

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

July 2026

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
Robert 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:

(May)
Bottom of the Barrel Group
Jacksonwald Group
Walk-the-Walk Group
YASNY Group
(April)
8:15 AM Group
Great Fact Group
New Millennium Group
Oley Group
Turning Point Group
Underground Garage Group
YASNY Group

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

District 33 Thanks Their Groups for their Support:

Bottom of the Barrel Group
Spirit of Recovery
Underground Garage Group

(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

Underground Garage is having a 4th of July Picnic

Saturday July 4th

Start time is 2 PM with speaker at 5 PM

Please bring a covered dish

Pool will be open

Walt's house at 1033 Pleasant Hill Rd in Fleetwood

Announcements (continued)

The Leesport Group is having a Freedom Celebration

Saturday July 18th

Doors open at 8 PM, speaker at 9:30 PM

Open meeting, all welcome

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity at 102 Apple St in Leesport

Freedom From Bondage 12th Anniversary Summer Picnic

Sunday July 19th

Start time 3 PM, Food at 3:30 PM and Speakers at 5 and 6:30 PM

Blaine S. from Camp Hill PA (5 PM) and Chris S. from Blairstown NJ (6:30 PM) will be speakers

S'mores 7:30 PM

Bring a chair and side dish or dessert

Nicholas Stoltzfus Homestead at 1700 Tulpehocken Rd in Wyomissing

(There will be no meeting at the Living Faith Church that evening)

***NEW MEETING* 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

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

Visit the Reading Berks Intergroup page (<https://readingberksintergroup.org/>)

"Alternative Advertisements"

All A.A. Events, Notifications, Announcements and/or Testimonies are Welcome!

Please email all requests to: Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

Service Commitments

Please use this QR code to access the most current listing for commitments:



Current Active Commitments:

Hope Rescue Mission, 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.

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. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM and is usually over by 8:00 PM.

Recent Meeting Updates and Changes:

The Reading Young People Meeting has moved (Thursdays 7 PM). They are now meeting at the LCBC Church at 168 Shillington Rd in Sinking Spring.

The Friends of Bill W. Group will now only meet once during the week on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. They will no longer meet on Sundays or Mondays. (St. Andrew's Methodist Church at 611 Swamp Creek Rd in Bechtelsville)

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).

"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, July 28th, 2026 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.

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