

About A.A.

A NEWSLETTER FOR PROFESSIONALS

FALL
2025



BLIND



ACCESSIBILITY



RAMP



INCLUSION



DEAFNESS



BRAILLE



SIGN LANGUAGE

ALSO INSIDE:

SPECIAL
FORUM ONLINE
FOR DEAF
ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS
MEMBERS



WALKER



CRUTCHES



GUIDE DOG



AMPUTEE



CAREGIVER

Finding ways to provide access to all who seek **HELP** with their alcoholism

ACCESSIBILITY — OVERCOMING BARRIERS

Alcoholics Anonymous has been on a mission for 90 years, making its message available to any who seek help recovering from alcoholism. Our Third Tradition states that the only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. The Fellowship of A.A. is also inspired by the “Responsibility Statement,” which began as the introduction at our 1965 International Convention in Toronto and has become a part of the A.A. language. It presents an ideal for the quality of respon-

sibility, individual and collective, which has brought our Fellowship into its present state of well-being and worldwide reach:

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

In this manner, we have continued expanding ways to carry the A.A. message to those who experience barriers to accessing A.A.’s program of recovery.

To find out more about these efforts, we interviewed Kelley C., the current Accessibilities Coor-

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dinator at the General Service Office (GSO), and asked: 1) What are some of the obstacles people face trying to get to the A.A. program? 2) What are some of the ways local committees and members are helping to break down those barriers? and 3) How do these committees aid the professional who seeks to help their client or patient facing accessibility issues?

“Accessibilities is such a big umbrella,” Kelley began. “There are so many aspects that come into play. People face barriers that are cultural, physical, and mental, and others. How do we make the A.A. program available to anyone, anywhere? How can we break down those barriers? How do we get this on a group level?”

Kelley shared that most of this work happens in Accessibilities Committees, which are made up of local volunteers in communities across the United States and Canada, supported by the GSO. Each committee works with local groups and members to guide them to the resources and shared experiences we have gathered to support those in need. For example, Accessibilities Committees may help with a request for American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation at local A.A. meetings, or for A.A. service events, conventions, and other functions beyond weekly A.A. meetings.

Kelley continued, “Reach out to

FROM OUR FAQ PAGE:

What are central offices or intergroups?

A central office or intergroup is an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community — just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. A central office/intergroup is established to carry out certain functions common to all the groups — functions that are best handled by a centralized office — and it is usually maintained, supervised and supported by these groups in their general interest. It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

us at access@aa.org, and we can connect you to local committees, or a local central office or intergroup.”

“These different service entities in A.A. might do things a little differently, so by contacting us at the GSO it allows us to do that research for you. And then we can find who is the best contact for this person.”

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Local Accessibilities Committees are available to meet with professionals, both to share A.A. resources and to learn from professional expertise. Local committees are frequently looking for ways to make meeting spaces more accessible to the public, as well as ways to communicate with those who have accessibil-

ity challenges and are seeking help with a drinking problem. These committees can arrange to review some of the ways that our literature, our services, and our Fellowship can meet those needs.

Committees are also available to make an informal presentation at schools for the blind or deaf, vocational rehabilitation agencies, or rehabilitation centers for those who face access barriers due to intellectual process and mental health challenges.

Members and committees might arrange transportation for A.A. members who are not able to attend meetings, such as people residing in hospitals or rehabilitation centers. Or they may find ways to bring a meeting into those facilities. They can also as-

sist in finding ways through a list of members who are willing to provide transportation or visit homebound A.A. members with A.A. meetings.

There are countless ways in which local A.A. members on these Accessibilities Committees can help reach the alcoholic who still suffers. Additionally, we have a wide array of literature, information and formats geared toward people with these needs. More can be found on our website, www.aa.org/accessibility-resources.

An Accessibility Committee can be helpful in cases where there are physical access barriers to entering a meeting space, or members may have special requirements, such as attending meetings with a service animal. It may be helpful to arrange a visit from these committees to the landlord who hosts the A.A. meeting to help inform them about their space's access issues. Not every facility is aware, for instance, that service animals are allowed in places where pets

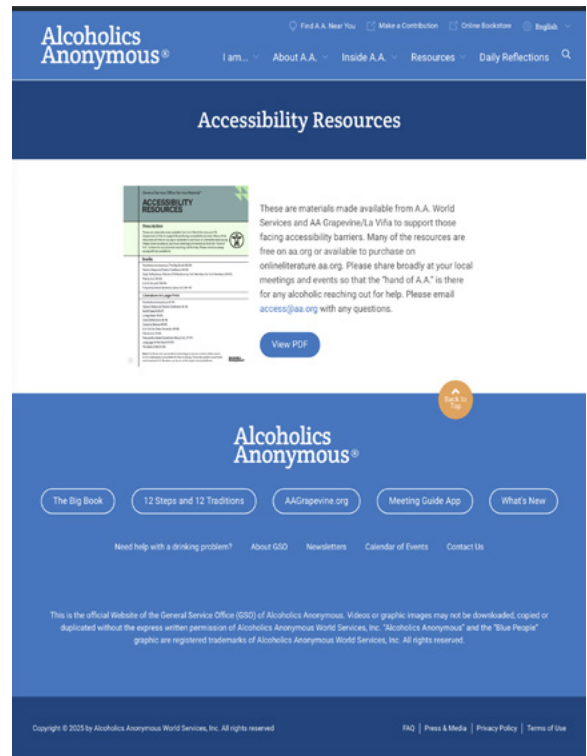
might not be. This is an opportunity for the committee to engage with the A.A. group, its members and the landlord, or space where the meeting is held, keeping in mind that each A.A. group is autonomous and free to set its own practices and formats through an informed group conscience. However, our experience shows groups should strive to comply with accessibility requirements, laws, landlords, regulations and the terms of their lease.

Another barrier or restriction that has prevented members from finding help through Alcoholics Anonymous and attending meetings in the past has been the need for childcare. Some groups across the United States and Canada either arrange for members to offer childcare or, in some cases, have a separate childcare arrangement. Many

times, this information can also be found by contacting your local intergroup or central office. Each district or area, or service entity, may choose to list this information differently. You may want to call and simply ask if the central office or intergroup knows of any such meetings if you have these requirements, meaning that you need to attend meetings with children.

Members have shared that the growth of online meetings, via video, chat, or other formats, which has increased tremendously since the 2020 worldwide COVID pandemic, has been extremely useful for those with children, allowing them to participate in meetings while remaining home.

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HOW DO I FIND A.A. NEAR ME?

To locate A.A. in your area directly, go to our A.A. website, www.aa.org, and on the “Find A.A. Near You” page, enter your city, state, town, province, or zip code, and you will be directed to service centers nearby.

One resource used by communities in the United States and Canada is the [Meeting Guide app](#), which allows a user to search for A.A. meetings by geographic location, day, time, and by other attributes, including filters for online versus in-person, accessible, and American Sign Language.

Furthermore, there are many remote communities that have difficulty receiving the A.A. message. There are groups and committees offering solutions to ensure access to those populations. There are many reasons why a community might be remote, geographic being the most common, but also there can be cultural and language barriers.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

For more information on Alcoholics Anonymous and ways to help clients and patients overcome barriers to access, please reach out to the Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) desk at cpc@aa.org. Our office can connect you with local Ac-

cessibilities Committees who can work with you. Helping professionals help alcoholics who seek recovery from alcoholism is our purpose. We welcome your ques-

tions, comments and requests.

To sign up for digital delivery of this newsletter, or to download past issues, please visit: www.aa.org/about-aa. ■

HIGHLIGHT

Special Forum Online for Deaf Alcoholics Anonymous Members

SAVE THE DATE!

What: Special Forum for Deaf Alcoholics

When: January 17, 2026

Where: Online

A Language and Cultural Special Forum for Deaf A.A. Members who use American Sign Language (ASL), Langue des Signes Québécoise (LSQ) and Lengua de Señas Mexicana (LSM).

Please help us get this information out to Deaf alcoholics using the following YouTube digital flyer:

<https://youtu.be/HZjrfG1fzM?si=BCbjsJO-7n6y-s63>

