

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

December 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

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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 Twelve

“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”

Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our twelfth suggestion: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail. Remember they are very ill.

Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends-this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.

Tradition Twelve

“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because of A.A.’s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that sacrificial spirit-well symbolized by anonymity-is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.’s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.

Concept Twelve

“The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.”

Morning Prayer

“God, please direct my thinking and keep my thoughts divorced from self-pity, dishonest or self seeking motives. Please keep my thought life clear from wrong motives and help me employ my mental faculties, that my thought – life might be placed on a higher plane, the plan of inspiration.”

Reading-Berks Intergroup Thanks Their Groups for their Support:

Bottom of the Barrel Group
Come As You Are Group
Congo Group
Frog Pond Group
Walk the Walk Group
Walnut Street Group
Women Living Sober Group

(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

**Reading Berks Intergroup is looking for home groups to host hourly meetings at
this year's Alcathon**

Wednesday December 31st

There is a link for a Google Form to sign-up on the RBI website (<https://readingberksintergroup.org/>)
under Announcements

****Please note - spots will be filled on a first come, first served basis and the Alcathon committee will do their best to update
the form and contact groups with confirmation as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please e-mail
unity@readingberksintergroup.org.**

Thank you for your willingness to be of service!

To be held at Easy Does It at 1300 Hilltop Rd, Leesport, PA 19533

AA SPEAKER JAM – ** Postponed until Spring 2026 **

Please note that this event has been postponed. Stay tuned for a new date/time in the future. We apologize for any inconvenience and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Announcements (continued)

The Underground Garage Group is hosting a Christmas Party

Sunday December 7th

Food and Fellowship at 6 PM with Speaker at 7 PM

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church at 550 Fleetwood Rd in Bowers PA 19511

Bottom of the Barrel Group's 3rd Anniversary Celebration

Potluck Dinner Tuesday December 9th

Food and Fellowship at 6:30 PM and Speaker at 7:30 PM

Bring your favorite baked goods to share

Maiden Creek Church at 261 Main St in Blandon PA

The Topton Group is in need of support

Tuesdays at 7 PM at St. Peter's Church at 122 W Franklin Street in Topton PA 19562

The Boyertown Group has 2 meeting dates in need of support

Tuesdays 7 PM: 12 and 12 Topic Discussion

Thursdays 7 PM: Step Study (passages randomly selected from the Big Book for review & discussion)

The Boyertown Inn at 1 S Reading Ave in Boyertown PA

Freedom from Bondage has a new Plain Language Big Book Meeting

Thursdays at 6:30 PM (started June 5th)

Church of the Brethren at 2200 State Hill Rd in Wyomissing

Reading Berks Intergroup is planning an Inventory

In the works with tentative dates of January 17th or 24th

"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:

Coffee & Donuts in Strausstown (Tuesdays at Noon) **will be closing**. All other meetings at the 87 Main St Clubhouse (87 Main St in Strausstown PA 19559) will continue as scheduled. More information regarding when the Coffee & Donuts meeting will officially disband will be updated on the RBI website.

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 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)

The next monthly Reading-Berks Intergroup meeting is 7:00 PM Tuesday, December 23rd, 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 & Groups-1

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

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

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. congo | 2. teathyme | 3. twinvalley | 4. boyertown |
| 5. turningpoint | 6. frogpond | 7. wyomissing | 8. hamburg |
| 9. eightfifteen | 10. glenside | 11. menstlc | 12. hilltop |
| 13. yasnny | 14. newlife | 15. wsrq | 16. oley |
| 17. walkthewalk | 18. smsg | 19. womenshope | 20. robesonia |
| 21. gibraltar | 22. undergroundgarage | 23. youareamiracle | |

Important Dates in A.A. History

December 1, 1940 - Chicago Daily Tribune begins a series of articles on AA by Nall Hamilton

December 2, 1943 - Bill speaks to 300 at meeting inside San Quentin

December 5, 1985 - Dave B, founder of Montreal Group dies weeks before 50th anniversary Now his story is in the 4th Edition Big Book.

December 6:

1939 - Bert the Tailor lends Works Publishing \$1000

1979 - Akron Beacon reports death of Henrietta Sieberling

December 7, 1949 - Sister Ignatia accepts Poverello Medal of St Francis on AA's behalf

December 8, 1997 - "As We See It" emailing list started December 8, 1997

December 10:

1975 - "Birds of a Feather" AA group for pilots is formed

1934 - Bill admitted to Towns Hosp 4th/last time (fall '33, '34 in summer, midsummer and final admittance).

1941 - Dallas Morning News reports 1st AA group formed in Dallas

December 12:

1934 - Bill has Spiritual Experience at Towns Hospital

1937 - Bill meets with Rockefeller Foundation and tries to get money

December 13:

1934 - Ebby visited Bill at hospital brought William James's book, "Varieties of Religious Experience".

1937 - Rockland State Mental Hospital takes patients to meeting in New Jersey

December 19, 1939 - Drunks in Los Angeles hold their 1st AA meeting there

December 20, 1945 - Rowland Hazard dies (he carried the Oxford Group message to Ebby)

December 27, 1893 - Rev Samuel Shoemaker is born

Other significant events in December for which we have no specific date:

1934 - Bill & Lois start attending Oxford Group meetings.

1938 - Using Oxford Group principles, Bill closes the loopholes and changes the 6 steps to 12.

1939 - First AA group in mental institution, Rockland State Hospital, NY.

1939 - 1st home meeting in Los Angeles at Kaye M.'s house.

1940 - 1st AA group formed in St. Louis, Missouri

1948 - Dr. Bob's last major talk, in Detroit.

1950 - Grapevine article signed by both Bill & Dr Bob recommend establishing AA General Service Conference.

1955 - 'Man on the Bed' painting by Robert M. 1st appeared in Grapevine. Painting called 'Came to Believe'

1982 - Nell Wing retires from GSO after 35 years of service