

Accessibilities Activity Update

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April 5, 2018

To: Accessibilities, Elder and Remote Community Committee Chairs

From: Patrick C, Treatment and Accessibilities Coordinator
Area Delegates, Trustees, Directors, G.S.O. Staff

cc:

Warm greetings from your General Service Office. My name is Patrick C and I'm an alcoholic. It is my pleasure to serve as your Treatment and Accessibilities Coordinator.

The purpose of this report is to share activity from the Conference, G.S.O. and local committees in this important A.A. service area.

If you are a new Accessibilities, Elder or Remote Community Committee Chair - welcome aboard!

G.S.O. currently communicates with 69 Area, 210 District, and 12 Intergroup Accessibilities committee chairpersons for a total of 291 trusted servants on Accessibilities committees serving to help all alcoholics to receive the A.A. message. In addition, we have 20 Cooperation with the Elder Community Chairs and 20 Remote Community Area and 28 District Chairs.

Upcoming 2018 General Service Conference

The 2018 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities will be reviewing proposed revisions to the pamphlet "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" and the *Accessibilities Kit* contents.

The committee will be reviewing a summary of the Fellowship sharing on the need for additional or improved materials to support carrying the A.A. message to the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community.

Please reach out to your local area Delegate if you or your committee would like to receive the background materials or have any suggestions on these topics.

Accessibilities Desk at G.S.O.

G.S.O. sends a complimentary *Accessibilities Kit* to new *area* level committee chairs and a complimentary *Accessibilities Workbook* to all *district* level chairs. Other committee members

may wish to purchase their own kits or workbooks. A list of what is contained in the kits can be viewed and printed at www.aa.org by using this URL link: [Accessibilities Committee Resources](#)

As a reminder, much of the *Accessibilities Kit* is available in PDF format from G.S.O. These files *may* be compatible with assistive technologies so blind and visually impaired members can access the service information.

Local service actions and ideas:

- Facilitate workshops to stimulate interest for Accessibilities service work. Ideas include:
 - Presentations on group questionnaires used to identify accessibility needs
 - Presentations on the new Accessibility Checklist (SMF-208)
 - Panels of speakers who have overcome accessibility barriers
- Coordinate local groups and members to take meetings to homebound A.A. members.
- Communicate about the accessibilities resources available on our website www.aa.org and in the A.A. Literature catalog to guide people to the resources that can help a still-suffering alcoholic facing access barriers.
- Coordinate a project to document and include local A.A. meetings that are physically accessible in the local meeting directory.
- Some groups cooperate and combine Seventh Tradition support for ASL interpretation. Some areas are seeking to provide this as a budgeted service finding ways to make the ASL interpretation more available.

Second Request for Shared Experience – A.A. in the Military

G.S.O. received quality sharing however, the number of individual responses (18) was lower than hoped. The trustee's asked staff to perform a second round request for shared experience from two different perspectives.

1. How is your committee and/or local members carrying A.A.'s message to alcoholics who are veterans and active duty members of the Armed Services?
2. If you are an A.A. member who is also a veteran or active duty member of the Armed Services, please share how the A.A. message was effectively carried to you. Within the context of military life, what barriers, if any, did you face in receiving the A.A. message? Share any additional information you believe would be helpful.

Please send your shared experience to the Accessibilities Coordinator, Patrick C at access@aa.org.

*Note: Please provide shared experience by **June 15, 2018.***

Update on ASL Big Book and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Video Project:

As Accessibilities Coordinator at G.S.O., I am providing this update on the project to produce new American Sign Language (ASL) translations of our books *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. The genesis of the project was inspired by sharing we received from local A.A. members who are Deaf, as well as many friends and supporters from the A.A. hearing population. One of the key points shared was a need for the translations to better reflect a currently updated ASL translation.

The expressed need for these materials to be updated was heard and the decision was made to include members from the Deaf community in the project.

A G.S.O. committee was formed and agreed to use a local Accessibilities committee, which included Deaf members, to participate in the video reviews and selection of ASL interpreters for the *Big Book* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. The G.S.O. committee was grateful for the local committee's insightful feedback in the selection and review process.

A.A.W.S. Publishing assembled a production team that includes a professional ASL consultant with extensive experience in interpreting for the A.A. Fellowship and two professional ASL interpreters. The production team is keeping a focus on the following parameters such as ASL interpreter delivery, language use, pacing and appearance in addition to appropriate framing, background and lighting.

The goal is to develop the best possible ASL translations to help the A.A. members who are Deaf have access to the A.A. message and carry it to the still-suffering alcoholic.

The initial filming was completed in January 2018 and the production is currently in the editing phase. We continue to have local committee involvement.

Be on the lookout for future communications about the status of this project.

Note: G.S.O. is currently working on ASL version of the above information under, "Update on ASL Big Book and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Video Project." Once this becomes available, we will let you know.