



**AA WESTERN NEW YORK
AREA 50
ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEE**

*Accessibility challenges apply to
ALL ALCOHOLICS who have difficulties
participating in Alcoholics Anonymous.*



MISSION STATEMENT

To carry the message to those alcoholics with physical, cultural, mental, and other limitations. Determine resources and recommend actions that will serve those affected and allow for inclusiveness.

Physical Limitations

For meetings to be considered totally accessible (no barriers to any and all entryways and bathrooms), all the following should apply:

- Ground level entry into the building holding the meeting OR a ramp
- Meeting held on first floor OR elevator to meeting if on another floor. The threshold into the meeting room should be wide enough for wheelchair access and enough floor space within the room to accommodate the wheelchair
- A handicapped bathroom stall in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act
- Choosing accessible home group(s) or meetings to attend

**Literacy & Intellectual Disabilities
(ex. Dementia or Stroke)**

Individuals having limited ability to read or understand concept of literature

- Audio formats of AA literature on aa.org
- Step or Tradition meetings can be read aloud rather than read from text
- CD's, DVD's, and illustrated easy-to-read literature
- Sponsor or other experienced AA member can explain what is being conveyed.

Cultural/Language Barriers

AA members can utilize the following resources.

- AA Online intergroup
(aa-intergroup.org/meetings)
Types of meetings are listed on the right side of the webpage, either defined by a certain language, Closed Captioned or ASL (American Sign Language), LGBTQ, among others.
- aa.org
"Find AA Meeting Near You" at top of main webpage. Select country from drop down menu to find meetings in that language.
- AA Around the World
(aa.org/aa-around-the-world)
"Contact AA Outside of the US and Canada" -- Find AA". A drop-down list appears with all the countries. Choose country of desired language, and the General Service Office or Intergroup appears along with a telephone number. Member can request a meeting list for that country.

Transportation

Individuals unable to drive to meetings

- Ask for rides.
- Utilize Uber or Lyft
- City bus or paratransit
- Online meetings, if no other way to attend in-house meeting

Technology

AA members lacking computer or cell phone OR individuals having digital devices, but lack knowledge how to access AA resources or meetings via internet (ex. Zoom)

- Hard copies of AA literature rather than digital
- Sponsor or other experienced AA member can teach basic computer or cell phone skills to access AA literature or meetings online.
- Individuals can have audio only access into online meetings via landline or flip phone. Call (US) 1-669-900-6833. Listen for prompt and enter Meeting ID followed by #, then password followed by #. Announce yourself once in meeting.

Elder or Home-Bound Community

Elderly alcoholics have difficulty getting to meetings and have shrinking networks.

- Home groups take meeting into a senior or living center on a regular basis, or form a new AA home group in the facility
- Existing AA members can provide the elderly or infirmed that have a cell phone or computer access with Meeting ID numbers and Passcodes to online AA meetings. Facility staff or existing AA members may be able to assist in accessing Zoom.

Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing

AA members can utilize the following resources:

- The AA Online Intergroup (aa-intergroup.org/meetings) has many meetings in American Sign language or Closed Captioned
- Once on zoom, a hearing-impaired member may activate closed captioning
- One-on-one meeting with an AA sponsor or small AA group may be an option for those deaf members who can lip read
- Groups might have available a hand-held microphone for sharing
- An interpreter can be obtained, at member's own expense, through Deaf Access Services, Inc. at 716-833-1637 OR Service Bridges, Inc. at 716-371-1390



Resources (aa.org)

"AA Guidelines on Accessibility for All Alcoholics" (GSO)

"Access to A.A.: Members share on Overcoming Barriers" pamphlet

"Serving all Alcoholics: Making the A.A. Message Accessible" pamphlet

"AA for the Older Alcoholic" pamphlet

***"I am Responsible, When Anyone,
Anywhere Reaches Out for Help, I
want the Hand of AA Always to be
There, and for that I am Responsible"***



For more information,
contact the Area 50
Accessibilities Committee
Chair at Area50wny.org

