



# **Accessibility National AA Technology Workshop**



Reminders and Updates

# Reminder\* What is ASL?

“American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual language. With signing, the brain processes linguistic information through the eyes. The shape, placement, and movement of the hands, as well as facial expressions and body movements, all play important parts in conveying information.

ASL is a language with its own unique rules of grammar and syntax. Like all languages, ASL is a living language that grows and changes over time. ASL is used predominantly in the United States and in many parts of Canada..”

Source: <http://nad.org/issues/american-sign-language/what-is-asl>

**Update AA.org now has  
streaming American Sign  
Language, captioned and  
audio pamphlet.**

**[http://www.aa.org/specialneed  
s#search-video-player](http://www.aa.org/specialneeds#search-video-player)**

**Reminder: make it EZ to find 😊**

## **Update:**

**Last year NAATW participants suggested linking to private video link like Youtube private or “Vimeo” would be a low band width solution to ASL announcements. This year a short invitation was created in American Sign Language and Deaf members responded. 😊**

# Deaf ask for our cooperation and understanding.

Reminder:

Are we welcoming the Deaf alcoholic with a rule book, or with our 3rd tradition.



Listen to what they are asking:

## ASL is a visual language



- Quality ASL interpreting at meetings of AA
- Input on the translation of print material to ASL.
- Visually EZ to find from Home page to ASL material and or interpreted AA meetings and assemblies
- Best web video meetings
- Possible Deaf Web site or page on [aa.org](http://aa.org)

# Reminder: Who knew?

" Most hearing people think that American Sign Language is English, in sign language. **It is not English.** It is actually classified as a foreign language and it has nothing to do with English, It is a visual language with no written form."

# Reminder: Not all ASL users have a large vocabulary in ASL

- Meaning of English terms may need a pictograph to expand on the concept for better comprehension.



# Our Primary

## purpose

- is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

\* this is from the AA preamble

# Reaching out to Deaf AA members

- ASL interpreters can help us communicate our legacy to Deaf members at meetings and events
- Video meetings create a bridge between Deaf AA's and prospective Deaf AA members who are scattered around the country.

**Web Cam meetings are not social media and are needed by Deaf to reach the suffering alcoholic who is Deaf or H H**



# 😊 **A Solution** 😊

Technology is one solution to a 6 decade long challenge of carrying the AA message to those who are Deaf/HH and use Sign Language.

1950's is the first article I could find on ASL users holding a meeting V.M.

# ASL Interpreted Meetings

- Deaf members receive information at the meeting such as: How it Works, Steps, Traditions and sharing.
- Deaf members and hearing members can dialogue through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

# Is something missing?

Outside of an interpreted AA meeting a Deaf newcomer may face significant barriers to:

- the fellowship
- sponsorship
- a sense of community.
- Understanding of the AA service structure

# AA-ASL Web Cam Meetings

- Emerged from within Deaf Community for the Deaf Community
- Enables any AA person in the world, with a computer, to login and have a face to face AA meeting, where all the participants use sign Language (ASL or otherwise)
- This creates an AA community
- Text Chat video meeting help non ASL deaf members.

# Reminder: Locally produced intro to Deaf recovery community

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-  
wI9PCIFlog](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wI9PCIFlog)

Deaf AA' s have created a \*Private\*

Facebook group for Deaf/HH  
recovering communities.

\*“Private” = by invitation only, internet private group. Facebook users will not be able to find this group using the search feature.

# Question

Will technology broaden our out reach to the still suffering alcoholic to include all who suffer from alcoholism.

Will the functionally illiterate be welcome in our techno AA?

Will Web Cam meetings be accepted as an appropriate accommodation for visual language users

AA has experience sponsoring nations and Deaf culture is truly a small nation.

Can we support this nation and when they are willing, usher them into the service structure and watch an AA grow up around this Deaf nation beyond their wildest dreams.

