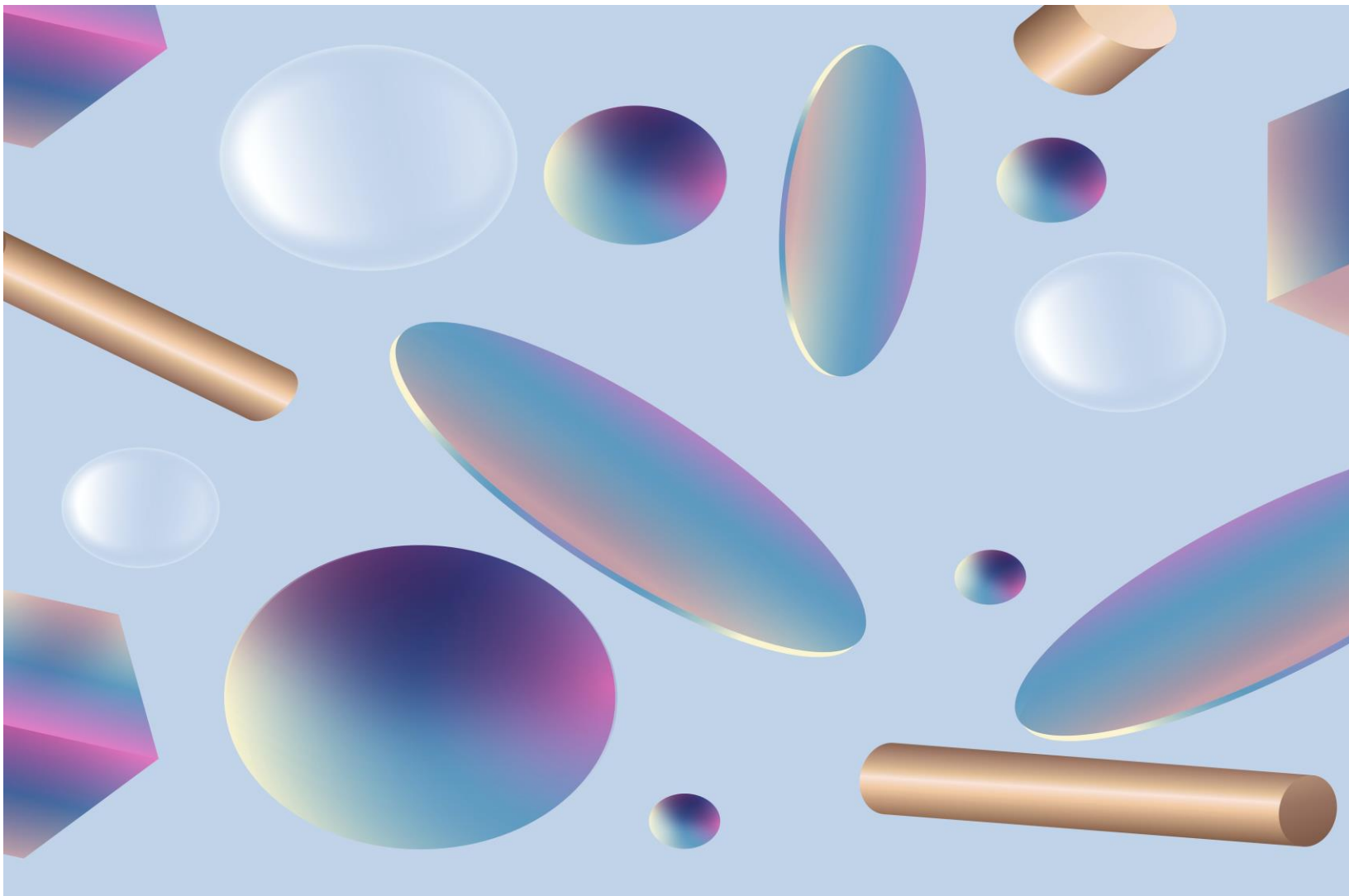


Annual Report 2022

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland CLG



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Mission Statement, Vision, Values

The mission of The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland CLG is to support, enhance and develop the efficient operations of the Fellowship of AA on the island of Ireland to ensure that the still suffering alcoholic will be supported to become involved in AA and receive the help they need'. The document 'Terms of reference' supports this mission statement very clearly.

Vision

“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, organisation 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.”

Alcoholics Anonymous is a Twelve Step Fellowship dedicated to helping one another. The Twelve Step programme is AA’s suggested programme for recovery from alcoholism and its effects.

AA’s Twelve Steps are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which, if practiced as a way of life, can relieve the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become an active participating member of his/her family and society as a whole.

AA’s Twelve Traditions apply to the life of the Fellowship itself. They outline the means by which AA maintains its unity and relates itself to the world about it, the way it lives and grows.

There are approximately 500 AA Groups in Ireland with an estimated 13,000 – 15,000 AA members and meetings held each week nationwide.

Full Information is available from our website www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

The General Services Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland CLG will actively promote policies to protect its mission and values.

Values

This Code of Ethics is based upon a foundation of strongly held values. The commitment of the Board and staff to the ethos of the service guides all those involved in formulating and adhering to the Code of Ethics that follows:

Members and their desire for sobriety are the priority of GSBAA. GSBAA ensures that the services which it provides are of the highest possible standards. Equality, fairness and confidentiality in the delivery of our services are some of the core values of the service.

Introduction from our Chairperson – Emmet O’Hanlon

Welcome to General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland CLG Annual Report for 2022 which reviews and summarises much of the enormous progress accomplished throughout the year.

A full redesign of our website was launched during the middle of the year incorporating many improvements. The focus was to make the website more user friendly, we concentrated on the areas that are mostly accessed by viewers, noticeably the Find a Meeting section. New additions include accessibility to Online documents e.g., Speaker Requests, Group Information Sheets, an online readable version of the Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous), a refreshed AA Events Area and more. Viewers can also benefit from a changing daily quote from the AA book ‘Daily Reflections’, access to an online version of the contents of the Starter Pack (blue wallet), there is a new improved Literature Shop. A new News & Updates section was added, and with it the ability for anyone who would like to subscribe to a News & Updates via email. We will continue to develop and roll out more improvements during 2023.

For our members, there has been a significant increase in the number of meetings that have reopened, many in new premises. There has also been a significant adjustment to the balance of online and physical meetings. This is great news for our organisation.

We finished the year in a healthy financial position so a big thank you to our very generous Fellowship. Although the GSBAA is responsible for the daily operations of GSO on behalf of the fellowship, we could not continue to deliver the service without your very generous support. This is really appreciated.

The General Service Office (GSO), our operations hub, faced some very significant challenges during the year. Due to changes in staff personnel, there were delays to some of our operational objectives. Thankfully these challenges didn’t prevent us from providing the same level of customer focused services that our members have become accustomed to. I’m sure our members will join me in extending a very warm welcome to Michael and Karen who joined the team in GSO in 2022.

From the perspective of the General Service Board, many of our goals were achieved in 2022 and we move forward with some ambitious plans. We welcome Anthony McNamee our newly appointed Board/Company Secretary and take this opportunity to thank Anthony O’Carroll for the incredible work and dedication he demonstrated during his four-year term.

A huge thank you for the continued encouragement, support and generosity that I receive. I look forward to progressing and contributing to the work of the Board in coming year. It is a privilege to work with you.

Warm regards,

Emmet

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland CLG

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland CLG is the company name of the registered charity known as AA or Alcoholics Anonymous, a company limited by guarantee (CLG), not having a share capital and registered under the Companies Act 2014.

Trustees/Directors

The GSBAA consists of seven Trustees/Directors. These comprise of four AA Member Trustee/Directors (also known as Provincial Trustees) and three Non-AA Member Directors.

The main responsibility of the GSBAA members is to manage the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland CLG in accordance with the Constitution of the Company as approved by the company members.

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland CLG and the General Service Office (GSO) is GDPR compliant.

Our Privacy Statement is available on our website at www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

Board of Directors 2022

- Brian Fitzpatrick
- Martin Crowley
- Peter R. Hannon
- Emmet O’Hanlon
- Cindy O’Shea
- Elizabeth Cullen
- Aisling Hussey
- Seamus Boylan

Company Secretary

- Anthony McNamee

Company Information

Registered Company in Ireland 64287

Charitable Status CHY 6014

RCN 20010010

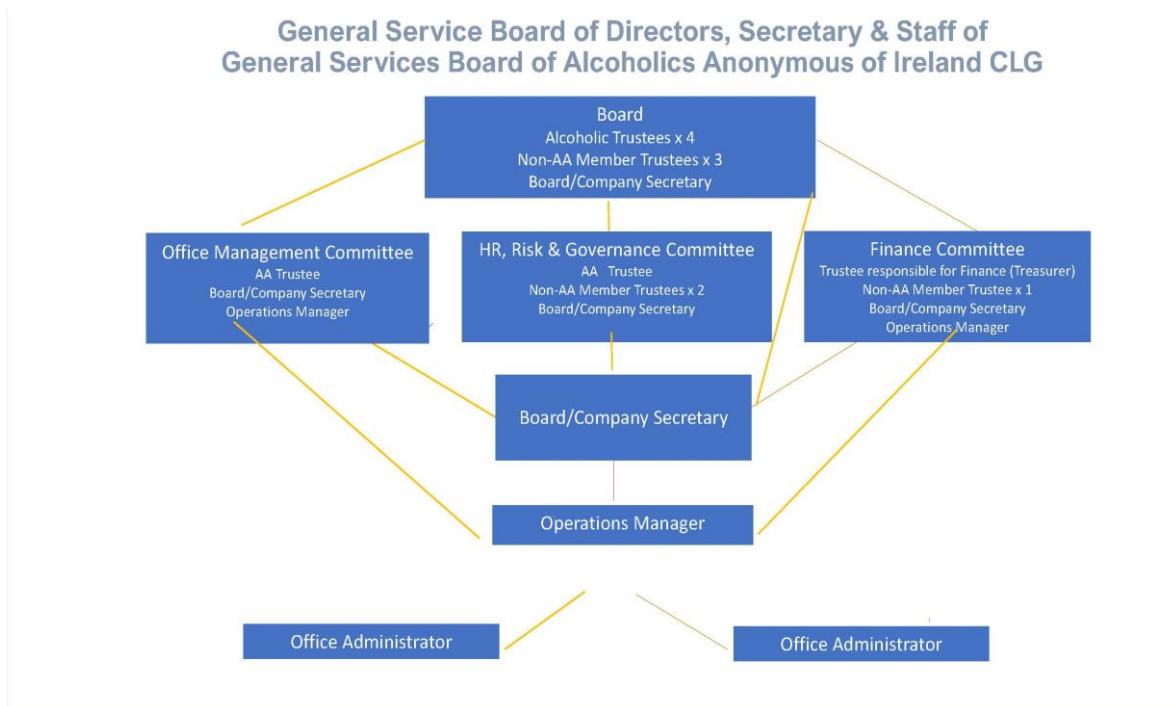
Premises

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland CLG, (GSBAA) is in legal possession of two properties.

These are, the General Service Office (GSO) at Unit 2, Block C, Santry Business Park, Dublin 9, D09 H584. This property is held on a 20-year lease, which commenced in January 2007.

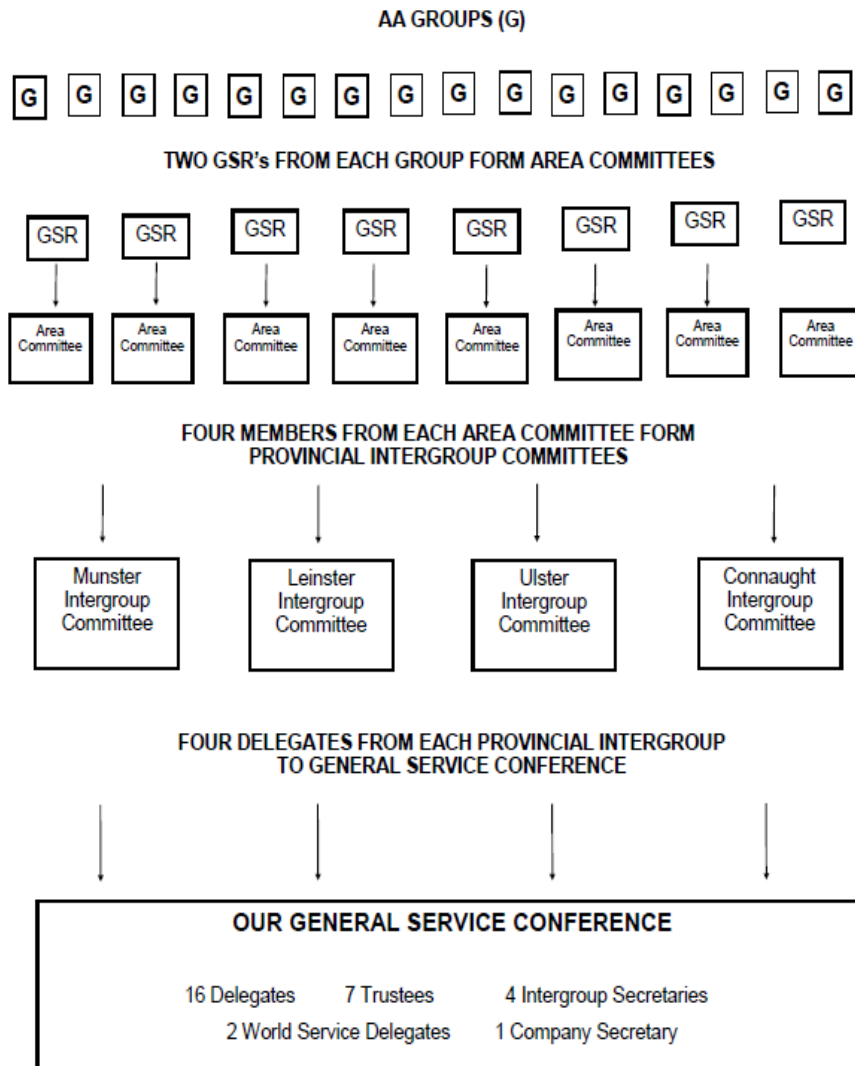
The second property is the Central Service Office, located at Unit 11, North City Business Centre, 2, Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GG. This property is held on a one-year renewable agreement.

GSBAA Organisational Chart



Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland

STRUCTURE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN IRELAND



Highlights for 2023

Launch of New Website

Since the new website was launched we received more than 44,000 individual hits on our **Find a Meeting** page. This is a good indicator of how useful this resource is to all of our visitors. Almost 3,000 visitors were interested in the types of meetings that we hold, and almost 2,000 read our **New to AA** article. We continue to update the website regularly with News & AA Events.

Find a Meeting

This was completely overhauled, and makes it easier to find meetings by day, time, meeting type etc. The meeting information is updated each day, so the most up to date meeting information that groups provide to the General Service Office is available to view on the website.

Subscribe to Updates

Our research indicated that that some members would prefer to personally receive information and updates electronically so we launched an email subscription service to help improve distribution of our information. Individual members can subscribe to this service via the website. In the past three months, more than 220 subscribers have signed up to this service.

Literature Shop

The online shop was completely revamped. We updated the content and tried to make the entire shopping experience simpler. We expanded the payment options to include credit card/debit cards, PayPal, Google Pay and ApplePay.

Our Literature Shop resumed normal opening hours from 9.30am-5.00pm Monday-Friday, the shop remains open during lunchtime.

The Road Back Publication

The Road Back is published quarterly and continues to incorporate the AA News Sheet. We continuously strive to include stories that originate from the perspective of members living in Ireland. We aim to include current information, AA Structure News and general updates that we hope interest you. The entire publication is produced by a team in GSO.

Media & Public Information

We continue to respond to all requests from the media for interviews, whether it be in print, television or radio. Once again, this year we have cooperated with our national broadcaster providing AA material for a new series of a mini drama on national TV. We have completed many radio interviews on national and local stations, along with many newspaper interviews. As our meetings have become more accessible, we plan to focus a lot more on Public Information.

Finance

We are delighted to report that contributions once again appear to be coming through the Structure per pre-pandemic times. This may well be attributed to the reopening of physical meetings throughout the country and members returning to their in-person meetings. Further information is available under the Financial Information section.

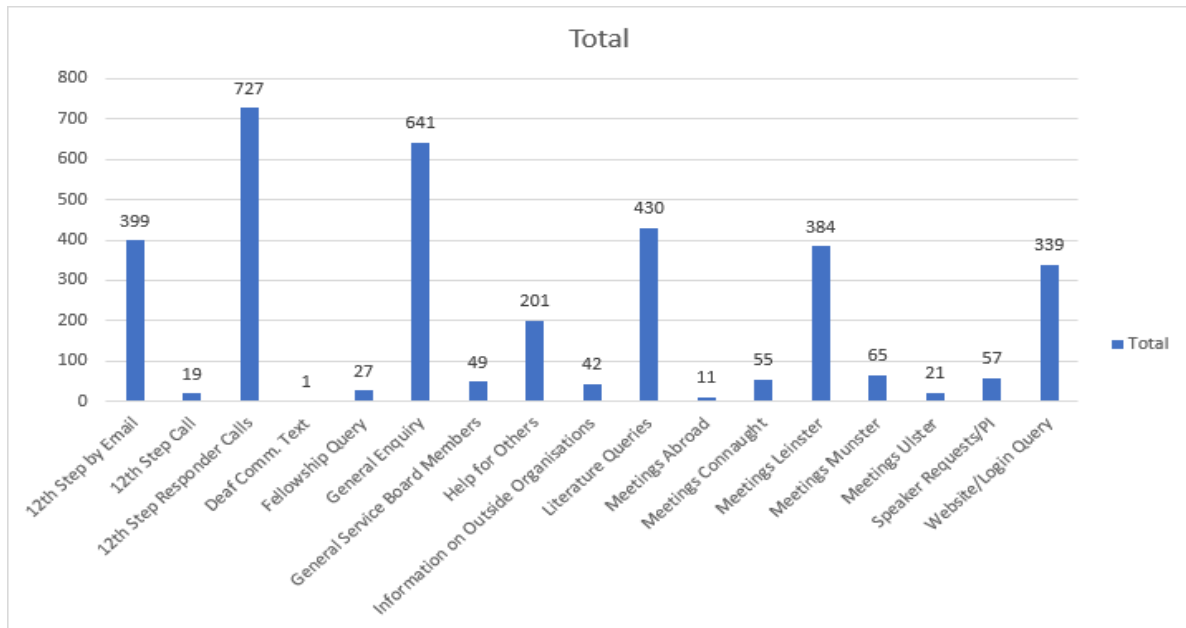
Calls to GSO and the AA Structure Service (Phone and Email)

There was a review of the types of calls received by GSO to establish how enquiries could be dealt with more efficiently. This review highlighted that a substantial number of calls to GSO were AA Structure related queries and an increasing amount of time was devoted to assisting these types of enquiries. A pilot plan was introduced so AA members seeking guidance solely on service structure queries could be directed to a dedicated team who could offer guidance.

Interestingly when we combine the statistics for May – December, we note that the service was used for various requests. More than 120 of the 350 requests received by the AA Structure service were for information on AA meetings.

	Meeting Info.	GIS	Help for Others	Help for Self	PI	General	Drug Problem	Unclear	Total
Email	45	11	13	16	0	76	0	n/a	161
Phone	75	37	5	3	4	59	1	20	204
Totals	120	48	18	19	4	135	1	20	365

While we redirected 365 Structure Service type calls from our GSO Staff, there were still more than 3,500 queries received. These include 12th step requests by email. Refer to the chart below for more details.



All Ireland Convention 2022 – The Metropole Hotel Cork - Munster

The 2022 All Ireland Convention was hosted by Munster Intergroup, on the banks of the river Lee in the Metropole Hotel in Cork City in April 2022. It was a remarkably successful event once again uniting all attendees in a physical environment. There was a real appetite for AA members to gather face to face for conversations and fellowship.

Congratulations, and thanks to all in Munster that made the event such a success.

Financial Information

Alcoholics Anonymous remains self-supporting through the contributions of its members. Without the generosity of our members the GSBAA would not be able to serve the fellowship and maintain the services of the General Service Office. The following information provides a snapshot of income, expenditure and stock for the past three years. Income and expenditure comparison figures can also be viewed through the column charts provided with this report.

	2020	2021	2022
Contributions	€271,770	€275,023	€266,281
Sale of literature	€52,631	€71,775	€99,376
Annual Convention Surplus	€0.00	€0.00	€87
	€324,401	€346,798	€365,744
	2020	2021	2022
Overhead Expenses	€314,645	€289,744	€271,340
Closing Stock	€30,698	€21,407	€27,125
Debtors	€27,490	€30,712	€28,825

This financial year reports a substantial increase in literature sales of €27,601 compared to the prior year. This upward shift in demand for AA literature reflects the growing number of people accessing our publications through existing groups reopening and restocking, new groups starting or individuals with an interest in reading our material.

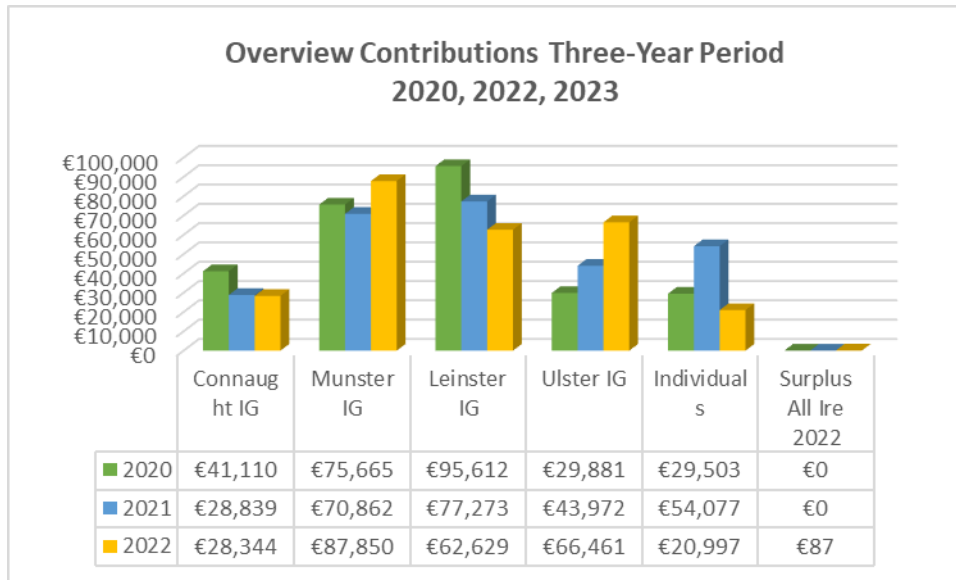
Overall contributions declined compared to the same period in the prior year from €275,023 to €266,281. There was a noticeable reduction of €33,080 from individual contributions alone. This could partly be due to AA members returning to and contributing directly at their physical meetings and once again contributions are being forwarded through the Structure.

We are delighted to report an overall surplus of €42,114 this year which is significantly greater when compared to the 2021 figure of €19,585. The figures also show a steady decline in Overhead Expenses. A reduction from 2020 to 2021 of €24,901 and €18,404 for the period 2021 to 2022.

AA's finances are continuously reviewed by the GSBAA to ensure they remain in a healthy position. A full set of audited accounts is available to view on our website www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

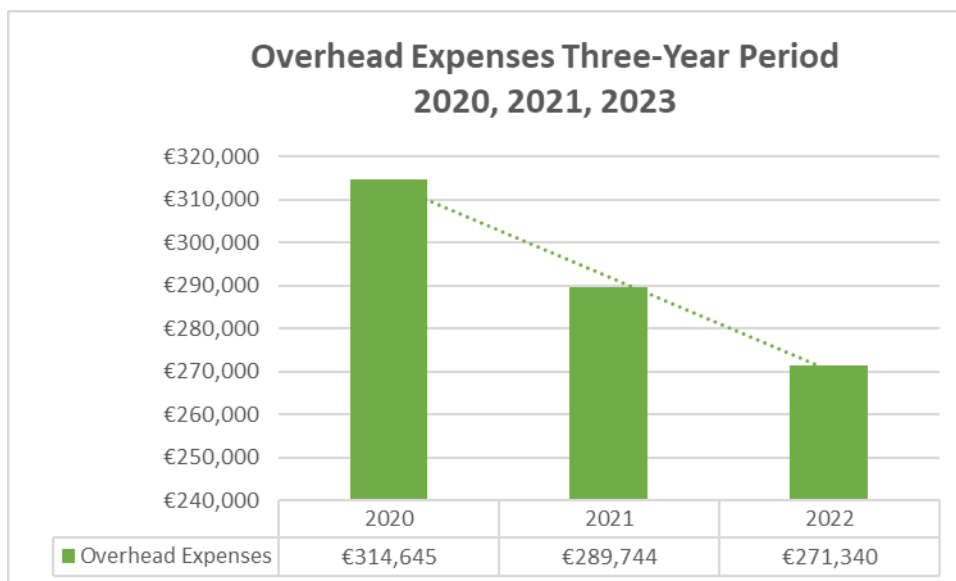
INCOME

The following chart shows the variances in income for the last three financial years.



OVERHEAD EXPENSES

The following chart shows the variances in Overhead Expenses for the last three financial years.



Contact Information

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland CLG

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