

The News Sheet

Issue February/March 2019

The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Ireland

Chapter Two Extract
"There is a Solution"

All-Ireland Convention
2019 - The Twelve Steps

Page 1 & 2

Traditions Checklist

Page 3

Forthcoming Events

Approved one day events
and regional conventions
including overseas
conventions &
Service Structure Pyramid

Page 4

**WE, OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS,
know thousands of men and women who
were once just as hopeless as Bill. Nearly
all have recovered. They have solved the
drink problem.**

We are average men and women¹. All sections of this country and many of its occupations are represented, as well as many political, economic, social, and religious backgrounds. We are people who normally would not mix. But there exists among us a fellowship, friendliness, and an understanding which is indescribably wonderful. We are like the passengers of a great liner the moment after rescue from shipwreck when camaraderie, joyousness and democracy pervade the vessel from steerage to Captain's table. Unlike the feelings of the ship's passengers, however, our joy in escape from disaster does not subside as we go our individual ways. The feeling of having shared in a common peril is one element in the powerful cement which binds us. But that in itself would never have held us together as we are now joined.

The tremendous fact for every one of us is that we have discovered a common solution. We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree, and upon which we can join in brotherly and harmonious action. This is the great news this book carries to those who suffer from alcoholism.

An illness of this sort and we have come to believe it an illness - involves those about us in a way no other human sickness can. If a



A.A. 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.

*Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc.
Reprinted with permission*

person has cancer all are sorry for him and no one is angry or hurt. But not so with the alcoholic illness, for with it there goes annihilation of all the things worthwhile in life. It engulfs all whose lives touch the sufferer's. It brings misunderstanding, fierce resentment, financial insecurity, disgusted friends and employers, warped lives of blameless children, sad wives and parents - anyone can increase the list.

We hope this volume will inform and comfort those who are, or who may be affected. There are many.

But the ex-problem drinker who has found this solution, who is properly armed with facts about himself, can generally win the entire confidence of another alcoholic in a few hours. Until such an understanding is reached, little or nothing can be accomplished.

That the man who is making the approach has had the same difficulty, that he obviously knows what he is talking about, that his whole deportment shouts at the new prospect that he is a man with a real answer, that he has no attitude of Holier Than Thou, nothing whatever except the sincere desire to be helpful; that there are no fees to pay, no axes to grind, no people to please, no lectures to be endured - these are the conditions we have found most effective. After such an approach many take up their beds and walk again.

None of us makes a sole vocation of this work, nor do we think its effectiveness would be increased if we did. We feel that elimination of our drinking is but a beginning. A much more important demonstration of our principles lies before us in our respective homes, occupations and affairs. All of us spend much of our spare time in the sort of effort which we are going to describe. A few are fortunate enough to be so situated that they can give nearly all their time to the work.

Extracted from 'There is a Solution', Chapter Two, Alcoholics Anonymous, with kind permission AA World Services



Carrying our message, whether it is through "stickers" at the bottle bank, Public Information meetings, Prison and Hospital meetings or attempting to be of help to the still suffering alcoholic through co-operating with the professional community is the raison d'être of what we are about in Alcoholics Anonymous.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

62nd All Ireland Convention

Great Northern Hotel
Bundoran, Co. Donegal

26th - 28th April 2019

- Theme -
THE 12 STEPS

For bookings Great Northern Hotel 071 9841204
B&B reservations Bundoran Tourist Board 071 9841350

For further information contact:
General Service Office, North City Business Centre, Unit 11, 2 Duncan Gardens, Belfast BT11 3JG
Tel: 018 9039122 (50) / 048 9039122 (900)
Web: www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie Email: gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie
General Service Office, Unit 2, Block C, Santry Business Park, Swords Road, Dublin 9, D09 H184
Tel: 01553 1 4150700

Email:

gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie

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

Traditions Checklist

Reprinted with permission from the A.A. Grapevine

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

Practise These Principles....

Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into argument?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship?

General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous
Unit 2, Block C, Santry Business Park Swords Road, Dublin 9, D09 H584
Telephone: (01) 8420700 Fax: (01) 8420703

APPROVED FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS AND ONE DAY EVENTS

ALL IRELAND CONVENTION 2019

26th-28th April 2019	62nd All Ireland Convention	The Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal. Theme: The 12 Steps
-----------------------------	-----------------------------	---

FORTHCOMING MINI CONVENTIONS IN IRELAND

DATES	AREA	VENUE/THEME
8th-10th February 2019	Wexford Area 14 AA Convention	Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford. Theme: Keep it Simple
22nd-24th February 2019	Limerick Areas Annual Convention 2019	The Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick. Theme: 'Unity'
8th-10 March 2019	Sligo/North Leitrim Area Convention	The Clayton Hotel, Clarion Road, Ballytivnan, Sligo, F91 N8EF. Theme: I am Responsible
8th-10 March 2019	Cork City Area Convention	The Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel, Blarney, Co. Cork. Theme: Pass It On
31st May-2nd June 2019	Galway East Area Convention	Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, Co. Galway. Theme: First Things First

FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS ABROAD

DATES	COUNTRY	VENUE/THEME
25th-27th January 2019	Lanzarote & Fuerteventura 10th International AA Convention	Occidental Lanzarote Mar Hotel, Avenida del Mar 5, Costa Teguse 35508, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain
22nd-24th March 2019	AA Highland Gathering in Scotland	Jury's Inn Hotel, Inverness, Scotland. Theme: Acceptance is the Key
4th-6th April 2019	Kolkata AA Convention, Darjeeling, India	Anand Palace (beside Darjeeling Big Bazar), India. Theme: Spirit of Unity
26th-28th April 2019	7th Int. Convention in El Albir, Alicante, Spain	Hotel Kaktus, Albir Beach, Costa Blanca, Spain
11th May 2019	59th Flemish Convention, Belgium	Europahal, 7 Generaal Maczekplein, 8700 Tiel, Belgium. Theme: Happy, Sober, Helping
16th-19th May 2019	25th International Convention in Greece	Grand Bleu Beach Resort, Eretria Beach, 34008 Evia Island, Greece
10th-13th October 2019	3rd Annual Biarritz Int. Convention in France	Belambra Club, Anglet-Biarritz, Prom. Des Sources, 64600 Anglet, France

The News Sheet is intended as an aid to Service throughout the Fellowship in Ireland

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.