

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter February 2021

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

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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 Two

“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

Step Two is the rallying point for all of us. Whether agnostic, atheist, or former believer, we can stand together on this Step. True humility and an open mind can lead us to faith, and every A.A. meeting is an assurance that God will restore us to sanity if we rightly relate ourselves to Him.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pg. 33)

Tradition Two

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

If the founder and his friends have served well, they may – to their surprise – be reinstated for a time. If, however, they have heavily resisted the rising tide of democracy, they may be summarily beached. In either case, the group now has a so-called rotating committee, very sharply limited in its authority. In no sense whatever can its members govern or direct the group. They are servants. Theirs is the sometimes thankless privilege of doing the group’s chores. Headed by the chairman, they look after public relations and arrange meetings. Their treasurer, strictly accountable, takes money from the hat that is passed, banks it, pays the rent and other bills, and makes a regular report at business meetings. The secretary see that literature is on the table, looks after the phone-answering service, answers the mail, and sends out notices of meetings. Such are the simple services that enable the group to function. The committee gives no spiritual advice, judges no one’s conduct, issues no orders. Every one of them may be promptly eliminated at the next election if they try this. And so they make the belated discovery that they are really servants, not senators. These are universal experiences. Thus throughout A.A. does the group conscience decree the terms upon which its leaders shall serve.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 134)

2nd Step Prayer

Heavenly Father, I am having trouble with personal relationships. I can't control my emotional nature. I am prey to misery and depression. I can't make a living. I feel useless. I am full of fear. I am unhappy. I can't seem to be of real help to others. I know in my heart that only you can restore me to sanity if I am just willing to stop doubting your power. I humbly ask that you help me to understand that it is more powerful to believe than not to believe and that you are either everything or nothing.

(A.A. Big Book pgs. 52:2, 52:3, 53:1, 53:2)

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

Intergroup: Leesport Group, Underground Garage Group, Come As You Are Group, 7th Tradition from Alcatraz, and Cash App donations!

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

Events will be added as they are announced. If you have any announcements or flyers for events, please send the Alternative Chair an email at alternative@readingberksintergroup.org

Announcements

Area 59 Response to COVID-19

In light of the above I am requesting that individual members, groups, and Districts document, record, or in anyway possible preserve the experience of this time. We are living in a unique period - an historical time – and those in the future might benefit from our experiences. It is always best to do this while going through the events as opposed to waiting until it's all over - if possible.

Some suggested topics:

- When was the last “face to face” meeting held? Why was it the last? Personal choice? Group decision?, Facility decision?
- Are you holding alternative meetings? What type? If holding alternative meetings how was decision to do so made – group conscience? individual decision? Etc....

I could go on and on, but I trust you get the idea. Please send any collected info to:
archivist@area59aa.org

Thank you, Donald H.

You can now donate to Reading Berks Intergroup through CashApp!

The \$Cashtag ID is \$RBIntergroup

****This account can only be used for 7th Tradition Contributions****

Meeting Reopening announcements will be provided when available! Stay safe everyone!

“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

Important Dates in A.A. History

February 1, 1918: Original date set for Bill Wilson's marriage to Lois Burnham. The date was moved up because of the war.

February 2, 1942: Bill Wilson paid tribute to Ruth Hock, AA's first paid secretary, who resigned to get married. She had written approximately 15,000 letters to people asking for help.

February 5, 1941: Pittsburgh Telegram ran a story on the first AA group's Friday night meeting of a dozen "former hopeless drunks."

February 8:

1940: Bill W., Dr. Bob, and six other AA's asked 60 rich friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr., for money at the Union Club, NY. They got \$2,000.

February 10, 1922: Harold E. Hughes was born on a farm near Ida Grove, Iowa. After his recovery from alcoholism, he became Governor of Iowa, a United States Senator, and the leading dark horse for the Presidential Democratic nomination in 1972, until he announced he would not run. He authored the legislation which created the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and other legislation to help alcoholics and addicts.

February 11, 1938: Clarence Snyder ("Home Brewmeister" in 1st, 2nd & 3rd editions) had his last drink.

February 12, 1945: World War II paper shortage forced reduction in size of the Big Book.

February 13, 1940: With about two years of sobriety, Jim Burwell ("The Vicious Cycle") moved to the Philadelphia area and started the first Philadelphia A.A. group.

February 14, 1971: AA groups worldwide held a memorial service for Bill Wilson.

February 15, 1946: AA Tribune, Des Moines, IA, reported 36 new members since Marty Mann had been there.

February 16, 1941: Baltimore Sunday Sun reported city's first AA group begun in 1940 had grown from 3 to 40 members, with five being women.

February 18, 1943: AA's were granted the right to use cars for 12th step work in emergency cases, despite gas rationing.

February 19, 1967: Father "John Doe" (Ralph Pfau), 1st Catholic Priest in AA, died.

February 20, 1941: The Toledo Blade published first of three articles on AA by Seymour Rothman.

February 21, 1939: 400 copies of the Big Book manuscript were sent to doctors, judges, psychiatrists, and others for comment.

February 22, 1842: Abe Lincoln addressed the Washington Temperance Society in Springfield, IL.

February 23, 1959: AA granted "Recording for the Blind" permission to tape the Big Book.

February 24, 2002: Hal Marley, "Dr. Attitude of Gratitude," died. He had 37 years of sobriety. Hal testified, anonymously, before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse on December 3, 1970.

February 28, 1940: 1st organization meeting of Philadelphia AA was held at McCready Huston's room at 2209 Delancy Street.