

NEWS SHEET

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF IRELAND



Declaration of Unity

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

Introduction

“Fellowship is a state of grace
where mistakes are rubbed out
and not rubbed in”

“It’s not a matter of getting it right
all the time but of getting it wrong
less often”

Heard at my Home Group

AA Money - Where it comes from - Where it goes

Probably one of the more difficult tasks faced by our trusted servants throughout the Fellowship is keeping us members aware of our self-support Tradition (Tradition Seven). The mere mention of money raises the antagonism of many of us, and who wishes to antagonise his friends? And yet, we live in the real world, and in the real world, what we need as a Fellowship to function does cost money. Not enormous amounts, but money nevertheless; and this edition of The News Sheet looks at money in A.A.

But first let’s examine A.A.’s Traditions regarding money - money for carrying our message.

Traditions - Six/Eight advises us what not to use our money for; finance any related facility, or outside enterprise, or charge or pay for Twelfth Step work.

Our source of money is limited and A.A. depends on each one of us, in the light of our own circumstances to accept our responsibilities in providing the money necessary to the Fellowship to enable it to carry our message.

This we do by providing meeting places; refreshments, literature, PI, Prison and Hospital Service that have enabled us to reach suffering alcoholics in ever increasing numbers. Past experience and examples of Group, Area and Intergroup Accounts show that a large portion of our contribution is legitimately spent by our Groups and with Area and Intergroups having covered their costs, a relatively small portion remains for GSO.

Recovery has enabled us become “happily and usefully whole”.

We are part of Fellowship that is both local and universal. Our contribution to Service is also an investment in ourselves. Our involvement in Service has a ripple effect. It enables our service offices to fulfil vital roles and act as a catalyst in providing key services

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

to our members, the general public and the professional community all to the one end... carrying our message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers.



This all happens as a result of our own personal engagement with the structure and its elements of service and also when another arm of spirituality is activated at our meetings... i.e. when the basket is passed around.

Our Green Handbook... the Group Conscience of AA in Ireland states:-

FINANCE OR AA MONEY

Responsibility Declaration

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

Committee, the Intergroup and the General Service Office, which are the structures provided.

Our various Service Committees which do the work of AA need money to function. Examples are Phones, Public Information (including Official Website and App), Hospitals, Prisons, Archives, Publications (News Sheet & The Road Back) and to keep Irish AA in touch and in unity with European AA and World AA . The Annual Conference needs to be financed and the Board of Trustees need money to run the General Service Office and to perform their other services to the Fellowship.

Conference recommends that the Fellowship maintains our Self-Support Traditions

(1) "Every AA Group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions". Money contributed at AA meetings, belongs to AA as a whole. These contributions pay for rent, heat, refreshments, literature, insurance and any other relevant expense approved of - by the Group Conscience.

(2) The Group Treasurer "strictly accountable takes the money, banks it, pays the rent and other bills". The remainder, except for a small prudent reserve (where this is necessary), ought to be forwarded on through the Area

and refrains from running raffles at any AA Functions

(3) "Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility, one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the Treasurer of our Group passes the basket. Our Group, our Area and as a whole, will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills paid."



Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.

References:

1. Tradition 7, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
2. Tradition 1, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
3. Bill W. AA Grapevine, Nov. 1957.

Next comes the question of whether as a whole we should go in for what amounts to a money charity to individual newcomers and their sponsors - via selling of our books at cost or less. It is the responsibility of individual sponsors and not the groups to buy literature for new members.

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FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS		
ALL IRELAND CONVENTION 2017		
20th-23rd April 2017	60th All Ireland Convention	The Salthill Hotel, Promenade, Galway (091 522711). Theme: A New Freedom
22nd April 2017	Public Information Workshop	Orientation Workshop as part of The 60th All Ireland Convention at 2pm

FORTHCOMING APPROVED MINI CONVENTIONS IN IRELAND		
DATES	AREA	VENUE/THEME
19th-21st May 2017	Galway East Area Convention	Raheen Woods Hotel, Raheen, Athenry, Co. Galway. Tel: 091 875888. Theme: A New Beginning
26th- 28th May 2017	Cork County Area Convention	The Maritime Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork. Theme: I am Responsible
1st-3rd September 2017	Tipperary Area Convention	The Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary. Tel: 052 6188700. Theme: Language of the Heart
13th-15th October 2017	Donegal Area Convention	Jackson's Hotel, Main Street, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal. Tel: 074 9131021
20th-22nd October 2017	Clare Area 28th Annual Convention	Tel: 065 6821247. Early Bird Meeting Thursday 19th Oct. at 20.30. Theme: Happy, Joyous & Free

FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS ABROAD		
DATES	COUNTRY	VENUE/THEME
24th-26th March 2017	Malta 2017 AA Convention	Seashells Resort at Suncrest, Qawra Road, Qawra, Malta. See www.aamalta.org.mt for flyer
30th March-2nd April 2017	51st Highland Gathering (Scotland)	Jury's Inn Hotel, Millburn Road, Inverness, Scotland. Flyer on our website - www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie
8th-9th April 2017	61st Anniversary Convention in Trinidad and Tobago	Visnu Boys College, LP 189, OLD Southern Main Road, Caroni, Trinidad. Theme: A New Freedom - A New Happiness
28th April-1st May 2017	2017 Gold Coast Convention, Queensland, Australia	Albert Waterways Community Centre, Cnr Sunshine Blvd & Hooker Blvd, Mermaid Beach (behind Pacific Fair), Queensland, Australia. Theme: There is a Solution
28th April-1st May 2017	5th International Convention in Alicante, Spain	Hotel Haktus Albir, Pso. De las Estrellas, 11 Alfaz del Pi, el Albir, 03581-Alicante, Spain. Theme: "To thine ownself be true"
18th-21st May 2017	23rd International AA Convention in Greece	Grand Bleu Sea Resort, Eretria Evia, Greece
28th-30th July 2017	Heart of England 30th AA Convention	Birmingham Metropole Hotel, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1PP
13th-15th October 2017	1st Biarritz AA International Convention in France	Radisson Blu Hotel, 1 Carrefour Hellanthe, Cote des Basques, 64200, Biarritz, France. Theme: Happy, Joyous & Free
18th-22nd October 2017	Costa Brava, Spain, International Convention	Golden Bahia Hotel, Av. Puerto Rico 29, Tossa de Mar (Girona), Catalonia, Spain. Theme: Love and Service

Alcoholics Anonymous 2017

60th All-Ireland Convention

A NEW FREEDOM

The Salthill Hotel, Promenade, Galway, Ireland.

April 20th - 23rd, 2017



Bookings: Salthill Hotel, Salthill, Galway. +353 91 522711

e. reservations@salthillhotel.com

w. www.salthillhotel.com/

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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 and Intergroup Secretary 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 organization 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 thereby made the Conference... the actual voice and effective conscience for our whole society". 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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