

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.

Celebrating our 70th birthday in Ireland

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

Our raison d'être as a Fellowship is to carry our message to the still suffering alcoholics within and outside of the rooms of AA.

In celebrating our 70th birthday here in Ireland we emphasize our principle of attraction. When AAs gather together to celebrate sobriety we show the world how we as 'ex drunks' have a 'new freedom' and a 'new happiness' that our programme promises us 'as a result of these steps'. We can enjoy ourselves and socialize freely and easily without the dependance on the chemical ethyl alcohol. Our self consciousness evaporates when we are relieved of the 'bondage of self' through the programme of recovery.

While the "Twelve and Twelve" states that only an act of Providence can expel the obsession to drink we know that through our surrender we ready ourselves to co-operate with this Providential intervention. We also have to develop, maintain and sustain a relationship with our Fellowship, our Higher Power and our programme of recovery. We steadfastly "keep on keeping on" a day at a time, doing what needs to be done because it's the right thing to do in love and service. Freely have we been given, thus freely we give in return.

Key elements in our recovery include HONESTY, OPEN MINDEDNESS and WILLINGNESS. We also have to develop the practice of 'eternal vigilance' for therein, we learn is the price of our daily freedom.

In making happy we experience happiness. No more so is this more evident than when we are privileged to share with another alcoholic and see their lives transformed by the miracle of sobriety.

While the outcome of 12 Step work is never in our hands, we learn that whatever the outcome we are the certain beneficiaries in that we remain sober ourselves. We know we never graduate for the programme is a process not an outcome.

Bill W. spoke often of the 'full and thankful heart'. Our birthday as a Fellowship on this island is essentially a celebration of gratitude. Save for those who went before us and struggled not alone against the social stigma that the very word 'alcoholic' conjured up but also against a very different world that was so steeped in prejudices, conventions and archaic mores.

Alcoholics Anonymous

70 years of AA in Ireland

1946 - 2016

A Celebration of the founding of
Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland

Venue: Green Isle Hotel, Dublin
Date: Friday 18th November 2016
Registration: from 6.00pm

Programme

- AA National Archives on view from 6.00pm
- Presentation of History of AA in Ireland 7.00pm-7.45pm
- Open AA Meeting 8.30pm

Bookings contact: Green Isle Hotel, Dublin
Tel: 01-4593406 / **Email:** reservations@greenislehotel.com

General Service Office Tel: 01-8420700
 Unit 2 Block C Santry Business Park Email: gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie
 Swords Road Website: www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie
 Dublin 9

Our spiritual principle of anonymity and our safeguarding preamble were our mainstay in helping us stay the course. We were very much blessed by the inspired elder statesmen of our early

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history in avoiding controversy, helpful to those who desired our help while not threatening anyone or institution. The last seven decades of our history have had their humps and bumps and hills and hollows but miraculously we have been saved from ourselves and our egoic ways. We owe a debt of gratitude to our elder statesmen and women. As with Bill and his numerous phone calls on that fateful day in Akron and Henrietta Sieberling's providential intervention we also see in all humility how the hand of destiny contrived in the founding of our Fellowship here in Ireland. When Conor F was just about to give up and with time running out fate played its hand — as it did with Bill W. in Akron eleven years earlier — when once again, and in more or less similar circumstances, an understanding non-alcoholic woman played a part in the birth of AA, this time in Ireland.

Her name was Eva Jennings and she was staying in the same hotel as Conor and over breakfast he confided in her his many problems in getting AA set up in Dublin.

She was very sympathetic towards his plight and arranged for him to meet a Dr. Norman Moore from St. Patrick's Hospital in Dublin whom she believed would be of some help.

Dr. Moore was quite enthusiastic and listened to what Conor had to say, as he had already read about AA in a Readers Digest article. He informed Conor that he had a patient in the hospital "whom he feared he might be saddled with for life" and was willing to introduce them both stating: "If you can help this man, I'll believe in AA 100 percent."

The patient, Richard P. from County Down in Northern Ireland, was sent under escort to Conor's hotel and immediately they "clicked" and Richard was released from hospital.

Both men then set about arranging the first closed meeting in Dublin, which took place two weeks later on Monday, November 18th, 1946. The following Saturday they placed a notice in The Evening Mail for the first public "open" meeting the next Monday. Neither man was ever to drink again. Richard died sober December 19th, 1982, and Conor F. died in Philadelphia on July 8th, 1993, 50 years sober.

Sackville attended his first A.A. meeting there on a Monday night, April 28, 1947, and never took another drink. He was a "retired" major from the British Army, having served for twenty-six years. A British officer - that is, until brandy "retired" him. This proved only a temporary setback. He survived to become a mainstay of A.A. in 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.*

Sackville M's story appeared in the 2nd and 3rd editions of Alcoholics Anonymous as "The Career Officer."

Getting off to a shaky start, the group secretary and a dozen others got drunk in the summer of 1947. Three remained sober, Sackville among them, who had joined in April. They re-formed the group in August with Sackville as secretary.

Sackville was a good organizer who had clear and definite ideas of what they should do. He suggested they switch the open public information meeting from Friday to Monday, the better to catch men coming off a weekend drunk. He also worked hard to get information about A.A. to the newspapers.

Since the vast majority of the Irish population was Roman Catholic, Sackville knew it was important to win the goodwill of the Catholic clergy. He convinced a professor of theology at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, to publish an article favorable to A.A. in the college paper The Furrow. Bill W. later referred to the publication of this article as an impressive step forward in A.A.'s relations with the churches.

In 1948 Sackville began a small group paper, The Road Back, which did much to give the group a sense of identity. A bi-monthly group newsletter celebrating birthdays and group news, it also carried recovery sharing in a simple unpretentious five-page format. He edited it for more than twenty-eight years. The Road Back magazine is still being printed, similar to the Grapevine magazine in the U.S. Sackville died in 1979, 32 years sober.

So we see how through adversity and most fortuitous circumstances our Fellowship was established Ireland.

Each of us are guardians of a special bequest i.e. our three legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service. They are like the legs of a stool. Take one away and the whole structure collapses!

Happy 70th Birthday!

Excerpts used from "Ireland — the first European nation to accept the Message of Alcoholics Anonymous" herewith acknowledged - author unknown

2016



Dr Bob & Bill W, co-founders of AA



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Conor F, who brought AA to Ireland, with Sackville



Years - One Day at a Time

Main Event; Green Isle Hotel, Dublin,
Friday 18th November 2016, from 6.00pm
with provincial and local events planned for around the country.

Drawing of the Country Shop, an ICA tea Room in Stephens Green
where it all began. (a tea totaller's retreat)
(courtesy of Dún Laoghaire Group of AA)

1946

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APPROVED FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS/ONE DAY EVENTS		
ALL IRELAND CONVENTION 2016		
20th-23rd April 2017	60th All Ireland Convention	The Salthill Hotel, Promenade, Galway (091 522711). Theme: A New Freedom
FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS IRELAND		
DATES	AREA	VENUE
2nd-4th September 2016	Tipperary Area 36th Convention	The Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Phone: 052 6188700 for reservations
6th-9th October 2016	Clare Area 27th Annual Convention	Treacy's West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare. Theme: Into Action
14th-16th October 2016	Donegal Area Convention	Mount Errigal Hotel, Ballyraine, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal - 074 9122700
11th-13th November 2016	Kerry Area 51st Annual Convention	The Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Theme: Three Legacies.
20th-22nd January 2017	Waterford Area Conventions	Woodlands Hotel, Dunmore Road, Waterford. Tel: 051 392700
23rd-26th February 2017	Limerick City Area Convention	The Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick City. Theme: Love and Tolerance of Others
3rd-5th March 2017	Sligo/North Leitrim Area Convention	The Clarion Hotel, Sligo
ONE DAY EVENTS IN IRELAND		
DATES	AREA	VENUE
Sun. 11th September 2016	Down Area Day of Gratitude	The Burrendale Hotel, 51Castlewellan Road, Newcastle, Co. Down, BT33 0JY. Theme: "You're No Longer Alone".
Sat. 24th September 2016	Area 7 (Killester Group) Day of Gratitude	Killester Group. 1966-2016: 50 Years - One Day at a Time. La Chéile - Donnycarney Community Centre, Donnycarney, Dublin 5.
Sat. 15th October 2016	Area 5 Day of Gratitude	Sarsfield GAA Clubhouse, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. 12 Midday-12 Midnight
Sat. 22nd October 2016	Area 3 & 4 Day of Gratitude	County Arms Hotel, Birr, Co. Offaly. Theme: The Keys to Freedom. Open Mtg at 11am, Meetings from 10am- 12 noon, Disco at 20.30.
Sat. 12th November 2016	Belfast Area Day of Gratitude	Corr's Corner Hotel, 315 Ballyclare Road, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, BT36 4TQ. Phone: (028) 90849221
Sun. 13th November 2016	Area 14 70th Anniversary Day of Gratitude	The Talbot Hotel, Wexford Town
Friday 18th November 2016	A Celebration of 70 years of AA in Ireland	The Green Isle Hotel, Dublin. Tel: 01 4593406. Registration from 6pm.
Sat. 19th November 2016	Area 7 (Coolock Group) Day of Gratitude	70th Anniversary Day of Gratitude. St. Brendan's Parish Centre, Coolock Village, Dublin 5.
Sat. 19th November 2016	Area 10 and Area 8 Joint Day of Celebration	St. Michaels House, Tallaght Road, Templeogue, Dublin 6W. Starts at 11am, Buffet Dance at 9pm. '70 Years of Gratitude'
Sat. 19th November 2016	Donegal Area Day of Gratitude	The Central Hotel, The Diamond, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal
Sat. 26th November 2016	Derry Area Day of Gratitude	Waterfoot Hotel, Caw Roundabout, Waterside, Derry, BT47 6TB. Hotel: 028 71345500

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 "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 structure, outside of the U.S./Canada evolved as autonomous entities.



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