

# NEWS SHEET



## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF IRELAND

### 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.

### Board Report

The Board is comprised of seven Trustees (four alcoholic and three non-alcoholic) plus the Board Secretary. Each Trustee wears three hats... Trustee of the fellowship in Ireland, Director/Trustee of the Company (incorporated) and Trustee of the Pension Fund for GSO staff.

At the recent reconvened conference in August two new NAT's were approved to the Board, namely Mr. Eamonn Dillon and Mr. Phil Garland. Phil replaces Mr. Denis Doherty who recently retired after giving three decades of dedicated service in various areas to the Fellowship. The new NATs bring much needed experience as they have been active in other fields and NGOs i.e. charities and voluntary organisations etc. and bring expertise in Law and Child Protection etc, with them to inform decision making at Board level.

We meet on a monthly basis, normally an all-day meeting in GSO on a Saturday.

**The Board is available to meet Provincial Intergroup Conference Delegate teams on invitation.**

As custodians of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, the Board looks at

issues such as anonymity breaks, Public Information, particularly our declaration of responsibility... "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".

In so doing the Board looks how best it can efficiently and prudently use AA resources and funds in carrying the message e.g. looking at ways to get better value for money for the fellowship in PI. The Board continues to oversee the issuing of The Road Back and the News Sheet.

**The Archives** are held at GSO and can be viewed by appointment. These are also brought to every All-Ireland Convention for viewing.

**Finance:** Concern was expressed at Board level that in some cases funds are not passing through the Structure efficiently. Table top contributions are down on previous years and it is felt that the movement of moneys from Group to Area to Intergroup is being unnecessarily retarded.

A prudent reserve is normally three months running expenses.

Administration costs have increased at GSO and an analysis of expenditures is currently underway to look at possible savings. The Road Back sales are somewhat down but literature sales are up generally. A suggestion to maintain the Road Back sales would be for groups to elect a Road Back anchor person, who would order the special discounted group contribution and account to the group

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

business meetings regularly. (see The News Sheet Aug/Sept edition)  
It is hoped to move to an online ordering system for The Road Back and have e-format copy soon.

Articles are urgently being sought for The Road Back. Please contribute your story, humorous incident or your perspective on recovery, the traditions or an area of service.

**70th Anniversary of AA...** a subcommittee of Conference is currently in situ charged with the responsibility of investigating feasible options on how best the fellowship might commemorate our 70th anniversary for 2016. The committee will report to March Conference 2016.

**AA Directories** issued 3/4 times a year, usually as soon as stocks are sold out.

The database system is being updated at GSO... both hardware and software... for greater efficiency and integration. Usual tendering process is being adhered to.

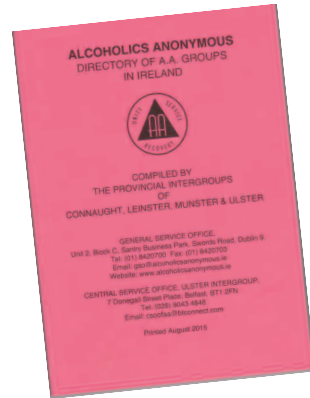
**The Website** will undergo a 'new look' and will be more appealing and user-friendly. It is now a few years on since first launched.

**Intergroup and Area minute copies** need to be mailed automatically to GSO for inclusion in the historical archives of the fellowship in 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.

## Guidelines for Listings in the Directory... (suggested)



For an overview of how the Traditions apply to groups, see the pamphlet

"The AA Group ... Where it all begins."

In brief:

- all group members are alcoholics (or have a desire to stop drinking) and the group is willing to "open the door to all alcoholics who seek help, regardless of profession, gender, or other distinction" ("The AA Group," p. 15)
  - the group is fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions
  - the group has no other affiliation
  - the group does not endorse outside enterprises
  - the group has no opinion on outside issues
  - the group maintains the anonymity of its members (no full names or photos of members in public view)
- From page 22 of the pamphlet "The AA Group" (copyright AAWS, Inc.; reprinted with permission):

"Even the appearance of being linked to any organization, club, political or religious institution needs to be avoided."

"Therefore, an AA group that meets in a prison or treatment facility or a church can take care not to use the institution's name, but to call itself something quite different. This makes it clear that the AA group is not

affiliated with the hospital, church, prison, treatment facility, or whatever, but simply rents space there for meetings.

"Our AA group conscience, as voiced by the General Service Conference, has recommended that 'family' meetings, 'double trouble' and 'alcohol and pill' meetings not be listed in our AA directories. The use of the word 'family' might also invite confusion with Al-Anon Family Groups, a fellowship entirely separate from AA.

"The primary purpose of any AA group is to carry the AA message to alcoholics. Experience with alcohol is one thing all AA members have in common. It is misleading to hint or give the impression that AA solves other problems or knows what to do about addiction to drugs.

"It has also been recommended by the AA Conference that no AA group be named after any actual person, living or dead, AA or non-AA. This is one way we can 'place principles before personalities.'"

### *Keeping the Directories Current*

GSO attempts to keep its directories current. However, we must rely on information supplied by the meetings and groups using the Group Information Sheet via the structure. In addition, it is recommended that it does periodic "roll calls", updates to ensure correct listing information and contacts.

The only way the meeting directories can remain current is with your help. We urge you to think of the newcomer when you view the directory listings. Imagine him or her, full of hope, following instructions and rushing off to a meeting. Then imagine their seeing a closed door or meeting moved sign etc etc.

Even one instance of the above is too many.

*Here's what you can do to help:*

- Take a look at your group's or meeting's listing in the AA directory. Is it current? If not, let Area/Intergroup know. (again using the Group Information Sheet via the structure)
- Whether you have one or three contacts listed, a visitor is most likely to contact the first name on the list. Is that person still a contact? If not, let us know.
- People go on holiday, get ill, etc. Please inform your contacts that if they are not available to respond to inquiries, the group can easily substitute another contact temporarily ... to ensure the newcomer has someone to talk to.

## **Spotlight on the respective responsibilities of the Trustees**

Each edition of The News Sheet will feature the work of one of the Board Trustees in order to give members a greater feel for the kinds of service carried out by each respective Board member, including the Board Secretary.

Colly G. is responsible for producing the bi-monthly magazine "The Road Back." Whilst the Board has the overall editorial responsibility for The Road Back, Colly sources and edits the content of the magazine. The magazine is always in need of stories for our meeting in print, ideally they should either be 450 or 900 words long. Colly's other responsibilities are the Website and our Meeting App. At this point in time Colly is looking at how we can keep the Website fresh and up-to-date to serve the needs of the Fellowship.

Currently Colly is chairing a sub-committee of Conference on how best we as a fellowship can carry our message via Public Information.

## APPROVED FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS/ONE DAY EVENTS

### FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS IRELAND

DATES	AREA	VENUE
8th-11th October 2015	26th Clare Area Convention	The Auburn Lodge Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare. Theme: 'Serenity, Courage and Wisdom'
16th-18th October 2015	Donegal Area Convention	Mount Errigle Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal: 07491 22700
13th-15th November 2015	50th Kerry Area Convention	The Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Theme: Carrying The Message
13th-15th November 2015	Mayo Area Convention	Hotel Ballina, N26, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo

### FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS ABROAD

DATES	COUNTRY	VENUE
6th-8th November 2015	10th International Convention in Malta	Seashells Resort at Suncrest Hotel, Qawra, Malta. Theme "It works, it really does".
22nd-24th January 2016	53rd New Zealand Convention	Copthorne Resort, Waitangi, Bay of Islands. www.aaconvention.org.nz
5th-7th February 2015	27th North Sea Convention in Belgium	Vayamundo De Kinkhoorn & RAVELINGEN - Zeedijk 290-330, 8400 Oostende, Belgium
24th-27th March 2016	1st Australasian Convention in Fiji	Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji. www.aanatcon.org.au

### ONE DAY EVENTS

DATES	AREA	VENUE
Sat. 10th October 2015	Area 1 Day of Gratitude	d Hotel, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Theme: 'Carrying the Message'

### ALL IRELAND CONVENTION 2016

15th-17th April 2016	59th All Ireland Convention	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Hotel - 057 9346666. Theme: The Joy of Living.
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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 are 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". However, the Conference structures in countries outside of the U.S./Canada evolved as autonomous entities.



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