

# NEWS SHEET

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

### GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF IRELAND



#### A.A. PREAMBLE ©

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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#### Cherishing what we have through Constant Vigilance.

In teaching, it is said, that we learn. We alkie, more than most, know that it is in giving that we receive. It is in sharing that we are shared with. This privilege of selfless giving is a necessity for us. It is our means out of our "self bondage". In losing ourselves in the service of our fellows we find meaning in our sober lives.

It isn't everyone that is privileged to be able to serve. We know that "there are horses for courses" and "saddles for straddles". However, we are reminded to ask in our morning

meditation how best can we serve - the answers will come.

It is vital for us to remember that ... "we are not cured of alcoholism. What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition." (P.85 The Big Book)

**Each day, somewhere in the world, recovery begins when one alcoholic talks with another alcoholic, sharing experience, strength and hope'**

"No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self-seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change." (P.84 The Big Book)



"Actual experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our twelfth suggestion: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail. Remember they are very ill.

Life will take on new meaning. To watch people

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

recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends - this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.” (P.89 The Big Book)

We become a “Trusted Servant” when another alcoholic privileges us with a confidence in his/her recovery program. We become a “Trusted Servant” when we accept the privilege to chair a meeting. Here we are trusted to share our experience, strength and hope in a general way and to avoid controversy.

### 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.**



We become a “Trusted Servant” when our AA group conscience meeting elects us to the position of meeting/group secretary. All positions in AA carry with them a list of duties and responsibilities. We have been elected because we were the best person for the job. We had the necessary wherewithal to do the job and could be depended upon to carry out the wishes of the group conscience.

We become a “Trusted Servant” when we are elected as Group Treasurer. We might ask the previous Treasurer for guidance and direction where appropriate. We might read up on the role and function of the Group Treasurer in the Service Manual and use the “Treasurer’s Notebook” from GSO for simple accounting and reporting of the Group’s moneys.

We become a “Trusted Servant” when we accept election as Group Service Representative (GSR) to Area Committee. We are clear as to what our role is in bringing the message from our Group to Area and also in regularly reporting back to our Group.

As a representative to Area Committee, we may be trusted to do any one of numerous roles which our Area Committee does e.g. Mini-Convention organisation, service areas in Committee with Hospitals, Prisons, Public Information and Telephone Helpline, officerships in Area Committee etc. Encumbant on all of these roles is a requirement on the Area Committee to define the “job description” and to select the best person for the job. Providing the necessary “sponsorship into service” including information and training, is where our Area Committee as a whole ensures that the member charged with a particular role is provided with the resources, the skills and know-how to deliver the required service.

At our Intergroup level we repeat a similar scenario. However, Intergroup is often well placed to support the Service Structure by either offering or encouraging one day events or evening workshops/symposiums etc. which target specific areas of service concern in their jurisdiction - be it the welfare of the Group, Telephone Helpline, Public Information for all, Archives etc.

Right to the bottom of the Structural Pyramid, each of us is privileged to serve as a “Trusted Servant”.

However there is also the notion of the collective “Trusted Servant” as constituted by our AA home Group, our Special Sub-Committees, our Area Committee and its various Service Committees, our Intergroup Committees and its various organs of service, our General Service Conference and our General Service Board with all their attendant Sub-Committees.

It is clear to see that with our privilege to serve in AA comes both personal and collective responsibilities as “Trusted Servants”.

Underpinning all of these roles lie the spiritual principles as laid out in our Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts, of which we are all custodians.

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## APPROVED FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS AND ONE DAY EVENTS

### ALL IRELAND CONVENTION 2018

<b>20th-22nd April 2018</b>	61st All Ireland Convention	The Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Tel: 052 6188700 <b>Theme: AA Singleness of Purpose</b>
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### FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS IN IRELAND

DATES	AREA	VENUE/THEME
1st-3rd September 2017	Tipperary Area Convention	The Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Tel: 052 6188700. <b>Theme: Language of the Heart</b>
13th-15th October 2017	Donegal Area Convention	Jackson's Hotel, Main Street, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal. Tel: 074 9131021
20th-22nd October 2017	Clare Area 28th Annual Convention	The Auburn Lodge Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare. Tel: 065 6821247. Early Bird Meeting Thursday 19th Oct. at 20.30. <b>Theme: Happy, Joyous &amp; Free</b>
9th-12th November 2017	Kerry Area Convention	Brandon Hotel, Princes Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Tel: 066 7123333. <b>Theme: Love and Service</b>
12th-14th January 2018	Wexford Area 14 2018 Convention	The Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford. <b>Theme: 'I can't, We can'</b>

### ONE DAY EVENTS IN IRELAND

DATES	AREA	VENUE/THEME
Sunday 27th August 2017	Armagh Area Day of Gratitude	Cuan Mhuire, 200 Dublin Road, Newry, BT35 8RL
Sunday 24th September 2017	Down Area Day of Gratitude	The Burrendale Hotel, Country Club & Spa, 51 Castlewellan Road, Newcastle, Co. Down, BT33 0JY. Tel: 0044 (0)28 4372259. <b>Theme: Service</b>
Saturday 28th October 2017	Roscommon/South Leitrim/Athlone Area Day of Unity, Service and Recovery Workshop	Hannon's Hotel, Roscommon Town.
Sunday 12th November 2017	Belfast Area Day of Gratitude	Beechlawn House Hotel, 4 Upper Dunmurry Lane, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT17 9RR
Sunday 19th November 2017	Dungannon 3rd Legacy, Come and Go Meetings	Unit 8, Castleview Buildings, Feeny's Lane, Dungannon, BT70 1TX. <b>Times: 11.30am, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8.30pm</b>
Saturday 20th January 2018	Tyrone Area Day of Gratitude	Silverbirch Hotel, 5 Gortin Road, Omagh, BT79 7DH. <b>Registration from 11am</b>

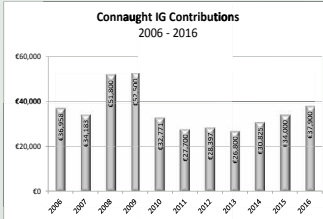
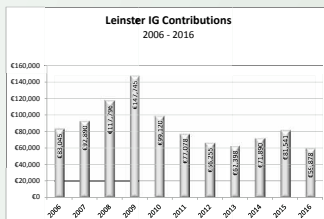
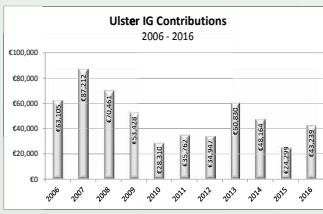
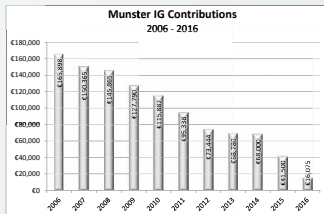
### FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS ABROAD

DATES	COUNTRY	VENUE/THEME
28th-30th July 2017	Heart of England 30th AA Convention	Birmingham Metropole Hotel, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1PP, UK
18th-20th August 2017	31st AA Netherlands Round-Up (Convention)	Mennoerde Convention Centre, Apeldoornseweg 185, 8075 RJ, Elspeet
25th-27th August 2017	12th Berlin AA Convention	Werkstatt der Kulturen, Wissmannstrabe 32, 1204 9 Berlin, Germany. <a href="http://www.berlinAAconvention.com">www.berlinAAconvention.com</a> .
14th-17th September 2017	Athens Parthenon Group 2017 Convention	Hotel Danae, 43 Kazantzaki Street, Aegina Town, 18010, Aegina Island. <a href="http://www.aa-greece.gr/kiss2017.pdf">www.aa-greece.gr/kiss2017.pdf</a>
13th-15th October 2017	1st Biarritz AA International Convention in France	Radisson Blu Hotel, 1 Carrefour Hellanthe, Cote des Basques, 64200, Biarritz, France. <b>Theme: Happy, Joyous &amp; Free</b>
18th-22nd October 2017	Costa Brava, Spain, International Convention	Golden Bahia Hotel, Av. Puerto Rico 29, Tossa de Mar (Girona), Catalonia, Spain. <b>Theme: Love and Service</b>
23rd-25th March 2018	Malta AA Convention	Seashells Resort, Suncrest Hotel, Qwara, Malta. <b>Theme: One Day At A Time.</b> Website: <a href="http://www.aamalta.org/convention/">www.aamalta.org/convention/</a>

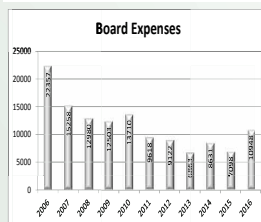
## A Bird's Eye View of AA Finances at GSO

In the interests of accountability, transparency and openness we illustrate at a glance some aspects of our AA funding to GSO and how that money is spent. Each issue of the News Sheet going forward will feature additional colour coded graphs for greater clarity of our finances as requested by members and by motion to Conference.

### Income Trends from Intergroups 2006 to 2016



### Board Expense Trends from 2006 to 2016



#### Explanatory Note:

Current expenses represent an average of approx.100 euro per meeting per person over a 12 meeting (minimum) frequency per annum.



## 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.*

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 Alcoholics 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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