

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.

**If the Public doesn't know
about us how can we be of
help?**

Carrying the Message through our Public Information Service Committees

*(A collaboration with the Sub-Committee of
AA Conference in Ireland on
Public Information)*

This article is essentially about:

- What Public Information regarding AA's recovery programme is about
- Why we AAs do it
- Whom we do it with and
- The resources and skills required to carry it out.

There are a number of principles that guide our work in the area of Public Information. We have a cherished principle of anonymity, however we seem to forget at times that this is merely at the level of press, radio, film and other media. Our anonymity should be as underlined and neither above nor below that level. "We cannot keep our light under a bushel." We are not a secret society nor are we alcoholics invisible. While our tradition states that we are "based on attraction" rather than promotion, we nevertheless have to get the balance right. The public generally and

the professional community need to be aware of our availability to be of assistance when alcoholics need and ask for help.

We are not a temperance society and we don't engage in the rights or wrongs of drinking.. our preamble disentangles us from that spider's web. "Our hats are off to those who can drink like gentlemen". (Blg Book)

Nobody can get another person sober. However in the trying, we find that we stay sober ourselves.. that's the miracle of it. We may or may not be the agents of change in other people's lives however, we begin to grow and change ourselves! "In teaching we learn" it is said. It behoves us all to move from student to teacher in recovery.

We carry the message of recovery first and foremost in the rooms of AA. Here we find varying degrees of wellness and unwellness at any given time. Members well drilled in the AA program through regular attendance at meetings are usually well equipped to pass our message on to the still suffering alcoholic. At the home group also we witness the more formal organisation of the open meeting at which AAs speak, usually a team of speakers from out of town, and we advertise this event locally through posters and announcements etc. The involvement of the local group in all these endeavours is primary in our recovery strategy.

Appropriate self disclosure must be an overriding axiom in our dealing with others, except in our surgical step five. Individual members can share with their GP how they are in recovery and can be available to twelve step if needs be. For the most part discretion can be assured when dealing with clergy and professionals.

The 1939 publication of our Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, was the first A.A. information available for the public. By 1941, several articles on A.A. in national publications helped to encourage

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

understanding and acceptance of A.A. Also significant were good relations with professionals, such as Dr. W. D. Silkworth, Rev. Sam Shoemaker and Dr. Harry Tiebout.

In 1956 the U.S./Canada General Service Conference of AA adopted unanimously the following statement of "AA's Public Information Policy":

'In all public relationships, A.A.'s sole objective is to help the still suffering alcoholic. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to the still suffering alcoholics, and to those who may be interested in their problem, our own experience as individuals and as a fellowship in learning to live without alcohol.'

"We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest. We believe further that all efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside of A.A. are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcoholism".

In Ireland, national public relations matters affecting the Fellowship as a whole are dealt with by the General Service Board. Currently we have a Public Information Sub-Committee sitting at Conference working closely with the Board to help reach the still suffering alcoholic and those interested in Alcoholics Anonymous. This committee have also completed a series of tasks to assist the Fellowship get more involved in Public Information work.

Working to improve communication within the Fellowship and a better understanding of PI, to this end an orientation day has now been held in each of the Provinces.

A kit containing guidelines and literature to assist members interested in PI has been compiled and will hopefully be available from GSO in the not too distant future.

Our newly designed poster has now been distributed to all intergroup and area committees. The Fellowship is encouraged to express its gratitude by placing a poster (with permission) in public buildings, e.g. library, church foyer, garda stations, on

CAN'T STOP
There is a solution
CALL Alcoholics Anonymous

Contact: **Alcoholics Anonymous**
General Service Office
01 - 842 0700
Tel:
Email: gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie
Website: www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

community noticeboards in local supermarkets etc. and doctors' surgeries.

Some doctors who treat patients dealing with alcohol abuse often refer them to Alcoholics Anonymous, but many have never gone to a meeting and are not familiar with what goes on there. We have completed a short presentation for use in doctor's surgeries. This is now available for use.

"The Road Back" DVD has been sent out to all major media outlets for review, resulting in some interviews. Irish Sign Language has now been added to the DVD & sound bites from the DVD have also been used on the radio.

Public Information in Alcoholics Anonymous means carrying the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic by informing

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 general public about the A.A. program. We carry the message by getting in touch with and responding to the media, industry, schools, and other organizations who in turn can inform others as to the purpose of A.A. and what it can do for the suffering alcoholic who wants help.

look at local needs, opportunities and attitudes, as well as the Service Structure, the Traditions, etc. Workshops are also fine tools for exploring ideas and settling on methods.

As our co-founder, Bill W., wrote:

Those undertaking PI work for the first time, whether it be at the Group, Area or Intergroup level, are encouraged to read our Service Handbook for Ireland. Thoughtful reading of A.A. literature (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions) is essential for anyone who works with non-A.A.s.

Public Information takes many forms. The simple sign outside a meeting place that says "A.A. meeting tonight"; listing in local phone directories; distribution of A.A. literature and radio and television shows using sophisticated media techniques. Whatever the form, it comes down to "one drunk carrying the message to another drunk", whether through personal contact or through the use of third parties and the media.

It's best that we work within our Service Structure and communicate with each other. Therefore many AA Groups, Area and Intergroup Committees have found that workshops provide a way of taking a

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FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS IN IRELAND

DATES	AREA	VENUE/THEME
16th-18th June 2017	Antrim Area 35th Annual Convention	The Maldron Hotel, Belfast International Airport, Co. Antrim. Registration £5.00. Theme: A New Beginning
1st-3rd September 2017	Tipperary Area Convention	The Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Tel: 052 6188700. Theme: Language of the Heart
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. Theme: Happy, Joyous & Free
12th-14th January 2018	Wexford Area 14 2018 Convention	The Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford. Theme: 'I can't, We can'

ONE DAY EVENTS IN IRELAND

DATES	AREA	VENUE/THEME
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. Theme: Service

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
14th-17th September 2017	Athens Parthenon Group 2017 Convention	Hotel Danae, 43 Kazantzaki Street, Aegina Town, 18010, Aegina Island. www.aa-greece.gr/kiss2017.pdf
13th-15th October 2017	1st Biarritz AA International Convention in France	Radisson Blu Hotel, 1 Carrefour Hellanthe, Cote des Basques, 64200, Biarritz, France. Theme: Happy, Joyous & Free
18th-22nd October 2017	Costa Brava, Spain, International Convention	Golden Bahia Hotel, Av. Puerto Rico 29, Tossa de Mar (Girona), Catalonia, Spain. Theme: Love and Service

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 61st ALL IRELAND CONVENTION **AA Singleness of Purpose**



**Friday 20th, Saturday 21st
& Sunday 22nd April 2018**

**CLONMEL PARK HOTEL
CO. TIPPERARY**

Ph: +353 (0)52 6188700 for reservations



THIS IS A CLOSED MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This is a closed meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. In support of A.A.'s singleness of purpose, attendance at closed meetings is limited to persons who have a desire to stop drinking. If you think you have a problem with alcohol, you are welcome to attend this meeting. We ask that when discussing our problems, we confine ourselves to those problems as they relate to alcoholism.

(The 1987 General Service Conference made this statement available as an A.A. service piece for those groups who wish to use it.)

Visit us at: www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

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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