

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

September 2019

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

HELP IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK CALL 610-373-6500

INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

Pete R.	Intergroup Chairperson	Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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Steve M.	Bridging the Gap	BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
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Michele H.	Public Information	PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Brandon T.	Visitation	Visitation@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

The Reading Berks Intergroup meets on the 4th 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 Nine

“Made a direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

As soon as we begin to feel confident in our new way of life and have begun, by our behavior and example, to convince those about us that we are indeed changing for the better, it is usually safe to talk in complete frankness with those who have been seriously affected, even those who may be only a little or not at all aware of what we have done to them. The only exceptions we will make will be cases where our disclosure would cause actual harm. These conversations can begin in a casual or natural way. But if no such opportunity presents itself, at some point we will want to summon all our courage, head straight for the person concerned, and lay our cards on the table. We needn't wallow in excessive remorse before those we have harmed, but amends at this level should always be forthright and generous.

For the readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine.

(Twelve Steps & Twelve Tradition pg. 85-87)

Tradition Nine

“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

It is clear now that we ought never to name boards to govern us, but it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us. It is the difference between the spirit of vested authority and the spirit of service, two concepts which are sometimes poles apart. It is in this spirit of service that we elect the A.A. group's informal rotating committee, the intergroup association for the area, and the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous for A.A. as a whole. Even our Foundation, once an independent board, is today directly accountable to our Fellowship. Its trustees are the caretakers and expeditors of our world services.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 174-175)

9th Step Prayer

God, with regard to this amend, please remove my fear and give me strength, courage and direction to do the right thing, no matter what the personal consequences may be. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 79)

A Special Thanks to the following groups for their contributions to support Reading-Berks

Intergroup: Robesonia Group, Walk the Walk, Monday through Friday AM Group, Topton Group, and Lance, Anon, and End of the Line.

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 and sign up sheets are available at 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
“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
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
Applications are available on the Reading Berks Intergroup Website @
<http://www.readingberksintergroup.org/2015%20PrisonVolunteerApp%20Female.pdf>

Events

AA French Creek Campfire Meeting Anniversary Celebration Event

Saturday Aug 31st at French Creek State Park Across from the Ranger Station. Meeting at 6pm.
Celebration from 3pm until dark. Food, fun, fellowship! Hot dogs, burgers, soda, and water provided.
Covered dishes appreciated.

Frog Pond Group is having our 18-year anniversary.

Please join us for food, fun, and fellowship! Friday Night Sep 6th at 6 pm with a Speaker @ 7 pm.
At Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church 820 W Leesport Rd, Leesport, PA

Live & Let Live Annual AA Picnic.

Sunday, Sep 8th from 1 pm to 5 pm. Open Speaker Meeting at 3 pm
Berks County Leisure Park 1901 Tulpehocken Rd Reading, PA 19610
Hot dogs, hamburgers, and sodas provided. Please bring a side to share.

****Please RSVP to Bill B at (610) 763-7674****

Ensuring AA's Future, Doing Your Part Districts 66 & 67 Combined Workshop.
Sunday Sep 15th from 8:30am to 2pm. Doors open for refreshments at 8:30am. Speaker and Interactive Discussion begins at 10 am. Lunch will be provided.

Featured Speakers: John Q. Past Trustee at Large, U.S. and Paul M. Chair EPGSA Convention Committee.

Seventh Day Adventist Church. 2706 Old Pricetown Rd. Temple PA 19560.
For more information email us at: dist66workshop@gmail.com

18th Annual Halloween Gratitude Cruise: Oct 26-Nov 2, 2019.

7 Night Western Caribbean Cruise, Inaugural Halloween sailing of the Symphony of the Seas by Royal Caribbean.

Daily 12 Step Meetings plus AL Anon participation. Private Costume Contest!
Any questions, please visit www.sobercelebrations.com. To make a reservation call (561) 702-2312.

Bill & Bob's Book on the Beach

November 1-3, 2019. Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center.

1 Baltimore Ave. Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Conference Registration: \$30 through Oct 1. \$35 between Oct 2nd and Nov 1st.

Make Checks Payable to "We Are Not Saints." Mail to: P.O. Box 293. Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Contact Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center (302) 227-2511 or 1 (800) 422-0600.

****Mention Bill and Bob with #9384 for our special rates****

Gratitude Cruises Presents the 12th Annual Sober Sisters Weekend to Bahamas

3 Night Bahamas Cruise January 17-20, 2020. Daily 12 step meetings and a fellowship station.

Any questions please visit sobercelebrations.com. Or call (561) 702-2312.

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

Announcements

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

“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

Recovery Quotes

“I hated every minute of training, but I said, ‘Don’t quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.”

Muhammad Ali

“Nothing is impossible; the word itself says, ‘I’m possible!’”

Audrey Hepburn

“When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.”

Henry Ford

“Sometimes you can only find Heaven by slowly backing away from Hell.”

Carrie Fisher

“Sometimes we motivate ourselves by thinking of what we want to become. Sometimes we motivate ourselves by thinking about who we don’t ever want to be again.”

Shane Niemeyer

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”

Chinese Proverb

“What progress, you ask, have I made? I have begun to be a friend to myself.”

Hecato

“Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It’s perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we’ve learned something from yesterday.”

John Wayne

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving.”

Albert Einstein

Important Dates in A.A. History

September 1, 1939 - 1st AA group founded in Chicago

September 5, 1907 - Nancy Flynn, author of "Independent Blond" born

September 11, 2001 - 30 Vesey St, New York, AA's first Office is damaged during the World Trade Center attack

September 12, 1942 - U.S. Assist. Surgeon General Kolb speaks at dinner for Bill and Dr Bob

September 13, 1937 - Florence R, 1st female in AA in NY

September 13, 1941 - WHJP in Jacksonville, FL airs Spotlight on AA

September 17, 1954 - Bill D, AA #3 dies.

September 18, 1947 - Dallas Central Office opens its doors

September 19, 1965 - The Saturday Evening Post publishes article "Alcoholics Can Be Cured - Despite AA"

September 21, 1938 - Bill W & Hank P form Works Publishing Co

September 24, 1940 - Bill 12 steps Bobbie V who replaced Ruth Hock as his secretary in NY

September 30, 1939 - Morris Markey runs story on AA, Alcoholics and God in Liberty Magazine

September 30, 1975 - Bill W a biography by Robert T is published

September 30, 2003 - Searcy W. died today, sober 20,962 days in a row

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

1930: Bill wrote 4th (last) promise in family Bible to quit drinking.

1939: Group started by Earl T in Chicago.

1940: Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases gives Big Book unfavorable review.

1946: Bill & Dr. Bob both publicly endorsed National Committee Education Alcoholism founded by Marty M.

1948: 1st issue of Grapevine published in "pocketbook" size