

## **HOW DISTRICTS CAN SERVE, EVEN IF THE SPECIAL NEEDS/ACCESSIBILITY CHAIRS ARE NOT FILLED: ELECT OR APPOINT A SPECIAL NEEDS/ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE LIAISON**

*\*\*Once appointed, have the new Liaison visit the Area 38 SN/AC Webpage (<http://www.eamo.org/specialneeds.html>) and contact the SN/AC Chairperson by calling 314-644-1130, or emailing [contact@eamo.org](mailto:contact@eamo.org).*

### JOB DESCRIPTION

An Accessibility/Special Needs Committee Liaison should be guided by the following principles:

"To carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

"There are no special A.A. members, only members with special needs."

#### Whom the Liaison will be serving:

- A.A.s from minority groups: Deaf, Native Indian, Spanish, African American, Gay, and Lesbian;
- A.A.s from a variety of cultures that have primary languages that are not English;
- A.A.s who are deafened or hard of hearing (do not use American Sign Language);
- A.A.s who are house or hospital bound;
- A.A.s who are parents that are unable to find suitable child care to attend meetings;
- A.A.s who do not have transportation;
- A.A.s who are not able to drive themselves due to health conditions;
- A.A.s who are house/hospital bound due to health conditions;
- A.A.s that are unable to drive as a result of receiving a DUI;
- A.A.s who live in nursing homes/foster care homes;
- A.A.s who are blind or have low vision;
- A.A.s who use wheel chairs/walker/canes;
- A.A.s who have limited English speaking, reading and writing skills;
- A.A.s who are with a dual diagnosis (i.e., mental illness and alcoholism);
- A.A.s who have head injuries; and,
- A.A.s whose speech is difficult to understand.

#### Some job duties (opportunities to be of service):

- Act as a communications link between the Area Committee and the Liaison's district by attending Area Assemblies;
- Provide access to literature and be available to groups to speak about special needs;
- Make alcoholics who have disabilities aware of their opportunity to recover in A.A.;
- Make sure that AA's with special needs are aware of the special needs literature and other materials that is available;
- Help make A.A. accessible to everyone who desires it; help alcoholics with special needs either to get to meetings or have meetings brought to them;
- Establish and maintain subcommittees charged with addressing particular needs, such as a subcommittee to help an alcoholic get to a meeting or to bring a meeting to homebound;
- Explore, develop, and encourage avenues of participation for all A.A. members and newcomers, regardless of their special need;
- Make sure that all listings in directories in the Liaison's district identify whether they are wheelchair-accessible;
- Compile and/or maintain a list of wheelchair-accessible meetings;
- Encourage the use of wheelchair-accessible facilities for A.A. purposes;
- Explore and develop avenues of participation for sober A.A. members who utilize crutches, walkers or wheelchairs;
- Encourage the use of American Sign Language ("ASL") interpreters at open and closed A.A. meetings;
- Make sure that all listings and directories should identify all meetings that are sign-language interpreted.
- Compile and maintain a list of A.A. meetings using hearing/signing interpreters;
- Compile and maintain a list of bilingual hearing/signing interpreters willing to sign at A.A. meetings and functions;
- Explore, develop and encourage other means of participation for deaf sober A.A. members;
- Make deaf alcoholics aware of their opportunity to recover in A.A.
- Assemble Twelfth Step lists with codes to identify A.A. members who are available to give persons who are blind rides to meetings, as transportation is of utmost importance.
- Set up a contact list of A.A.s who speak a language other than English. Have these names available for Twelfth Step calls and to sponsor those speaking another language.
- Start A.A. groups in areas where specific languages are spoken;
- Encourage A.A.s to visit nursing homes and give some A.A. tools for hope (i.e., offer to read A.A. material to seniors);
- Start meetings/groups in nursing and retirement homes;
- Set up a contact list of A.A.s to provide rides to meetings;
- Provide Braille A.A. literature and programs for special events;
- Encourage Big Book tape study meetings in the Liaison's district; and,
- Encourage groups to provide childcare.