

The Alternative

Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter

June 2020

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 Six

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

Since most of us are born with an abundance of natural desires, it isn't strange that we often let these far exceed their intended purpose. When they drive us blindly, or we willfully demand that they supply us with more satisfactions or pleasures than are possible or due us, that is the point at which we depart from the degree of perfection that God wishes for us here on earth. That is the measure of our character defects, or, if you wish, of our sins.

If we ask, God will certainly forgive our derelictions. But in no case does He render us white as snow and keep us that way without our cooperation. That is something we are supposed to be willing to work toward ourselves. He asks only that we try as best we know how to make progress in the building of character.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 65)

Tradition Six

“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose”

We tried A.A. hospitals-they all bogged down because you cannot put an A.A. group into business; too many busybody cooks spoil the broth. A.A. groups had their fling at education, and when they began to publicly whoop up the merits of this or that brand, people became confused. Did A.A. fix drunks or was it an educational project? Was A.A. spiritual or was it medical? Was it a reform movement? In consternation, we saw ourselves getting married to all kinds of enterprises, some good and some not so good. Watching alcoholics committed willy-nilly to prisons or asylums, we began to cry, “There oughtta be a law!” A.A.'s commenced to thump tables in legislative committee rooms and agitated for legal reform. That made good newspaper copy, but little else. We saw we'd soon be mired in politics, Even inside A.A. we found it imperative to remove the A.A. name from clubs and Twelfth Step houses.

These adventures implanted a deep-rooted conviction that in no circumstances could we endorse any related enterprise, no matter how good. We of Alcoholics Anonymous could not be all things to all men, nor should we try.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 156-157)

6th Step Prayer

God, thank you for removing my fear and for showing me the truth about myself. I need your help to become willing to let go of the things in me which continue to block me off from you. Please grant me your grace and remove these objectionable characteristics, defects and shortcomings from me. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 76)

A Special Thanks to the following groups for their contributions to support Reading-Berks Intergroup: Courage to Change 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 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

Updates to new events will be provided as soon as they are available. Stay safe everyone!

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

“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

June 1, 1949 - Anne Smith, Dr. Bob's wife, died.

June 4, 2002- Caroline Knapp, author of "Drinking: A Love Story" died sober of lung cancer.

June 5, 1940 - Ebby Thatcher took a job at the NY Worlds Fair.

June 6:

1940 - The first AA Group in Richmond, VA, was formed.

1979 - AA gave the two-millionth copy of the Big Book to Joseph Califano, then Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. It was presented by Lois Wilson, Bill's wife, in New York.

June 7:

1939 - Bill and Lois Wilson had an argument, the first of two times Bill almost slipped.

1941 - The first AA Group in St. Paul, Minnesota, was formed.

June 8, 1941 - Three AA's started a group in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

June 10, 1935 - The date that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding date of AA. There is some evidence that the founders, in trying to reconstruct the history, got the date wrong and it was actually June 17.

June 11, 1945 - Twenty-five hundred attend AA's 10th Anniversary in Cleveland, Ohio.

June 13, 1945 - Morgan R. gave a radio appearance for AA with large audience. He was kept under surveillance to make sure he didn't drink.

June 15, 1940 - First AA Group in Baltimore, MD, was formed.

June 16, 1938 - Jim Burwell, "The Vicious Cycle" in Big Book, had his last drink.

June 17, 1942 - New York AA groups sponsored the first annual NY area meeting. Four hundred and twenty-four heard Dr. Silkworth and AA speakers.

June 18, 1940 - One hundred attended the first meeting in the first AA clubhouse at 334-1/2 West 24th St., New York City.

June 19, 1942 - Columnist Earl Wilson reported that NYC Police Chief Valentine sent six policemen to AA and they sobered up. "There are fewer suicides in my files," he commented.

June 21, 1944 - The first Issue of the AA Grapevine was published.

June 24, 1938 - Two Rockefeller associates told the press about the Big Book "Not to bear any author's name but to be by 'Alcoholics Anonymous.'"

June 25, 1939 - The New York Times reviewer wrote that the Big Book is "more soundly based psychologically than any other treatment I have ever come upon."

June 26, 1935 - Bill Dotson. (AA #3) entered Akron's City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.

June 28, 1935 - Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson visited Bill Dotson at Akron's City Hospital.

June 30:

1941 - Ruth Hock showed Bill Wilson the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.

2000 - More than 47,000 from 87 countries attended the opening meeting of the 65th AA Anniversary in Minneapolis, MN.