

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

July 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
Gabriel 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 Seven

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God. The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, then there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problem we could possibly have.

Tradition Seven

“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

Probably no A.A. Tradition had the labor pains this one did. In early times, we were all broke. When you add to this the habitual supposition that people ought to give money to alcoholics trying to stay sober, it can be understood why we thought we deserved a pile of folding money. What great things A.A. would be able to do with it! But oddly enough, people who had money thought otherwise. They figured that it was high time we now-sober-paid our own way. So our Fellowship stayed poor because of it.

Concept Seven

“The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.”

The charter and bylaws of the General Service Board (GSB) are legal documents. The charter of the General Service Conference (GSC) is not. The Trustees have “legal authority,” where the Conference only has “moral authority.”

7th Step Prayer

My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character, which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen.

Reading-Berks Intergroup Thanks Their Groups for their Support:

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

8:15 Group
Advent Mens Group
Bottom of the Barrel
Come As You Are
Courage to Change
End of the Line
Leesport Group
Walk the Walk
Women Living Sober
YASNY

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

Saturday July 5th at 9:30 AM

\$6 Donation

Easy Does It at 1300 Hilltop Road in Leesport PA 19533

Gibraltar Group Anniversary Meeting

Friday July 18th from 6 PM to 8 PM

Speaker at 7; Bring a dish if you wish!

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at 1035 Old River Rd in Birdsboro

Announcements (continued)

Area 59 Mini Assembly III – VIRTUAL

Saturday July 19th from 10 AM to 3 PM

Zoom meeting information available on RBI and Area 59 websites

Freedom from Bondage Summer Picnic

Sunday July 20th – Fellowship 4 PM, Dinner 5 PM, Speaker 6:30 PM (Kailash S.), and
S'mores 7:45 PM

Please bring a side or dessert to share!

Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead at 1700 Tulpehocken Road in Wyomissing
(There will be no meeting at Church of the Brethren that evening.)

8:15 Meeting Summer Picnic

Saturday August 9th at 11 AM

Maidencreek Community Park at 753 Park Road in Blandon

Happy Hour Annual Picnic

Saturday August 23rd from 12 PM to 5 PM

Mohnton Memorial Park Picnic Grounds at 210A E Wyomissing Ave in Mohnton

***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

“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, July 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

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

July 1-3, 1960 - 8700 attend 25th Anniversary of AA in Long Beach, CA

July 2

1965 - Best of Bill and Pocket-Sized 12 and 12 1st sold

1993 - 50 years of AA celebrated in Canada

2000 - 20 Millionth Big Book given to Al-Anon in Minneapolis

July 2-3, 1955 - Bill W turns "the fellowship over to the fellowship" at 4:00 PM, 5000 attend 20th Anniversary at our St Louis Convention

July 2-4, 1965 - 10,000 attend 30th Anniversary of AA in Toronto. There we came to own our Responsibility Declaration

July 4, 1939 - 1st AA meeting started in Flatbush, NY

July 3-5, 1970 - 10,900 attend 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami. Bill W gave his last talk to AA

July 3-6, 1980 - 22,500 attend 45th Anniversary of AA in New Orleans First true marathon meeting was held here

July 4, 1999 - He who has a fifth on the fourth may not come forth on the fifth...

July 4-6, 1975 - 19,800 attend 40th Anniversary of AA in Denver Worlds largest coffee server serves 1/2 million cups a day

July 5:

1985 - AA gives Ruth Hock 5,000,000th Big Book during 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal, Canada

1990 - AA gives Nell Wing 10,000,000th Big Book during 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle, WA

July 3-6, 1980 - Gay AA's have own program at 40th AA Anniversary in New Orleans

July 5-7, 1985 - 45,000 attend 50th Anniversary of AA in Montreal. House of Seagrams flew their flags at half mast for 3 days

July 7, 1940 - Bill attends 1st Summer Session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University

July 5-8, 1990 - 48,000 attend 55th Anniversary of AA in Seattle. 75 countries were represented as the former Soviet Unions members attended for the first time

July 8, 1940 - 1st AA Group formed in Dayton, Ohio

July 10, 1941 - Texas newspaper publishes anonymous letter from founding member of Texas AA Group

July 20, 1941 - First AA group formed in Seattle, Washington

July 22:

1877 - William Duncan Silkworth born in Brooklyn, NY

1980 - Marty M. early AA woman and founder of NCADD dies

July 23:

1940 - Philly AA's send 10% of kitty to Alcoholic Foundation, sets precedent

1943 - Esther C., passed Jan 15, 2005, sober since July 23, 1943.

July 24, 1943 - L.A. press reports formation of all-Mexican AA Group

July 28-30, 1950 - 1st AA Convention celebrates 15th anniversary of AA in Cleveland