

# *The Alternative*

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter August 2018

[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 Eight**

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.”

When listing the people we have harmed, most of us hit another solid obstacle. We got a pretty severe shock when we realized that we were preparing to make a face-to-face admission of our wretched conduct to those we had hurt. It had been embarrassing enough when in confidence we had admitted these things to God, to ourselves, and to another human being. But the prospect of actually visiting or even writing the people concerned now overwhelmed us, especially when we remembered in what poor favor we stood with most of them. There were cases, too, where we had damaged others who were still happily unaware of being hurt. Why, we cried, shouldn't bygones be bygones? Why do we have to think of these people at all? These were some of the ways in which fear conspired with pride to hinder our making a list of *all* the people we had harmed.

*(Twelve Steps & Twelve Tradition pg. 78-79)*

It is the beginning of the end of isolation from our fellows and from God.

*(Twelve Steps & Twelve Tradition pg. 82)*

## **Tradition Eight**

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers”

At the Foundation, the same story repeats itself. Eight tons of books and literature per month do no package and channel themselves all over the world. Sacks of letters on every conceivable A.A. problem ranging from a lonely-heart Eskimo to the growing pains of thousands of groups must be answered by people who *know*. Right contacts with the world outside have to be maintained. A.A.'s lifelines have to be tended. So we hire A.A. staff members. We pay them well, and they earn what they get. They are professional secretaries, \* but they certainly are not professional A.A.'s.

\* The work of present-day staff members has no counterpart among the job categories of commercial organizations. These A.A.'s bring a wide range of business and professional experience to their service at The General Service Office.

*(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 169)*

## **8th Step Prayer**

*God, please remove my fears and show me your truth. Show me ALL the harms I have caused with my behavior. Lord, make me willing to make amends to one and all. Amen.*

*(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 76)*

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

**Intergroup:** July contributions will be reported in September's Alternative.

## *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 Chairperson & Volunteers**

Contact Terry Mc F. at 610-944-3167 or [BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org) or [bridgingthegap@comcast.net](mailto:bridgingthegap@comcast.net) or “Bridging the Gap”, P.O. Box 301, Blandon, Pa. 19510

### **“Intergroup Treasury Chairperson Needed”**

Contact Rol S. at 610-698-6464 or [Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org](mailto:Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org)  
Requirements: 5 Years Sobriety, experience with Electronic Banking & Microsoft Excel

### **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

### **“Summer Workshop – Carrying the Message”**

**Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Hosted by District 58 - SAPA (Hydro-Extrusions) Group,  
53 Pottsville St, Cressona PA 17929: 9 AM to 3 PM.  
Food, Fun and Fellowship - No fees

### **“Pennsylvania State Convention – Recovery, Unity & Service”**

**Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Red Lion Inn, 4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111  
\$25 Registration before July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 or \$30 Registration after July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Contact: [info@aapastateconvention.com](mailto:info@aapastateconvention.com) or [www.aapastateconvention.com](http://www.aapastateconvention.com)

### **“Happy Hour 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic”**

**Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Mohnton Playground, 308 E. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540: 12 P.M. – 6 P.M.  
**Provided:** Grills, Burgers, Dogs, Pulled Pork, Condiments, Paper Products, Water, Coolers & Coffee  
**Bring:** Covered dish, your favorite beverage (non-alcoholic), games, family & friends  
(except 4 legged friends - Sorry - PARK RULES)  
Volunteers are need for clean-up & setup & behind the counter  
Contact Mimi @ 610-777-8904 or Charlie F. @ 610-373-5314  
Food, Fun and Fellowship - No fees

### **“PENNSCYPAA XXX”**

**Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Rhodes Grove Campground, Chambersburg PA  
\$20 Registration fee. <http://www.pennscypaaxxx.com>

### **“Spiritual Principles Behind The Steps Workshop”**

**Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Hosted by District 45  
Flinchbaughs Orchard, 110 Ducktown Rd, York, PA: 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM  
No fees. Contact: [ralpho226@gmail.com](mailto:ralpho226@gmail.com)

### **“Area Day – A.A. – A Solution For All Generations”**

**Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Hosted by District 55  
Brookhaven Borough Hall, 2 Cambridge Rd., Brookhaven, PA 19015  
Open to All Fellowship Members. Registration at 9:00 AM. Starts at 10:00 AM  
No fees. Contact: [chairperson@area59aa.org](mailto:chairperson@area59aa.org)

# *Announcements*

## **“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

### **Existing Meeting New Location:**

#### **”End of the Line Group”**

Beginning Wednesday, May 2nd 2018

The group will begin meeting at their new location at 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday – Closed Meeting Format

Fleetwood New Jerusalem UCC, 27 Lyons Rd., New Jerusalem, PA 19522

**\*\* Please Note: Meeting Day & Time has not changed – only the location \***

### **Existing Meeting New Location:**

#### **”Leesport Group of Alcoholics Anonymous”**

Beginning June 30<sup>th</sup> 2018 will meet at 9:30 PM Saturday Nights

Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church, 820 W. Leesport Rd., Leesport, PA 19533

**\*\* Please Note: Day has not changed – only the location – Closed Discussion Meeting \*\***

### **New Meeting:**

#### **Women’s Sharing Our Strength (S.O.S.) Group**

Monday 7 P.M. Open Discussions Meeting – 12 Steps & 12 Traditions

St. Columbkil Church, 200 Indian Spring Rd., Boyertown, PA 19512 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

No Day Care

### **New Meeting:**

#### **Coffee & Donuts**

Saturday 10 – 11 A.M. Open Discussion Meeting – Smoking Permitted Outside

87 Main Street, Strausstown, PA 19559

## *Announcements Continued*

### **Meeting Needs Support:**

#### **Stouchburg Group**

Marion Twp. Municipal Bldg., 420 Water St., Womelsdorf, PA 19567

Monday's & Thursday's at 7:00 PM

### **Meeting Needs Support:**

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Street Recovery**

Pennsylvania Counseling Building, 125 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Reading, PA , PA

Tuesday's at 6:30 PM

### **Meeting Needs Support:**

#### **Nolde Forest Group**

1 United Church of Christ, 1730 New Holland Rd., Kenhorst, PA

Wednesday 7:30 PM (2 Meetings Upstairs and Downstairs)

## *Recovery Quotes*

There is this to be said in favor of drinking, that it takes the drunkard first out of society, then out of the world.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

It only takes one drink to get me drunk, but I can't remember if it's the thirteenth or fourteenth.

*George Burns*

I believe, if we take habitual drunkards as a class, their heads and their hearts will bear an advantageous comparison with those of any other class. There seems ever to have been a proneness in the brilliant and warm-blooded to fall into this vice.

*Abraham Lincoln*

I always drank, from when it was legal for me to drink. And there was never a time for me when the goal wasn't to get as hammered as I could possibly afford to. I never understood social drinking, that's always seemed to me like kissing your sister.

*Stephen King*

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

**August 1, 1946** - Washington Times-Herald (DC) reports on AA clubhouse, to protect members anonymity, withholds address

**August 3, 1954** - Brinkley S. gets sober at Towns Hosp after 50th detox

**August 3, 1989** - Liberty Bell Group founded in Lake Elsinore, CA - August 3, 1989

**August 8, 1879** - Dr Bob S. is born in St Johnsbury, Vermont

**August 11, 1938** - Akron & NY members begin writing stories for Big Book

**August 16, 1939** - Dr Bob and Sister Ignatia admit 1st alcoholic to St Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio

**August 18, 1988** - 1st Canadian National AA Convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia

**August 19, 1941** - 1st AA Meeting in Colorado is held in Denver

**August 25, 1943** - AA group donates Big Book to public library in Quincy, MA

**August 26, 1941** - Bill writes Dr Bob to tell him Works Publishing has been incorporated

**August 28, 1954** - 24 Hours a Day is published by Richmond Walker

**Other significant events in August for which there is no specific date:**

**1934:** Rowland H and Cebra persuade court to parole Ebby T. to them.

**1939:** Dr. Bob wrote & may have signed article for Faith magazine.

**1941** - 1st meeting in Orange County, California held in Anaheim

**1981** - Sales of the Big Book passes 3,000,000