 10, 1935** - The date that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding date of AA. There is some evidence that the founders, in trying to reconstruct the history, got the date wrong and it was actually June 17.

**June 11, 1945** - Twenty-five hundred attend AA's 10th Anniversary in Cleveland, Ohio.

**June 13, 1945** - Morgan R. gave a radio appearance for AA with large audience. He was kept under surveillance to make sure he didn't drink.

**June 15, 1940** - First AA Group in Baltimore, MD, was formed.

**June 16, 1938** - Jim Burwell, "The Vicious Cycle" in Big Book, had his last drink.

**June 17, 1942** - New York AA groups sponsored the first annual NY area meeting. Four hundred and twenty-four heard Dr. Silkworth and AA speakers.

**June 18, 1940** - One hundred attended the first meeting in the first AA clubhouse at 334-1/2 West 24th St., New York City.

**June 19, 1942** - Columnist Earl Wilson reported that NYC Police Chief Valentine sent six policemen to AA and they sobered up. "There are fewer suicides in my files," he commented.

**June 21, 1944** - The first Issue of the AA Grapevine was published.

**June 24, 1938** - Two Rockefeller associates told the press about the Big Book "Not to bear any author's name but to be by 'Alcoholics Anonymous.'"

**June 25, 1939** - The New York Times reviewer wrote that the Big Book is "more soundly based psychologically than any other treatment I have ever come upon."

**June 26, 1935** - Bill Dotson. (AA #3) entered Akron's City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.

**June 28, 1935** - Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson visited Bill Dotson at Akron's City Hospital.

### **June 30:**

**1941** - Ruth Hock showed Bill Wilson the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.

**2000** - More than 47,000 from 87 countries attended the opening meeting of the 65th AA Anniversary in Minneapolis, MN.