

# 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

At the outset the Board extends its good wishes to all members of the Fellowship for a most enjoyable Summer of sobriety, a day at a time!

In its efforts to help carry our message and safeguard the Fellowship for future generations of alcoholics not yet born, the Board is currently investigating ways in which we can help maintain and sustain funding and at the same time seek efficiencies in our spend in all of our operations.

While measures are afoot to reduce costs at GSO at all levels, particular focus is being placed on the cost of postage and stationery. The Board wishes to lead by example and to encourage the various levels of the Structure to look at ways in how we might reduce unnecessary costs in postage. Ulster Intergroup for instance employs a very useful facility viz. an online file repository, where minutes and AA documents from Areas and Intergroup are deposited for access and retrieval by members. The site is safe and all security protocols are followed. (ref. Keep&Share)

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland has a charitable status and the Board has achieved

compliance with the Charities Regulatory Authority. This is not a fait accompli. Continuous monitoring of our protocols and procedures are required to ensure that we are meeting the requirements as set out by law for Charities in Ireland.

The Board is answerable to the Fellowship for the trust invested in it and accountability around finance, governance etc are matters that form the ongoing brief of the Board members.

By the same token, AA Groups are responsible for "AA monies" that are contributed in good faith by members at meetings. When members place their euros or pounds in the basket they rightly believe that the group will manage that money according to established AA practice. After the Group's expenses, insurance and its prudent reserve are accounted for the balance of monies travel through the structure and help fund Area Committee, Intergroup, Conference and GSO. It should be remembered that "each Group should be autonomous.... *except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole*". Tradition 4.

Intergroup meetings have now been held in all the provinces post our March Conference. (The minutes of same should be winging their way to Groups shortly). Matters for consideration include how best we can carry the message arising out of the findings and recommendations of the PI Conference sub-committee. Mindful of the 70th commemorative anniversary of AA in Ireland, how our Groups, Areas and

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

Intergroups can co-operate and celebrate their sobriety in their respective jurisdictions.

Following Conference in March the Fellowship is now deliberating on the issue of vulnerable people in AA. The Board has decided not to comment further on this conversation in order to allow the Structure to distil its thoughts without fear or favour.



### 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 long serving Non-Alcoholic Trustees Séamus Dooley,

*There are three Non-Alcoholic Trustees of AA In Ireland. By definition the Non-Alcoholic Trustees are not members of the Fellowship but have the same rights and responsibilities as fellow Trustees, the same legal duties as Board members and as Trustees of the GSO staff pension scheme.*

*They are also full members of Conference. The concept of Non-alcoholic Trustees is that they bring a level of expertise, combined with a level of emotional detachment.*

*Writing in the Grapevine in November 1951 Bill W said of Non-Alcoholic Trustees: "Because of their detached News Sheet June/July 2016*

## 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.*

*position they have often shown better judgement than we mercurial and prejudiced alcoholics. Not only have they stabilized our Headquarters operation, they have definitely saved the Foundation from disaster on several occasions."*

*In my case I'm a full time trade union official and former journalist, with knowledge of media relations, corporate governance and human resources combined with many years' experience in the NGO sector.*

*My perspective is shaped by my professional and personal experiences outside AA. I also have vast experience of the Fellowship and have worked alongside many wise alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Trustees since my appointment in August 1999.*

*AA members are motivated by gratitude and a commitment to service.*

*Sometimes there is a tendency to resist change, even when change is demanded by the law of the land or simply the evolution of society.*

*As the longest serving Non-alcoholic Trustee I'm sometimes the one who seeks to challenge the consensus, either as a Board member - sometimes chairing meetings, or at Conference, and that can lead to tensions and occasionally resentment from a small number of delegates.*

*However, most Conference members accept that the three Non-alcoholic Trustees give freely of their time because they share a common commitment to, and faith in AA.*



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*I passionately believe that AA can evolve without sacrificing the ethos of the Fellowship. For me, the most inspiring aspect of my role is meeting members full of zeal and determination to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.*

*The most frustrating aspect is dealing with those who adopt an overly rigid approach to rules, regulations, concepts and traditions.*

*In making provision for Non-Alcoholic Trustees the Founding Fathers of AA recognised the value of informed, contrary voices. It's a role I am honoured to play.*

## THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

- 1.** Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
- 2.** For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
- 3.** The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
- 4.** Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.
- 5.** Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
- 6.** An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
- 7.** Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
- 8.** Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
- 9.** A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
- 10.** Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
- 11.** Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.
- 12.** Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

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## 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](mailto:reservations@salthillhotel.com)  
 w. [www.salthillhotel.com/](http://www.salthillhotel.com/)  
 w. [www.galwaytourism.com](http://www.galwaytourism.com) e. [info@galwaytourism.com](mailto:info@galwaytourism.com)

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 w. [www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie)

**APPROVED FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS/ONE DAY EVENTS**

**FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS IRELAND**

DATES	AREA	VENUE
<b>3rd-5th June 2016</b>	Antrim Area 34th Convention	The Drummond Hotel, 2 Main Street, Ballykelly, Co. Derry. 004428 77722121 Theme: Our Primary Purpose
<b>2nd-4th September 2016</b>	Tipperary Area 36th Convention	The Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Phone: 052 6188700 for reservations
<b>6th-9th October 2016</b>	Clare Area 27th Annual Convention	Treacy's West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare. Theme: Into Action
<b>14th-16th October 2016</b>	Donegal Area Convention	Mount Errigal Hotel, Ballyraine, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal - 074 9122700
<b>23rd-26th February 2017</b>	Limerick City Area Convention	The Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick City. Theme: Love and Tolerance of Others

**FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS ABROAD**

DATES	COUNTRY	VENUE
<b>2nd-4th September 2016</b>	9th Annual Bulgarian AA Convention	Belle View Hotel, 3 Briz Str., 9649 Kranevo, Balchik region, Bulgaria. Theme: A New Freedom and a New Happiness.
<b>15th-18th September 2016</b>	Athens English Speaking Convention	Xenia Poros Image Hotel, Poros Island, Greece

**ONE DAY EVENTS**

DATES	AREA	VENUE
<b>Sun. 11th September 2016</b>	Down Area Day of Gratitude	The Burrendale Hotel, 51Castlewellan Road, Newcastle, Co. Down, BT33 0JY. Theme: "You're No Longer Alone".
<b>Sat. 24th September 2016</b>	Area 7 (Killester Group) Day of Gratitude	Killester Group. 1966-2016: 50 Years - One Day at a Time. La Chéile - Donnycarney Community Centre, Donnycarney, Dublin 5.
<b>Sat. 19th November 2016</b>	Area 7 (Coolock Group) Day of Gratitude	70th Anniversary Day of Gratitude. St. Brendan's Parish Centre, Coolock Village, Dublin 5.
<b>Sat. 19th November 2016</b>	Area 10 Day of Celebration	St. Michaels House, Tallaght Road, Templeogue, Dublin 6W. Starts at 11am, Buffet Dance at 9pm. <b>'70 Years of Gratitude'</b>

**ALL IRELAND CONVENTION 2016**

<b>20th-23rd April 2017</b>	60th All Ireland Convention	The Salthill Hotel, Promenade, Galway (091 522711). Theme: A New Freedom
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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". 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.*



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