

# The Alternative

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter December 2019

[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 P.O. 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 at the Calvary Baptist Church, 510 Park Ave., Reading, PA at 7:30 P.M. 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.

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 89)

## 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.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 184)

Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity.

We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 187)

## Our Serenity Prayer

God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change,  
Courage to change the things we can,  
And wisdom to know the difference.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 125)

**A Special Thanks to the following groups for their contributions to support Reading-Berks Intergroup:** New Millennium Group, Advent Men’s Group, On Awakening Group, End of the Line Group, Courage to Change Group, and Hilltop Group.

## *Service Commitments*

### **“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 Alternate, who participate in the monthly Intergroup business meetings with other elected Representatives. These meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Calvary Baptist Church, [510 Park Avenue, Reading PA](#). The meeting starts at 7:30 PM and is usually over by 9:00PM

### **“AA HOTLINE” Needs Volunteers**

AA members with some accumulated sobriety are always needed to join up to take calls from individuals who are reaching out for one reason or another. Contact the Intergroup Hotline Chairperson at [Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org) and sign up sheets are available at [http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/Getting\\_Involved.htm#HOTLINE\\_SIGN-UP\\_SHEET](http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/Getting_Involved.htm#HOTLINE_SIGN-UP_SHEET)

### **“Bridging The Gap” – Needs Volunteers**

Contact Steve M. at 610-241-4158 or  
[BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org)  
“Bridging the Gap”, P.O. Box 2332, Reading, Pa. 19608

### **Need Male Volunteers for the Prison Commitment**

Meetings are Saturday Nights from 7-8 PM  
Please Contact Al S. at [MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org)  
Applications are available on the Reading Berks Intergroup Website @  
<http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/Prison%20Volunteer%20App-2015.pdf>

### **Need Female Volunteers for Prison Commitment**

Meetings are Tuesday Nights from 7-8 PM  
Please Contact Susan W. at [SanLee715@gmail.com](mailto:SanLee715@gmail.com)  
Applications are available on the Reading Berks Intergroup Website @  
<http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/2015%20PrisonVolunteerApp%20Female.pdf>

## *Events*

### **2019 Robesonia Fellowship Anniversary Celebration!**

**December 6, 2017. Fellowship/meeting!**

301 Penn Ave & N. Pearl St. Robesonia, PA.

Come join us for a night of celebration, joy, and recovery! One Al-Anon and one AA speaker. Covered dishes are always welcome. If you wish to help more, please see a home group member.

### **Walnut St. Recovery Group’s Annual Candlelight Meetings!!**

**Christmas Eve @ 8 pm, 9:15pm, 10:30pm, 11:45pm, and 1 am.**

647 Walnut St. Reading, PA

**FOOD DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

### **Save The Date!!! May 8-9 2020**

Through the Steps with.....**Katie and Charlie P.**

Austin, Texas. Coming to Berks County

*A Design for Living Big Book Workshop*

Presented by District 66

Details to follow shortly.....For info and to get on mailing list

Contact Alan F. [Fertela7@gmail.com](mailto:Fertela7@gmail.com)

## *Announcements*

### **New Meeting:**

#### **Interview with an Alcoholic**

Kissinger's Church. 715 Berkshire Blvd. Wyomissing, PA.  
Meets Thursday nights at 7:30pm.

### **New Meeting:**

#### **The Royersford Big Book Step Study Meeting**

Christ's Church of the Valley 1560 Yeager Rd Royersford, PA 19468  
Meets Saturday nights 7pm to 8:30pm

### **New Meeting:**

#### **Chick Lit at Six Women's Literature Meeting**

St. Peter's UCC 2901 Curtis Rd Reading, PA 19609  
Meets Thursdays at 6 pm

### **Second and Inches Group Needs Support!!**

Meets every Sunday at 5 pm at the Atonement Parish Center

### **Shillington Lifeline Group Needs Support!!**

Meets every Tuesday night at 7:30 pm at Shillington Church of Christ  
475 Philadelphia Ave Reading, PA 19607

### **New Publication:**

#### **Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W's General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970**

Cost is \$10.00. Place your orders direct from A.A.W.S. or Intergroup.

### **"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)

### **"New AA Meeting Guide Mobile App"**

Free mobile app for IOS and Android. Google: <https://meetingguide.org/>  
Designed to be simple, fast, and help you find AA meetings

### **All are Invited to Attend:**

#### **District 66 Area 59 Meeting**

2nd Thursday each month at 7 - 8 PM  
St. Peters UCC, Dwight St. & Curtis Rd., West Lawn, PA

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

November 1:

1947 - 1st AA Group in Anchorage, Alaska

1963 - Reverend Sam Shoemaker dies

November 3, 2001 - J.P. Miller, wrote screenplay for "The Days of Wine and Roses" died

November 9, 1966 - President Johnson appoints Marty M to the 1st National Advisory Committee on Alcoholism

November 10:

1940 - 1st AA group formed in Minneapolis

2001 - 1st of 400,000 4th Edition Big Books arrives in the mail

November 11, 1934 - Bill W's final drunk begins on Veterans Day and lasts about a month

November 12, 1940 - 1st AA meeting is held in Boston

November 13, 1939 - Bill wants to go back to work, NY drunks want him to stay on as head of the movement

November 14, 1940 - Alcoholic Foundation publishes 1st AA Bulletin

November 15, 1949 - Bill W suggests that groups devote Thanksgiving week to discussions of the 12 Traditions

November 16, 1950 - Dr Bob S dies in Akron, Ohio

November 18, 1946 - 1st Dublin Ireland group met.

November 21:

1939 - AA's in San Francisco hold 1st California AA meeting in the Clift Hotel -

1952 - Willard Richardson, past Treasurer/Chairman of Alcoholic Foundation, dies

November 26:

1895 - William Griffith W. born, East Dorset, VT

1939 - Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups

November 28

1934 - Ebby T. carries message to Bill.

1937 - Bill and Dr. Bob compare notes in Akron. Count forty cases staying sober. Meeting of the Akron Group to consider Bill's ideas for how to expand the movement ... a book, AA hospitals, paid missionaries. Passed by a majority of 2.

1939 - Akron group withdrawals from Oxford Group. Meetings moved to Dr Bob and other members homes.

1939 - Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups.

1943 - Bill guest speaker San Quentin Penitentiary. (sometimes dated Dec 2, 1943)