

# *The Alternative*

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

September 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 Nine**

*“Made a direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”*

As soon as we begin to feel confident in our new way of life and have begun, by our behavior and example, to convince those about us that we are indeed changing for the better, it is usually safe to talk in complete frankness with those who have been seriously affected, even those who may be only a little or not at all aware of what we have done to them. The only exceptions we will make will be cases where our disclosure would cause actual harm. These conversations can begin in a casual or natural way. But if no such opportunity presents itself, at some point we will want to summon all our courage, head straight for the person concerned, and lay our cards on the table. We needn't wallow in excessive remorse before those we have harmed, but amends at this level should always be forthright and generous.

## **Tradition Nine**

*“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”*

It is clear now that we ought never to name boards to govern us, but it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us. It is the difference between the spirit of vested authority and the spirit of service, two concepts which are sometimes poles apart. It is in this spirit of service that we elect the A.A. group's informal rotating committee, the intergroup association for the area, and the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous for A.A. as a whole. Even our Foundation, once an independent board, is today directly accountable to our Fellowship. Its trustees are the caretakers and expeditors of our world services.

## **Concept Nine**

*“Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.”*

We Lead to Serve Rather Than Leading to Govern. As we study the Concepts, the ninth change that is taking place in us is that we understand we must become selfless leaders. What are the changes that need to take place in our lives in the ninth concept in order to serve as good leaders? We need to surrender old ideas about leadership and be willing to put aside any personal ambitions, feuds, and controversies that prevent us from offering effective leadership. We need to become a spiritual example, someone who can personally put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that others want to back us up and help us with our job.

## **9th Step Prayer**

*God, with regard to this amend, please remove my fear and give me strength, courage and direction to do the right thing, no matter what the personal consequences may be. Amen.*

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

3rd Avenue, Tuesday Night Meeting, Royersford  
Alpha Group  
Leesport group  
Walk the Walk

(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*

## **Wilshire Fellowship's 2024 Annual Summer Picnic**

Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup>

Food & Fellowship 3 PM to 6 PM with Speaker from 6 PM to 7 PM

Hotdogs, hamburgers, soda, and water provided. Feel free to bring covered dishes or desserts.

Bring a chair. Games will be available.

At the pavilions behind Gouglersville Fire Company at 475 Mohns Hill Rd in Reading PA 19608

(They will NOT hold their regular meeting at St. Peters on September 14<sup>th</sup>)

## **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

## **“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

## *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)

NOTICE: Unfortunately, Clare of Assisi has closed

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** starts 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)

**You Are A Miracle** will NOT meet on the following dates in 2024: April 1<sup>st</sup>, May 27<sup>th</sup>, and September 2<sup>nd</sup> (normally Mondays at 5:30 PM at St. Columbkil Church at 200 Indian Spring Rd, Boyertown PA 19512)

**The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.**

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

**September 1, 1939** - 1st AA group founded in Chicago

**September 5, 1907** - Nancy Flynn, author of "Independent Blond" born

**September 11, 2001** - 30 Vesey St, New York, AA's first Office is damaged during the World Trade Center attack

**September 12, 1942** - U.S. Assist. Surgeon General Kolb speaks at dinner for Bill and Dr Bob

**September 13, 1937** - Florence R, 1st female in AA in NY

**September 13, 1941** - WHJP in Jacksonville, FL airs Spotlight on AA

**September 17, 1954** - Bill D, AA #3 dies.

**September 18, 1947** - Dallas Central Office opens its doors

**September 19, 1965** - The Saturday Evening Post publishes article "Alcoholics Can Be Cured - Despite AA"

**September 21, 1938** - Bill W & Hank P form Works Publishing Co

**September 24, 1940** - Bill 12 steps Bobbie V who replaced Ruth Hock as his secretary in NY

**September 30, 1939** - Morris Markey runs story on AA, Alcoholics and God in Liberty Magazine

**September 30, 1975** - Bill W a biography by Robert T is published

**September 30, 2003** - Searcy W. died today, sober 20,962 days in a row

### **Other significant events in September for which we have no specific date:**

**1930:** Bill wrote 4th (last) promise in family Bible to quit drinking.

**1939:** Group started by Earl T in Chicago.

**1940:** Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases gives Big Book unfavorable review.

**1946:** Bill & Dr. Bob both publicly endorsed National Committee Education Alcoholism founded by Marty M.

**1948:** 1st issue of Grapevine published in "pocketbook" size