

The News Sheet

Issue Oct/Nov 2018

The General Service Conference of Alcoholics

AA into the future by Bill W. on the 25th Anniversary of A.A.

Page 1 & 2

New Website & Group Information

All-Ireland Convention 2019 - The Twelve Steps

Page 3

Forthcoming Events

Approved one day events and mini-conventions including overseas conventions & Service Structure Pyramid

Page 4

Tomorrow by Bill W. *Our Co-founder sums up after twenty-five years of A.A. and looks into the future we are now living.*

(The following excerpts are reprinted with permission from the book, A.A. Today published by The A.A. Grapevine, 1960,)

“We have some wonderful glimpses of the programme of A.A. at work in the twenty-fifth year of its founding.

Now comes the question: Where do we go from here and what is our responsibility for today and for tomorrow?

Clearly our first duty to A.A.’s future is to maintain in full strength what we now have. Only the most vigilant caretaking can assure this. Never should we be lulled into complacent self-satisfaction by the wide acclaim and success that are everywhere ours. This is the subtle temptation, which could stagnate us today, perchance disintegrate us tomorrow. We have always rallied to meet and transcend failure and crisis. Problems have been our stimulants. How well, though, shall we be able to meet the problems of success?

During the last twenty-five years, it is quite certain that twenty-five million men and women throughout the world have suffered from alcoholism, Nearly all of these are now sick, and, or dead. A.A. has brought recovery to something like two hundred and fifty thousand (in 1960).

The rest are still out of reach or else gone beyond recall. An even larger generation of drunks is right now in the making. Facing the enormity of this situation, shall any of us sit comfortable and say,



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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we are going to open wider and wider, every conceivable means and channel through which these kinfolk of ours may be reached. We shall remember Dr. Bob and his marvellous co-worker, Sister Ignatia - how they worked at Akron. We shall remember the many years of Dr. Silkworth's unstinted labour for us. Ten thousand A.A.'s still around will remember how they literally owe their lives to these three people. Each of us will remember his own sponsor, the one who cared enough. As the inheritors of such a Tradition of service, how many could even say, "Let George do that Twelfth Step job, he likes to work with drunks anyhow. Besides, I'm busy. Surely there could not be many?" Complacency would be impossible.

Our next great area of the future responsibility may be this one: I'm thinking about the total problem of alcohol and about those who still suffer the appalling consequences of alcoholism. Their number is astronomical.

While we appreciate that A.A. itself cannot very well get into alcohol education or into any of the related activities that touch the total problem, we do know that, as peculiarly well-informed citizens, there is plenty we can and should do in these fields.

Enterprises of this sort - governmental, state and private - have been springing up everywhere in recognition of the fact that alcoholism is a top-priority problem of health.

Nevertheless, I gather the impression that many of us are so intent on their few errors, especially the errors of those A.A.'s (two-hatters) associated with them, that we often fail to give these dedicated people the encouragement they most need. Now that we A.A.'s have so amazingly unified around our single purpose and the Twelve Traditions, the risk that we could be much hurt by anything done in these outside ventures is virtually non-existent.

Could not still more friendly and widespread co-operations with outside agencies finally lead us to countless alcoholics who will otherwise be lost? Maybe we are beginning to stand in our own light. Perhaps we are blocking a communication that has a tremendous potential. Shouldn't we therefore have a fresh look at this?

Nearly all of us, when we think about it, agree that we are a long, long way from being anywhere from grown up, from almost any point of view. We can clearly see that our job as individuals and as a Fellowship is to keep right on growing by the constant use of our Twelve Steps.

Our Fellowship has been permitted to achieve - though still in miniature - the "one world" dream of philosophers. Ours is a world in which we can hotly differ, yet never think of schism or conflict as a solution. For so long as we remain sure that our "one world" of A.A.'s is God's gift, rather than any virtue earned or created by ourselves; and for so long as our "one world" continues to be ever more inclusive of those in need; and for so long as we speak and try to perfect the language of love - for just so long may we count upon making whatever rendezvous with destiny that God would have us make."



Carrying our message, whether it is through "stickers" at the bottle bank, Public Information meetings, Prison and Hospital meetings or attempting to be of help to the still suffering alcoholic through co-operating with the professional community is the raison d'être of what we are about in Alcoholics Anonymous.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

62nd All Ireland Convention

Great Northern Hotel
Bundoran, Co. Donegal

26th - 28th April 2019

- Theme -
THE 12 STEPS

For bookings: Great Northern Hotel 071 9841204
1800 reservations Bundoran Tourist Board 071 9841350

For further information contact:
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Tel: 01-4060222 (ext. 101) Fax: 01-4060222 (ext. 101)
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The views and opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Fellowship of Alcoholics



Your Group Information Sheet and the newly refurbished AA official website....

The new AA website came online in mid-August. We hope you are making full use of the new feature, including the Members Area. (www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie) If for some reason you don't have access to the Members Area there are a number of possible reasons for this.

If you have completed the GDPR/GIS you will already have received, or will shortly receive your log in details and password to access the Members area, this will give you full access to the following features:

- Update your Group Information Sheet online.
- Individual email addresses will be issued for groups to help with group to group contact by email.
- View online, Intergroup Minutes, Area Minutes, Conference Minutes, Financial Statements, Director's Reports, Archival material.....more to come!

If, however, you have not returned your GDPR GIS you will be unable to avail of these new features. Also, in future editions of the AA directory we will not be permitted to include contact information for your group, and the information we store on your group may no longer be current or valid.

We are sure that all of you will want to continue to be part of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and to have all of the benefits that this membership brings to our common welfare. In the unlikely event that you have not received any information regarding this process, feel free to contact the General Service Office at 01-8420700.

The following table shows the number of GDPR/GIS completed forms received by mid-September.

Intergroup	Total Groups	GDPR GIS received	GDPR GIS not received
Ulster	201	108	93
Munster	232	104	128
Leinster	298	155	143
Connaught	148	66	82
Overall	879	433	446

General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous
Unit 2, Block C, Santry Business Park Swords Road, Dublin 9, D09 H584
Telephone: (01) 8420700 Fax: (01) 8420703

AA All-Ireland Convention 2019 -- Great Northern Hotel Bundoran
26-28th April 2019
Theme: The Twelve Steps

APPROVED FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS AND ONE DAY EVENTS

ALL IRELAND CONVENTION 2019

26th-28th April 2019	62nd All Ireland Convention	The Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal. Theme: The 12 Steps
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FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS IN IRELAND

DATES	AREA	VENUE/THEME
12th-14th October 2018	Donegal Area Convention	Mount Errigal Hotel, Ramelton Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Phone: 074 22700. Website: www.mounterrigan.com
18th-21st October 2018	Clare Area Convention	The Auburn Lodge Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare. Theme: One Day At A Time
9th-11th November 2018	Kerry Area 53rd AA Convention	The Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Theme: "Just For Today"
30th Nov. - 2nd Dec. 2018	Mayo Area Convention	Hotel Westport, Westport, Co. Mayo
25th-27th January 2019	Waterford Area Convention 2019	Woodland Hotel, Waterford City. Theme: "Just for Today, The Gift of Living"
8th-10th February 2019	Wexford Area 14 AA Convention	Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford. Theme: Keep it Simple
22nd-24th February 2019	Limerick Areas Annual Convention 2019	The Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick. Theme: 'Unity'
8th-10 March 2019	Sligo/North Leitrim Area Convention	The Clayton Hotel, Clarion Road, Ballytivnan, Sligo, F91 N8EF. Theme: I am Responsible
8th-10 March 2019	Cork City Area Convention	The Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel, Blarney, Co. Cork. Theme: Pass It On

ONE DAY EVENTS IN IRELAND

DATES	AREA	VENUE/THEME
18th November 2018	Belfast Area Day of Gratitude	Ramada Encore, 20 Talbot Street, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT1 2LD. Theme: "Keep it in the Day"
19th January 2019	Tyrone Area Day of Gratitude	Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh, Co. Tyrone. Registration from 10.30am. Event starts at 11.30am

FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS ABROAD

DATES	COUNTRY	VENUE/THEME
11th-14th October 2018	K.I.S.S. English Speaking AA Convention in Greece	Pandrossos Hotel, Parikia, Paros Island, Greece
12th-14th October 2018	2nd Biarritz AA Convention in France	Radisson Blu Hotel, Cote des Basques, 64200 Biarritz, France. Theme: A Vision For You
17th-21st October 2018	Costa Brava AA Convention	Golden Bahia Hotel & Spa, Tossa de Mar (Girona), Catalonia, Spain. Theme: Love and Service
16th-18th November 2018	Costa del Sol Convention 2018 in Spain	IPV Palace Hotel, Fuengirola, Spain
25th-27th January 2019	Lanzarote & Fuerteventura 10th International AA Convention	Occidental Lanzarote Mar Hotel, Avenida del Mar 5, Costa Tegui 35508, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain
22nd-24th March 2019	AA Hiland Gathering in Scotland	Jury's Inn Hotel, Inverness, Scotland. Theme: Acceptance is the Key

The News Sheet is intended as an aid to Service throughout the Fellowship in Ireland

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". 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.