

# NEWS SHEET

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF IRELAND



## 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.

## Board Report

Sub committees on **Public Information** and the **70th commemorative year of AA** in Ireland were established at our last Conference. These committees are chaired by Colly G. and Michael O'R. respectively. They will report with their recommendations to Conference in March.

The **Annual Conference** (not to be confused with our annual convention which coincidentally is venued in Tullamore also) takes place from 11th. to 13th. March 2016 in the Tullamore Court Hotel.

Four Conference Delegates from each of the four provincial intergroups together with the Intergroup Secretaries attend the Annual Conference. In addition two World Service Delegates (WSDs), the General Service Board (comprising three Non-Alcoholic Trustees and four Alcoholic Trustees) and the Board Secretary attend Conference.

The **audited accounts for 2014/2015** have been completed and presented to the Board. Our **income is down by in excess of €50k**. The Board, through its Trustees, has flagged this trend through the structure since early 2015. While any reduction in income is a matter for concern the Board is confident, that with the help of the Fellowship, matters will be put right in the coming year. The Board is of the mind that its analysis of the factors that have given rise to the drop in income will be redressed by both the Board and the Fellowship as a whole.

The full audited report will be presented to Conference.

**Literature prices** have been reviewed in light of the differential in the exchange rate with the dollar and sterling. The **new price list pack** is included with this News Sheet mailing. There is also literature available free of charge for PI purposes and is available to the PI convenors via the respective Intergroup Secretary... posters, business cards and pamphlets etc.

The **Archives, which are** housed at GSO, Santry Dublin, 9 and which will travel to the All-Ireland Convention in April, are available to view at GSO, by appointment only.

**Areas and Intergroups** are reminded to continue sending copies of approved minutes to GSO archives.

The **Road Back** continues to seek submissions.... stories, articles and funnies. Please support. Old issues of The Road Back are often available via your Intergroup secretary for prison/hospital visitation purposes etc.

The **News Sheet** is published bi-monthly. It is meant as a guide to service in AA... the legacy of service in all its facets including the spiritual dimension.

## Spotlight on the respective responsibilities of the Trustees

Each edition of The News Sheet will feature the work of one of the Board Trustees in order to give members a greater feel for the kinds of service carried out by each respective member, including the Board Secretary.

The Trustee charged with the duties and responsibilities for Finance at the

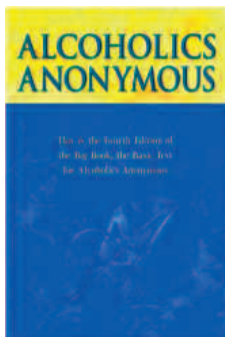
The views and opinions expressed in The News Sheet are not necessarily those of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland as a whole.

Board signs off on Board approved payments from GSO with one or other of the authorized signatures. The role involves reporting to the Board and advising on patterns and trends in our Income and Expenditure as a Fellowship. Detailed reports are presented to the monthly Board meetings outlining the comparative tables for Income and Expenditure for current and previous quarterly periods. The Trustee's role is to keep the Board and the Fellowship up to speed. They in turn through their respective Intergroups inform the Fellowship, particularly when there is a drop in income or an inordinate increase in expenditure.

The income for the Fellowship is derived for the most part from table top contributions (85%) with the balance coming from literature sales. AA income includes such items as: maintaining GSO, Dublin and Intergroup Central Service Office in Belfast (*and is supported solely by income from Ulster Intergroup*), services and equipment, Board expenses, insurance and pertinent advertising of the AA message, purchase of stocks of literature from GSO, New York, printing of the News Sheet (free to groups) sub-committee work, hosting annual Conference, upkeep of website and salaries and pensions for staff.

## There is a solution

As a newcomer to AA the following extract from Chapter 2 of our Big Book was brought to my attention and I have returned to it time after time. It is, in essence, the distillation of the our program of recovery... our spiritual message.



### *There is a solution.*

Almost none of us liked the self-searching, the leveling of our pride, the confession of shortcomings which the process requires for its successful consummation. But we saw that it

really worked in others, and we had come to believe in the hopelessness and futility of life as we had been living it. When, therefore, we were approached by those in whom the problem had been solved, there was nothing left for us but to pick up the simple kit of spiritual tools laid at our feet. We have found much of heaven and we have been rocketed into a fourth dimension of existence of which we had not even dreamed.

The great fact is just this, and nothing less: That we have had deep and effective spiritual experiences which have revolutionized our whole attitude toward life, toward our fellows and toward God's universe. The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous. He has commenced to accomplish those things for us which we could never do by ourselves.

If you are as seriously alcoholic as we were, we believe there is no middle-of-the-road solution. We were in a position where life was becoming impossible, and if we had passed into the region from which there is no return through human aid, we had but two alternatives: One was to go on to the bitter end, blotting out the consciousness of our intolerable situation as best we could; and the other, to accept spiritual help. This we did because we honestly wanted to, and were willing to make the effort.

### *The Big Book (Page 25)*



## 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.

**Group autonomy and our self-supporting Fellowship.**

As ye know, our audited accounts this year show a deficit of €54,000. This seems like a very large amount and some might say we should cut our cloth accordingly; others might say what about the prudent reserve .. isn't that why it's there. Still others might say that the recovery hasn't hit us yet. Yet more will say increase the margin on literature. We can sell literature cheaper than any other country in the world. Take a bow ... that's because of your contributions.

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

**59TH ALL IRELAND CONVENTION**

**THE JOY OF LIVING**

**15th–17th April 2016**

**Tullamore Court Hotel**  
**Tullamore**  
**County Offaly**

Bookings: Tullamore Court Hotel 057 934 6666  
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 www.offalytourism.com info@offalytourism.com

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 Santry Business Park www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie  
 Swords Road, Dublin 9

**A Suggested Simple Solution**

My sponsor taught me that if I can't solve a problem to look at it differently. And so I did. The simple solution is do the math. I'm a great believer in the power of One..... One God, One program, One Fellowship. This affects us all. There are 930 groups in the Fellowship in the whole of Ireland - Munster, Leinster, Connaught and Ulster. If every group could manage to collect one euro extra every week for one year and put

it through the structure we would solve the problem.

930 Groups x €1  
 X52 weeks  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 = €50,220

Can your group manage that?

*(In fellowship, your Trustee with special responsibility for Finance)*

## APPROVED FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS/ONE DAY EVENTS

### FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS IRELAND

DATES	AREA	VENUE
11th-13th March 2016	Cork City Area Convention	The Ambassador Hotel, Military Hill, St. Lukes, Cork. Phone: 021-4539000. Theme: "Happy, Joyous & Free"
11th-13th March 2016	Sligo/North Leitrim Area Convention	The Clarion Hotel, Sligo. Theme: "Happy, Joyous & Free"
27th-29th May 2016	Cork County Area Convention	The Charleville Park Hotel, Limerick Road, Charleville, Co. Cork
2nd-4th September 2016	Tipperary Area 36th Convention	The Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Phone: 052 6188700 for reservations

### FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS ABROAD

DATES	COUNTRY	VENUE
27th-28th February 2016	Singapore Round Up 2016	Level 1, Damien Centre, Blessed Sacrament Church, 1 Commonwealth Drive, 149603, Singapore. www.singaporeaa.org. Theme: "Steps to Miracles"
24th-27th March 2016	1st Australasian Convention in Fiji	Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji. www.aanatcon.org.au

### ALL IRELAND CONVENTION 2016

15th-17th April 2016	59th All Ireland Convention	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Hotel - 057 9346666. Theme: The Joy of Living.
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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 Alcoholic 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". However, the Conference structures in countries outside of the U.S./Canada evolved as autonomous entities.



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