



News Sheet

SERVICE IN AA

AA Service is whatever it takes to help us to reach a fellow sufferer, ranging from a Twelfth Step a phone call or getting together over a cup of coffee to the Twelfth Step national service provided by GSO. The sum of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.

“Most of us learn that recovery from alcoholism is not just a gift to be clutched selfishly for oneself. It also means responsibility for service to others, in many ways inside AA as well as outside.”
(Credit - General Service Handbook for Ireland)

“AA is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven’t been given the truth may die.”
(Credit As Bill Sees It – pg 13)

“Alcoholics Anonymous is more than a set of principles; it is a Fellowship of alcoholics in action. Service is at the centre of every AA concept and activity. It is as fundamental to AA as abstinence is to sobriety. Without this giving of oneself to another, there would be no Fellowship. This desire to serve improves recovery. As newcomers, we see people giving time, energy and love in the service of the Fellowship, and it is suggested that we too should become involved. Those of us who have done this will tell you of the enormous benefits we have received by willingly stepping into service. A great paradox of AA is that rewards come when we begin to forget ourselves.”
(Credit— AA pamphlet ‘Growing into Service)

What are these rewards?

Simple service tasks have helped to develop confidence, a belief in one’s own value and opinions, self-respect and self-worth. We have found that participating in service activities has helped our

This News Sheet is intended as an aid to Service in AA.

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

Inside this issue

Service in AA cont’d.....	2
GSO and COVID-19	3
Fellowship Structure.....	4

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.

recovery. Everyone in AA has some contribution to make. There are so many ways of practising our Twelfth Step. Some members are best suited to AA work in hospitals or prisons, others have abilities that suit being part of committee activities or sponsorship. Either way service is not just for a small number of experienced people, each one of us has been surprised at how we evolve through a willingness to grow in AA service.

“Life will take on a new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends – this is an experience you must not miss. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.”
(Credit - Alcoholics Anonymous, pg 89)

How do we become involved?

AA's Twelfth Step “Carrying the Message” is the basic service that our Fellowship gives; it is our principal aim, and the main reason for our existence. We must carry AA's message otherwise we ourselves may fall into decay and those who have not been given the truth may die. Carrying AA's message is therefore the heart of our Third Legacy of Service. Any action which helps AA to function as a whole is service. Where better to begin than in our own home group?

“I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.”



“Success means doing the best we can with what we have. Success is the doing, not the getting; in the trying, not the triumph. Success is a personal standard, reaching for the highest that is in us, becoming all that we can be.”

- Zig Ziglar

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GSO and COVID-19

The General Service Office continues to provide its full range of services to all members. The staff returned to GSO after a period of working from home due to the coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic.

A backlog of literature orders are being distributed, 12th step calls are continually processed and other vital areas of our work are being dealt with. Members can order literature online or by phone, but the shop at GSO will remain closed until June 29th, 2020. GSO itself will also be closed to casual visitors. Again, these procedures will change as more restrictions are lifted.

Like many other companies nationwide, the General Service Office (GSO) had to adapt and put in place many new policies and protocols because of Covid-19, principally the safety and wellbeing of employees and who they come in contact with, is of primary concern to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous objectives under their duty of care.

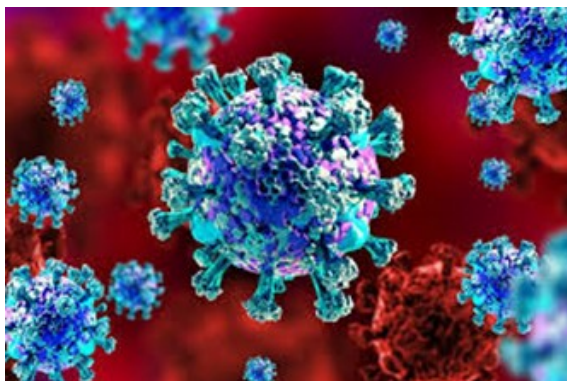
Social distancing signage, sanitation points and a return to work protocol, along with a response plan in the event of a Covid 19 outbreak has been necessary to implement at GSO.

When the shop reopens there will be restrictions and protocols that visitors must adhere to in relation to social distancing and hand hygiene, something we have all

become familiar with over the last few months.

The Office Management Committee keep working to ensure that as many of AA's services as possible continue to operate normally. Due to the volume of calls and emails we ask members to be patient with minor delays.

While some of the restrictions are now easing, many groups are asking when they can start holding physical meetings again. We can only repeat that GSBAA is fully subject to the rules of the Government/ Public Health as the various stages of re-opening are rolled out.



'In the midst of darkness light persists' - Mahatma Gandhi

As of Monday June 8th, 2020. The direction from the Irish Government is clear. The AA official website provides regular updates for members in this regard. There is no doubt that AA will survive and thrive when the current emergency ends. And it will end.

"This too shall pass." When it does pass the hand of AA will continue to reach out to all who look for it. Think of your AA friends and isolated members. Call them. Talk to them. Encourage them to do the same. AA will not be found wanting and will continue to secure the future of the Fellowship and all its members.

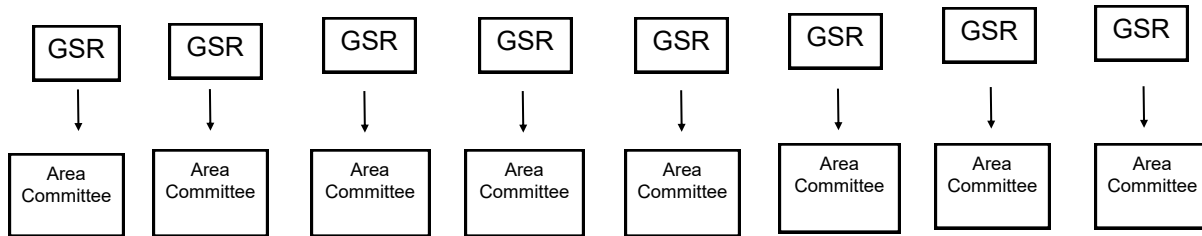
We hope the further easing of restrictions will begin to happen more quickly, and that members can get back to their normal lives as soon as possible. We would like to say thank the members of our wonderful Fellowship for your continued support and patience during this time.

STRUCTURE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

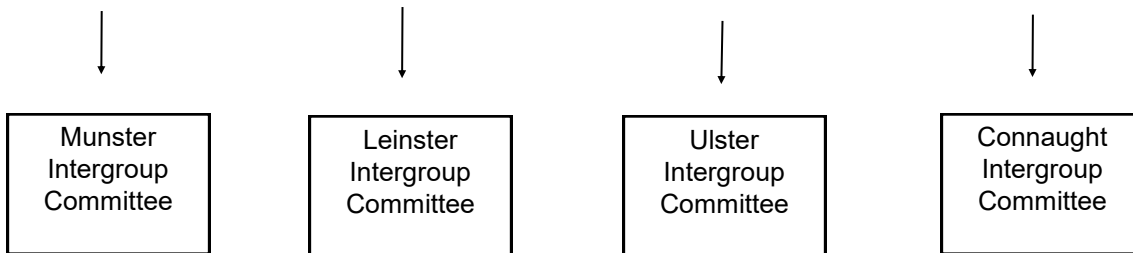
AA GROUPS (G)



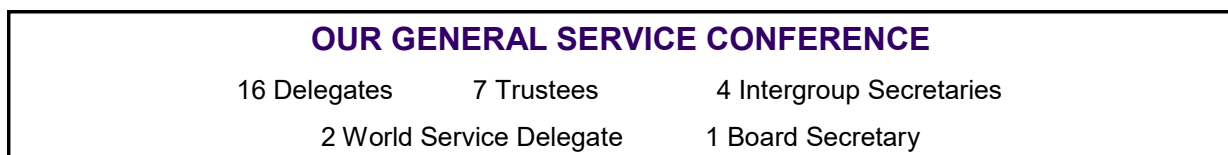
TWO GSR's FROM EACH GROUP FORM AREA COMMITTEE



FOUR MEMBERS FROM EACH AREA COMMITTEE FORM PROVINCIAL INTERGROUP COMMITTEES



FOUR DELEGATES FROM EACH PROVINCIAL INTERGROUP TO GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE



See our website www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie
 For details of forthcoming events in Ireland and abroad (when available)