

NEWS SHEET

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF IRELAND



Dear AA member!

A most hearty welcome to this edition of our News Sheet!

Copies of this current issue including back copies are all available free of charge, online on your AA website viz. www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie.

Please refer to the website regularly for updates on happenings in the AA calendar both here and abroad.

The website is a most useful resource for AA members, the general public and the professional community.

The AA “find a meeting” app. is automatically fed from the updated meeting lists on the main website.

The app is a particularly helpful tool and is compatible with iPhone, iPad and Android devices. Both your web-



site and app are continually being reviewed and evaluated to make them more efficient and effective.

Your suggestions would be most welcome.

AA Conference 2015

The Fellowship will be heartened to know that the 2015 Conference got off to a tremendous start last month. Delegates got through a huge back log and worked tirelessly and assiduously into late evening on both the Friday and Saturday nights to move through the lengthy agenda.

A great mood of positivity prevailed and delegates were very upbeat in meeting the work challenges in a most business like manner. The Conference continues from 21st to 23rd. August.

The Use of the AA logo

The following extract from an earlier issue of the News Sheet is reprinted here following requests for clarity on the use and permissions of the logo of Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland.

In the header of the News Sheet we have the Trade Mark (Logo) of A.A. here in Ireland. This Trade Mark is registered with the Patent Office. The patent was renewed only in recent years and the patent itself will not expire until October of 2022.



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

It is within the remit of Intergroup or the Trustee for the Province, to grant permission to Groups and Areas to use the patented logo. It is suggested that when permission is given that the exact symbol of A.A. Ireland be used.

Once permission is granted, Intergroup Secretaries can furnish a print ready copy of the logo to the respective Areas and Groups.

Please note the triangle does not touch the circle and the Three Legacies are arced in a circular fashion around the triangle. Please also note that the design, font and colour (reflex blue) are all incorporated in the copyright.

Print ready copies of the logo are available via the structure i.e through your Intergroup Secretary.

A.A.'s Greatest Danger - Rigidity

1986 GENERAL SERVICE
CONFERENCE CLOSING TALK
by Bob Pearson

At the closing brunch on Saturday morning, Bob Pearson (G.S.O. senior adviser), who was retiring, gave a powerful and inspiring closing talk (excerpted below) to the 36th Conference.

This is my 18th General Service Conference - the first two as a director of the Grapevine and A.A.W.S., followed by four as a general service trustee. In 1972, I rotated out completely, only to be called back two years later as general manager of G.S.O., the service job I held until late 1984. Since the

1985 International Convention, of course, I have been senior adviser. This is also my last Conference, so this is an emotionally charged experience.

I wish I had time to express my thanks to everyone to whom I am indebted for my sobriety and for the joyous life with which I have been blessed for the past nearly 25 years. But since this is obviously impossible, I will fall back on the Arab saying that Bill quoted in his last message, "I thank you for your lives." For without your lives, I most certainly would have no life at all, much less the incredibly rich life I have enjoyed.

Let me offer my thoughts about A.A.'s future. I have no truck with those bleeding deacons who decry every change and view the state of the Fellowship with pessimism and alarm. On the contrary, from my nearly quarter-century's perspective, I see A.A. as larger, healthier, more dynamic, faster growing, more global, more service-minded, more back-to-basics, and more spiritual - by far than when I came through the doors of my first meeting in Greenwich, Connecticut, just one year after the famous Long Beach Convention. A.A. has flourished beyond the wildest dreams of founding members, though perhaps not of Bill himself, for he was truly visionary.

I echo those who feel that if this Fellowship ever falters or fails, it will not be because of any outside cause. No, it will not be because of:

- treatment centers or professionals

- in the field,
- or non-Conference-approved literature,
- or young people, or
- the dually-addicted, or even
- the "druggies" trying to come to our closed meetings.

If we stick close to our Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties, and if we keep an open mind and an open heart, we can deal with these and any other problems that we have or ever will have. If we ever falter and fail, it will be simply because of us. It will be because we can't control our own egos or get along well enough with each other. It will be because we have too much fear and rigidity and not enough trust and common sense. If you were to ask me what is the greatest danger facing A.A. today, I would have to answer:

- the growing rigidity; the increasing demand for absolute answers to nit-picking questions;
- pressure for G.S.O. to "enforce" our Traditions;
- screening alcoholics at closed meetings;
- prohibiting non-Conference approved literature, i.e., "banning books";
- laying more and more rules on groups and members.

And in this trend toward rigidity, we are drifting farther and farther away from our co-founders. Bill, in particular, must be spinning in his grave, for he was perhaps the most permissive person I ever met.

Our Anonymity

- a treasured possession

Tradition 11 & 12 are set out hereunder in the long form.

11. -- Our relations with the general

public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A. A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

12. --And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practise a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

Dr. Bob's comment --

"Since our Tradition on anonymity designates the exact level where the line should be held, it must be obvious to everyone who can read and understand the English language that to maintain anonymity at any other level is definitely a violation of this Tradition. "The AA who hides his identity from his fellow AA by using only a given name violates the Tradition just as much as the AA who permits his name to appear in the press in connection with matters pertaining to AA.

"The former is maintaining his anonymity ABOVE the level of press, radio, and films, and the latter is maintaining his anonymity BELOW the level of press, radio, and films - whereas the Tradition states that we should maintain our anonymity AT the level of press, radio, and films."

FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS IRELAND FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS ABROAD

EVENT DETAILS	VENUE	INFORMATION	EVENT DETAILS	VENUE	INFORMATION
58th All Ireland Convention 2015 17 to 19 April 2015	Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal	Check Website	25th Anniversary of AA in Belarus 1 to 3 May 2015	"MAZ", 117A Partizansky Avenue and Sports Complex "Stayki", Minsk, Belarus	www.aabelarus.org
Galway East Area Convention 22 to 24 May 2015	Loughrea Hotel & Spa, Loughrea, Co. Galway	Theme: Courage to Change	21st International Convention in Greece 14 to 17 May 2015	Eden Beach Resort Hotel, Anavyssos, Attika, Greece	www.aa-greece.gr
West Cork Area Convention 12 to 14 June 2015	The Maritime Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork	Theme: 'Sobriety through Sharing'	Convention in Trogir, Croatia. 12 to 14 June 2015	Hotel Medena, Hrvatskih Zrtava bb., Seget Donji, 21218 Croatia	poster link on our website
Antrim Area Convention 19 to 21 June 2015	Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly, Co. Antrim	Drummond Hotel: 0044 287772 2121	80th AA International Convention 2 to 5 July 2015	Atlanta, Georgia, USA	www.aa.org
35th Tipperary Area Convention 21 to 23 August 2015	Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary 052-6188700	Theme: Our Primary Purpose 'Shoemaker Stick to thy last'.	Poros Island English Speaking AA Convention in Greece 24 to 27 September 2015	Xenia Poros Image Hotel, Neorio, Poros Island, Greece, 18020	Download Flyer from www.aa-greece.gr Theme: "KISS"
26th Clare Area Convention 8 to 11 October 2015	The Auburn Lodge Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare	Theme: 'Serenity, Courage and Wisdom'			
Donegal Area Convention 16 to 18 October 2015	Mount Errigle Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	Mount Errigle Hotel: 00353 74 9122700			

Service Structure of The Fellowship in Ireland



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



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