

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.*

Greetings to you all. Trusting that you are having a happy and sober summer, one day at a time.

Our preamble reminds us that our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

A.A.'s Legacy of Service by Bill W. (1951)



Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set

of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.

Services include meeting places, hospital cooperation, and intergroup

offices; they mean pamphlets, books, and good publicity of almost every description. They call for committees, delegates, trustees, and conferences. And, not to be forgotten, they need voluntary money contributions from within the Fellowship.

Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise.

Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. Groups which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose.

Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

—Tradition Seven (long form)



"We cannot skimp"

With the realization that A.A. must steer clear of outside contributions in order to maintain its autonomy and independence came the understanding that the money necessary for A.A.'s survival would have to come from

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

individual A.A. members and groups. As Bill W. put it in 1957 “Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility — one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our Groups, our Areas, and A.A. as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills are paid.”

“When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer.”

(The Language of the Heart, p. 221)

Spotlight on the respective responsibilities of the Trustees

Each edition of the News Sheet will feature the work of one of the Board Trustees. This will give members a greater feel for the kinds of service carried out by each respective member, including the Board Secretary. This edition includes the contribution of one of our more recently appointed Non-Alcoholic Trustees Eamonn Dillon.

On a very personal level, being invited to serve the fellowship in the position of a Non-alcoholic Trustee of Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland is a great honour. Very few families in Ireland, whether in current or in previous generations, have not experienced alcoholism and I am privileged to be able to serve and contribute in some small way to the ongoing great work of the Fellowship.

All of the Trustees on the Board are very much equal and each Trustee brings very different skills and perspectives to the role and position. It is very obvious

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.

to me that it is that very diversity in, and wide range of, experience and skills that gives such strength and depth to the Board. My own experience of being a Trustee has been that of being made feel very welcome and of being part of a true Fellowship - not just at Board level but also at Conference, Convention and indeed up to individual meetings which I have been invited to attend. Whilst discussions on the Board are often wide ranging and diverse, I can truly say that we always strive to listen to one another and to agree and act unanimously.

Personally I come from a legal, charitable and compliance background and I try to bring those particular perspectives and experiences to all discussions and issues that arise. I also try to listen and am continually surprised at Board, Conference and Convention (although I should not be!) by how much I have learned from, and through, the Fellowship. I also try, with my fellow Trustees to be proactive and to raise and address issues and regulatory requirements that are likely to arise and which may face the Fellowship in the future. Respect for Traditions and principles is vital but there is always room for improvement. To allow AA to fossilise would be to do a great disservice to the great idea that the Fellowship is, and the work that it has done in the past and, more importantly, all that it can achieve in the future in the help that it can bring to the still-suffering alcoholic.

At a time when several entities within the Charity sector are facing serious questions and controversies, our

60th All-Ireland Convention

Alcoholics Anonymous 2017

A NEW FREEDOM

The Salthill Hotel, Promenade, Galway, Ireland

April 20th - 23rd, 2017



Bookings: Salthill Hotel, Salthill, Galway. +353 91 522711
e. reservations@salthillhotel.com
w. www.salthillhotel.com/
e. info@galwaytourism.com
w. www.galwaytourism.com

General Service Office, Unit 2, Block C, Santry Business Park, Dublin 9.
+353 1 8420700 e. gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie
w. www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie



Alcoholics Anonymous

70 years of AA in Ireland 1946 - 2016

A Celebration of the founding of
Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland

Venue: Green Isle Hotel, Dublin
Date: Friday 18th November 2016
Registration: from 6.00pm

Programme

- AA National Archives on view from 6.00pm
- Presentation of History of AA in Ireland 7.00pm-7.45pm
- Open AA Meeting 8.30pm

Bookings contact: Green Isle Hotel, Dublin
Tel: 01-4593406 / **Email:** reservations@greenislehotel.com

General Service Office
Unit 2 Block C Santry Business Park
Swords Road
Dublin 9

Tel: 01-8420700
Email: gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie
Website: www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

Fellowship and Board have an exceptionally open, strong and robust governance ethos and practice and we are all continually striving not just to achieve, but to surpass, recommended best practice.

Both individually and collectively, the Trustees are very committed to listening to all views and opinions of the Fellowship, whether from new or longstanding members. Truly the old Irish seanfhocal - ni neart go chur le cheile (no strength without unity) - applies to our Fellowship, of which I am very proud to be a small part.



Visit us at:
www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

APPROVED FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS/ONE DAY EVENTS

FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS IRELAND		
DATES	AREA	VENUE
2nd-4th September 2016	Tipperary Area 36th Convention	The Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Phone: 052 6188700 for reservations
6th-9th October 2016	Clare Area 27th Annual Convention	Treacy's West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare. Theme: Into Action
14th-16th October 2016	Donegal Area Convention	Mount Errigal Hotel, Ballyraine, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal - 074 9122700
11th-13th November 2016	Kerry Area 51st Annual Convention	The Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Theme: Three Legacies.
23rd-26th February 2017	Limerick City Area Convention	The Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick City. Theme: Love and Tolerance of Others
FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS ABROAD		
DATES	COUNTRY	VENUE
2nd-4th September 2016	9th Annual Bulgarian AA Convention	Belle View Hotel, 3 Briz Str., 9649 Kranevo, Balchik region, Bulgaria. Theme: A New Freedom and a New Happiness.
2nd-4th September 2016	11th Berlin English Speaking AA Convention	Werkstatt der Kulturen, Wissmannstraße 32, 12049 Berlin, Germany
15th-18th September 2016	Athens English Speaking Convention	Xenia Poros Image Hotel, Poros Island, Greece
		Barcelo Lanzarote Resort Hotel, Avenida del Mar 5, Costa Teguisa, 35508 Lanzarote, Canary Islands. Theme: "Carrying the Message". (See www.aa-europe.net for flyer/info)
27th-29th January 2017	8th Annual Lanzarote Convention	
ONE DAY EVENTS		
DATES	AREA	VENUE
Sun. 21st August 2016	Armagh Area Day of Gratitude	Cuan Mhuire, 200 Old Dublin Road, Newry, Co. Armagh, BT35 8RL
Sun. 11th September 2016	Down Area Day of Gratitude	The Burrendale Hotel, 51 Castlewellan Road, Newcastle, Co. Down, BT33 0JY. Theme: "You're No Longer Alone"
Sat. 24th September 2016	Area 7 (Killester Group) Day of Gratitude	Killester Group. 1966-2016: 50 Years - One Day at a Time. La Chélie - Donnycarney Community Centre, Donnycarney, Dublin 5.
Sat. 15th October 2016	Area 5 Day of Gratitude	Sarsfield GAA Clubhouse, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. 12 Midday-12 Midnight
Sat. 22nd October 2016	Area 3 & 4 Day of Gratitude	County Arms Hotel, Birr, Co. Offaly. Theme: The Keys to Freedom. Open Mtg at 11am, Meetings from 10am- 12 noon, Disco at 20.30
Sat. 12th November 2016	Belfast Area Day of Gratitude	Corr's Corner Hotel, 315 Ballyclare Road, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, BT36 4TQ. Phone: (028) 90849221
Sun. 13th November 2016	Area 14 70th Anniversary Day of Gratitude	The Talbot Hotel, Wexford Town
Friday 18th November 2016	A Celebration of 70 years of AA in Ireland	The Green's Hotel, Dublin. Tel: 01 4593406. Registration from 6pm.
Sat. 19th November 2016	Area 7 (Coolock Group) Day of Gratitude	70th Anniversary Day of Gratitude. St. Brendan's Parish Centre, Coolock Village, Dublin 5.
Sat. 19th November 2016	Area 10 Day of Celebration	St. Michaels House, Tallaght Road, Templeogue, Dublin 6W. Starts at 11am, Buffet Dance at 9pm. "70 Years of Gratitude"
Sat. 19th November 2016	Donegal Area Day of Gratitude	The Central Hotel, The Diamond, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal
Sat. 26th November 2016	Derry Area Day of Gratitude	Waterfoot Hotel, Caw Roundabout, Waterside, Derry, BT47 6TB. Hotel: 028 71345500

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".

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.



General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

Unit 2, Block C, Santry Business Park
Swords Road, Dublin 9

Telephone: (01) 8420700 Fax: (01) 8420703

gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie

