



News Sheet

The AA Group

What is an AA Group?

The primary unit of AA is the Group. Traditionally any two or more alcoholics meeting together for the purpose of sobriety many consider themselves an AA Group provided that, as a Group, they are self-supporting and have no outside affiliation. The Group Conscience of AA has agreed upon the following points to define an AA Group: An AA Group is a group of people 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 primary purpose [of the members] is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety (from Preamble). New Groups applying for a starter kit do so through the Intergroup Secretary via the Area Secretary.

1. All members of a Group are alcoholics, and all alcoholics are eligible for membership.
2. As a Group they are fully self-supporting.
3. A Group's primary purpose is to help alcoholics recover through the Twelve Steps.
4. As a Group they have no outside affiliation.
5. As a Group, they have no opinion on outside issues.
6. As a Group, their public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion and they maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, T.V. and films.

Regularly scheduled meetings are the chief activity of any AA Group. Some degree of structure is needed to ensure continuity and effectiveness. The members of the Group usually elect officers and members are delegated to housekeeping tasks and refreshments. Outside meeting hours, the Group continues to exist, ready to offer help when needed. Other activities may include 12th Step Calls, institution work and public information work. How to become a Group member We usually say that anyone is a member of AA if he or she says so. Tradition Three says "The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking". None of us can pretend to judge the desire in another's heart. To join a Group is usually a simple process of attending

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

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its meetings regularly, becoming actively involved in the Group activities and being available for service in the Group. Most members feel more at home in one particular Group than in others and consider it their “Home Group,” where they accept service responsibility. They do not participate in the business or policy of Groups other than their “Home Group.”

How does the Group function?

Group Conscience – Sole Authority in AA Tradition Two states: “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.” The voice of Group Conscience is heard when a well-informed Group gathers together to arrive at its decision. Therefore, the authority and responsibility for making all decisions affecting the Group rests solely with Group Conscience. It elects all Group officers, always bearing in mind that our common welfare comes first, and all Group officers are held strictly accountable to Group Conscience for their stewardship. It is suggested that Group Conscience meets regularly. In most Groups today, these meetings are held once a month. In order to ensure the smooth functioning of Group Conscience, AA experience has shown that these meetings, conducted by an appointed Chairperson, having an agreed agenda open to motions from each member, with advance notice of the date and time of meeting, is the most effective way to hold a meeting. Only members of the Group should participate in Group Conscience.

Steering Committee

Questions about what a Group should do, and how, sometimes arise. The Steering Committee (some Groups call it the Group Service Committee) is one way of getting those questions handled for the Group. As an experienced cross section of the Group membership, the Steering Committee can handle day-to-day operations for the Group.

Anywhere from three to five members may be the right size Steering Committee for a small Group. For larger ones, twelve or so members provide a better cross-section and share the workload in a fairer way. In many Groups, the Steering Committee consists of the Group officers. Sometimes, former officers make good committee members because of their experience. Group Officers Each Group decides how its services are carried out. Being autonomous, the Group selects the officers it feels are necessary for the smooth running of the Group. Group officers usually serve three months, six months or one year or as Group Conscience may decide. Each nominee is usually approached by other members of the Group, and if the person agrees, the name is put forward at the Group Conscience meeting, so letting the Group Conscience decide his/her election. For example, a Group ought to have chairperson, secretary, treasurer, literature secretary and two Group Service Representatives (GSRs).

Importance of Rotation

Traditionally, rotation keeps AA volunteers from becoming fixed in their offices. Jobs, like almost everything else in AA, get passed around for all to share. After one term in any office, most members move on to other kinds of AA service. This way, problems based on personalities are prevented; no power or prestige gets built up; no individual gets taken advantage of or imposed upon; and the benefits of giving service are shared by more and more members.

Qualifications

1. The Group’s welfare is of primary concern in choosing officers, and a review of Traditions 1 and 2 is helpful at election times.
2. The officers of a Group should preferably have a minimum period of 12 months’ current, continuous sobriety in AA.
3. An officer’s term of office will be 3, 6 months or 12 months, at the end of which a Group Conscience meeting should be held, and new officers elected.

Resumption of Physical AA Meetings after COVID-19 Restrictions

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it ever changing and challenging times for AA. It has created difficult times for our members and those seeking help from our Fellowship for the first time.

Now more than ever, people are using our website as a source of information for help and to locate meetings. It is vital that Groups help the General Service Office keep the information we display relevant and up to date. Be mindful of the reported instances where newcomers have arrived at meetings displayed on the AA website only to discover the venue is closed.

To help provide a more efficient service a new mailbox has been introduced by GSO, aagroupinfo@alcoholicsanonymous.ie, it is dedicated to managing AA Group enquiries.

All groups, whether physical or online are considered AA Groups once they are registered through the Structure and allocated a group number by GSO. The Group Information Sheet (GIS) has been updated to reflect this therefore the 'Temporary Registration Form for Online Meetings' is no longer required. New groups will need register their group through the AA structure, this cannot be done directly with GSO. Once registered, a new group will automatically be issued with their dedicated AA mailbox and log in information for the Members Area of the website.

Any changes to a group's information should be completed on a Group Information Sheet (contact GSO for a copy or download a copy from the AA website) and emailed to aagroupinfo@alcoholicsanonymous.ie from the group's official AA Group mailbox. You can also complete the online Group Information Sheet, available from the Members Area of the AA website. If your group does not have access to their official AA mailbox, please contact GSO if you need assistance, the process is simple! Until then your Area or Intergroup Secretary, can pass your group's update to GSO from their official AA mailbox.

Groups that are hosting online meetings should be mindful that their group's official AA email address is provided as a point of contact for those who want to join online meetings. It is the sole responsibility of the group to check their mailbox for requests from anyone seeking help to join their meeting.

Increased numbers of people seeking help from AA via the General Service Office, it is so important that groups provide GSO with members names and numbers to support GSO in passing 12th step calls by completing ALL three contact fields on the GIS.



Our primary purpose is to help the still-suffering alcoholic. AA Members' are needed to help us to help them!! This is about AA being visible and available to help wherever and whenever we are needed. Your service is your way of showing your gratitude for the gift of sobriety.



64th All Ireland Convention—23rd to 25th April 2021

Theme—'A New Freedom'

Venue: The Clayton Hotel, Sligo. Tel. No. 00353 71 9119000

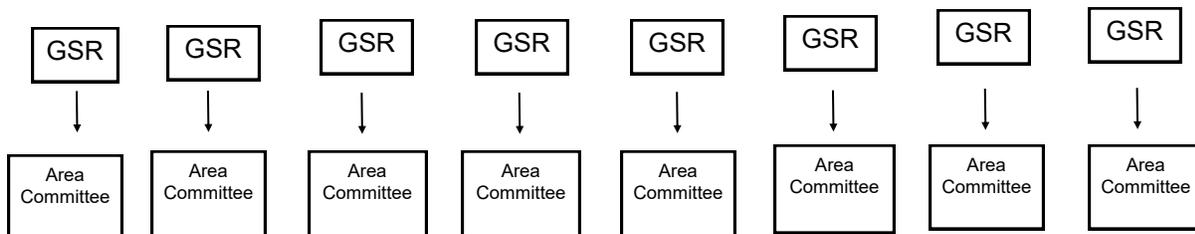
B&B—Sligo Tourist Board. Tel. No. 00353 71 9171905

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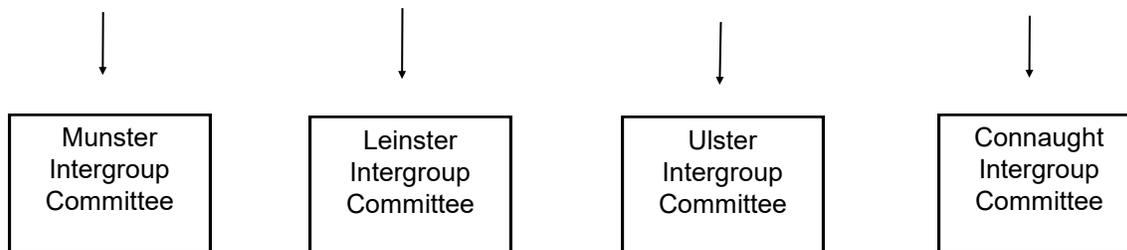
AA GROUPS (G)



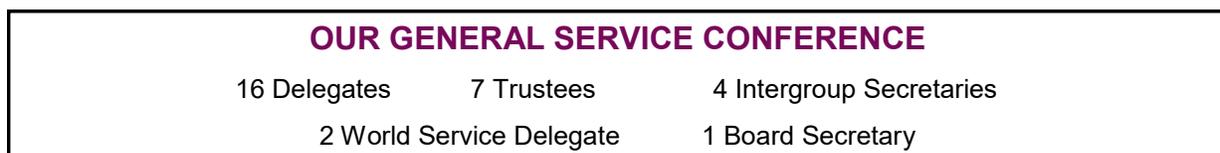
TWO GSR's FROM EACH GROUP FORM AREA COMMITTEE



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)