

NEWS SHEET

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF IRELAND



Declaration of Unity

*This we owe to AA's future:
To place our common welfare first;
To keep our fellowship united.
For on AA unity depend our lives;
and the lives of those to come.*

Fellowship Finance

The annual set of audited accounts has been circulated to all AA Groups over recent weeks. These were presented by the Auditors to the General Service Board in January 2018 and will be duly presented to the General Service Conference in March for final approval.



A quick glance at the figures will show a major reversal in fortunes in relation to income. We have moved from a deficit of over €100k in 2016 to a surplus of €28k in 2017. This is a transformational turnaround by the Fellowship and one which it can be surely proud of. Our declaration of responsibility in carrying the AA message of recovery is so apt here. The hand of AA has been there when needed. Without the fuelling funds from the Groups, the whole Structure would be in danger of collapsing and all the

attendant services with it. The Irish phrase “go raibh míle maith agaibh” is actually a prayer, and when roughly translated means “a thousand



goodnesses to you”. The Board wishes to record its sincere gratitude to the members of the Fellowship for its generosity at a time of imminent financial crisis.

The Advisory Note issued following our meeting with the Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) in November 2017

The Advisory Note is winging its way through the Structure following the recent Provincial Intergroup Meetings. This Information Meeting helped clarify a number of issues of concern to the General Service Board in respects of its role and responsibilities as a Registered Charity.

The duties and responsibilities of the respective parts of the AA Structure in relation to processes and procedures around the management and accountability for AA money were also revisited, clarified and duly emphasised.

The views and opinions expressed in The News Sheet are not necessarily those of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland as a whole.

Intergroups, Areas and AA Groups are all encouraged to examine and discuss the document and particularly how it relates to their operation.

This meeting, held at the behest of the Board, proved highly significant and was very much welcomed by the members of Conference who attended on the day.

The AA Tradition of self-support was a telling feature of the regard in which we, as a Fellowship were held by the CRA.

the “bottle banks” in the county. This has been done in co-operation with Clare County Council. Here is a classic example of how AA can be “friendly with its friends”, where we can co-operate without compromising our tradition of non-affiliation.

The Clare Area poster carried the words “If you want to drink that’s your business - if you want to stop that’s ours” with the AA Telephone Helpline added.



Public Information

We are on target to finally deliver the much awaited PI kit. Our aim is to have these available at the All-Ireland Literature Stand. A hundred kits are being assembled and will prove an invaluable resource in offering effective PI to relevant organisations in areas such as Police, Law, Education, Rehab, Social Services, Company HR departments and the like.

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.



CAN'T STOP
There is a solution
CALL Alcoholics Anonymous

Contact: **Alcoholics Anonymous**
General Service Office
01 - 842 0700
Tel: gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie
Website: www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

The Bottle Bank Poster Campaign

An idea that emanated from the World Service Meeting in 2016 and which has been trialled in the Clare Area is the placement of waterproof posters on

‘Each day, somewhere in the world, recovery begins when one alcoholic talks with another alcoholic, sharing experience, strength and hope’

APPROVED FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS AND ONE DAY EVENTS



ALL IRELAND CONVENTION 2018

20th-22nd April 2018	61st All Ireland Convention	The Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Tel: 052 6188700 Theme: AA Singleness of Purpose
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FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS IN IRELAND

DATES	AREA	VENUE/THEME
18th-20th May 2018	Galway East Area Convention	Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, Co. Galway. Theme: Experience, Strength and Hope
1st-3rd June 2018	Antrim Area Convention	Drummond Hotel, 2 Main Street, Ballykelly, BT49 9HP. Phone: 028 7722121, Website: www.drummondhotel.com
12th-14th October 2018	Donegal Area Convention	Mount Errigal Hotel, Ramelton Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Phone: 074 22700. Website: www.mounterrighal.com

FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS ABROAD

DATES	COUNTRY	VENUE/THEME
16th-18th March 2018	Highland Gathering Convention Scotland	Jury's Inn Hotel, Millburn Road, Inverness, IV2 3TR. Theme: Sobriety is Freedom
23rd-25th March 2018	Malta AA Convention	Seashells Resort, Suncrest Hotel, Qwara, Malta. Theme: One Day At A Time. Website: www.aamalta.org/convention/
27th-29th April 2018	6th International Convention. Area 21 - Alicante (Spain)	Hotel Kaktus Albir, Paseo de las Estrellas, 11, El Albir, 03581 - Alfaz del Pi, Alicante (Spain). Tel: + (34) 96 6864830. www.kaktusgrup.com
17th-20th May 2018	24th AA Convention in Greece	Grand Bleu Sea Resort Hotel, Eretria Evia, Greece. Theme: HOPE (Happy Our Programme Exists)
12th-14th October 2018	2nd Biarritz AA Convention in France	Radisson Blu Hotel, Cote des Basques, 64200 Biarritz, France. Theme: A Vision For You

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 61st ALL IRELAND CONVENTION **AA Singleness of Purpose**



THIS IS A CLOSED MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This is a closed meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. In support of A.A.'s singleness of purpose, attendance at closed meetings is limited to persons who have a desire to stop drinking. If you think you have a problem with alcohol, you are welcome to attend this meeting. We ask that when discussing our problems, we confine ourselves to those problems as they relate to alcoholism.

(The 1987 General Service Conference made this statement available as an A.A. service piece for those groups who wish to use it.)

Visit us at: www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

The News Sheet is intended as an aid to SERVICE throughout the Fellowship in Ireland. Your suggestions as to form and content of the News Sheet will be especially welcome.

Service Structure of The Fellowship in Ireland

Each Group is entitled to send two GSRs to Area

Each Area send four members as Delegates to Intergroup

Four Delegates, known as Conference Delegates, represent their Provincial Intergroup at Conference

AA Conference includes the Board, the Board Secretary, the four Intergroup Delegates and Intergroup Secretary together with our two World Service Delegates

The Board itself is made up of four Alcoholics Trustees and three non-Alcoholics Trustees.

A.A. Groups

Area

Intergroup

Conference

Board

Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organization because, as the structure chart shows, the Groups are on top and the Trustees at the bottom. Bill W. wrote in Concept 1 "The AA Groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world service...." Then in Concept 2, Bill made it clear that the Groups "delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world service and thereby made the Conference... the actual voice and effective conscience for our whole society". Bill's early vision was of a worldwide structure. However, the Conference structures in countries outside of the U.S./Canada evolved as autonomous entities.



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