



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS NEWS SHEET

update

Jun/Jul 11

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

The Upper Room

According to Bill, Ann Smith had decided that practical steps needed to be taken to protect her husband's newfound sobriety. She invited Bill to come live with them. "There, I might keep an eye on Dr. Bob and he on me," Bill Said.

The invitation came at an opportune time. Bill was about broke, even though he had received some money from his partners in New York and was again hoping to come out ahead in the proxy fight that had first brought him to Akron.

"For the next three months, I lived with these two wonderful people," Bill said. "I shall always believe they gave me more than I ever brought them."

Each morning, there was devotion, he recalled. After a long silence, in which they awaited inspiration and guidance, Anne would read from the Bible. "James was our favourite," he said, "Reading from her chair in the corner, she would softly conclude, 'Faith without works is dead.' "

This was a favourite quotation of Anne's, much as the Book of James was a favourite with early A.A.'s – so much so that "The James Club" was favoured by some as a name for the Fellowship. Sue also remembered the quiet time in the mornings – how they sat around reading from the Bible. Later, they also used The Upper Room, a Methodist publication that

provided a daily inspirational message, interdenominational in its approach.

"Then somebody said a prayer," she recalled. "After that, we were supposed to say one ourselves. Then we'd be quiet. Finally, everybody would share what they got, or didn't get. This lasted for at least a half-hour and sometimes went as long as an hour."

Young Smitty was aware of the early-morning prayers and quiet time, but he didn't attend. "I was too busy siphoning gas out of Dad's car so I could get to high school," he recalled.

"All of this would take place after breakfast, which with you around took place as early as six in the morning," Sue said in her talk with Bill. "You'd sit down there in your bathrobe and scare the daylights out of all of us. You'd sit there draped around this drip coffeepot, then pour it around for everybody."

Credit:Dr. Bob & the Good Oldtimers pg 71-72.

The Bible was stressed as reading material, of course. Many remember that "The Sermon on the Mount," by Emmet Fox, was also very popular. "That was required reading for everybody," said Dorothy S. M. "As soon as men in the hospital could begin to focus their eyes, they got a copy of Sermon on the Mount.'

"Then there was that little nickel book The Upper Room," she recalled. "They figured we could afford a nickel for spiritual reading. They impressed on us that we had to read that absolutely every morning. There wasn't any well-equipped bathroom in A.A. that didn't have a copy. And if you didn't see it opened to the right day, you immediately began to suspect them."

Bob E. of Akron recalled that another popular book at the time was "The Greatest Thing in the World," by Drummond. This along with The Upper Room, was furnished to the members by Mother G.

Though there was a good deal of reading material around at this time, there was definitely a need for literature directed specifically to the alcoholic. And of all the projects that Bill and Dr. Bob had discussed – hospitals, paid missionaries, etc. – the furthest advanced was the book, which was begun in May in 1938.

The first two chapters were completed by June 1938, when Bill sent Bob a letter asking, "What would you think about the formation of a charitable organisation called, say, Alcoholics Anonymous.

Credit: - Dr. Bob & the Good Oldtimers pg 151

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Alcoholics Anonymous...a guide for Media Practitioners

What is A.A.?

A.A. is a voluntary, worldwide Fellowship of men and women which draws its members from all walks of life. The primary aim of Alcoholics Anonymous is to help members, through mutual support, to achieve and maintain sobriety, and to carry our message to the still suffering Alcoholic.

There are no dues or membership fees. Alcoholics Anonymous is a non-political, non-sectarian organization and does not engage in any controversy, or any campaigns.

How many members?

A.A. does not keep membership records or release information on members. It is estimated that there are over 750 groups and more than 13,000 members in Ireland, North and South.

How does it work?

A.A. is a programme of total abstinence from alcohol. As members we stay away from one drink, one day at a time. Sobriety is maintained through the sharing of experiences, strength, and hope in mutual support. There are over 76,000 meetings held annually. The Twelve Step programme is the suggested format for recovery from alcoholism.

Why the secrecy?

Journalists often ask why is A.A. "anonymous". What have we to hide? Anonymity is the foundation stone of Alcoholics Anonymous and is intended to discipline the Fellowship to govern itself by principles rather than personalities. Our only aim is the attainment and maintenance of sobriety through our programme of recovery and in our experience the strict preservation of anonymity is central to that process. Any threat to the guaranteed anonymity of Alcoholics Anonymous may deter the suffering alcoholic from taking part in the programme. Since our priority is

the recovery of alcoholics this principle is of overriding importance.

How do you contact A.A.?

A.A. in Ireland is co-ordinated by a Board and we have a General Service Office at Unit 2, Block C, Santry Business Park, Swords Road, Dublin 9 and a Central Service Office at 7 Donegall Street Place, Belfast. We do not have a press office and do not actively seek publicity for our activities other than our open meetings, public information meetings and Conventions.

Do we talk to the media?

Every effort will be made by a Board member to deal with media queries but please remember that. We can't break confidentiality. However we are always willing to talk to the media and are grateful for the opportunity to carry the A.A. message provided it does not compromise the principles of the Fellowship.

We are always happy to arrange interviews on the basis of anonymity but will not provide Alcoholics Anonymous speakers to specification. Some journalists seek "designer alcoholics" to fit in with a proposed feature or programme. We simply don't co-operate with such requests.

It is not uncommon for journalists to seek a quote from A.A. on high profile celebrities or on policies relating to problems caused by or relating to alcoholism. However, we don't comment on specific cases of alleged alcoholism and are not in a position to assist with such enquiries.

How is it funded?

Alcoholics Anonymous is a self-supporting Fellowship. A.A. neither seeks nor accepts contributions from non-members and does not receive financial support from any state agency. The amount that any member may contribute is strictly limited.

Is A.A. linked to other organisations?

Alcoholics Anonymous is a totally independent Fellowship and is not linked to any other Fellowship. It has a policy of co-operation but non-affiliation with any organization that shares the aim of dealing with Alcoholism. A.A. is not affiliated to any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution nor does it engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.



William D Silkworth MD
'The Doctors Opinion XXIII'
Alcoholics Anonymous Third Edition

A.A.'s first friend of medicine, William Duncan Silkworth, M.D. This is the doctor who treated Bill in the beginning and was with him during his experience in Towns Hospital. "Silky" had greater faith in our Society than we did ourselves at first. He encouraged us and endorsed us openly when we were almost unknown. He gave us knowledge of the nature of our disease: 'physical allergy plus mental obsession.' He made indispensable contributions to the development of the AA program of recovery. During his lifetime "the kindly doctor treated 40,000 alcoholics. Dr. Silkworth epitomizes the great understanding and help that Alcoholics Anonymous has received from the medical profession.

Credit: "AA Comes of Age"

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Concept XI

While the Trustee hold final responsibility for A.A.'S world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

In this, the second longest of the Concepts, Bill explains in great detail the composition, functions and relationships of the standing committees of the General Service board, its subsidiary operating boards, the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine – as they existed in 1962. As A.A. has grown and changed, many of the descriptions would be different today, and some of the issues that are addressed are no longer relevant. Nevertheless, the full text is valuable as a historical document, and many of the principles still apply, as summarized below.

Underlying the service structure we have been discussing, there is another, internal structure of service consisting of the nontrustee members of the trustee' committees; the nontrustee directors of the two operating boards, and the executives and staff members. "Members of this group," declares Bill, "not only support the leadership of the trustees: they share leadership with them."

The following are" several principles...which" apply to A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.;

1. The status of executives

No active service can function well unless it has sustained and competent executive direction. This must always head up in *one person*,

supported by such assistants as he needs. That person has to have ample freedom and authority to do his job, and he should not be interfered with so long as his work is done well.

2. Paid workers, how compensated

Each paid executive, staff member or consultant should be recompensed in reasonable relation to the value of his or her similar services or abilities in the commercial world....Cheap help is apt to feel insecure and inefficient. It is very costly in the long run. This is neither good spirituality nor good business. Assuming service money is available, we should therefore compensate our workers well.

3. Rotation among paid staff workers

At AA's General Service Office, most staff members' assignments are changed every two years. When engaged, each staff member is expected to possess the general ability to do, or to learn how to do, any job in the place – excepting for office management.

4. Full "Participation" of paid workers is highly important

We have already discussed the necessity of giving key paid personnel a voting representation on our committees and corporate boards. They should enjoy a status suitable to their responsibility, just as our volunteers do.

Dr. Bob & the Good Oldtimers, Chapter VI, Two alcoholics meet

Finally, Dr. Bob came home. He had spent the hours after the operation making restitution to friends and acquaintances in Akron. The bottle of beer Bill gave him that morning was the last drink he ever had.

Although arguments have been and will be made for other significant occasions in the AA history, it is generally agreed that Alcoholics Anonymous began there, in Akron, on that date June 10, 1935.

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Conventions Ireland

Cork County Area 10-12 June 2011
 The Maritime Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork.

Antrim Area 17-19 June 2011
 The Clarion Hotel, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim.

Galway East Area 1-3 July 2011
 Ard Ri Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway.

Tipperary Area 26-28 August 2011
 Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

Clare Area 7-9 October 2011
 Auburn Lodge Hotel, Galway Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Donegal Area 12-13 October 2011
 The Central Hotel, Donegal Town, Donegal.

Kerry Area 11-13 November 2011
 Mount Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Mayo Area 25-27 November 2011
 Breaffy House Hotel, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

Galway West Area 6-8 January 2012
 Galway Bay Hotel, Galway.

One Day Events Ireland

Area 2 PI Committee Workshop
Saturday 16 July 2011 2.00pm - 5.00pm
 Parish Room, St. Mary's Church, Fair Green, Navan, Co. Meath.

Area 13 PI Committee Workshop
Saturday 23 July 2011 2.00pm
 Social Services Centre, Waterford Road, Kilkenny.

Carlow Group Day of Unity
Saturday 3rd September 2011 (from 10.30am)
 Talbot Hotel, Carlow.

Armagh Day of Gratitude
Saturday 20th August 2011
 The City Hotel, Armagh, Co. Armagh.

Down Day of Gratitude
Saturday 10th September 2011
 The Marine Court Hotel, Bangor, Co. Down.

Conventions Abroad

Croatia 10-12 June 2011
 Hotel Medena, Trogir, Croatia.
 Email: aacroatia.split@yahoo.com

Hungary 15-17 July 2011
 Debrecen, Hungary.

Sweden 6-7 August 2011
 Malmö Borgarskola, Regementsgatan 36, Malmö, Sweden. www.aa.se

Netherlands 19-21 August 2011
 Info & registration at www.aa-netherlands.org

Malta 28-30 October 2011
 Golden Tulip Vivaldi Hotel, Drogonara Road, St. Julians, STJ3141, Malta.
 www.aamalta.org

Lanzarote 27-29 January 2012
 Barcelo Hotel, Costa Teguise, Lanzarote.
 www.alanzarote.com

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

