

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF IRELAND

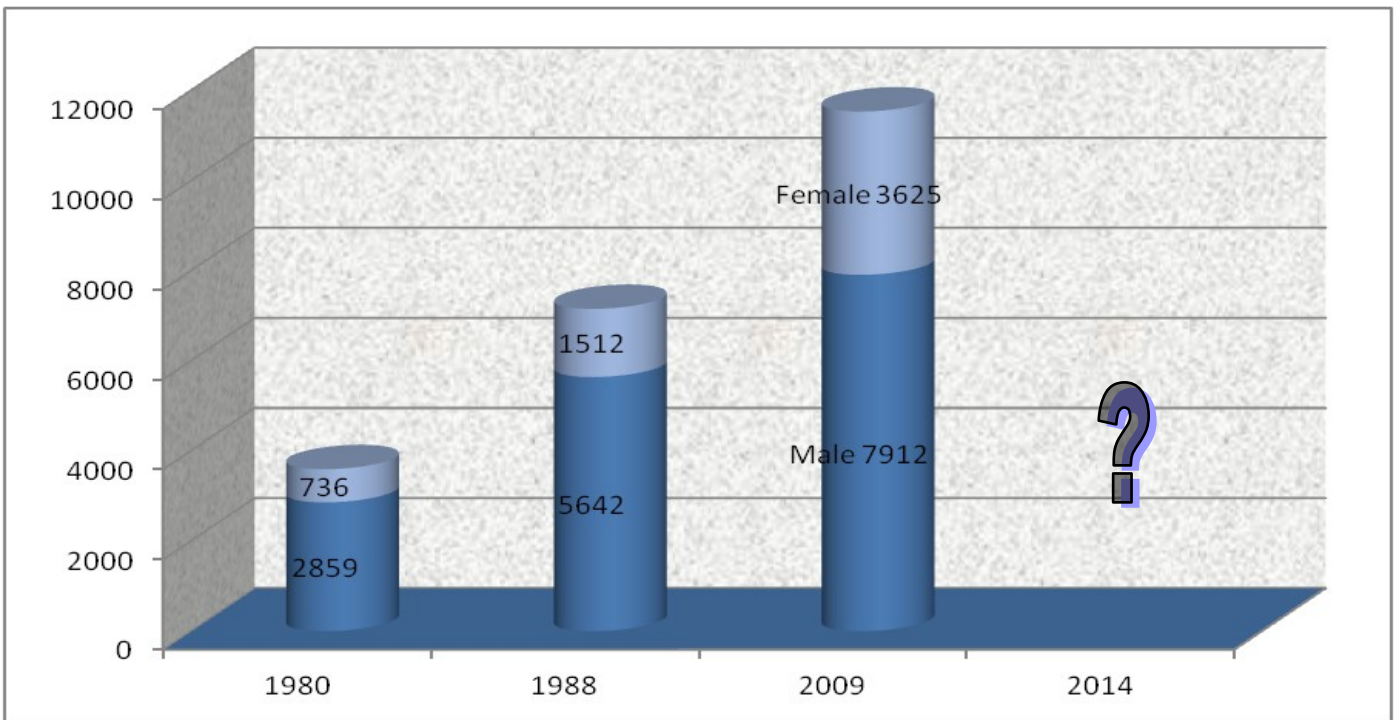
NEWS SHEET

The News Sheet is intended as an aid to SERVICE throughout the fellowship in Ireland.

Any suggestions as to form and content will be especially welcome.



Irish Fellowship Grows By 220% Over 29 Year Period.



Census

There have been three main Census's carried out in Ireland in relation to our fellowship. In 2009 there was a count of fellowship numbers which included information such as sex, age and lengths of sobriety. There was a **57%** return of forms to GSO from the A.A. Group's. When these forms were collated it gave us a figure of 6,461 members attending meetings .

By simple extrapolation it could be estimated that there were **11,537** member's of A.A. in 2009.

In 1993 a Census was abandoned as returns of information were inadequate in terms of ascertaining any practical data.

The Census's that have been carried out form part of our Archives in Dublin.

A Look at Irish A.A. History.

In July of 1946, a 37 year old man from Ballina, Co Mayo writes to A.A. in New York asking for help with his own Alcoholism. He has a desire to conquer this curse as he puts it himself. The Central Office secretary sends him some literature and informs him that a Group has been started in London, England. He is given contact information...

Mrs Dorothy Hopkinson Evans
68 Comeragh Road
London

W14
England.

Dorothy was the first known contact for A.A. in the UK. By her own admission she was not a member of the fellowship but had potential. The 31st March 1947 is the first recorded meeting of A.A. in England.

In November of 1946 a closed meeting of A.A. is held in Dublin. This is the first meeting of A.A. in Europe.

What is the General Service Office?? What is its Purpose??

Article 17 of our General Service Handbook for AA in Ireland tells us that the primary objectives of the General Service Office (GSO) are:

- Communication
- Service
- Information
- Provision of Literature

Let's take the heading 'SERVICE' and see how the GSO provides service to the Fellowship and those interested in AA.....

GSO responds to a range of calls and emails on a daily basis from 12th Step calls (*12th Step calls are always treated as a priority*), to AA meeting requests home and abroad, to help for family members, to public information speaker requests, to general enquires from the Fellowship and the public and more....a full breakdown is provided in the Board Report which is included with the March Conference minutes each year.

The office provides the relevant administrative services related to the News Sheet, Road Back, Conference Minutes, Financial Statements and any other publication relevant to the Fellowship.

We process Group Information Sheets received through the Structure and update the AA database of groups accordingly. The AA website and App is also updated with those groups that choose to have their information displayed on the website.

The official AA website is maintained by the General Service Office which includes AA meetings, meeting co-ordinates and approved AA events.

We provide administrative services to the General Service Board of AA and the Board Secretary. It is the General Service Board who are responsible for the day-to-day running of the General Service Office and for ensuring that The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland, a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital, operate in accordance with the Companies Act 1963. "The objects for which the Company is established are to help alcoholics to achieve and maintain sobriety and, with a view there to: to act as custodian of the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous..." extract from page 17 Memo & Articles of Association). Copies of this booklet are available from GSO.

The Company was incorporated in 1973, issued with charity status in 1983 and registered for VAT in 2006.

Let's take the heading 'INFORMATION' and see how the GSO provides information to the Fellowship and those interested in AA.....

The area of 'information' has already been touched on in the previous sections. Information is provided by means of telephone, post, email, website, News Sheets, Road Back, and Conference Minutes.

Technology nowadays allows the General Service Office to respond to requests more effectively and efficiently than ever before and that can't be a bad thing!!!!

The General Service Office also houses the official Archives for AA in Ireland. A host of information on AA going back to its early years is available in our Archives for members to view, you simply make an appointment through the office and we will ensure that a member is available to show you around!

Let's take the heading 'PROVISION OF LITERATURE' and see how the GSO ensures that AA literature is available to the Fellowship and those interested in AA.....

GSO is responsible for keeping a level of AA Conference approved literature for groups. Most of the literature we stock is available to the public with the exception of the AA Directories.

We process literature orders on a daily basis for individuals and groups; however, the General Service Office does not process literature orders outside Ireland. Items that are only published in Ireland can be purchased from other countries.

The General Service Office keeps a regular check on stock and when necessary places orders with AA World Services, AA Great Britain, printers in Ireland and also In-House publishing ie., the Service Handbook, Treasurer's Notebook etc. These In-House booklets are designed and produced by the General Service Office. We have stock takes at least every quarter.

We process AA Event literature packs for approved, Mini-Conventions, Days of Gratitude and the annual All-Ireland Convention.

The office is open to AA members and the public, our reception area is open during office hours (see below). GSO has three full-time staff, Barbara Counihan, Noreen Daly and Bridget O Sullivan who have a combined service of 45 years in GSO. Their aim is to ensure that all the services listed above are brought to the Fellowship in an effective and efficient manner.

Our reception area is open to AA members and members of the public. The office is open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5.00pm and stays open through lunch. The office is situated at Unit 2, Block C, Santry Business Park, Swords Road, Dublin 9.

Census Comparison

Intergroup	Census Forms sent to Groups	Census Forms Ret'd to GSO	Male	Female	Total number of Members
2 0 0 9					
Leinster	188	54%	1548	751	2299
Ulster	202	63%	1208	511	1719
Munster	211	49%	1059	481	1537
Connaught	137	62%	619	287	906
Totals	738	56%	4431	2030	6461
1 9 8 8					
Leinster	208	100%	1977	597	2574
Ulster	143	96%	1555	353	1908
Munster	144	97%	1425	356	1781
Connaught	71	94%	467	146	613
Totals	566	97%	5473	1467	6940
1 9 8 0					
Leinster			1170	401	1571
Ulster			978	190	1168
Munster			378	61	439
Connaught			333	84	417
Totals		100%	2859	736	3596

Each Intergroup respectively, for the 1980 Census, was responsible to collate information on it's Group's.

For Example 76 Group forms were returned to Munster Intergroup.

Conventions Ireland

Clare Area Convention	October 10th-12th	The Auburn Lodge Hotel, Gort Road, Ennis, Co Clare.
Donegal Area Convention	October 17th-19th	Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.
Kerry Area Convention	November 7th-9th	The Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co Kerry.
Mayo Area	November 28th-30th	Hotel Ballina, Foxford Road, Ballina, Co Mayo. Theme: Happy, Joyous and Free.
Limerick Area	February 5th-8th, 2015.	The Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick City.

Conventions Abroad

9th International Convention, Malta.	October 24th-26th	Seashells Resort at Suncrest-Qawra, Malta
25th Costa Del Sol Annual Convention	November 28th-30th	Beatriz Palace Hotel & Spa, Fuengirola, Malaga, Spain. THEME...Back To Basics.
6th Annual International Conv., Lanzarote.	January 23rd-25th, 2015.	Barcelo Resort Hotel, Costa Teguisse, Lanzarote , Canary Islands, Spain.
26th North Sea Convention	January 30th-Feb 1st, 2015.	Vayamundo—DeKinroom & Ravelingen, Zeedijk 290-330, 840 Oosende, Belgium.

