

# 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.

## Information on News Sheet

The first issue of the News Sheet was published in September 1979. At the March Conference of 1978, it was decided to leave the question of a News Letter to the Board. In March 1979 the Board appointed an editorial Committee to produce a Newsheet or bulletin at regular intervals. A good deal of ground work had already been done on format presentation, composition and material. Part of the aim of the News Sheet is to improve communications within the Fellowship. **Today as was then articles from within the Fellowship are welcome.** This News Letter is produced and published bi-monthly. It is then sent out to the Groups (five copies per Group).



Recent News Sheets can also be viewed and indeed downloaded to read on our website (<http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie/Members-of-AA/News-Sheet>).

**Do members still appreciate the News Sheet being delivered to the Groups?**



**Would members be happy to view/download the latest issues on line?**



## AA Website

The General Service Board of AA is aware that some Groups are not properly displayed within the Google locator in the meeting section of the website.

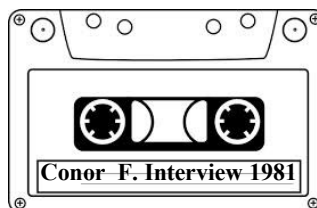
Your Group can follow this procedure to ensure the correct location is displayed on the website.

1. Log onto [www.itouchmap.com/latlong.html](http://www.itouchmap.com/latlong.html)
2. Type in the street address and town/county for your Group.
3. The map will change to your Group's area location.
4. Zoom in and place the red pointer at the place where your meeting is held and be as precise as possible.
5. Once you have done this, scroll down the page, you will see the latitude and longitude co-ordinates displayed on the left hand side box.
6. Email GSO with these co-ordinates along with your Group no., town and County. GSO will then amend your details on our system to show the correct location of your Group on the website.

**Group Members are asked to check their meeting place location on the website and if need be, send correct co-ordinates for the Group's venue to GSO.**

General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous  
Unit 2, Block C, Santry Business Park, Swords Road, Dublin 9  
Tel:01 8420700 Email: [gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie](mailto:gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie)

**There will be a new App available for Blackberry and Android Smart Phones as well as from the App Store for I Phones. This App will list A.A. Meetings and show directions to them. This App will be available soon.**



## Conor F.



Conor F., an Irish American, three years sober brought A.A. to Ireland in 1946. He hailed from Co Roscommon and found sobriety in A.A. in America. Below we have a quote from Conor from 1981.

"The credit should not go to the individual, as I am told. The credit goes to the Group from which you came and it is the Philadelphia Group that is responsible today for the success of A.A. in Ireland, and it's not Conor Flynn."

Published under authority of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## **FIRST ARTICLE FIRST ISSUE; Vol 1, No 1—NEWS SHEET September 1979.**

A meeting of representatives of the fellowship from the four provinces of Ireland took place at the Crofton Airport Hotel, Dublin on the 24th November, 1968. The object of the meeting was to consider the setting up of a Service STRUCTURE for Ireland arising from the growing feeling that, despite the valiant and unceasing work of the early Groups and individual members and the existence of Inter Groups in the Province of varying structures and aims, the need existed for some body acting under the authority of the fellowship as a whole to be of service to the existing Groups and members and the anticipated growth. This meeting which was then called the All Ireland National Inter Group . This Committee was the first meeting of the General Service Conference. It was unanimously decided that there was a real need for a SERVICE STRUCTURE in Ireland in view of the circumstances then existing which included:

- ⇒ The difficulties experienced by Groups in getting literature , slogans etc.. Whilst the early Groups helped out when possible, they had limited resources. Individual Groups had to import literature from abroad with the constant delays and customs difficulties.
- ⇒ There was no official listings of Groups and Meetings.
- ⇒ A.A. in Ireland did not have an address or central point of contact. Internationally known, the Country Shop which was the meeting place for the first Irish Group, was a business premises by day.
- ⇒ The extent of A.A. membership was entirely unknown. Estimated figures were regularly quoted but were later shown to be too high.
- ⇒ There was no co-ordinating body of the fellowship in Ireland such as existed in almost every other country at the time.

At its first and subsequent meetings, Conference acting as the servant to the fellowship as a whole in Ireland and existing only as long as the fellowship required it, guided by and observing The Third Legacy of A.A. World Service and The Twelve Concepts of World Service as applied to Ireland decided to investigate immediately:

The feasibility of setting up a General Service Office

and

Preparing and publishing an A.A. Directory of Groups and Meetings in Ireland.

Money was needed for these purposes. It was also needed to cover the expense of Conference Meetings, for the reason that no member could be excluded from being a delegate to Conference because of inability to pay travel and hotel expenses involved. Those delegates who did not wish to avail of these expenses could decline them anonymously.

After careful consideration it was decided that Conference expenses could be funded from voluntary contributions from Groups at the suggested rate of 50p per member per annum. To this day this system is operated in Groups.

When it came to financing the suggested General Service Office and the building up of a fund to meet rent, rates, literature, salaries, office expenses and furniture etc., it became clear that subscriptions from ordinary Group funds could not meet the costs involved. It was decided to appeal to individual members of the fellowship for voluntary subscriptions on an annual basis.

The appeal was directed especially to members who had been sober in A.A. for some time, who could afford to subscribe, having regard to their commitments, and who wished to show their gratitude in a tangible way for the benefits they had received from A.A. The money was forthcoming and the General Service Office opened at 26 Essex Quay, Dublin 8 in 1970.

### **PAYING OUR WAY 2013**

Our Groups are spiritual entities, not business organisations. As such, in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition, “we are fully self supporting, declining outside contributions”. Conference today and the General Service Office (GSO) are funded from Group subscriptions. The Board would like to thank the Groups for their continued support in enabling A.A. services at local, area and national level.

## Conventions Ireland

<b>Cork County</b>	<b>June 7th-9th</b>	Maritime Hotel, Bantry, Co Cork	
<b>Antrim Area Convention</b>	<b>June 14th-16th, 2013</b>	Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly, Limavady, Londonderry, BT49 9HP. 02877722121	
<b>Galway East Area Convention</b>	<b>July 5th-7th, 2013</b>	Ard Ri House Hotel, Milltown Road, Tuam, Co Galway	<b>Back To Basics</b>
<b>Tipperary Area</b>	<b>Aug 23rd-25th</b>	Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	052-6188700
<b>Mayo Area Convention</b>	<b>Nov 29th –Dec 1st, 2013</b>	Breaffy House Hotel, Castlebar, Co Mayo	<b>One Day at a Time</b>
<b>Galway West Area Convention</b>	<b>Jan 10th-12th, 2014</b>	The Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill, Co. Galway	

## One Day Events Ireland

<b>Armagh Area DOG</b>	<b>Aug 17th, Sat</b>	Newry Arts Centre, Newry.	<b>Live and Let Live</b>
<b>Down Area DOG</b>	<b>Sep 29th, Sun</b>	The Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle, Co Down.	
<b>Belfast Area DOG</b>	<b>Nov 9th, Sat</b>	Farset International, 466 Springfield Road, Belfast, Co Antrim, BT12 7DW	

## Conventions Abroad

<b>EURYPAA 2013 Malta</b>	<b>June 21st-23rd</b>	Seashells Resort at Suncrest, Qwara, Malta.	<a href="http://www.aamalta.org">www.aamalta.org</a>
<b>Mongolia 15th A.A. Conv</b>	<b>July 26th-28th</b>	Baga Bayan Camp, Approx 30km from Ulaanbaatar.	<a href="http://www.aa.org.mn">www.aa.org.mn</a>
<b>Netherlands 27th Annual Round Up Convention</b>	<b>Aug 23rd-25th</b>	Mennorode Conference Centre, Elspeet, Netherlands	
<b>6th Annual English Speaking Convention, Costa Blanca</b>	<b>Sept 13th-15th</b>	Hotel Cabo Cervera, Ctra. Torerevieja a La Mata, 03188, Torrevieja, Alicante, Spain.	<a href="http://www.aa-europe.net">www.aa-europe.net</a>
<b>25th North Sea Convention 2014</b>	<b>Jan 31st-2nd Feb 2014</b>	Ravelingen Vacation Centre, Zeedick 290, 8400 Oostende, Belgium	

## 80th AA International Convention July 2nd– 5th 2015 Atlanta, Georgia, USA

### AGENDA

#### GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF IRELAND

##### March 2013

- 1: Opening of Conference by Chairperson
- 2: Roll Call
- 3: Agreement of Agenda and other urgent business
- 4: Adoption of September 2012 Conference Minutes/Matters Arising
- 5: Financial Statement & Auditor's Report
- 6: Address of Non-Alcoholic Trustee
- 7: Conference Delegates' Reports
- 8: Board Report
- 9: Board Recommendations
- 10: Approval of Trustee
- 11: Motions to Conference

##### September 2013

- 11: Motions to Conference
- 12: Appeal under Concept V
- 13: Electronic Media
- 14: Public Information
- 15: World Service Delegates Reports
- European Service Meeting 2011
- World Service Meeting 2012
- 16: Election of GB Observers
- 17: All Ireland Convention 2013 Report
- 18: Election of 2014 Chairperson
- 19: Date and venue of Conference 2014

## 57th All—Ireland Convention

*“There is a Solution”*

**10th, 11th, 12th and 13th of April 2014**

**Castletroy Park Hotel, Dublin Road, Limerick**

BOOKINGS...Phone; 061 335 566    www.castletroy-park.ie    Email; reservations@castletroypark.ie

### G.S.R.

#### GROUP SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

In the early years of CONFERENCE, Groups sent two G.S.R'S to the Provincial Inter Group Meetings. This worked very well for a number of years. But with the large growth of Groups, the Intergroup meetings became too large and unwieldy. Groups and the G.S.R's became dis-satisfied because with the time available and the big number of delegates attending, they found it increasingly difficult to express their views of the Groups and to get understanding of the workings of Conference. So the structure of the Provincial Intergroups had to change. Instead of sending G.S.R's to Intergroup, the Groups send them to their Area Committee. The Area Committee could be a geographical county or a combination of 'Unity Groups' in an area as the Groups and the Intergroup would decide. The G.S.R.'s now attend the Area Committee who in turn sends delegates to the Intergroup. Each Intergroup sends four delegates, Intergroup Secretary and Trustee (from the General Service Board) to Conference..

It will be seen that the Group G.S.R. is the corner stone in the Structure. If a Group has no G.S.R.'s; they are ineffective, unavailable or non communicative both from and to the Group, then both the Group and Conference are the losers.

#### HAS YOUR GROUP GOT G.S.R.'s ATTENDING AN AREA COMMITTEE?

### STRUCTURE OF THE FELLOWSHIP IN IRELAND

