

# NEWS SHEET

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF IRELAND



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

### Our 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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### The Spirituality of Tradition Seven

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon

achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. Groups which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

—Tradition Seven (long form)



“The first time I had to talk about finances at a district meeting when I was my area’s treasurer, a fellow in the back of the room yelled out: ‘Why in the world are you always talking about money when this is a spiritual program?’ The guy threw me and I didn’t know how to answer him.”

From its earliest beginnings, A.A. has always incurred expenses - whether it be the cost of a pot of coffee or the price of a

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

place to meet. In the early days, these costs were often absorbed by individual A.A.s or non-alcoholic friends who offered their parlours and living rooms for A.A.s to meet in. However, as A.A. outgrew the generosity of these early friends and members, the Fellowship's need for income became more and more apparent.

Bill W., A.A.'s co-founder, and some of the early A.A. members initially felt the only way for the Fellowship to survive was to solicit financial support from philanthropic institutions or individuals outside A.A. These "high rollers" could then supply the funds the Fellowship would need to carry out the vital Twelfth Step work the early A.A.s envisioned — to bankroll the army of paid missionaries, the chain of A.A. hospitals, and the library of books they were certain to write.

One potential A.A. patron, however, when approached by the pioneering members for money, instead helped to lay the groundwork for A.A.'s Tradition of self-support: "I am afraid that money will spoil this thing," said John D. Rockefeller Jr., while at the same time endorsing the work of the fledgling Fellowship.

This marked a turning point in A.A. history and, as the reality of Mr.



Rockefeller's statement sank in and A.A. members began to see the truth in the old cliché, "Who pays the piper calls the tune," the seed of the Seventh Tradition took root.

### **"We cannot skimp"**

With the realization that A.A. must steer clear of outside contributions in order to maintain its autonomy and independence came the understanding that the money necessary for A.A.'s survival would have to come from individual A.A. members and groups. As Bill W. put it in 1957 "Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility - one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our Groups, our Areas, and A.A. as a whole will not function unless our



services are sufficient and their bills are paid."

"When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer."

(The Language of The Heart, p. 221)

### Where Money and Spirituality Mix

“Self-support begins with me, because I am part of us — the group. We pay our rent and utility bills, buy coffee, snacks and A.A. literature. We support our Central Service Office, our Area Committee, Intergroups and our General Service Office. If it were not for those entities, many new people would never discover the miracle of A.A.”  
 Twelfth Step work is the lifeblood of Alcoholics Anonymous — carrying the message to the next suffering alcoholic. Without it, the Fellowship would wither and die. Yet, even at its simplest level this vital contact between one alcoholic and another involves an investment of time and money.

### The Bottom Line

“Now that we are sober in A.A., the word ‘support’ has to do with sharing, people, self-respect, gratitude, and what we are

### 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.*

privileged to give - not take - in material terms.”

While the Fellowship has always faced problems of money, property, and prestige in one form or another, through the wisdom of the Seventh Tradition we have never been diverted from our primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers - wherever he or she may be. This is the fundamental work of Alcoholics Anonymous, and to ensure that the hand of A.A. will always remain outstretched, money and spirituality must continue to mix. And for that, we are all responsible.



# Alcoholics Anonymous 2017

## 60th All-Ireland Convention

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

General Service Office, Unit 2, Block C, Santry Business Park, Dublin 9.  
 +353 1 8420700 e. [gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie](mailto:gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie)  
 w. [www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie)

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

**ALL IRELAND CONVENTION 2017**

<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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**FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS IRELAND**

DATES	AREA	VENUE
<b>20th-22nd January 2017</b>	Waterford Area Conventions	Woodlands Hotel, Dunmore Road, Waterford. Tel: 051 392700
<b>23rd-26th February 2017</b>	Limerick City Area Convention	The Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick City. Theme: Love and Tolerance of Others
<b>3rd-5th March 2017</b>	Sligo/North Leitrim Area Convention	The Clarion Hotel, Sligo
<b>19th-21st May 2017</b>	Galway East Area Convention	Raheen Woods Hotel, Raheen, Athenry, Co. Galway. Tel: 091 875888. Theme: A New Beginning
<b>26th-28th May 2017</b>	Cork County Area Convention	The Maritime Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork. Theme: 'I am Responsible'
<b>1st-3rd September 2017</b>	Tipperary Area 37th Annual Convention	The Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Tel: 052 6188700. Theme: Language of the Heart
<b>13th-15th October 2017</b>	Donegal Area Convention	Jackson's Hotel, Main Street, Ballybofoey, Co. Donegal. Tel: 074 9131021

**ONE DAY EVENTS IN IRELAND**

DATES	AREA	VENUE
<b>Sat. 21st January 2017</b>	Tyrone Area Day of Gratitude	Silverbirch Hotel, 5 Gortin Road, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, BT79 7DH

**FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS ABROAD**

DATES	COUNTRY	VENUE
<b>20th-22nd January 2017</b>	New Zealand 54th Annual Convention	St. Andrew's College, 347 Papanui Road, Christchurch, New Zealand
<b>27th-29th January 2017</b>	8th Annual Lanzarote Convention	Barcelo Lanzarote Resort Hotel, Avenida del Mar 5, Costa Tegui, 35508 Lanzarote, Canary Islands. Theme: "Carrying the Message". (See <a href="http://www.aa-europe.net">www.aa-europe.net</a> for flyer/info)
<b>24th-26th March 2017</b>	Malta 2017 AA Convention	Seashells Resort at Suncrest, Qawra Road, Qawra, Malta. See <a href="http://www.aamalta.org.mt">www.aamalta.org.mt</a> for flyer.
<b>30th March-2nd April 2017</b>	51st Highland Gathering (Scotland)	Jury's Inn Hotel, Millburn Road, Inverness, Scotland (flyer on our website)
<b>13th-15th October 2017</b>	1st Biarritz AA International Convention France	Radisson Blu Hotel, 1 Carrefour Helianthe, Cote des Basques, 64200, Biarritz, France. Theme: Happy, Joyous & Free

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...."*

*Concept 2, Bill made it clear that the Groups "delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world service and effective conscience for our whole society".*

*However, the early vision was of a worldwide structure outside of the U.S./Canada evolved as autonomous entities.*



General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Unit 2, Block C, Santry Business Park  
 Swords Road, Dublin 9  
 Telephone: (01) 8420700 Fax: (01) 8420703  
[gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie](mailto:gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie)

