

# The Alternative

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

April 2026

[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 Four**

*“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”*

The testimony of A.A.'s who have really tried a moral inventory is that pride and fear of this sort turn out to be bogeymen, nothing else. Once we have a complete willingness to take inventory, and exert ourselves to do the job thoroughly, a wonderful light falls upon this foggy scene. As we persist, a brand-new kind of confidence” is born, and the sense of relief at finally facing ourselves is indescribable. These are the first fruits of Step Four.

## **Tradition Four**

*“Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole”*

“Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.”

This meant, of course, that we had been given the courage to declare each A.A. group an individual entity, strictly reliant on its own conscience as a guide to action. In charting this enormous expanse of freedom, we found it necessary to post only two storm signals: A group ought not do anything which would greatly injure A.A. as a whole, not ought it affiliate itself with anything or anybody else. Sobriety had to be its sole objective.

## **Concept Four**

*“At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional ‘Right of Participation,’ allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.”*

This Concept basically tells us that our trusted servants should have a right to vote and debate and discuss equal to the job they perform. This idea of “participation” can usually stop the misapplication or misuse of final authority, while reminding us at the same time that the “spiritual corporation” of A.A. should never include any members who are regarded as “second class.”

## **4th Step Prayer**

*God, please help me show those I resent the same tolerance, pity and patience that I would cheerfully grant a sick friend. Help me to see that this is a sick man. Father, please show me how I can be helpful to him and save me from being angry. Lord, help me to avoid retaliation or argument. I know I can't be helpful to all people, but at least show me how to take a kindly and tolerant view of each and every one. Thy will be done. Amen.*

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

Courage to Change  
Just For Today Group  
Turning Point Group  
Women's Hope with AA

(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**

**\*NEW MEETING\* starting Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup>: "We Stopped in Time Group"**

Wednesdays at 7 PM

St Gabriel's Episcopal Church at 1188 Benjamin Franklin Hwy East in Douglassville PA 19518

**\*NEW MEETING\* At Wit's End**

Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon

St Barnabas Community Center at 234 E Main St in Kutztown

**Area 59 presents All Intergroup Day hosted by District 66**

Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>

Doors open at 10 AM with program to run from 11 AM to 3 PM

Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided

To include roundtables, panel discussions, and open sharing to show Unity in Action

Easy Does It at 1300 Hilltop Rd, Leesport PA

## *Announcements (continued)*

### **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

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

Still in the planning stages but a date and time and venue have been set

Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>

9 AM to 3 PM

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

### **“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)

## *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.

# *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.

## *Recent Meeting Updates and Changes:*

**The 8:15 Meeting has a new location for their Monday through Friday meeting** (Monday - Friday at 8:15 AM). They are now meeting at Bausman Memorial UCC at 1064 Penn Ave in Wyomissing. Their Saturday meetings remain at Kissinger's Church (no change) and their Sunday meetings remain at EDI (no change).

**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 disbanded will be updated on the RBI website.

**“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, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 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

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

### **April 1:**

**1939:** Alcoholics Anonymous AA's Big Book was published.

**1940:** Larry J. of Houston, wrote "The Texas Prayer", used to open AA meetings in Texas.

**1966:** Sister Ignatia died at the age of 77. She worked with Dr. Bob in treating many early AA members at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron.

**1970:** GSO moved to 468 Park Ave. South, NYC.

**1984:** 12 Coconuts Group, Kapiolani Park, Waikiki, Hawaii, was founded.

### **April 3:**

**1941:** First Florida AA meeting was held.

**1960:** Fr. Ed Dowling, S.J., died. He was Bill W's "spiritual sponsor."

**April 4, 1960** - The Chicago Daily News reported that Fr. Edward Dowling, Jesuit Priest who helped start the first AA group in St. Louis, had died at age 62.

**April 7, 1941** - Ruth Hock reported there were 1,500 letters asking for help, as a result of the Saturday Evening Post Article by Jack Alexander.

**April 10, 1939** - The first 10 copies of the Big Book arrived at the office Bill shared with Hank Parkhurst in Newark, New Jersey.

**April 11, 1938** - Alcoholic Foundation held its first meeting.

**April 12, 1942** - The Windsor Daily Star in Ontario, Canada, reported that over 400 AA's attended a testimonial dinner for Dr. Bob.

### **April 16:**

**1940:** A sober Rollie Helmsley caught the only opening day no-hitter in baseball history since 1909.

**1973:** Dr Jack Norris Chairman of the AA General Service Board presented President Richard Nixon with the one-millionth copy of the Big Book at the White House.

**2005:** Nancy Flynn (Independent Blond died in Kennett Square PA)

**April 17, 1941** - 2nd group in Los Angeles, the "Hole in the Ground Group" was formed.

**April 19, 1940** - First AA group in Little Rock, Arkansas, was formed.

**April 22, 1940** - Bill Wilson transferred his Works Publishing Stock to the Alcoholic Foundation.

**April 23, 1940** - Dr. Bob wrote the Trustees to refuse Big Book royalties, but Bill Wilson insisted on them for Dr. Bob and Anne.

**April 25, 1951** - AA's first General Service Conference was held.

**April 26, 1939** - Bill & Lois Wilson moved in with Hank Parkhurst after the bank foreclosed on 182 Clinton St. This was the first of over 50 moves before they acquired Stepping Stones.

**April 30, 1989** - The film "My Name is Bill W.," a Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation, was broadcast at 9 p.m. on ABC TV.