The Alternative
Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter
March 2017
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

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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 Three

“Made a decision to turn our will and out lives over to the care of God as we understand Him.”

Step Three calls for affirmative action, for it is only by action that we can cut away the self-will which has always blocked the entry of God – or, if you like, a Higher Power – into our lives.

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition pg. 34)

Tradition Three

“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

This Tradition is packed with meaning. For A.A. is really saying to every serious drinker, “You are an A.A. member if you say so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out. No matter who you are, no matter how low you’ve gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications – even your crimes – we still can’t deny you A.A. We don’t want to keep you out. We aren’t a bit afraid you’ll harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be. We just want to be sure that you get the same great chance for sobriety that we’ve had. So you’re an A.A. member the minute you declare yourself.”

(Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 139)

Third Step Prayer

God, I offer myself to thee-to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear wittiness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always. Amen

(Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pg. 63)

A Special Thanks to the following groups for their contributions to support Reading-Berks Intergroup: Books & People; Come As You Are; Shoey Group AA; End of the Line Group; New Millennium Group; Sober Living Group; Just For Today Group; Gibraltar Group of AA; and 611 Group.
Service Commitments Available

Male Volunteers are Needed for the Prison Commitment
Meetings are Monday Nights
Please Contact Terry C. at MensPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Applications are available on the Reading Berks Intergroup Website @

Female Volunteers are Needed for Prison Commitment
Meetings are Tuesday Nights from 7-8 PM
Please Contact Susan W. at WomansPrison@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org
Applications are available on the Reading Berks Intergroup Website @

Events

“Sober at 6:30 Group 9th Year Anniversary”
Thursday, March 9th 2017
Volunteers Needed
Speaker Meeting from 6:30 – 7:30 PM
Cupcakes, Fun and Fellowship to follow
St. Paul’s UCC Church, Christian Education Building
Washington and West 2nd Streets, Birdsboro, PA 19508

Announcements

Alternative Advertisements
All A.A. Events, Notifications, and/or Announcements are Welcome!
Please email all requests to: Alternative@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org

All are Invited to Attend:
District 66 Area 59 Meeting
St. Peters UCC, Dwight St. & Curtis Rd., West Lawn, PA
2nd Thursday each month at 7 - 8 PM
New Group:  
**Woman's Hope with AA**  
Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church  
1188 Ben Franklin Highway (Rt. 422), Douglasville, PA  
Friday, 7 PM-Closed Meeting

New Group:  
**Bright Spot of Our Lives**  
Atonement Parish Center, Penn Ave. & Wyomissing, PA  
Fridays’ at 6:30 PM (Beginners Meeting)  
*(The Meeting is located in the Basement)*

Meeting Needs Support:  
**Jacksonwald Group**  
"Monday night has spirit yes we do! Monday has spirit how bout you!" Come support  
Jacksonwald Discussion meeting and share in the spirit!  
Schwartzwald Lutheran Church, 250 Church Lane Rd., Jacksonwald, PA  
Monday’s at 8:00 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)

Meeting Needs Support:  
**The Wires Meeting**  
Zion U.C.C. Church, 2nd & High Sts., Womelsdorf, PA 19567  
Women’s Closed Meeting (Step Discussion, Big Book, Speaker)  
Sunday’s, 6:45-8:00 PM

Meeting Needs Support:  
**Reflections on the Mountain**  
Easy Does It  
1300 Hilltop Road, Leesport, PA  
Thursday’s, 7:00 – 8:00 PM (Fellowship Hall)
Alcoholism Quotes

“You speak of my drinking, yet you don’t know my thirst”

“I can’t die until the government finds a safe place to bury my liver”

“I tried that too, you know. After ... my family was murdered, and I was waiting for justice, I tried to hide inside a bottle. But some men, Tony, [...] are not small enough to fit into a bottle.”

“Drinking gave me a rush of confidence and for a boy hounded by feelings of inadequacy, the buzz was a welcome relief. What was impossible to realize at the time was that I was shooting myself in the head in some strange time warp where the bullet takes many years to finally reach its target.”

“Usually it’s like this: I sit down and drink with the idea of clarifying just where I am going with my life, and then, after a while, I am unable even to stand on my feet”

Drinking Facts

- Every day, almost 30 people in the United States die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This amounts to one death every 51 minutes.

- 5.3 million adults -- 36 percent of those under correctional supervision at the time -- were drinking at the time of their conviction offense.

- Approximately 7,000 children in the U.S. under the age of 16 take their first drink every day, which is a major problem because those who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than those who begin at age 21.

- 100,000 people die each year from alcohol-related causes: drinking and driving crashes, other accidents, falls, fires, alcohol-related homicides and suicides.
**Important Dates in A.A. History**

**March 1, 1941:** Saturday Evening Post article by Jack Alexander created national sensation. AA membership quadrupled in one year from 2000 to 8000.

**March 3, 1947:** Nell Wing, Bill's secretary and first archivist of AA, began her career at Alcoholic Foundation Office at 415 Lexington Avenue.

**March 4, 1891:** Lois Wilson was born.

**March 5, 1945:** Time Magazine reported Detroit radio broadcasts of AA members.

**March 7, 1940:** Bill and Lois visited the Philadelphia AA group.

**March 9, 1941:** Wichita Beacon reported AA member from NY who wanted to form a group in Wichita, Kansas.

**March 10, 1944:** New York Intergroup was established.

**March 11, 1947:** A Priest in St. Paul, Minnesota, founded Calix International. Alcoholics in his parish met after Saturday morning Mass to discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday and how their faith melded with the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**March 12, 1940:** Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's boyhood friend and sponsor, was reported sober again.

**March 14, 1941:** South Orange, NJ, AA held an anniversary dinner at the Hotel Suburban with Bill Wilson as the guest speaker.

**March 15, 1941:** 1st AA group was formed in New Haven, Connecticut.

**March 16, 1940:** Bill moved the Alcoholic Foundation office to 30 Vesey St., NY. (30 Vesey St., NY, was almost destroyed on September 11, 2001.)

**March 18, 1951:** Cliff W. was elected 1st delegate from Southern California.

**March 21, 1966:** Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's sponsor, died sober.

**March 22, 1951:** Dr. William Duncan Silkworth died at Towns Hospital.

**March 23, 1941:** Sybil C.'s sobriety date. She was the first woman to enter AA west of the Mississippi.

**March 25:**

1898: Jim B. ("The Vicious Cycle") was born

1965: Richmond Walker, author of "Twenty-Four Hours a Day" book, died at age 72, almost 23 years sober.

2005: Nancy Olson, Founder of AAHL- See Memorial at: http://hindsfoot.org/nomem1.htm

**March 29, 1943:** The Charleston Mail, WV, reported that Bill Wilson had given a talk at St. John's Parish House.

**March 31, 1947:** 1st AA group was formed in London, England.