



Accessibility



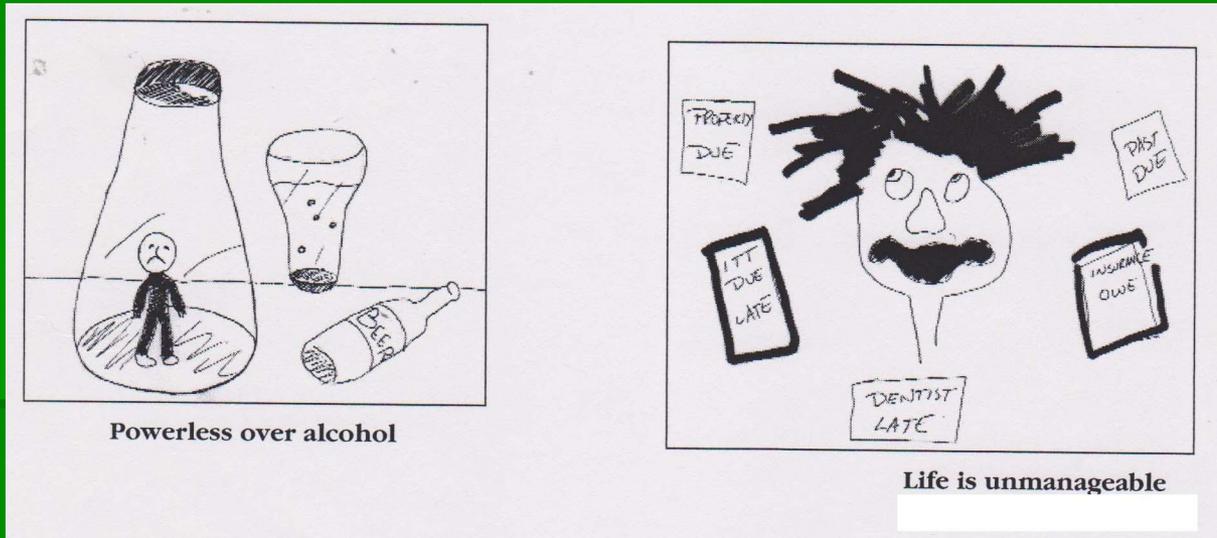
National AA Technology Workshop

Can technology help us
communicate our legacy?

Who new?

" Most hearing people think that American Sign Language is English, in sign language. It is not. 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."

AA concepts; This is sample of comic strip of 1st step



I know someone in this room can work with Deaf to Develop local literature that address their needs.

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>

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 comprehending.



Our Primary purpose

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

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.

What you might see at Deaf web cam meeting



This is a statement from a well educated Deaf women

I think that video meetings for deaf people should be allowed. We rely on communicating with each other visually; there is no way for us to "listen" without looking at each other and using sign language. The other thing– we are a very small community and we are not all in one geographical location. We are pretty much spread out all over.

Texting is not accessible for every Deaf/HH person-- because for some of us, English is not our first language and some of us just don't have good writing/reading skills. We need to take into consideration that not all people with hearing loss embrace Deaf culture including our Language--especially those who are late deafened would not benefit from ASL video meetings.

We are talking about *culturally Deaf/HH people when it comes to using ASL video meetings.

“However a late deafened member may find text chat meetings beneficial”

😊 **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.

A fellowship will grow up around you beyond your wildest dreams

Don't Forget!!

Deaf Heart Group Meeting

Sunday,
5 PM PST, 8 PM, EST

Oovoo Screen
Name:
dd 1692



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 3rd 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.

AA is much more than a meeting

- Fellowship – sharing Experience, Strength and Hope
- Exchanging Phone numbers
- Finding a sponsor – doing the steps
- Working with others
- Doing Service

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 log in and have a face to face AA meeting, where all the participants use sign Language (ASL or otherwise)
- Creates an AA community

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

“The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking?”



Locally produced intro to Deaf recovery community

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wI9PCIFlog>

Deaf AA's have created *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.

A Question / And answer

How do we assist a Deaf newcomer in finding other Deaf AAs who share a common language and culture?

- Recruit Deaf members to your districts 12th step call list.
- Make your service orientations interpreted upon request and let the Deaf community know they are welcome, well in advance of the event.

Of 311+ million people in the U.S.

9 million of those people are Deaf or hard of hearing

- 2,138,421 AA members world wide
- It is estimated that 42,768.42 of those members are Deaf or hard of hearing
- 50% of the AA membership are over 50 years old.

Computer technology has been helping AA members with disabilities for years

- Online AA meetings for folks (Disabled or not disabled) unable to get to a meeting
- Some Late deafened AAs find Web Cam text chat AA meetings beneficial
- Downloading AA related audio files onto your MP3 player

And...

Alternate Formats

Enables people wanting sobriety to reduce the barriers to the AA message

- Large print Big Books for members with low vision
- The Big Book on Cassette Tape/CD for blind and intellectually disabled
- AA Big Book in Braille for blind who read braille (1% of blind) And.....

Hard of hearing members who do not use ASL?

May attend a text chat group with
a physical location in San
Francisco, and internet virtual
location

<https://doda.omnijoin.com/>

*This is just one group and through online
intergroup of AA you will find e-mail
groups as well*

Technology solutions needed

- ASL version of guidelines about using technology as you protect your anonymity outside of AA groups
- Video conferencing AA meeting space for D/HH
- Captioning real time
- Animated simple concepts about AA service structure

Web Cam Conferencing

Web Cam conferencing is used to conduct live meetings is used to conduct live meetings via the Internet.

Participants need the following:

- PC
- High Speed Internet
- An attached web camera or a built in web camera

Online Video Conferencing Software

- There are many different video conferencing software available
- Easy to use
- Downloads on the user's computer for FREE

New technologies are reducing barriers to the AA message

- Can you come up with new ways to carry the AA message to members who are blind?
- Can you encourage AA-ASL online video conferencing meetings (ideal for members who are Deaf/HH ASL users)?
- *Grapevine* websites: What if 2 times a year the daily reflection was interpreted in ASL?
- Can you imagine ASL material on aa.org the 12x12, First 164 pages of BB

When you go out from here

Thank you for thinking about
accessibility and how your
understanding can assist in
our cross cultural 12th step
work !

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Bizarro
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Don't turn out the lights

- To ASL video conferencing meetings
 - To the new Deaf AA that is sprouting and growing through the use of the internet
 - To the AA community that can only exist in virtual geography
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