

Special Needs & Accessibility Toolkit



2016

Prepared by
Area 46 Special Needs Ad Hoc Committee



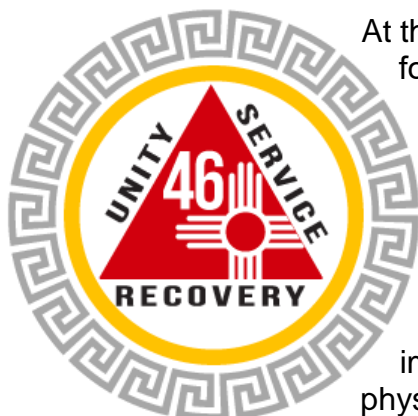
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Introduction



At the Area 46 Assembly held in December of 2015, it was voted to form a “Special Needs Standing Committee” starting the two year rotation January 1, 2016.

The purpose of the Special Needs Committee is to help make A.A. accessible to every member who desires it—to help alcoholics with special needs to either get them to meetings, or having meetings brought to them. This includes, but is not limited to, those who are blind/visually impaired, hearing impaired, confined to their homes for health reasons, and/or physically incapable of getting to meetings on their own.

The guiding principle of this committee is that there are no special A.A. members, only members with special needs. They are A.A. members who wish to have the same privileges and responsibilities as all A.A. members with regard to the activities we all consider necessary for our continuous sobriety. These include regularly attending meetings and special AA functions; speaking at meetings; and participating in 12 Step work, sponsorship, and service on both the local and area levels.

Meeting the Challenge

A.A. members in regions around the country have formed committees addressing how best to pave the way for A.A. members with special needs to reach and participate in A.A. meetings, or to arrange to have A.A. meetings brought to them. These committees work with local A.A. groups to find ways to make their meetings available to all who want to attend.

Carrying the message to special needs populations can be a challenge — one A.A. members have always been willing to accept — with the goal of including all alcoholics in the wonderful experience of belonging to a group and partaking in the full range of benefits of membership in A.A. Some A.A. entities are attempting to meet this goal by forming Special Needs Committees and there are currently some 200 such committees throughout the U.S. and Canada A.A. service structure.

This Special Needs Toolkit was create in efforts for each District and groups to discuss and inventory special needs in your community. A preliminary scan of Districts in New Mexico are showing many district requires the need to raise awareness and build capacity for Special Needs; therefore, we hope this toolkit would help assess where your District/Group is and what steps need to be taken to help better carry the message to the special needs populations.



Special Needs

GSO special needs and accessibility materials is the collection experience from several General Service Conference areas, central offices, intergroup offices, and districts where Special Needs Committee or Accessibility Committees have been formed in the United States. This service material is available to the Fellowship for those who wish this shared experience.

While there are no “special” AA members, there are many members who have special needs. This would include alcoholics who may be:

- Deaf or hard of hearing
- Use a wheelchair, walker, or cane
- Blind or have low vision
- Live in nursing home
- Limited in reading and writing skills
- Live in rural areas/isolated, home or hospital bound
- Single parents that are unable to find suitable child care to attend meetings
- Physical disabilities or chronic illnesses



Whatever their disability or particular challenge to receiving the AA message may be, we hope that they would never be excluded from AA meetings, Twelve Step work, or AA service work.

Respect for the dignity of others is the foundation for all our efforts to carry the message to alcoholics with special needs, with emphasis on identification rather than on how we are different. As one deaf AA put it, “I’m just an alcoholic, like everyone else here. I have the same need to be a ‘worker among workers’ and not be singled out for special treatment. If you can just make the program available to me, I’ll do what I have to do to work it.”

The goal is to include all alcoholics in the wonderful experience of belonging to a group and partaking of a full range of benefits of membership. Beyond helping those in your own group or committee, others may be informed about carrying the message to alcoholics with special needs through workshops and presentations at AA gatherings, such as area assemblies, conventions, conferences, round-ups and Regional Forums.

Our Big Book says, “We are people who normally would not mix,” and this is especially true when someone is a little “different” from the others. But the rewards of giving this kind of service to a fellow alcoholic are immense! Group unity grows stronger, the person with special needs is included and respected as a fully-participating member of the group, and everyone’s sobriety is strengthened.



What Special Needs Does and What You Can Do to Help

Special needs is not just about wheelchair bound people, but also about people with other disabilities such as physically disabled, deaf and hearing impaired, blind and visually impaired, learning and reading impaired, seniors and homebound. Others include those with language barriers and single parents requiring childcare.

How we serve these people is to provide interpreters for meetings and events, as well as Braille AA literature, audio material, programs for special needs, and rides in special cases. We encourage wheelchair accessible meetings/events and big book tape study meetings in each district. The list goes on: assist the physically disabled at events; encourage groups to provide childcare; update special needs information in meeting directories (and on-line); bring meetings into homes, hospital or long-term care facilities; encourage districts and groups to support meetings in special needs facilities; provide literature and workshops on special needs; explore other special needs; and work with GSO and other districts and areas.

As you can see special needs has a very broad range of responsibilities. The Area Special Needs Committee suggested each district's help in the form of a designated individual who carries the message to the groups within each district. This is a big job but together we are confident that everyone who needs and wants the message of hope that Alcoholics Anonymous offers will have the chance to hear it.

Special Needs Committees at the District Level

Some AA Districts are attempting to meet such needs by forming Special Needs Committees. Since the goal is to make AA accessible, research shows that some committees refer to themselves as Special Needs or Accessibilities Committees. When one or more members of a group have special needs (such as the need for an American Sign Language interpreter or wheelchair accessibility, or have an illness which prevents them from getting to the meeting room), AA members from that group will attempt to see that those needs are met.

The members of a Special Needs Committee explore, develop and offer resources to make the AA message and participation in our program available to everyone who reaches out for it. A GSO staff member who serves on the Special Needs assignment, is available as a resource and communicates with local Special Needs Committees. In the interests of good communication and working together, Special Needs

Committees are encouraged to keep their District and local Central/Intergroup offices informed of their activities. It is also helpful to work closely with committees handling Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community in terms of keeping the public and appropriate agencies informed about AA being accessible to alcoholics with special needs.



District Special Needs Committees

- Each district is autonomous and at the discretion of the group conscience can form a Special Needs Committee
- The primary focus of the Committee varies on the access needs requested
- Special Needs Committee can collaborate with other standing committees such as the Treatment Committee
- Budget can be created and managed by the district
 - There are a variety of ways that districts have collected funds to employ special workers
 - From the general district funds
 - Group donations that are specially for employing special workers for interpreting or other access related expenses
 - Some groups can pass a Special Needs can
 - Some groups donate a percentage of their funds to the committee
 - Individual AA members make donations
 - Fundraiser AA events
- The districts that do not have an official Special Needs Committee may have:
 - Volunteers for taking meetings to AA members who are house/hospital bound
 - Volunteers who help improve the number of meetings accessible for people who have mobility loss or use wheelchairs
 - Have an interpreting budget within the district budget
 - Intergroup/central service office pays the interpreting expenses

Survey Tools Breakdown

1. See Sample District Access Survey on page 13
2. See Sample Group Access Checklist on Page 15
3. See Sample District Special Needs/Accessibility Inventory on page 17

Catalog of AA Material for Special Needs

A catalog of AA material lists a wide range of literature and audio-visual material for alcoholics with special needs. For the blind and visually impaired there is recovery literature in Braille and large print, as well as audio tapes. Alcoholics Anonymous and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are available in American Sign Language (ASL) on VHS videos for the deaf and hard of hearing. You can go to the AA website and download a catalog or order online: <http://www.aa.org/>.



Meeting Place Accommodations

Tips for making Meetings Disability Friendly (Accessible)

1. Always unlock wheelchair entrance door(s) when unlocking main entrance.
2. Keep wheelchair ramps and/or entrances clear of any obstacle's which may hinder access.
3. Space chairs and tables with adequate room for individuals with mobility devices to maneuver around the meeting area freely (without assistance).
4. Place coffee pots back from the end of tables in a position where a cup will slide under the spout and rest on the table.
5. Have microphone/amplifier available for chair persons, speakers & readers (seldom is a non-amplified voice loud enough for an individual who has a hearing problem).
6. Be open to the possibility of having certified sign interpreter for an individual who is hearing impaired.
7. Try to set up the meeting the same way each week (e.g., arrange seating, speaker podium, coffee pots, in the same place each meeting). If you move and reorganize things, it's only hiding whatever has been moved to a blind or vision impaired individual.
8. Freely offer rides to and from meetings when possible (reasons are obvious).
9. Don't interfere if an individual with disability is doing a task for his or her self (even if it may look awkward to you. It is O. K to ask if he or she needs help, rather than just jump in and take over.



Carrying the Message to AAs with Physical Disabilities and/or Chronic Illnesses

Many AA members are hard of hearing or deaf, visually impaired or blind, brain injured, confined to their beds with a chronic illness, or use wheelchairs, walkers or crutches. Members of a group may feel stymied when first faced with these out of the ordinary requirements but, in fact, there are many accommodations which can be made so that alcoholics with special needs can be active, participating members of a “regular” group. Some adjustments are simple and some are more complicated—but all are possible for the member willing to “go to any lengths” for his or her own sobriety and to help another alcoholic.

Often AAs will take a meeting to an AA member who is home- or house-bound. “I can’t tell you,” one hospitalized AA reported, “what a difference it made in my mental and emotional state when those six people showed up in my room carrying the message of AA and all the love and support of our Fellowship. And they did it twice a week for three months, until I was able to make meetings again! I was so down in the dumps before; I really had sort of given up—and, to be honest, I had started thinking I might as well have a drink, since I was dying anyway. But hearing the experience, strength and hope of others in the program inspired me to fight both my illnesses—the cancer and my alcoholism. I don’t know what I would have done without AA at that low point in my life.”



For members who aren't confined to bed, AAs in their group often drive them to and from meetings, install wheelchair ramps over steps to the meeting room, and arrange the room so that there is ample space for wheelchairs or walkers. It is important to identify meetings accessible for wheelchair users in local meeting schedules.

Services and material available for members who are chronically ill and/or have limited ambulatory ability include the Loners/Internationalist Meeting (LIM), a newsletter for AA members who are in isolated areas, at sea, or home- or hospital bound (known as Homers) and stay in touch with other members by mail and newsletters. A similar publication (not through G.S.O.) is World Hello, an international correspondence group. Many AAs share via computer bulletin boards and on-line meetings. You may contact the On-line Intergroup of AA (intergroup-approval@worldstd.com) for further information. Alcoholics Anonymous, and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are also available on CDs that run in Microsoft Windows. G.S.O. has a service piece, "Tapes for Sale and Exchange," that lists distributors of taped AA talks, and the AA Grapevine has a series of popular audiocassettes on AA subjects.



Carrying the Message to the Deaf or Hard of Hearing

For members who are deaf or hard of hearing, the use of a skilled interpreter in American Sign Language (ASL) is encouraged. The Special Needs Committee can compile and maintain a list of meetings where ASL interpreters are available, as well as a list of ASL interpreters who are willing and able to sign at AA functions. The cost of ASL interpreters is a factor for many groups. In some areas, the intergroup or district committees provide financial assistance and/or help coordinate efforts to make signed meetings available.

Some intergroup/central offices have TTY (Teletypewriter or Text Telephone) machines to enable the deaf member to readily contact the AA community. Those who do not have them use the Telecommunications Relay Service, which is offered in most communities. Either way, there should be some training in the use of this equipment so that the communication will be as smooth as possible for all concerned. They might also keep a list of deaf or hard of hearing AA members who have TTY machines and would like to network with members.

If a deaf member comes to your group, put them in touch with someone who is willing to keep in touch through the TTY or Relay Service. It is also helpful, when speaking, to look directly at the deaf or hard of hearing member, since many are able to read lips. AA groups with the help of local central office/intergroup or district or area committees can initiate efforts to start new AA groups or meetings that are more accessible to deaf or hard of hearing members.

Services and material available for the deaf and hearing impaired include the Intergroup/Central Offices Directory (those with TTY equipment are noted); and a 5-volume 1/2" VHS video of Alcoholics Anonymous in ASL. Pamphlets rewritten for the deaf



or hearing-impaired alcoholic include “A Deaf Newcomer Asks,” “A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous” “Translation of the Twelve Steps,” “Translation of the Twelve Traditions,” and “Is AA For You?” Deaf members are welcome to participate in the LIM. There is also an International Deaf Group by Mall listed under “Special International Contacts” in the regional directories published by G.S.O. For more detailed information see the AA Guidelines on Carrying the AA Message to the Deaf Alcoholic.

One AA member reminded us that, in carrying the message to the deaf alcoholic, “Try not to treat them as different or special, but allow them freedom to participate in a typical AA meeting.

“The main thing to remember is that deaf alcoholics have the same problem as anyone else. While we and they may come up with a thousand reasons why they are different, let’s emphasize over and over “Don’t drink; Keep coming back.”

For the purpose of these guidelines we will use the term “deaf.” There are other people who are hard of hearing, either permanently or temporarily. People who are deaf or hard of hearing are all unique, and there is a variety of ways to communicate with them: sign language, speechreading, writing, typing, and TTY, for example.

Often, sign language is the most effective way to communicate, and many groups use sign language interpreters to help carry the message to deaf members. In a pinch, you can try writing back and forth. But keep in mind that English is not the first language of many deaf people—sign language is! So, whenever possible, use sign language—either directly or through an interpreter. If you do have to write, keep it simple and brief. Encourage the newcomer to take AA literature and invite them to come to another meeting. A smile, a handshake and a cup of coffee speak “the language of the heart,” which we can all hear.

Sign Language Interpreters

If there is a need for an interpreter try to arrange to have a sign language interpreter at the meetings that deaf alcoholics attend. The deaf member may be able to bring an interpreter. If not, try to make arrangements through a local agency or check with your local special needs committee, intergroup or central office, general service district or area committee to see if they have any experience with the situation.

Qualified interpreters are professional people who charge fees for their services. Experience suggests that most groups will agree to have a non-AA attend its closed meetings to act as interpreter for the deaf alcoholic. Professional ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters adhere to a strict code of ethics, which assures the confidentiality of the AA meeting.

Some AA groups cover this expense. Sometimes an agency will take care of the expense. On occasion, local area committees, districts, and central/intergroup offices have authorized payment for interpreters. Professional interpreters who are also AA



members sometimes are willing to volunteer their services. Occasionally advanced students of interpreting will do the job at no fee for the experience gained. Be careful of placing too much reliance on volunteers, as deaf members rely on these services and there should be stability in whether the meeting is interpreted or not.

Experience shared with G.S.O. Indicates that numerous areas have formed Special Needs Committees and this experience seems to indicate that these committees can be a partial solution to funding the cost of signers. Groups are encouraged to contribute and designate funds for these committees. Sometimes a group will pay half of the cost for interpreters with the fund providing the other half.

Whatever arrangements are made should be based on a group conscience decision arrived at after full discussion at a business meeting. Is the group willing to cover the expense of this service, or does it wish to appoint someone to contact the central office or a professional agency about providing an interpreter? In order to welcome the deaf person and the interpreter and make the newcomer feel that he or she is an important addition to the group, it is important that a full consensus on these points be reached in advance. The interpreters should be introduced to the group before meetings.

Initially it may be difficult to convey feelings through another person, so try to communicate as directly as possible. It is important to have the deaf person's attention before speaking. He or she may need a wave of the hand, a tap on the shoulder or some sort of signal that you wish to communicate. Many deaf people have some training or experience in speechreading (also known as lip-reading). However, this varies widely with individuals. Effective speechreading also requires very specific conditions: the speaker should not be chewing gum or eating, should not have an accent or a mustache, and there should be no back lighting. If a deaf person indicates that he or she can speech-read, try to follow these guidelines. Also, speak slowly and clearly, but don't exaggerate. Look directly at the person while speaking. If you are called on to read something while an interpreter is signing, read slowly and clearly. Try to furnish the interpreter with the text beforehand, as formal writing is more difficult to interpret quickly.

AA Events and Conferences

Deaf AA members may need a few special considerations when attending an AA event. For those who have a fair amount of hearing and/or who read lips, seating near the speaker may be all that is required. Others who are deaf may require the use of a sign language interpreter. Here are some points to consider when planning a conference or meeting that will be attended by deaf AAs.

Reserve interpreters well ahead of time because they are usually in great demand. Budget the interpreting expenses. Find out early what the estimated cost will be, whether by the hour or by the day. If you are holding concurrent workshops, you may need more than one interpreter. If your event is small (and short) you may be fortunate to find a qualified volunteer, but do not expect to rely on volunteers. In designating preferred seating for deaf members, cordon off the reserved area and clearly indicate "Please reserve for deaf members," and ask that people refrain from walking in front of the



section as it will cause the deaf members to be cut off from the speaker and the interpreter.

Sensitize workshop leaders and meeting chairpersons to the use of the interpreter. In this way, those members who depend on the interpreter will not be deprived of opening remarks or keynote speakers.

Stick with your plans once you have announced that an event is to be interpreted. Deaf people are very likely to travel far for the few events that are interpreted. If the event has concurrent meetings and workshops, plan for the availability of at least one interpreter per time block. Ask the deaf participants at the outset which workshops they plan to attend.

If you are listing the event with the General Service Office, your local intergroup/central office or in any AA publication, specify that it is sign language interpreted. If possible, have a TTY number that deaf people can call for more information.



Blind or Visually Impaired

For AA members who are blind or visually impaired, simply getting to the meeting room can be the biggest problem. The Special Needs Committee can compile and maintain a list of sighted members who are willing to provide transportation to and from meetings and other AA functions. Several groups have asked their local central office or intergroup to code Twelfth

Step lists to identify members who are willing to provide transportation. Volunteers may be recruited to guide the blind or visually impaired newcomer to chairs, the hospitality table and rest rooms, until that member is acquainted with the surroundings. Meeting rooms should always be set up exactly the same way, or else the blind or visually impaired members should be alerted to what's different. Banging into a chair or a table in what was empty space at the prior meeting can be both dangerous and embarrassing.

Services and material available to help the blind or visually impaired alcoholic include books and pamphlets available in Braille, in large print, and/or on audiocassette tape, and a list of suppliers of AA talks for sale or exchange.

Easy to Read Literature

Some alcoholics are unable to take advantage of the wealth of supportive and informative literature in AA. If you become aware that a member might have a limited ability to read, there are several ways to be helpful without embarrassing him or her.

For instance, when your group's literature chairperson announces which books and pamphlets are available at that meeting, he or she can also mention the numerous books, pamphlets and Grapevine articles which are available on audiotape. Or, if you think a member of your group might have limited reading skills, you can structure your Step and Traditions meetings so that the Step or Tradition is read aloud at the beginning of the meeting—which is great for everyone!



Sample Surveys



District Special Needs Access Survey

District # _____ Date _____

DCM's Name _____

Phone # & Email address _____ / _____

Has the district had any of the following access need requests over the last 5 years?

Yes or No

How did the district provide access to AA members:

- Who are isolated? Yes or No
- Who are Deaf? Yes or No
- Who are Hard of Hearing? Yes or No
- Who are oral deaf or late-deafened? Yes or No
- Whose primary language is not English? Yes or No
- Who have limited reading and writing skills? Yes or No
- Who have a speech disability? Yes or No
- Who are blind or have low vision? Yes or No
- Who have had a head injury? Yes or No
- Who are dual diagnosed (mental health & alcohol abuse)? Yes or No
- Who use a cane, crutches, a walker or a wheelchair? Yes or No
- Who have a mobility loss or use a wheelchair? Yes or No
- Who bring children to the meeting? Yes or No
- Others: _____
- Does the district have a Special Needs Committee? Yes or No
 - o If not, which district committee member helps to address special needs access?



- Would the district be willing to budget for a Special Needs Committee? Yes or No
- Does the district have special needs and/or access information available from GSO?
Yes or No
- Does the district have a signup sheet for temporary sponsors who know Sign
Language or Spanish? Yes or No
- Do closed meetings in the district welcome hearing-impaired alcoholics? Yes / No
- Does the district budget funds to employ special workers when needed? i.e., ASL
Interpreters? Yes or No
- If a hearing-impaired alcoholic wants to attend AA meetings, what procedure does
the district use to set up a sign language interpreted meeting for that person? Yes
or No
- Do any of the AA meetings, business meetings, or special events use facilities that
have Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) for Hard of Hearing? Yes or No
 - Are the district members familiar with what ALDs are? Yes or No
- Do any of the groups, business meetings, or special events use Real-Time
Captioning (RTC)? Yes or No
- Do any of the groups, business meetings, or special events use facilities that provide
Braille signage? Yes or No
- Does the district Literature Committee stock the literature available in the Special
Needs catalog? Yes or No
- Are the accessible meetings easy to find in the meeting directory or your website or
printed copy? Yes or No



Group Special Needs Access Survey

Group Name: _____ Date _____

GSR's Name _____

Phone # & Email address _____ / _____

- Does the district have a website? Yes or No

- Are the group members familiar with Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) and how to find out if the facility has them? Yes or No

- If a Deaf alcoholic makes contact with someone in the group and requests attending the meeting, what is the procedure they would follow to arrange for a sign language interpreter? Use backside of the paper. Yes or No

- Would the group be willing to pass a second AA basket to donate funds to the district for Special/Access Needs? Yes or No

- Does the group or district have the following AA literature available?
 - AA literature available in American Sign Language? Yes or No
 - AA closed captioned videotape? Yes or No
 - AA literature available on CDs, in Braille and large print? Yes or No
 - Easy to read AA literature? Yes or No

- Is the meeting accessible for AA members with mobility loss? Yes or No

- Is the facility wheelchair accessible?
 - Is the meeting wheelchair accessible? Yes or No
 - Is the restroom wheelchair accessible? Yes or No
 - Is the parking wheelchair accessible? Yes or No
 - Is there wheelchair accessible seating? Yes or No
 - Is the entry door used for the meeting wheelchair accessible? Yes or No



- Is the access information posted in the meeting schedule? Yes or No
- Does the facility have Braille Signage? Yes or No
 - If so, is it posted in the meeting schedule? Yes or No
- Does the group have a signup sheet for service work volunteers to:
 - To give rides to the meeting? Yes or No
 - Provide childcare during the meeting time? Yes or No
 - Take AA meetings to members of the group when they become house/hospital bound? Yes or No
 - To assist AA members who are blind? Yes or No
 - List of temporary sponsors who know ASL or another language? Yes or No
 - Other (specify)

- Other Findings and/or Comments



Group Special Needs/Accessibility Inventory Form

**Special Needs/Accessibility
12 Step List**

Group Name First Line Member Names to Follow	Phone	Time Available Day/Night	Literature			Interpreters		Wheelchair Access/Barrier Free			Carry Mtgs./Rides Nursing Home/Other
			Brail	Large Print	Tape	Foreign Language	Hearing Impaired	Parking	Entrance	Restroom(s)	
<i>NOTE: Under Literature, please enter please enter one or more number: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.</i>							<i>Under Foreign Language, please enter one or more letters: A, B, C, or D.</i>				
1. Big Book 2. 12 & 12							A. Spanish				
3. Daily Reflections 4. As Bill Sees It							B. French				
5. Meeting Schedules 6. Other							C. German				
							D. Other				



Helpful Resources Related to Special Needs/Accessibilities

Click on Links below or go to Alcoholics Anonymous website <http://www.aa.org/>

PAMPHLETS/FLYERS:

- [A.A. For the Older Alcoholic \(Large Print\)](#) (P-22)
- [This is A.A. \(Large Print\)](#) (P-56)
- [Frequently Asked Questions About A.A. \(Large Print\)](#) (P-57)
- [A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs](#) (P-83)
- [Serving Alcoholics With Special Needs](#) (F-107)
- [A.A. Grapevine magazine Special Needs-Accessibilities issue](#) (F-41B)

WORKBOOK: [Special Needs Workbook](#) (M-48I)

A.A. GUIDELINES:

- [Serving Alcoholics with Special Needs](#) (MG-16)
- [Carrying the A.A. Message to the Deaf Alcoholic](#) (MG-13)

SERVICE MATERIAL:

- Online Meetings* (SMF-124)
- [Loners-Internationalists Meeting Information Sheet \(LIM\)](#) (SMF-123)

PUBLICATIONS:

- [Box 459: Sign of the Times \(Spring 2014\)](#) (F-36A)
- [About A.A.: A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs \(Spring 2014\)](#) (F-13C)

CATALOG/ORDER FORMS:

- [Literature Catalog \(includes A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine material\)](#) (F-10)

ILLUSTRATED, EASY-TO-READ PAMPHLETS:

- [Is A.A. For Me?](#) (P-36)
- [What Happened to Joe?](#) (P-38)
- [It Happened to Alice!](#) (P-39)
- [The Twelve Steps Illustrated](#) (P-55)
- [Too Young?](#) (P-37)

For more information, please contact the GSO's [Special Needs/ Accessibilities desk](#) or email Lawrence M. at .



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Disclaimer

The material presented in this toolkit are not endorsed nor approved by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. The material is provided by Area 46 Special Needs Committee through the research of other Areas around the United States as part of its 12th Step work in reaching out to the alcoholic who still suffers. Some of the items in this toolkit were originally published by AA World Services, Inc., or the AA Grapevine, Inc., but do not assume that this implies continued approval by the General Service Conference for their use in these pages. Alcoholics Anonymous®, AA®, and The Big Book® are registered trademarks of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. The Grapevine® and AA Grapevine® are registered trademarks of The AA Grapevine, Inc.

Contact Information

Lawrence M.
Area 46 Special Needs Interim Chair
(505) 470-2887
specialneeds@nm-aa.org