

# NEWS SHEET



## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF IRELAND

### 70 years a growing!

Next year sees the 70th anniversary of AA in Ireland.

The significant dates were:

Monday 18th. November 1946  
First Closed Meeting (held in Dublin).

25 November 1946  
First Public Meeting (held in Dublin)

It is suggested that AA groups might like to discuss ways in which they might commemorate the anniversary. It is also intended that there will be a programme of commemorative events marking the anniversary at national level.

### The Roadback Magazine

is appealing for submissions from members e.g. stories, jokes or poems. This magazine is yours the members and its survival and viability rests ultimately with the fellowship.

One of the oldest AA magazines after the AA Grapevine, the Roadback has so far withstood the vagaries of time. However valuable suggestions have been preferred to ensure its continuity.

One such suggestion is that the group might elect an anchor person to take charge of the Roadback. This member would order a minimum of 10 copies at the reduced bulk subscription rate for the group.

S/he would take charge of the sales within the group's meetings and collect the subscriptions from individual members. Be responsible for recording the sales and giving account to the group every second months.

An initial float might be provided by the group in order to place the first order. The magazine is produced every two months.

The Roadback follows a thematic approach. Each edition is given over to themes like the first step, emotional sobriety, spiritual experiences etc. Articles received are categorized into these themes and are printed according as the said theme is featured. One can download the order form from the AA website or via any edition of the Roadback.

### AA Conference 2015

**Note:** The Conference continues from 21st to 23rd. August in Tullamore Court Hotel.

In response to a request from Conference the following extract from the Service Handbook is reproduced herewith.

### ARTICLE 7 - TRUSTEES

The AA Trustee should preferably have 10 years of continuous sobriety, be an active member of an AA group, have served as a member of Conference and have a wide experience of AA at Group, Area, Provincial Intergroup and

Conference level. A Trustee should be able to devote the necessary time to serving on the Board and to the service of AA in general without hurting either his/her family or his/her career. He/she should bring to the Board an extensive business or professional experience, be resolute in the exercise of his/her own good judgement and objectivity and have the courage to express himself.

A Trustee should have a thorough grasp of AA structure and history and have qualities of leadership which will enable him/her to help AA to grow in his/her own area with minimum of friction and a maximum of goodwill. He/she should command the love and respect of AA's in his/her Province and be able to communicate the feelings and trends of the Groups, Area Committees and Intergroup Committees to the Board and interpret the Board's actions back to the Groups. There are seven Trustees, of whom four are members of the Fellowship, called alcoholic trustees, and three are non-members, called Non-Alcoholic Trustees.

Their primary purpose is to maintain the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland, in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of that body, as approved by Conference. No person other than a trustee, ratified by Conference may be a

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

member of the Board, and no change or alteration may be made in the memorandum, or Articles of Association, without prior approval of Conference.

## 1. Alcoholic Trustees

### 1.1 Qualifications

The qualifications of a Trustee are that he shall have a minimum of ten years continuous sobriety in AA, is available to perform his/her duties and is or has been a member of Conference preferably for four years.

### 1.2 Term of Office

The term of office is for a period of four years. In the case of the first trustees, this term will be from the date of incorporation of the Board and, thereafter, four years from the date of appointment. Any trustee may retire or be replaced by Conference, but the replacing trustee will hold office, only for the remainder of the term of the replaced trustee. Alcoholic Trustees are not eligible for re-election on the expiry of their term.

### 1.3 Appointment

The General Service Board, usually through the retiring Trustee, will nominate his/her successor before the expiry of his/her term. After due consultation with the four General Service Conference Delegates and the Intergroup Secretary this nomination is submitted to his/her appropriate Intergroup for ratification and is then sent to Conference for approval. In any other eventuality, the General Service Board, after due consultation with the four General Service Conference Delegates and the Intergroup Secretary will nominate the Trustee and then this nomination will be put before his/her appropriate Intergroup for ratification and then sent to Conference for approval.

## 2. Non-Alcoholic Trustees

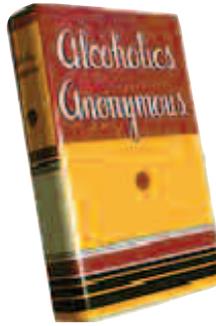
### 2.1 Appointment

The non-alcoholic trustee is nominated and appointed by the General Service Board, subject to the approval of Conference.

### 2.2 Term of Office

The term of office is for a period of four years, and he is eligible for re-election at the end of his/her term at all times.

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## Facts about anonymity in A.A.

It is the A.A. member's responsibility, and not that of the media, to maintain our cherished Tradition of anonymity.

- A.A. members generally think it unwise to

break the anonymity of

the member even after his or her death, but in each situation, the final decision must rest with the family. A.A. members, though, are in agreement that the anonymity of still living A.A. members should be respected in obituaries or in any type of printed remembrance or death notice.

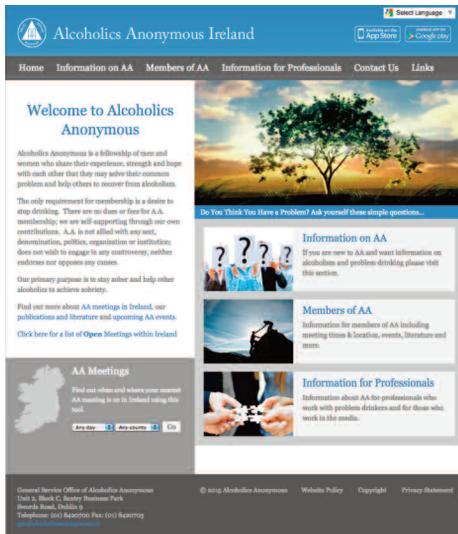
- A.A. members may disclose their identity and speak as recovered alcoholics, giving radio, TV and Internet interviews, without violating the Traditions — so long as their A.A. membership is not revealed.

- A.A. members may speak as A.A. members only if their names or faces are not revealed. They speak not for A.A. but as individual members.

## Experience suggests that A.A. members:

- Respect the right of other members to maintain their own anonymity at whatever levels they wish.
- Are vigilant not to break their anonymity when posting, texting, or blogging, and very careful not to inadvertently break the anonymity of others.
- When speaking as A.A. members at non-A.A. meetings, usually use first names only.
- Maintain personal anonymity in articles and autobiographies.
- Avoid the use of titles such as "A.A. counselor" when employed as professionals in the field of alcoholism (the title "alcoholism counselor" is preferred).
- Use last names within the Fellowship, especially for election of group officers and other service jobs.

*Extract from the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity".*



[www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie)

- How to find a Meeting •
  - AA Events •
  - AA Literature •
  - AA Structure •
- How AA Started in Ireland •
- Updated Group Information Sheet (PDF) •
  - Service Handbook for Ireland (PDF) •
  - The Road Back DVD •
  - News Sheet - past issues •
  - Significant Dates •
- General Service Office Info. •

**NOTE**

The AA DVD “The Roadback” has now been uploaded to Youtube

**What is the history behind AA's Unity Declaration?**

**The Unity Declaration reads:**

This we owe to A.A.'s future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

It was written for A.A.'s 35th Anniversary International Convention that was held in Miami Beach, Florida in July 1970. Unfortunately, it appears that the GSO

Archives department does not possess records concerning the author of the Declaration.

Documents in our collection indicate that the statement was composed as a combined effort of both the Committee on International Convention and former A.A. trustee, Al S. The correspondence alludes to Al's involvement as a consultant in composing the statement. Certainly, Al wrote the “Responsibility” Statement that had been introduced at the 1965 International Convention.

The "Unity" statement was read by delegates from different countries on Saturday night during the Unity Ceremony. Below, I have presented brief highlights from that night's ceremony, as led by former General Manager, Bob H.:

"As you know the theme of this Conference is Unity Within Our Fellowship. We have asked several of our ex-delegates and members from overseas to be on stage and participate with us adopting our new Declaration of Unity..."  
 "A.A. unity is the special quality that makes our Fellowship unique. It is the cement that holds our society together, the platform which makes A.A. 'Service' possible. It is more than agreement on basic principles, more than freedom from destructive strife. It is a bond fashioned of shared experience, such as this one we share tonight.

***“Unity is our most precious possession, our best guarantee of A.A.'s future. May we all value and preserve it, today and all the tomorrows to come.”***

Bob H. then asks all participants on stage to recite the Unity Declaration, which was led by Dr. Norris.

Following the International Convention (1973), the General Service Conference recommended that:

The Unity Declaration be added to all A.A. Literature when feasible and economical, and be referred to A.A. World Services, Inc., for follow-through.

**APPROVED FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS/ONE DAY EVENTS**

<b>FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS IRELAND</b>		
<b>DATES</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
<b>21st-23rd August 2015</b>	35th Tipperary Area Convention	The Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Hotel: 052 6188700. Theme: Our Primary Purpose. 'Shoemaker Stick to thy laste'
<b>8th-11th October 2015</b>	26th Clare Area Convention	The Auburn Lodge Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare. Theme: 'Serenity, Courage and Wisdom'
<b>16th-18th October 2015</b>	Donegal Area Convention	Mount Errigle Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal: 07491 22700
<b>13th-15th November 2015</b>	Mayo Area Convention	Hotel Ballina, N26, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo
<b>FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS ABROAD</b>		
<b>DATES</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
<b>21st-23rd August 2015</b>	29th Annual Netherlands Convention	Mennorode Convention Centre, Elspeet, Netherlands. Theme: One Day At A Time.
<b>4th-6th September 2015</b>	10th Berlin English Speaking Convention	Werkstatt der Kulturen (Wissmannstr. 32, 12049 Berlin, U-Bahnhof Hermannplatz (U7, U8))
<b>24th-27th September 2015</b>	Poros Island English Speaking AA Convention in Greece	Xenia Poros Image Hotel, Neorio, Poros Island, Greece, 18020. Theme: "KISS"
<b>6th-8th November 2015</b>	10th International Convention in Malta	Seashells Resort at Suncrest Hotel, Qawra, Malta. Theme "It works, it really does".
<b>22nd-24th January 2016</b>	53rd New Zealand Convention	Copthorne Resort, Waitangi, Bay of Islands. www.aaconvention.org.nz
<b>5th-7th February 2015</b>	27th North Sea Convention in Belgium	Vayamundo De Kinkhoorn & RAVELINGEN - Zeedijk 290-330, 8400 Oostende, Belgium
<b>24th-27th March 2016</b>	1st Australasian Convention in Fiji	Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji. www.aanatcon.org.au
<b>ONE DAY EVENTS</b>		
<b>DATES</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
<b>Sat. 27th September 2015</b>	Down Area Day of Gratitude	Burrendale Hotel, 51 Castlewellan Road, Newcastle, Co. Down. 0044 2843722599
<b>Sat. 10th October 2015</b>	Area 1 Day of Gratitude	d Hotel, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Theme: 'Carrying the Message'
<b>ALL IRELAND CONVENTION 2016</b>		
<b>15th-17th April 2016</b>	59th All Ireland Convention	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Hotel - 057 9346666. Theme: The Joy of Living.

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 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 organisation 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 effective conscience for our whole society" thereby made the Conference... the actual voice and 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.



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