

# *The Alternative*

## Reading-Berks County Intergroup Newsletter March 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 Three**

“Made a decision to turn our will and our 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 Traditions 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)*

## **3rd 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 witness 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:** Shoey Group of AA; Alpha Group; Happy Hour Group; Just for Today; and YASNY

# Events

## **“Sober at Six Thirty Anniversary Meeting”**

**Thursday, March 8th, 2018**

St. Paul’s UCC, Christian Education Building  
Washington & W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Birdsboro, PA 19508  
Food & Fellowship at 6:00 PM / Speaker at 6:30 PM

## **“Bingo Strikes Back”**

**Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

Hosted by Chester County Bid for Pennscypaa  
Advent Lutheran Church, 1601 Green Lane, West Chester PA 19382  
7 PM to ??? No fees. Contact: [Chescobid@gmail.com](mailto:Chescobid@gmail.com)

## **“More about Alcoholism Workshop”**

**Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Hosted by District 64  
521 Club, 2400 Butter Rd, Lancaster, PA 17601  
10 AM to 4 PM. No fees. Contact: [kecl328@yahoo.com](mailto:kecl328@yahoo.com)

## **“SEPIA Roundup”**

**Friday, April 13 – Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Grand Hotel of Cape May, 1045 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ  
Contact: [vicechairperson@aasepia.org](mailto:vicechairperson@aasepia.org)

## **“Our Primary Purpose Workshop”**

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

Faith Lutheran Church, 2349 Old Turnpike Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837  
Lunch at 12 PM. Workshop from 1 PM to 4 PM. No Fees.  
Contact: [david@davidlathamcsween.com](mailto:david@davidlathamcsween.com)

## **“Basket Bingo”**

**Fundraiser for York Area Intergroup**

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

Convent Moravian Church, 901 Cape Horn Road, York, PA  
Gourmet coffee and snacks (available for a donation) 2 PM to 5 PM  
Contact: [yorkintergroupbookstore@gmail.com](mailto:yorkintergroupbookstore@gmail.com)

## **“YPAA & General Service Workshop”**

**Hosted by Cumberland Valley Host Committee for PENNSCYPAA XXX and District 35**

**Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

1535 Mont Alto Rd, Chambersburg, PA 17202  
9 AM to 1 PM. No fees. Contact: [Cvypaa@gmail.com](mailto:Cvypaa@gmail.com)

## *Events Continued*

### **“Combined Intergroup & EPGSA Share-A-Day”**

**Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

2400 Butter Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601

“All AA members, Intergroup reps, DCMs associated with Lancaster, York, Reading-Berks, Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Hanover, Cumberland Valley, Pocono and Northeast PA are welcome to attend”

1 PM to 4 PM. No fees

Contact: [chairperson@area59aa.org](mailto:chairperson@area59aa.org) or [xbaseballer024@gmail.com](mailto:xbaseballer024@gmail.com)

### **“X Spanish Pennsylvania State A.A. Convention”**

**Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

TriCounty Active Adult Center, 288 Moser Rd, Pottstown, PA 19464

Registration \$20 & Sunday Banquet \$30 Contact: [emd@gmail.com](mailto:emd@gmail.com)

### **“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)

## *Service Commitments*

### **“Bridging The Gap” – Needs Volunteers**

Contact Terry Mc F. at 610-944-3167, [BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org](mailto:BridgingGap@ReadingBerksIntergroup.Org) or at

“Bridging the Gap”, P.O. Box 301, Blandon, Pa. 19510.

### **“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)

## *Service Commitments Continued*

### **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>

## *Announcements*

### **“Alternative Advertisements”**

**All A.A. Events, Notifications, and/or Announcements 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 Time Change:**

#### **”Time To Start Living”**

Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 Every Wednesday & Friday

The group will start their meeting at 6:30 PM ending at 7:30 PM

Wednesdays’ (Beginners) & Fridays’ 1<sup>st</sup>-Step, 3<sup>rd</sup>-Living Sober, 5<sup>th</sup>-Traditions

Good Shepherd Church, 170 Tuckerton Rd., Reading, PA 19605

# *Announcements Continued*

## **Existing Meeting New Location:**

### **"Great Fact Big Book"**

Beginning Wednesday, January 3rd 2018

The group will begin meeting at their new location from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
Wyomissing Church of the Brethren, 2200 State Hill, Rd., Wyomissing, PA 19610

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

## **New Meeting:**

### **Nueva Vida**

Sunday 6 - 7 PM (Spanish/English) Big Book

Monday 6 – 7 PM (Spanish/English) 12 & 12

Easy Does It Clubhouse, 647 Walnut St., Reading, PA

## **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)

## **Meeting Needs Support:**

### **The Wires Meeting**

**(\*\*Now Open to Men & Women\*\*)**

Zion U.C.C. Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> & High Sts., Womelsdorf, PA 19567

Closed Meeting (Step Discussion, Big Book, Speaker)

Sunday's 6:45-8:00 PM

## *Recovery Quotes*

“Sometimes you’ve just got to give yourself what you wish someone else would give you.”

***Dr. Phil***

“I got sober. I stopped killing myself with alcohol. I began to think: ‘Wait a minute – if I can stop doing this, what are the possibilities?’ And slowly it dawned on me that it was maybe worth the risk.”

***Craig Ferguson***

“Sometimes we motivate ourselves by thinking of what we want to become. Sometimes we motivate ourselves by thinking about who we don’t ever want to be again.”

***Shane Niemeyer***

“If you can quit for a day, you can quit for a lifetime.”

***Benjamin Alire Sáenz***

“Sometimes you can only find Heaven by slowly backing away from Hell.”

***Carrie Fisher***

“I hated every minute of training, but I said, ‘Don’t quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.’”

***Muhammad Ali***

“I personally believe this: We have only today; yesterday’s gone and tomorrow is uncertain. That’s why they call it the present. And sobriety really is a gift... for those who are willing to receive it.”

***Ace Frehley***

You cannot solve a problem from the same consciousness that created it. You must learn to see the world anew.

***Albert Einstein***

## *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.