

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
**NEWS SHEET**

Jun/Jul 2012

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

## Recommended Guidelines for AA Conventions

All Conventions provide the opportunity for a large gathering of AA's to share with one another their combined experience of our Recovery Programme and other legacies of Unity and Service. A good AA Convention is one with spirit and feeling and really brings the word Fellowship to the forefront and makes us realise what we belong to.

Running conventions requires a lot of thought, planning, finance and responsibility. The following suggested recommendations will hopefully be of assistance to those involved.

### TYPES OF CONVENTIONS

In Ireland presently there are two types of conventions:

1. The All Ireland Convention

This is held with the approval of Conference. The Intergroup in whose area the Convention is held is responsible for the arrangements and venue of the Annual Convention on behalf of the General Service Conference.

2. Mini Convention

The relevant Intergroup decides where and when these Conventions will be held from applications submitted.

### COMMITTEES

A responsible Committee should be appointed by the relevant Intergroup, Area or group of Areas to run a Convention. Conference recommends that Area officers where possible, and the relevant Conference delegate (by virtue of his office) are automatically members of the Committee.

1. The Chairperson - has the overall responsibility of running the Convention and calling the Committee meetings on same.
2. The Secretary - keeps all written records including minutes of Committee meetings and is responsible for all correspondence, and for ensuring that a full report on all aspects of the Convention is given to their Area or in the case of All-Ireland, a report to Conference
3. The Treasurer - is responsible for the handling of AA monies, paying all bills and maintaining proper records. **The Area Treasurer also ensures that the convention is properly insured including member to member liability.**

An up to date report should be given at every Committee meeting. Cheques should have, as a safeguard, two signatories. After all convention bills are paid any surplus funds should be forwarded through the structure to the

General Service Office. A full statement of accounts should be issued after the Convention and presented to Intergroup through Area. In the case of All Ireland - to Conference. There is a standard Financial Report for Mini Conventions available from G.S.O./C.S.O.

4. All Major Decisions - regarding the running of an AA convention should be taken by the Committee as a whole while the carrying out of those decisions may be delegated to an individual member, who will not make them himself.
5. The main responsibilities of a Convention Committee are:
  - a) The planning and running of a suitable AA Programme the heart and centerpiece of an AA Convention.
  - b) The planning and running of ancillary functions, normally included at an AA Convention, i.e. Convention dinner, dance or disco, registration desks and literature sales.
  - c) The location of and securing of a suitable Convention Centre capable of housing the main Convention activities in “a and b” above in an area where there is enough suitable accommodation for those attending the Convention. This will include the negotiation of a written agreement with the proprietors of the Convention Centre, outlining the facilities and services they will provide for the Convention and the agreed cost of same.
  - d) Conference/General Service Board disclaim any possible liability in relation to the running of any functions/Mini Conventions etc., being held against Conference approved Guidelines and without seeking approval of the respective Intergroup/Area as per Conference minutes March 1981, nor will the Fellowship accept any money from unapproved conventions.
  - e) To ensure that only **Conference approved material** should be on sale at Conventions.
  - f) To refrain from running raffles at conventions.
  - g) To forward any surplus funds from the Convention through the structure to G.S.O.

### A. THE AA PROGRAMME

The Convention Programme normally consists of:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| (i) Opening Meeting                | ) |
| Closed Public Meetings             | ) |
| International Forum                | ) |
| Main Speaker Meetings              | ) |
| Saturday Morning Speaker Meeting   | ) |
| Saturday Afternoon Speaker Meeting | ) |

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The International Forum, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon speaker meetings are closed meetings.

- (ii) Ordinary closed AA meeting and marathon meeting.
- (iii) "Service Workshops" on various subjects i.e. Public Information, Co-operation with the Professional Community, Hospitals, Prisons, Structures, Traditions, etc. or 'Ask it Basket' type sessions.
- (iv) AA Film Show.
- (v) Public AA Meeting or Public Information Meeting if one is run.

With regard to Section A the Committee as a Whole make the final decision on the following:

- 1) The Chairperson and Speakers of all Main Speaker Meetings.
- 2) The subject format and panels of any Service Workshops.
- 3) The general running of any themes of closed meetings.
- 4) The contents of any press release.

As these areas will set the whole AA content and tone of the Convention, it is vital that we use all the experience available to the Committee in order to ensure that the **best possible** AA is available and enjoyed by those attending Conventions. It is unlikely that the programme would contain the widest spectrum of AA experience if these decisions were left to one or two individuals, no matter how well intentioned.

## B. PLANNING AND RUNNING

1. Suitable registration facilities.
2. AA Literature sales. Literature is supplied on a sale or return basis. The Committee is responsible for damaged literature which cannot be returned.
3. Convention dinner or dance.
4. Other entertainment facilities.

## LOCATION - CONVENTION CENTRE

1. Facilities, services and accommodation of AA's attending.
2. Negotiation of suitable agreement with proprietor of centre etc.
3. Tea, coffee points, price of same.

## SPEAKERS AT CONVENTIONS

It is recommended that the opening meeting be an 'Open AA Meeting' at which only AA members speak. It is also recommended that Public representatives be invited to sit in

the main body of the hall as guests of AA. If a public representative wished to welcome AA to the locality, he/she will be invited to do so prior to the start of the open meetings. The closing meeting of a Convention can be an Open Public Meeting at which Al-Anon, Al-Ateen and other AA friends may speak with us.

## GUARDING AGAINST ANONYMITY BREAKS

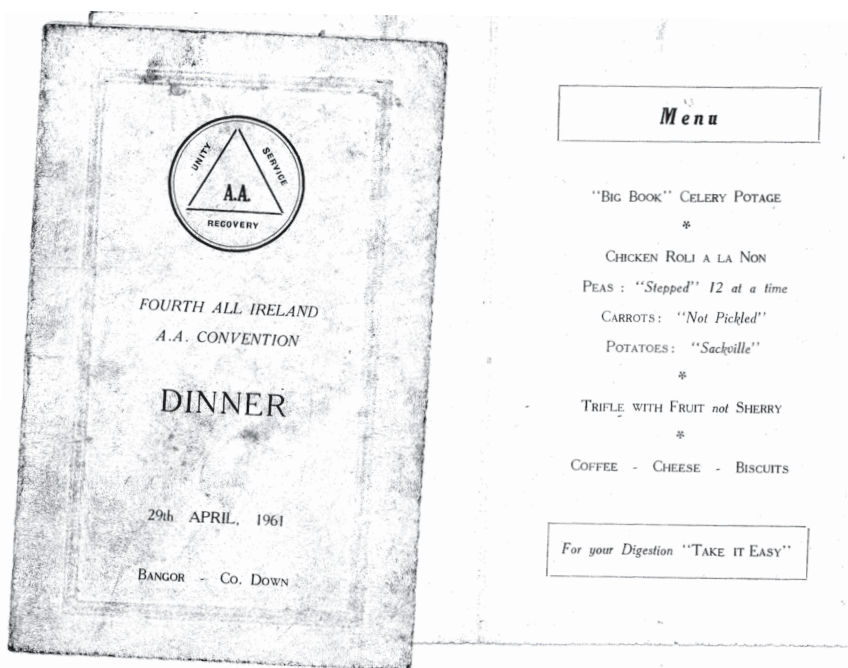
When AA Conventions are being covered by members of the press, it is customary to begin meetings by asking their co-operation in protecting member's anonymity. Such an announcement might go like this:

"Our anonymity, like our sobriety, is a treasured possession. We ask the help of our guests - especially those representing

the press or broadcasting media - in protecting the anonymity of all alcoholics present or mentioned here today.

We hope you hear something at this meeting which you can take away with you and use.

We respectfully request, however, that you eliminate any mention of names in references to members of Alcoholics Anonymous".



Use of cameras is not allowed in Convention Centres. Recording devices may be allowed with the permission of the Committee and all of the speakers.

## AA AND AL-ANON

In accordance with the principle of non-affiliation, a Convention is either AA or Al-Anon, not both. However, AA may invite Al-Anon to run its own programme in conjunction with the AA Convention. It would not be in the best interests of either Fellowship to have one make cash contributions or afford financial assistance to the other.

## ONE DAY EVENTS

All One Day Events such as "Days of Gratitude" that are officially organised by an Area and approved by the relevant Intergroup may be included in the Road Back, News Sheet and Website.

One Day Events organised by a Group, approved by an Area and forwarded to GSO through the Intergroup Secretary may be included in the Road Back, News Sheet, and Website.

## First Irish AA Convention Dublin 1958

CENTRAL HOTEL,  
EXCHEQUER STREET,  
DUBLIN.

### Hotel Charges

Hotel charges 55/- per person to include Lunch, Dinner and Buffet at Social on Sat. 8th March, Bed, Breakfast, Lunch, and evening meal Sun. 9th March.

There will be no extra charge for use of the rooms for Meetings.

Members not staying in the Hotel will be charged 5/- for Social on Saturday night and the normal hotel charges for any meals they may wish to have during the Convention.

Registration forms are now available from your Group Secretary and should be returned to him with the appropriate remittance not later than 20th February.

"Loners" may send direct to Inter Group Secretary A. A.

"Country Shop",  
23 St. Stephen's Green,  
Dublin.

*Alex Thom & Co., Dublin.*



FIRST  
IRISH  
A.A. CONVENTION  
DUBLIN

8th and 9th March, 1958.

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## All

An Annual Irish Convention is held each year, normally in April. The first All Ireland was held in the Central Hotel, Exchequer Street, in Dublin on the 8th and 9th of March, 1958. The following year our national Convention was held in Athlone at the Shamrock Lodge Hotel on the 18th to the 19th April. There were 150 delegates present at the first All Ireland with almost 200 attending the Athlone weekend. They came from all over the country with members travelling also from England, Wales and Scotland.

This year the **55th Annual A.A. Convention** was held in the Green Isle Hotel in Dublin. Almost 1000 attended the weekend in April. These days members travel from all over the World for this weekend, from the US, France, Hungary, Thailand and from Malta for example. Next year sees the All Ireland being held in **Castlebar, Co Mayo**, in the **Breaffy House Resort** on the dates the **11th -14th APRIL, 2013**.

The venue rotates each year between the provinces, in the following order:

Connaught

Munster

Ulster

Leinster

Each Intergroup in turn is responsible for the arrangements and venue for the Annual Convention, in its own area, on behalf of the General Service Conference.

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**Conventions Ireland**

**East Galway Area** 6-8 July 2012  
Ard Ri House Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway.

**Tipperary Area** 31 Aug-2 Sept 2012  
The Clonmel Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary  
Tel: 052 6188700

**Clare Area** 5-7 October 2012  
The Auburn Lodge Hotel, Old Galway Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

**Donegal Area** 19-21 October 2012  
Clanree Hotel, Derry Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

**47th Kerry Area** 9-11 November 2012  
Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Theme: Courage to Change.

**Mayo Area** 23-25 November 2012  
The Breaify House Hotel, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.  
Tel: 094-9044105

**Limerick Area** 1-3 February 2013  
Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Theme: Courage to Change.

**One Day Events Ireland**

**Armagh Area Day of Gratitude**  
**Saturday 18th August 2012**  
Newry Arts Centre (beside Newry Town Hall),  
Armagh. Theme: Keep It Simple.

**Down Area Day of Gratitude**  
**Sunday 23rd September 2012**  
Burrendale Hotel, 51 Castlewellan Road,  
Newcastle, Co. Down.

**Derry Area**  
**Saturday 3rd November 2012**  
An Culturliann Uí Chanain, 37 Great James Street,  
Derry BT48 7DB. Tel: 028-71264132

**Belfast Area**  
**Saturday 10th November 2012**  
Farset International Centre, 466 Springfield Road,  
Belfast, BT12 7DW.

**Tyrone Area**  
**Saturday 9th February 2013**  
Silverbirch Hotel, 5 Gortin Road, Omagh, Co. Tyrone.

**Conventions Abroad**

**Brazil** 6-8 September 2012  
Centro de Eventos Pantanal  
www.alcoolicosanimos.org.br

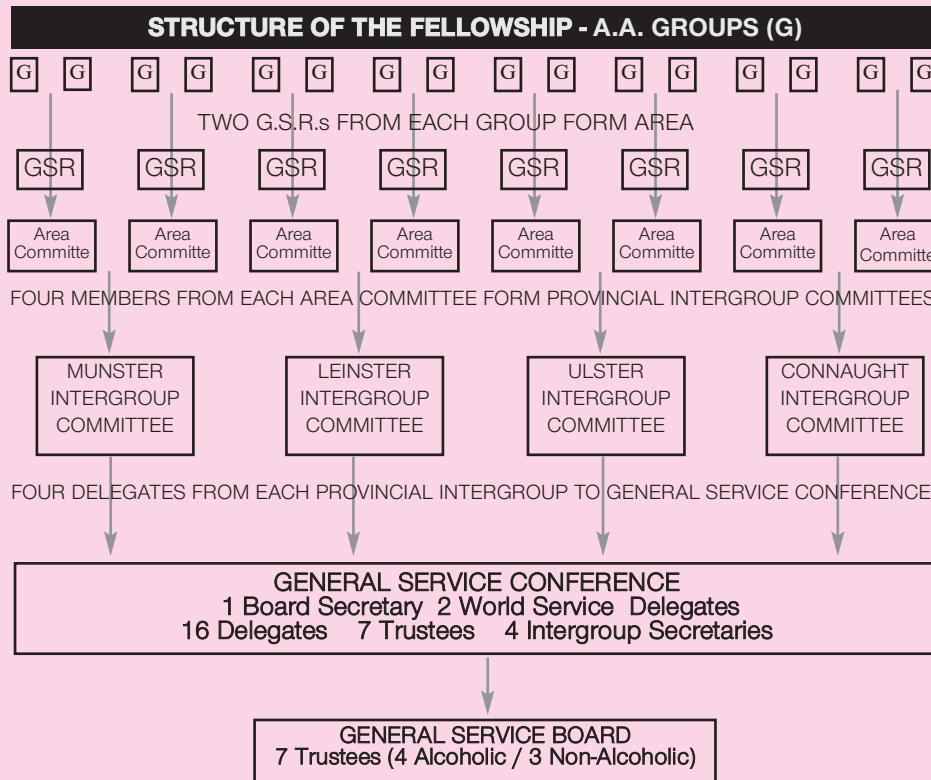
**Malta** 2-4 November 2012  
Qawra Palace Hotel, Qawra, St. Paul's Bay,  
Malta.  
www.europe.net/event

**4th Annual Lanzarote** 25-27 January 2013  
Barcelo Lanzarote Resort Hotel,  
Avd. Del Mar, 5, E-35508, Costa Teguiuse,  
Lanzarote.  
www.aalanzarote.com/4thaaconvention

**56th All-Ireland Convention - Theme 'Unity'**

11th-14th April 2013 Breaffy House Resort, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

For further information contact: General Service Office. Tel: 01-8420700, email: gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie, web: www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie  
For bookings contact: Breaffy House Resort. Tel: 094-9022033 / Fax: 094-9022276 - **BOOKING REFERENCE: AAAPRIL2013**  
Email: info@breaffyhouserestort.ie / web: www.breaffyhouserestort.ie



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

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