

News Sheet

The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Ireland

Chapter Five Extract – “How it Works”

Bill W. and the Service Structure

All-Ireland Convention 2019
Theme: The Twelve Steps

Page 1 & 2

Traditions Checklist
‘Second Tradition’

Traditions Checklist

Page 3

Forthcoming Events

Approved One Day Events
and Mini Conventions

Service Structure Chart

Page 4

The News Sheet is intended as an aid to service in AA

Issue April/May 2019

The How and the Why of it!

The first requirement is that we be convinced that any life run on self-will can hardly be a success. On that basis we are almost always in collision with something or somebody, even though our motives are good. Most people try to live by self-propulsion. Each person is like an actor who wants to run the whole show; is forever trying to arrange the lights, the ballet, the scenery and the rest of the players in his own way. If his arrangements would only stay put, if only people would do as he wished, the show would be great. Everybody, including himself, would be pleased. Life would be wonderful. In trying to make these arrangements our actor may sometimes be quite virtuous. He may be kind, considerate, patient, generous; even modest and self-sacrificing. On the other hand, he may be mean, egotistical, selfish and dishonest. But, as with most humans, he is more likely to have varied traits.

What usually happens? The show doesn't come off very well. He begins to think life doesn't treat him right. He decides to exert himself more. He becomes, on the next occasion, still more demanding or gracious, as the case may be. Still the play does not suit him. Admitting he may be somewhat at fault, he is sure that other people are more to blame. He becomes angry, indignant, self-pitying. What is his basic trouble? Is he not really a self-seeker even when trying to be kind? Is he not a victim of the delusion that he can wrest satisfaction and happiness out of this world if he only manages well? Is it not evident to all the rest of the players that these are the things he wants? And do not his actions make each of them wish to retaliate, snatching all they can get out of the show? Is he not, even in his best moments, a producer of confusion rather than harmony?

Our actor is self-centered-ego-centric, as people like to call it nowadays. He is like the retired business man who lolls in the Florida sunshine in the



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.

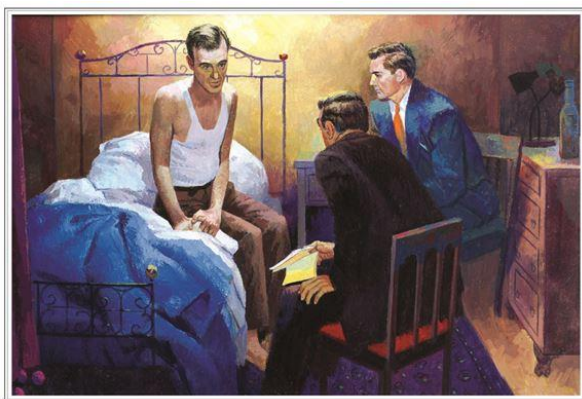
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winter complaining of the sad state of the nation; the minister who sighs over the sins of the twentieth century; politicians and reformers who are sure all would be Utopia if the rest of the world would only behave; the outlaw safe cracker who thinks society has wronged him; and the alcoholic who has lost all and is locked up. Whatever our protestations, are not most of us concerned with ourselves, our resentments, or our self-pity?

Selfishness-self-centeredness! That, we think, is the root of our troubles. Driven by a hundred forms of fear, self-delusion, self-seeking, and self-pity, we step on the toes of our fellows and they retaliate. Sometimes they hurt us, seemingly without provocation, but we invariably find that at some time in the past we have made decisions based on self which later placed us in a position to be hurt.

So our troubles, we think, are basically of our own making. They arise out of ourselves, and the alcoholic is an extreme example of self-will run riot, though he usually doesn't think so. Above everything, we alcoholics must be rid of this selfishness. We must, or it kills us! God makes that possible. And there often seems no way of entirely getting rid of self without His aid. Many of us had moral and philosophical convictions galore, but we could not live up to them even though we would have liked to. Neither could we reduce our self-centeredness much by wishing or trying on our own power. We had to have God's help.

This is the how and the why of it. First of all, we had to quit playing God. It didn't work. Next, we decided that hereafter in this drama of life, God was going to be our Director. He is the Principal; we are His agents. He is the Father, and we are His children. Most Good ideas are simple, and this concept was the keystone of the new and triumphant arch through which we passed to freedom. (*Chapter 5, BB*)



"The Man on the Bed". This oil painting was created by Robert M. for the AA Grapevine and was reproduced as the center spread in the December, 1955 issue.

Bill W. and the Service Structure

Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organisation because, as the Structure chart shows (see page 4), 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 find 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 of our whole society". Bill's early vision was of a worldwide structure. However, the Conference structures in countries outside of the US/Canada evolved as autonomous entities.

AA All Ireland Convention 2019
Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal
26th-28th April 2019

Traditions Checklist

Tradition Two

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority... a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants... they do not govern.

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

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Practise These Principles...

Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?

Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with any AA Twelfth Step job or other AA responsibility?

Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?

Do I have to save face in group discussions, or can I yield in good spirit to the group consensus and work cheerfully along with it?

Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?

In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

-- B. L. Manhattan, New York

The views and opinions expressed in this News Sheet are not necessarily those of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland

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Forthcoming Mini Conventions & 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
FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS IN IRELAND		
31st May-2nd June 2019	Cork County Area Convention	Riverside Park Hotel, Macroom, West Cork. Tel: 00353 26 20090
31st May-2nd June 2019	Galway East Area Convention	Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, Co. Galway. Theme: First Things First
14th-16th June 2019	Antrim Area Convention	Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly, Co. Antrim. Tel. 0044 28 7772 2121 Theme: There is a Solution
30th Aug.-1st Sept. 2019	Tipperary Area 39th Convention	Clonmel Park Hotel. Tel: 062 6188700 Theme: Giving Back
11th-13th October 2019	Donegal Area Convention	Mount Errigal Hotel, Ramelton Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Tel: 00353 74912 2700
ONE DAY EVENTS IN IRELAND		
15th September 2019	Down Area Day of Gratitude	The Burrendale Hotel, Country Club & Spa, 51 Castlewellan Road, Newcastle, Co. Down. BT33 0JY. Tel:0044 28 4372 2599
3rd November 2019	Dungannon Group 'A Come & Go Meeting'	Unit 8, Castleview Buildings, Feeny's Lane, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, BT70 1TX
10th November 2019	Belfast Area Day of Gratitude	Ramada Encore Belfast, St. Anne's Square, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT1 2LD. Tel: 0044 28 9026 1800
17th November 2019	Pinebank Group Day of Gratitude	Mount Zion House, 55 Edward Street, Lurgan, Co. Armagh, BT66 6DB
FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS ABROAD		
4th-6th April 2019	Kolkata AA Convention	Anand Palace (beside Darjeeling Big Bazar), India. Theme: Spirit of Unity
26th-28th April 2019	7th Int. Convention in El Albir, Alicante	Hotel Kaktus, Albir Beach, Costa Blanca, Spain
26th-28th April 2019	10th Swenglish AA Convention, Sweden	Bjorngardsgatan 1B, Near Mariatorget Subway (T-Bana), Stockholm, Sweden
11th May 2019	59th Flemesh Convention, Belgium	Europahal, 7 Generaal Maczekplein, 8700 Tielt, Belgium. Theme: Happy, Sober, Helping
16th-19th May 2019	25th International Convention in Greece	Grand Bleu Beach Resort, Eretria Beach, 34008 Evia Island, Greece
20th-22nd September 2019	2nd Int. AA Ardennes Convention, Belgium	Hotel Vayamundo, 01 Fosse d'Outh 1, 6660 Houffalize
10th-13th October 2019	3rd Annual Biarritz Int. Convention in France	Belambra Club, Anglet-Biarritz, Prom. Des Sources, 64600 Anglet, France
2nd-5th July 2020	85th International Convention in Michigan, USA	Detroit, Michigan - see www.aa.org for details

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

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