

Accessibility committee

WESTERN WASHINGTON AREA 72

DATE: JANUARY 18, 2025 @ 10:30 AM

CHAIR: BUD W / MEETING MINUTES RECORDED BY: SHELLIE T

GUESTS:

SANDY (LIASON) TREASURER FOR PIERCE COUNTY ACCESSABILITIS
(43, 44, 9, 29, AND 45)

AARIN (GSR) DIST 25 and MATT DISTRICT 16

ATTENDEES

(IN PERSON) -

BOBBIE (34) JERIMIAH (10), ANDREW (28), MARY (LIASON 9), TYE (29) MIKE (45)

(ZOOM)

CRAIG (11), MATT (16) LISA (21), Rita (24) JIM (28), TODD (35), MIKE (36), WHEALON
(40), PETER (41), MICHELLE (42)

AGENDA

- Open with Serenity Prayer
- Introductions
- Thomas suggested to have November 2024 minutes and January 2025 minutes reviewed and approved at the next Quarterly meeting April 19 2025.
- Location for July 19, 2025, meeting has not been set, but suggestions were made to have the "hosting district" set the meeting for "in person and zoom" options
Michelle (42) offered her location as an option
Rita (24) offered to check with DCM for approval of St. Hilda's Church as an option

DISCUSSION:

- Charley (72) Language Chair -
Spanish and ASL Interpreter Services
Translation of documents

QUESTIONS:

- Jerimiah (10) - Does the district pay for interpreter services if needed for his home group meeting?
Charley offered to supply contact list to inquire/request, but the area does not pay for the service for the meeting.
- Andrew (28) - What is the cost for interpreter services?
- Charley quoted "\$60 -80 per hour per event and can be based on length of the event, if more than one interpreter is needed and travel expenses"

TOPICS:

- Looking for Area 72 volunteer coordinator to move equipment from each event (headsets to distribute). Need to build a network of service individuals (2-4 people) to transport the equipment to the area meeting where it is needed.
- Mileage is reimbursed based on "where it goes"
- This is ONLY to deliver the equipment, there is NO SET UP requirements involved.
- If interested in being of service, please send email to:
languagechair@area72aa.org

OPEN SHARES:

1. Bud - Outgoing DCM requested that if you have not already, please register and create an account and obtain an email. Explained Chair roll, Liaison roll, and sending a home group "chair" to meetings they are unable to attend.
2. Ty (29) - Signed up because of the frustration and emotions regarding lack of accessibility.
3. Aarin (25) Availability to Ukrainian translations (International meetings)
4. Michelle (42) Safety and Security of meetings in person. (Is this an accessibility issue?)
5. Peter (41) Abigails Shost (interpreted meeting) is a primary instead of several small break out groups.
6. Whaelon (40) Small changes within groups to assist other in comfort IE: Using Jazz hands instead of clapping as a regular attendee to the meeting is sensitive to sound.
7. Mike (36) Brought up topics of wheelchair ramps, ASL, and safety. Question regarding "How do we reach the community

who needs AA but does not have assessable meetings.
Additional printed resources for Spanish literature.

8. Todd (35) Taking meetings into hospitals, treatment facilities, Nursing homes, and Institutions. When listing assessable meetings, "Childcare offered comes up" often, and curious How we offer this resource?
9. Bobbie (34) discussed dimly lit meetings due to light sensitivities.
10. Rita (24) discussed "scent free" issue at a group she attended. How to approach individuals who affect others with strong odors. Offered website:
<https://sites.google.com/view/deafaa/home> for hearing impaired.
Mentioned the "Blue Can" that is passed at her homegroup for Donations to the ASL interpreter fund. Proposed the question: "Who would be willing to donate to this option in each home group?"
Updating Meeting App to list: Childcare services, Wheelchair (ramp) accessible, and listed Languages available at meeting.
Educating homegroups on the reasons people do not attend meetings due to accessibility issues (as listed above)
11. Andrew (28) Discussion regarding Treatment facilities and Corrections accessibility. Suggested service to others via "Ride Share" for picks up and taking to meetings (collective group members who is able to provide service)
12. Lisa (DCM 21) Introduced herself representing Grays Harbor, West Port and Ocean Shores
13. Matt (16) Introduced representing U District to Lake City. Mentioned taking stock of area meetings who offer Hybrid, Zoom, Childcare, outreach to home group to bring meetings to "home bound"
Offered to provide a DRAFT questionnaire to each homegroup regarding "Accessibility"
14. Craig (11) Unhouse communities and Homeless outreach.
15. Jerimiah (10) Introduced representing N. Kitsap/Mason County and mentioned all halls are assessable to the disabled.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING -
Serenity Prayer