

# *The Alternative*

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter July 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**

---

### INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

Mike M.	Intergroup Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Chairperson@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Robert D.	Intergroup Alt. Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Alt-Chair@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Alt-Chair@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Rol S.	Intergroup Treasurer	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Treasurer@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Mark S.	Intergroup Secretary	<a href="mailto:Secretary@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Secretary@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Chris G.	Hotline Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Hotline@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Larry M.	Archives Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Archives@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Archives@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Al S.	Men's Prison Chairperson	<a href="mailto:MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Susan W.	Woman's Prison Chairperson	<a href="mailto:WomansPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">WomansPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Bill C.	Literature Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Literature@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Literature@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Tyler J.	Schedules Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Schedules@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Schedules@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Rob C.	Institutions Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Institutions@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Institutions@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Tammy G.	Newsletter Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Misty H.	Unity Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Terry Mc F.	Bridging the Gap	<a href="mailto:BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Greg G.	Website	<a href="mailto:Info@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Info@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Pete R.	Public Information	<a href="mailto:PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">PublicInfo@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>
Tyler J.	Visitation	<a href="mailto:Visitation@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org">Visitation@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org</a>

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 Seven

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God. The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, then there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problem we could possibly have.

*(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pg. 76)*

## Tradition Seven

“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions”

Probably no A.A. Tradition had the labor pains this one did. In early times, we were all broke. When you add to this the habitual supposition that people ought to give money to alcoholics trying to stay sober, it can be understood why we thought we deserved a pile of folding money. What great things A.A. would be able to do with it! But oddly enough, people who had money thought otherwise. They figured that it was high time we now-sober-paid our own way. So our Fellowship stayed poor because of it.

*(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 160)*

## 7th Step Prayer

*My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character, which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen.*

*(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 76)*

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

**Intergroup:** Hilltop Group; Alpha Group; Turning Point Group; Leesport Group; Great Fact Group; Kutztown Living Sober; New Bernville Group; French Creek Group of AA; and Wilshire Fellowship 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 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 Chairpeson 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>

### **Volunteers are Needed for the Annual Intergroup Picnic Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

Mohnton Playground, 202 E. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540  
People are needed to assist with clean-up & setup & grilling  
Please Contact Misty H. @ 484-818-1350 or [Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org](mailto:Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org)

# Events

## **“Annual Grapevine Picnic”**

**Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

High Acres Park, 110 High Acres Drive Route 447, Canadensis, PA18325

\$7.00 per ticket in advance. \$10.00 per ticket at the door

10 AM to 4 PM; Contact: [ilaw61@hotmail.com](mailto:ilaw61@hotmail.com)

## **“12th Annual Campout at Hickory Run State Park”**

**Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**

Hickory Run, Camp Daddy Allen

3613 State Route 534, White Haven, PA 18661-9712

Fun, Fellowship, Workshops, Campfire Meetings & More

For fees visit [www.hickoryruncampout.com](http://www.hickoryruncampout.com)

## **“Reading – Berks Intergroup Annual Picnic”**

**Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

Mohnton Playground, 202 E. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

Bring a Dish, Fun, Fellowship, Food & More - 11 A.M. – 6 P.M.

Volunteers Needed for Setup & Cleanup

Contact Misty H. at 484-818-1350 or email: [Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org](mailto:Unity@ReadingBerksIntergroup.org)

## **“ 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

# Events Continued

## **“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:**

### **“Leesport Group of AA”**

The Group moved due to the sale of the building.

Starting June 30, Leesport Group will meet at

Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church

820 West Leesport Road, Leesport PA 19533

(9:30 PM Closed Discussion) where the Friday night Frog Pond Group meets.

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

# *Announcements Continued*

## **Existing Meeting Time Change:**

### **“Shoey Big Book Study”**

Beginning Now the group will meet at 7:00 PM Saturday Nights

Zion Lutheran Church, 354 Zion Church Road, Shoemakersville, PA 19555

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

## **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

## **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:**

### **Spirit of Recovery**

Holy Spirit Church, 423 Windsor St., Reading, PA

Monday’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

“I'd hate to be a teetotaler. Imagine getting up in the morning and knowing that's as good as you're going to feel all day.”

*Dean Martin*

“The mentality and behavior of drug addicts and alcoholics is wholly irrational until you understand that they are completely powerless over their addiction and unless they have structured help, they have no hope.”

*Russell Brand*

“Every habit he's ever had is still there in his body, lying dormant like flowers in the desert. Given the right conditions, all his old addictions would burst into full and luxuriant bloom.”

*Margaret Atwood*

“You know you're an alcoholic when you misplace things ... like a decade.”

*Paul Williams*

“Alcohol ruined me financially and morally, broke my heart and the hearts of too many others. Even though it did this to me and it almost killed me and I haven't touched a drop of it in seventeen years, sometimes I wonder if I could get away with drinking some now. I totally subscribe to the notion that alcoholism is a mental illness because thinking like that is clearly insane.”

*Craig Ferguson*

“I understood, through rehab, things about creating characters. I understood that creating whole people means knowing where we come from, how we can make a mistake and how we overcome things to make ourselves stronger.”

*Samuel L. Jackson*

"When you quit drinking you stop waiting."

*Caroline Knapp, Drinking: A Love Story*

"I have other obligations now - the show, my family, my life... though I know that without my sobriety I wouldn't have any of those things."

*Rob Lowe*

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

**July 1-3, 1960** - 8700 attend 25th Anniversary of AA in Long Beach, CA

### **July 2**

**1965** - Best of Bill and Pocket-Sized 12 and 12 1st sold

**1993** - 50 years of AA celebrated in Canada

**2000** - 20 Millionth Big Book given to Al-Anon in Minneapolis

**July 2-3, 1955** - Bill W turns "the fellowship over to the fellowship" at 4:00 PM, 5000 attend 20th Anniversary at our St Louis Convention

**July 2-4, 1965** - 10,000 attend 30th Anniversary of AA in Toronto. There we came to own our Responsibility Declaration

**July 4, 1939** - 1st AA meeting started in Flatbush, NY

**July 3-5, 1970** - 10,900 attend 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami. Bill W gave his last talk to AA

**July 3-6, 1980** - 22,500 attend 45th Anniversary of AA in New Orleans First true marathon meeting was held here

**July 4, 1999** - He who has a fifth on the fourth may not come forth on the fifth...

**July 4-6, 1975** - 19,800 attend 40th Anniversary of AA in Denver Worlds largest coffee server serves 1/2 million cups a day

### **July 5:**

**1985** - AA gives Ruth Hock 5,000,000th Big Book during 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal, Canada

**1990** - AA gives Nell Wing 10,000,000th Big Book during 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle, WA

**July 3-6, 1980** - Gay AA's have own program at 40th AA Anniversary in New Orleans

**July 5-7, 1985** - 45,000 attend 50th Anniversary of AA in Montreal. House of Seagrams flew their flags at half mast for 3 days

**July 7, 1940** - Bill attends 1st Summer Session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University

**July 5-8, 1990** - 48,000 attend 55th Anniversary of AA in Seattle. 75 countries were represented as the former Soviet Unions members attended for the first time

**July 8, 1940** - 1st AA Group formed in Dayton, Ohio

**July 10, 1941** - Texas newspaper publishes anonymous letter from founding member of Texas AA Group

**July 20, 1941** - First AA group formed in Seattle, Washington

### **July 22:**

**1877** - William Duncan Silkworth born in Brooklyn, NY

**1980** - Marty M. early AA woman and founder of NCADD dies

### **July 23:**

**1940** - Philly AA's send 10% of kitty to Alcoholic Foundation, sets precedent

**1943** - Esther C., passed Jan 15, 2005, sober since July 23, 1943.

**July 24, 1943** - L.A. press reports formation of all-Mexican AA Group

**July 28-30, 1950** - 1st AA Convention celebrates 15th anniversary of AA in Cleveland



## **“Fortress Twelve”**

Back in the mid eighties when I arrived at Alcoholics Anonymous, my sponsor took me to a meeting in the Boyertown know as the “Fortress Twelve”. The gentleman, who built this unique place, used his own funds to show his appreciation for what AA had given him! Life...

Upon my first entry between a double large black swing gate before 2 beautiful white stone pillars they were attached to, I drove up the driveway to what looked like a four car garage. On entering the large beautiful building, were comfortable chairs and a nice thick sturdy table before me. Many people made it a point to get out of their seats and welcomed me. As being quite new to the program, I was overwhelmed at the authenticity of their smiles, handshakes, hugs and the real feeling that I belonged! These folks talked about the solution to my problem(s), alcohol and living problems.

After the meeting was over, I was surrounded again by people who spoke with me candidly, gave me their phone number and invited me back.

As we left the meeting I noticed outside across the way a bit, a beautiful white small building that stood in the middle of the property. I was completely amazed. It was a castle, Hence the name, “Fortress Twelve”. {Castle > Fortress + 12 Steps} I couldn't wait to come back again for another meeting there.

The man in the red shirt and black vest facing the camera under the word powerful is the man who built “Fortress 12” for all to recover. His name is Phil W. I am honored to have known him and everyone I met there and for the feeling that I finally “fit” somewhere. Thank you, Mr. Phil W. This place as many others were very instrumental in my early sobriety.

I only remember the names of a few of these folks, so if anyone sees this photo and happens to add to this memory of mine, please do so.

Thank you for the privilege of being able to submit this for our archives... Keep coming back...

**Stoney Creek Mike**

P.S. What generosity in giving back... Thanks again Mr. Phil W.