

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

May 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

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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 Five

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

If we have swept the searchlight of Step Four back and forth over our careers, and it has revealed in stark relief those experiences we'd rather not remember, if we have come to know how wrong thinking and action have hurt us and others, then the need to quit living by ourselves with those tormenting ghosts of yesterday gets more urgent than ever. We have to talk to somebody about them.

Until we actually sit down and talk aloud about what we have so long hidden, our willingness to clean house is still largely theoretical. When we are honest with another person, it confirms that we have been honest with ourselves and with God.

Tradition Five

“Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers”

Just as firmly bound by obligation are the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who have demonstrated that they can help problem drinkers as others seldom can. The unique ability of each A.A. to identify himself with, and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and of recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates A.A.'s all around the globe.

There is another reason for this singleness of purpose. It is the great paradox of A.A. that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless we give it away.

Concept Five

“Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.”

Every member of A.A.'s world service structure has the right to state a minority opinion when they feel the majority has crossed over to the dark side. We have to recognize that there are times when the minority can be right and it is our responsibility to listen to their petition. We have seen many examples where a well stated and well-crafted minority opinion can change the outcome entirely. In the spirit of democracy, allowing the minority opinion to be heard is vital to the unity we profess we must have in Tradition 1. Being able to balance the right of appeal with majority decision ensures we will never be subjected to the tyranny of either the majority or the minority.

5th Step Prayer

God, please remove my fear and help me to be completely honest in what I am about to do. Please give me the courage, faith and strength I need to share with this person my whole truth, especially the things I swore I'd take with me to the grave. Amen.

Reading-Berks Intergroup Thanks Their Groups for their Support:

Alpha Group
Come As You Are Group
Congo Saturday Meeting
Wilshire Fellowship 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

***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

Nolde Forest is Welcoming Summer with a Special Wednesday Night Celebration

Wednesday May 27th

Food, fun, and fellowship at 6:00 PM; Speakers at 7:00 PM

Two passionate speakers ready to share

Bring your good vibes and bring a friend! Be sweet, bring a treat!

One United Church of Christ at 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA

Announcements (continued)

Come As You Are Group is hosting a Spring Picnic

Sunday May 31st

4 PM start with speaker at 6 PM

Maidencreek Community Park at 753 Park Rd, 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

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:

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 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 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, May 26th, 2026 at One United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd, Reading PA 19607.

Important Dates in A.A. History

May 1:

1939 - Lois and Bill Wilson left their home at 182 Clinton St., Brooklyn.

1941 - First Wisconsin AA meeting was held in a Milwaukee hotel.

May 2:

1941 - Jacksonville, FL, newspaper reported start of a new AA group.

1941 - First meeting was held in San Bernardino, California.

1941 - The first AA group in New Orleans, Louisiana, was formed.

May 4, 1946 - Marty Mann explained Alcoholics Anonymous and the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism on the "We the People" radio show.

May 5, 1940 - Washington, DC, Sunday Star reported formation of first AA group in the D.C..

May 6:

1939 - Clarence S of Cleveland told Dr. Bob, his sponsor, he would not be back to Oxford Group meetings in Akron and would start an "AA" meeting in Cleveland.

1946 - The long form of the "Twelve Traditions" was published in the AA Grapevine.

May 7, 1956 - The first English AA Convention was held in Cheltenham, England.

May 8:

1943 - Akron AA group had its 8th anniversary celebration with 500 present and sober.

1971 - Bill Wilson was buried in private ceremony, East Dorset, Vermont.

May 11, 1939 - First group to officially call itself Alcoholics Anonymous met at Abby G's house in Cleveland.

May 12, 1935 - Mothers' Day - Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith met for the first time in Akron, Ohio, at the home of Henrietta Seiberling.

May 14:

1948 - Long Beach, California. Central Office was opened.

1998 - Sybil C., first woman to enter A.A. west of the Mississippi, died. Her date of sobriety was March 23, 1941. Her name at the time was Sybil Maxwell, though she later opened her talks by saying, "My name is Sybil Doris Adams Stratton Hart Maxwell Willis C., and I'm an alcoholic."

May 16, 1941 - Ruth Hock learned that Joe W. (credited with coming up with the name Alcoholics Anonymous) had a "wet brain."

May 19, 2000 - Dr. Paul Ohliger died at the age of 83. His story, "Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict," was retitled "Acceptance Was the Answer," in the 4th edition.

May 22, 1948 - Atlantic City Group celebrated its second anniversary with Dr. C. Nelson Davis of St. Luke's Hospital, Philadelphia, and other A.A.s speaking.

May 28, 1974 - The first World Service meeting of AA outside of America was held in London.

May 31, 1938 - Bill and other AA's began writing the Big Book.