



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS NEWS SHEET

Feb/Mar 2012

“This News sheet is intended as an aid to service throughout the Fellowship in Ireland”

CONFERENCE

Bill W. met Dr. Bob in 1935. In sharing his experience with alcohol and how he himself had found sobriety Bill was helping Bill stay sober. The two men clicked and began to trudge the road of happy destiny together. Service to others; Bob saw that this was something Bill had latched onto and that together they might help fellow alcoholics by giving freely of their time, talking about their own alcoholism and offering help to those who would listen. Three years later, there were small but solid groups in both Akron and New York plus a sprinkling of members elsewhere in the USA who had found a solution to their alcoholism. It was 1938 when, Bill had started writing a book about alcoholism and recovery for the fellowship that still had no name at this stage.

Money was an issue and it was decided to set up a trust to deal with funds that would be hopefully forthcoming. This trust was called The Alcoholic Foundation, it was later to be renamed The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. The foundation was also concerned with how best to develop the carrying of the message and the services needed to do so, as well as being set up as a charitable tax free trust. A little later there would be five trustees, three non-alcoholic and two alcoholic, one of which was Dr. Bob, who would make up the foundation.

It was 1951 before the first General Service Conference was to sit. This meeting only included delegates from Canada and the USA. Bill W.'s early vision was that of a worldwide structure but the conference structures outside of the US evolved as autonomous entities.

Conference is the vital link between A.A. Groups and the Board of Trustees who are responsible for the vital services of the fellowship. Bill W. wrote in Concept 1 "The A.A Groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our World Services..." Then, in Concept 2, Bill made it clear that the groups "Delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance for our world services and thereby made the Conference...the actual voice and effective conscience for our whole Society."

On the 24th of November 1968, Ireland had its first General Service Conference in Dublin. Up to this point, there was no real service structure in Ireland. There were, however, delegates from Ireland who attended the UK Conference as observers.

Alcoholics Anonymous has been described as an upside-down-organisation and you can see this from the structure chart on the back page of the News Sheet. Conference sits over two weekends, one in March and one in September each year. Currently this Irish meeting takes place in Athlone. Also included in this News Sheet is the agenda for the upcoming weekend in March. Conference in many ways is the group conscience of A.A. in Ireland.

WHY DO WE NEED A CONFERENCE??

The late Bernard B. Smith, Non-Alcoholic, then Chairman of our Board of Trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: "We may not need a General Service Conference to insure our own recovery. We do need it to insure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to insure recovery of a child being born tonight, destined to alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth which brought us back to life."

"We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effects of the human urge for power and prestige which we must insure can never invade A.A. We need it to insure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing overintegration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services."

"We need it to insure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to insure that the doors of halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to insure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is."

From The AA Service Manual 2009-2010 Edition Pg S20

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
NEWS SHEET



DRAFT AGENDA

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Sheraton Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th March 2012

1. Opening of Conference by Chairperson
2. Roll Call
3. Agreement of Agenda and other urgent business in accordance with paragraph 12.3, page 66 of 2012/1 Service Handbook
4. Adoption of September 2011 Conference Minutes and Matters Arising
5. Financial Statement & Auditor's Report
6. Address of Non-Alcoholic Trustee
7. Conference Delegates' Reports
8. Board Report
9. Board Recommendations
10. Approval of Trustee
11. Motions to Conference
12. Report of Electronic Communication Sub-Committee
13. P.I.
14. World Service Delegates' Report
15. Election of GB Observers
16. Election of 2013 Chairperson
- 16a. Address of GB Delegate
17. Date & Venue of Re-Convened Conference

OFFICIAL AA WEBSITE

The upgraded official website at www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie went live early January 2012. Over all it has been well received. The General Service Board of AA is aware that some groups are not displayed properly within the Google locator in the meeting section of the website.

To help resolve this we suggest that all groups ensure that they provide us with a FULL Street address when updating their information on the Group Information Sheet.

Your group can also follow this procedure to ensure the correct location is displayed on the website:-

1. Log onto www.itouchmap.com/latlong.html
2. Type in the street address and town/county for your group where indicated
3. The map will change to your groups area location.
4. Zoom in and place the red pointer at the place where your meeting is held and be as precise as possible.
5. Once you have done this, scroll down the page, you will see the latitude and longitude co-ordinates displayed on the left hand side box.
6. Email GSO with these co-ordinates along with your group no., town and County. GSO will then amend your details on our system to show the correct location of your group on the website.

Please note that only groups that have ticked the relevant box on the Group Information Sheet in relation to the website will have their meeting details displayed on the website.



**NATIONAL ARCHIVES
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN IRELAND**

VISIT REQUEST FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL. NO: Daytime: _____ (Office Use Only)

I request a visit to the National Archives of AA the on _____ 2012 at _____ pm.

PLEASE SPECIFY WHAT AREA OF THE ARCHIVES IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST FOR YOUR VISIT:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return your completed form to:

The Archives, General Service Office of AA,, Unit 2, Block C, Santry Business Park, Swords Road, Dublin 9.

Tel No. 01 8420700 / Email: gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie / Website: www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

A member of the Archives will contact you in due course to arrange a visit.

An Archives room has been set aside in GSO to house a collection of memorabilia, writings and momentos etc which make up our Irish Archives. This is AA's History in Ireland and the mainstay of content was bequeathed by Sackville.

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland has appointed an Archives Convenor. Members of the Fellowship can visit the Archives Department in Dublin, simply complete the above form and return it to GSO. A representative from the Board will be present to facilitate such requests.

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Conventions Ireland

Limerick Area 3-5 February 2012
The Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.

Cork Area 2-4 March 2012
The Montenotte Hotel, Cork City.

Antrim Area 22-24 June 2012
Clarion Hotel, 75 Belfast Road, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim.

East Galway Area 6-8 July 2012
Ard Ri House Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway.

Donegal Area 19-21 October 2012
Clanree Hotel, Derry Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

One Day Events Ireland

Area 5 Day of Gratitude
Saturday 4th February 2012
Ryston Centre, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.
Open Public Meeting 7pm followed by Dance 5.00

Area 14 Day of Gratitude
Sunday 11th March 2012
Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.
Registration 5.00

Down Area 14 Day of Gratitude
Sunday 23rd September 2012
Burrendale Hotel, 51 Castlewellan Road,
Newcastle, Co. Down.

Conventions Abroad

Thailand 24-26 February 2012
The Montien Hotel, Pattaya, Thailand.
www.aathailand.org
www.aakorea.co.kr

Spain 28 April-1st May 2012
Hotel Kaktus Albir, Playa del Albir, Costa Blanca, Spain.
www.alcoholicos-anonimos.org

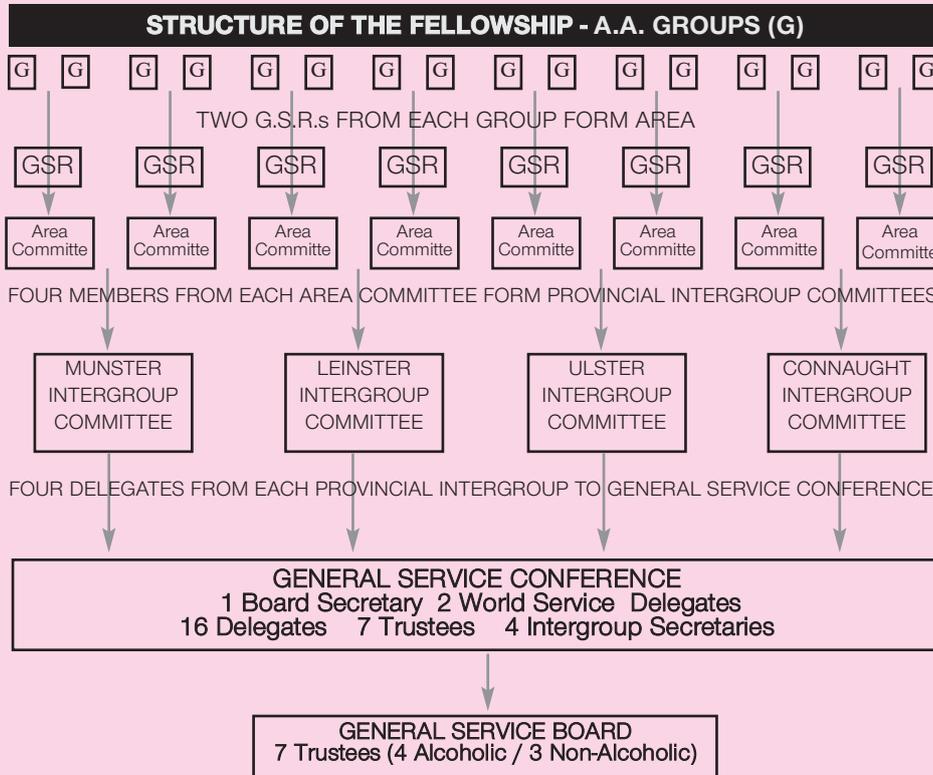
Romania 11-13 May 2012
21st Anniversary, Piatra Neamt.
www.alcoolicianonimi.ro

Greece 17-20 May 2012
18th International Convention,
Vravona, Attica, Greece.

55th All Ireland Convention - Theme 'Comes of Age'

20th - 22nd April 2012 Green Isle Hotel, Naas Road, Dublin.

For further information contact: 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
For bookings contact: Green Isle Hotel, tel: 01-4593406, email: sales@greenislehotel.com



"The views and opinions expressed in the News Sheet are not necessarily those of the Fellowship as a whole"
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