



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF IRELAND

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

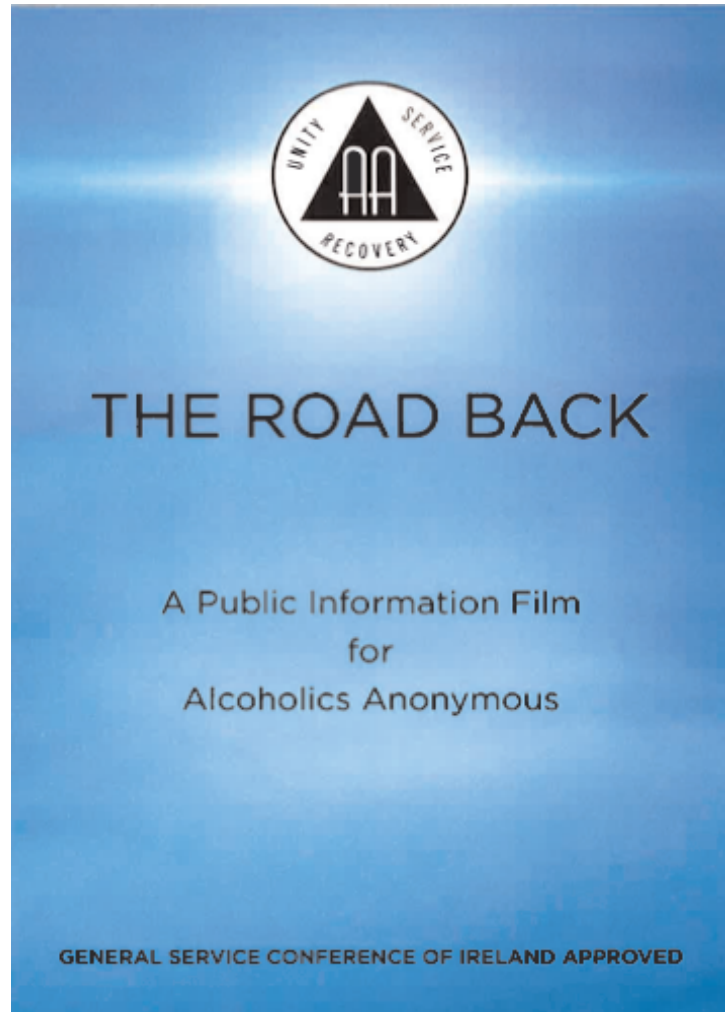
# NEWS SHEET

update

Oct/Nov 2011

"This News sheet is intended as an aid to service throughout the Fellowship in Ireland"

## THE ROAD BACK DVD



The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Ireland decided to produce a DVD for the purpose of Public Information. As a result of this decision, Ireland now has its own DVD for the purpose of Public Information and is now on sale from the General Service Office.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
**NEWS SHEET**  
*update*

## What is Public Information work and why should A.A.'s do it?

Public Information (P.I.) in A.A. means carrying the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the A.A. programme. We do this by getting in touch with any organisation of a public nature whether it be organised or voluntary, which is in position to make known the existence of A.A. and what it can do for the still suffering Alcoholic.

P.I. work is undertaken by members at Group level and at all levels down to the General Service Board of Ireland. The Board will deal with national bodies only i.e. National Newspapers, media, tourist boards etc. The Intergroup, Area and Group P.I. Committees will deal with all the provincial/local newspapers, Independent Radios etc.

At our Reconvened Conference in September, each Intergroup gives a respective Report pertaining to Public Information in each province. Below here are some excerpts from the September 2010 P.I. Reports.

### CONNAUGHT

The PI function in Connaught has been managed by our PI Committee, meeting before our intergroup meetings and having a group discussion on what has been happening in our various counties.

Connaught is divided into 5 divisions:

1. Sligo/Nth. Leitrim
2. Mayo
3. Roscommon/South Leitrim/Athlone
4. Galway West
5. Galway East

The Tradition most directly connected with PI are 5 (Primary Purpose), 6 (Co-operation without affiliation), 7 (Self Support), 8 (AA's should always remain non-professional), 10 (No opinion on outside matters) and 11 and 12 (Anonymity).

We were very conscious about our speakers that facilitated in talks in schools, and that it was not an ego trip and that they had an overall sound knowledge of AA and the Traditions. A standard format for schools and other groups of young people was drafted, we clarified what we should do in the schools. It was felt that speakers were not on a 12 Step call and therefore give a broad outline of their drinking story, and have 2 years sobriety.

The level of active contact with the public has not changed but the willingness of members to serve on PI committees has declined, most of our work has been around schools and the distribution of posters.

### ULSTER

Be sure every public library has at least one Conference approved book, e.g. the Big Book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions or Living Sober.

Let the Fellowship know how to reach out to the hearing impaired. Some members in the Derry areas are taking lessons in sign language.

Please a literature rack in every high school, college, police station, library and hospital in the area and keep the rack stocked with appropriate literature and meeting schedules.

Send a letter to convalescent homes, rest homes and senior citizen centres in the area offering AA literature and/or a presentation on AA.

Ensure every Doctor's surgery, Hospital A and E Units have an AA poster in a prominent place.

List Open AA meetings in the newspapers in the Area.

Put meetings schedules behind the front desks at every hotel and bed and breakfast.

Public Information workers are frequently involved in activities at the media level. AA is not a secret society, and we carry the message to whoever we can. If a suffering alcoholic never meets an AA member, how is he or she going to find AA?

### MUNSTER

Munster Intergroup is made up of 9 Areas. Each area has its own Public Information Committee.

#### Cork West

PI is working well in West Cork with a very active committee. The committee are always looking for new names for the PI speakers list as they have difficulty getting speakers for school at times, especially female speakers. Letters continue to be sent to the schools, businesses and health professionals in the area and meetings have been held with many schools in the area. One of the committee members contacted the schools direct by phone and they found that this led to many more requests from school than the usual letters. The members of the PI committee are continuing to actively engage with the local clergy and gardai who may avail of a meeting as part of their continuous professional development. The PI committee are also in contact with the I.C.A. and Macra na Feirme with whom they had successful meetings.

#### Limerick County

The PI reports from the four Intergroups which were read out at last years Conference were copied to Clare, Limerick City and Limerick County's PI committees and were found to be very helpful for new ideas.

In general, there is a lot of enthusiasm in all PI committees in the Munster Area to carry the AA message with many members being willing to give of their time to share their experience, strength and hope. An effort has been made to have more communication between the areas so that ideas can be shared as can be seen from the positive response to the workshop held in Cork in February.

### LEINSTER

I am coming to the end of my term as Chair of the Leinster PI Committee. (November Annual General Meeting). Our PI Committee are clear that if we want to be successful in carrying the AA message, this can best be done by a small voluntary effort from a lot of members rather than a huge amount of work from a few members. It gives more members the benefits that comes from service work and reduces the negative effect of members rotating out of service.

However as I said in my report last year 'there was a widespread problem in getting members, especially newer members, to carry out service roles and PI came way down the list after provision of a Secretary, Treasurer and GSR. It was suggested that members were wary about taking on PI roles when they did not know what was involved and when they felt they had a lack of knowledge about our Traditions.

Leinster PI Committee therefore decided that we needed to improve the capacity of AA and AA members to carry the message by improving communication about AA's Traditions, our structure and the various service roles within AA. To this end we created a PI Folder (see attached). This folder contains practical tips and hints which we gathered from all quarters from members who had been doing PI work.

(Thanks to Ulster for their contribution)

## LET'S GO BACK TO SACKVILLE

Alcoholics Anonymous got started in Ireland in 1946. the first group was in Dublin, and after being sober for four months, Sackville M. became the groups honourable secretary.

Sackville 1897 – 1979 was born at Raglan Road, Dublin. His father was a Dubliner and his mother hailed from Roscommon.

Sackville read about AA in the Evening Mail and from the very first meeting he attended at the Country Shop Group he stayed sober. He did secretary at the Country shop meeting group and worked hard to ensure AA's survival and success in Ireland.

Sackville identified publicity as being central to the well being of AA in this country. As part of his efforts to inform the public and alcoholics of AA's existence in Ireland, he wrote continuously to the Evening Mail.

Below we have 3 of the articles from 1949 which this popular paper included.



*"When it comes to helping alcoholics by mail he is no doubt the world champion."* (Credit AA Comes of Age pg. 83)

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Sir – We have pleasure in informing you that there is now a group in Cork. For the present until they have acquired a permanent address, enquiries should be addressed car of the Dublin group marked "Cork". On Nov. 9th 1934, fifteen years ago, AA was founded by two men in Akron, Ohio. Today there are 2,750 groups in 30 different countries, a membership of about 90,000 men and women and an estimated 20,000 who have been able to remain dry for more than three years so far. Over 50 groups have been started in American prisons, and many more in hospitals.

In Ireland, after three years of starting from scratch, we have two groups and a discussion group in Dublin, and groups in Belfast, Limerick and Cork, totalling some 200 members. It was once written of some stupid man: "He's been dead for some time, but he doesn't like people to refer to it". That man couldn't be more mentally dead than the drinking alcoholic who yearns to recover but can't bring himself down to learn about AA.

Every Monday night we hold an open meeting at 8pm. Those in the country or unable to come who write can be assured of a reply by return of post, in strictest confidence. – Hon. Secretary, Dublin Group, AA, The Country Shop, 23 St. Stephen's Green.

1949

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Sir – If a lighted match is dropped on a carpet, a rug or even a bedsheet, as a rule no great damage results, beyond a small burn or char or some wifely recrimination. But if it falls into a tank of petrol it causes fire.

The normal man or woman can take alcohol without any appreciable effect, but an alcoholic goes on fire straight away. And as one lighted match is sufficient to set the petrol ablaze, so the first drink the alcoholic takes has the same result.

Changing the brand of match used, or going away from Dublin to somewhere else to drop the match in, will make no difference to the resulting blaze. Neither will changing drinks or environment to the alcoholic.

Even if we refrain from dropping in a match for months or years, the petrol will catch fire the very first time we try again. The alcoholic likewise cannot buy immunity from his compulsive drunkenness by anything less than total abstinence.

Alcoholics interested in this burning question are invited to come to our public meetings held here at 8pm each Monday and at Dun Laoghaire on Wednesdays at The Blue Bird Café at the same time.

Hon. Secretary, Dublin Group, AA, The Country Shop, 23 St. Stephen's Green.

1949

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Sir – One essential difference between the normal "social" drinker and the alcoholic, or compulsive drinker, is that whereas the normal man drinks to render reality more pleasurable, the alcoholic drinks to escape from reality. It is not until too late that he realises that he is more hurt by alcohol than he could be by life and its experiences.

Any man or woman worried by drinking problems might profitably examine himself or herself honestly on four points. Is his or her drinking at about the same level of moderate controlled drinking as it was some years ago, or has it increased considerably?

What does he gain by drinking – is it something on which he is dependant, or could he manage his life satisfactorily without it? Has he ever suffered from loss of memory while drinking? Is he SURE he could stop drinking if he wanted to? To which we might add this advice – Drink if you want to, but don't drink if you have to.

Re-commencing Monday, 25th inst., we hold public meetings here each Monday at 8pm, to which we invite all alcoholics and their friends, and anyone interested. Meanwhile, we wish you, Sir, and your readers a very happy Easter.

Hon. Secretary, Dublin Group, Alcoholics Anonymous, The Country Shop, 23 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

1949

# ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS NEWS SHEET *update*

## Conventions Ireland

**Clare Area** 7-9 October 2011  
Auburn Lodge Hotel, Galway Road,  
Ennis, Co. Clare.

**Donegal Area** 21-23 October 2011  
The Central Hotel, Donegal Town, Donegal.

**Kerry Area** 11-13 November 2011  
Mount Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

**Mayo Area** 25-27 November 2011  
Breaffy House Hotel, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

**Galway West Area** 6-8 January 2012  
Galway Bay Hotel, Galway.

**Waterford Area** 20-22 January 2012  
The Majestic Hotel, Tramore, Co. Waterford.

**Limerick Area** 3-5 February 2012  
The Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.

## One Day Events Ireland

**Cavan Area Day of Gratitude**  
**Saturday 5th November 2011**  
Kilmore Hotel, Cavan.

**Belfast Area Day of Gratitude**  
**Saturday 12th November 2011**  
The Farset Centre, 466 Springfield Road, Belfast.

**Louth Area 1 Day of Gratitude**  
**Saturday 12th November 2011**  
D Hotel (Scotch Hotel), Drogheda, Co. Louth.

**Tyrone Area Day of Gratitude**  
**Saturday 21st January 2012**  
Selverbirch Hotel, Omagh.

## Conventions Abroad

**AUSYPAA** 21-23 October 2011  
The Seiss-Grand, Bondi Beach, Sydney,  
Australia. [www.ausypaa.org](http://www.ausypaa.org)

**Malta** 28-30 October 2011  
Golden Tuplip Vivaldi Hotel, Drogonara Road,  
St. Julians, STJ3141, Malta. [www.aamalta.org](http://www.aamalta.org)

**Korea** 4-6 November 2011  
GyeongJu, KyoYuk MunHaw HowKwan.  
[www.aakorea.co.kr](http://www.aakorea.co.kr)

**Costa Del Sol** 25-27 November 2011  
Fuengirola, Spain. [www.aaconventionspain.org](http://www.aaconventionspain.org)

**Lanzarote** 27-29 January 2012  
Barcelo Hotel, Costa Teguisse, Lanzarote.  
[www.aalanzarote.com](http://www.aalanzarote.com)

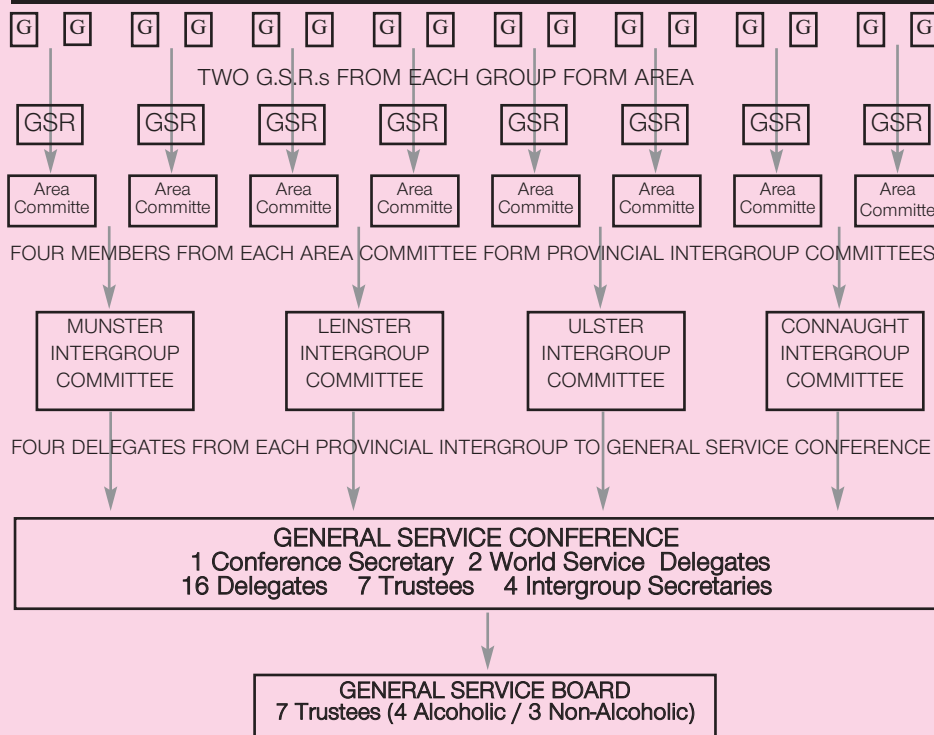
**Thailand** 24-26 February 2012  
The Montien Hotel, Pattaya, Thailand.  
[www.aathailand.org](http://www.aathailand.org)

## 55th All Ireland Convention - Theme 'Comes of Age'

20th - 22nd April 2012 Green Isle Hotel, Naas Road, Dublin.

For further information contact: General Service Office, Unit 2, Block C, Santry Business Park, Swords Road, Dublin 9.  
Tel: 01-8420700, email: [gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie](mailto:gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie), website: [www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie)  
For bookings contact: Green Isle Hotel, tel: 01-4593406, email: [sales@greenislehotel.com](mailto:sales@greenislehotel.com)

## STRUCTURE OF THE FELLOWSHIP - A.A. GROUPS (G)



"The views and opinions expressed in the News Sheet are not necessarily those of the Fellowship as a whole"  
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