

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF IRELAND

NEWS SHEET

The News Sheet is intended as an aid to SERVICE throughout the fellowship in Ireland.

Any suggestions as to form and content will be especially welcome.

**Group News 1965****Roadback February 1965**

- **Tralee.** Co Kerry. A Meeting is held every 2nd Friday at The Grand Hotel at 8.30 p.m.
- **Enniskillen.** Group meets every first and third Sunday at The Erne Hospital.

**Roadback August 1965**

- **Kanturk.** Group has been restarted.

**Roadback October 1965**

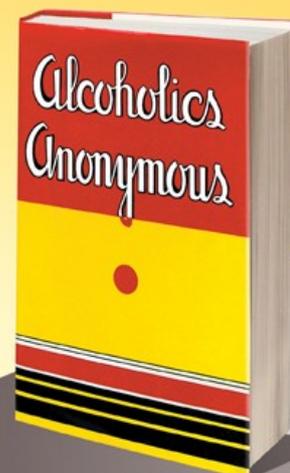
- **Letterkenny.** A Group is now working here, with details to follow.

**Roadback December 1965**

- **Lismore.** A new Group has been started, meeting every Tuesday evening at 8.30.
- **Tullamore.** There was an Open Meeting held on the 25th October where a new Group was launched.

75th Anniversary Commemorative Edition of A.A.'s Big Book

This Conference-approved special edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* is a reproduction of the first printing of the first edition of the Big Book with bulky paper and the colorful "circus cover" as it was published in 1939. Available now to preorder for April 2014 publication.



Copies of this special edition Big Book are available to order from GSO.

Service To Newcomers

A warm smile of greeting can make newcomers feel welcome. A cup of coffee or tea also releases tension. Giving your name and sharing your experiences on the spot can make them feel they are in the right place. Giving your telephone number, and taking theirs in order to call them, may not seem like service but where would we all be today if someone had not done this for us?

These little efforts on our part are sure steps into responsibility, reliability, and confidence. They are also steps into loving, the sort of loving that makes no demands, asks for no rewards, and fulfils our sense of purpose.

As we grow in sobriety, we may be asked to become a Group officer, described in our Twelve Traditions as a trusted servant. Each Group needs to have certain jobs done in order to function smoothly and responsibly.

The Secretary ensures the smooth running of the meeting.

The Treasurer takes care of the Groups finances.

Literature Secretary obtains the books and pamphlets needed by the Group.

Our Traditions remind us to be open-minded and that we are but trusted servants, we do not govern.

We may hear of Public Information and Co-operation with the Professional Community (PICPC). This consists of members who ensure that the public is informed about the work we do, and how and when we are available to give them our message. These members are from a collection of Groups working closely in Areas and Intergroups.

Some of us who have tried to serve in these ways will tell you how anxious and nervous we have felt to begin with. Others of us were brimming over with over-confidence, aggression and arrogance.

Service helps us to change, and these feelings are soon dispelled. We develop an even greater feeling of belonging and move still further in to loving and caring. The depth of our sobriety is strengthened with each task we do with willingness. Our sense of purpose is further developed.

Request For Old Directories

One of the first Directories which include a list of A.A. Groups dates back to 1960. The Archives in GSO have a copy of this list. We also have Directories from 1970 up to the present 2014.

Below is a list of years where we have no record/copy of an A.A. Directory.

1961-1969:

1972,1973,1975,1977,

1984, 1985, 1987,



The Archives Convenor would like to ask members who may have old Directories, from the above years, to

consider sending them on to GSO so that they can be included in the Archives.

The Directory contains a list of A.A. Groups in Ireland. This Directory is confidential and for internal A.A. use only. The responsibility for correcting and updating information lies with the individual Group.

IS YOUR GROUP INFORMATION UP TO DATE?

The established policy is the completion of a Group information sheet by each Group. The Group G.S.R. gives the completed form to the Area Secretary who then passes it on to the Intergroup Secretary who forwards it to GSO.

A.A. does not list Specialist Meetings in our directory as this might or appear to exclude an individual who has a desire to stop drinking.

As per Conference 2002, it was agreed that 'Open Hospital Meetings' be removed from the Directory.

There is a Meeting List of Groups, without contact names which can be provided, on request, to Institutions, Hospitals, etc., free of charge.

Every Group has it's own identification number.

A SIMPLE PROGRAMME FOR COMPLICATED PEOPLE

A recent Group discussion of this A.A. slogan helped to clarify its effective meaning for me. The basic maxim.... to stay away from that first drink today.... is just eight short words. But for me as an alcohol addict, it is not at all easy to keep practising this simple precept each today, rain or shine, unless I try to absorb some or all of the Twelve Steps into today's thinking. I have found by costly trial and error that I can do this only by taking an active part, to the best of my ability, in frequent group discussions of the Steps.

The Steps did not look a bit easy or simple to me when I read them after my first open meeting. The call for a 'Spiritual re-awakening' in the 12th bugged me completely. I realise now that my way of thinking about alcoholism in myself and my fellow members has changed nevertheless, as a result of taking part in over 300 closed or open meetings. For me, this change is the basis of my spiritual re-awakening. It did not come in a sudden flash and it is not static. It evolves slowly and gradually each time I attend a meeting in a teachable frame of mind.

I know well this change of thinking would not have happened if I had brooded alone on the Steps. They would have literally driven me to drink, especially Steps 4 and 5. If my 'searching and fearless moral inventory' had been a solo effort, the outcome would have been paralyzing remorse and not relief from tension. Taking Steps 4 and 5 in the fellowship of AA has taken a weight off my mind and given me a clue to what patterns of thought and behaviour I have to avoid in order to remain mentally sober as well as physically dry today.

My efforts to live today in some semblance of tune with the 12 Steps have been made more simple by my being carried along in the group to a viable philosophy of live without alcohol which I could not reach on my own. I tried on my own many times and failed miserably.

The simplicity of the AA programme might perhaps be compared with the comparative ease with which a group of workers, aided by automation, produce automobiles which each of them can use for his own transportation, but which only a very exceptional one could make laboriously on his own. The automation in AA is group therapy but, as in a automobile plant, it will not produce anything unless the workers add their relatively simple individual skills to it by daily individual effort.

How or why group therapy works for me as an alcoholic in AA is just as much of a puzzle to me as an electronic computer. They both produce results outside the scope of any single human being which puzzle and surprise their own designers and operators.

Anon B.

Benefits of Service

There is an ever-increasing feeling of security within the Fellowship and the sense of belonging is deepened and broadened. We enjoy the fellowship of members from faraway places, whom we might not otherwise meet if we denied ourselves the privilege of service. All this should improve the quality of our sobriety.

Alcoholics Anonymous

58th All Ireland Convention

17th-19th April 2015



Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran – Co Donegal

For Bookings Great Northern Hotel 071 9841204

Conventions Ireland

Donegal Area Convention	October 17th-19th	Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.
Kerry Area Convention	November 7th-9th	The Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co Kerry.
Mayo Area	November 28th-30th	Hotel Ballina, Foxford Road, Ballina, Co Mayo. Theme: Happy, Joyous and Free.
Limerick Area Convention	February 5th-8th, 2015.	The Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick City. Theme: Freedom Through Sobriety.

Conventions Abroad

9th International Convention, Malta.	October 24th-26th	Seashells Resort at Suncrest-Qawra, Malta.
54th Anniversary of A.A. in France	November 15th-16th	Le Corum, Palais de Congres, Esplanade Charles De Gaulle, 3400 Montpellier, France.
25th Costa Del Sol Annual Convention	November 28th-30th	Beatriz Palace Hotel & Spa, Fuengirola, Malaga, Spain. THEME... Back To Basics.
6th Annual International Conv., Lanzarote.	January 23rd-25th, 2015.	Barcelo Resort Hotel, Costa Teguisse, Lanzarote , Canary Islands, Spain.
26th North Sea Convention	January 30th-Feb 1st, 2015.	Vayamundo—DeKinroom & Ravelingen, Zeedijk 290-330, 840 Oosende, Belgium.

