

# Key Takeaways from the 2025 Pre-Conference Remote Communities Meeting Breakout Discussions

## Online/Hybrid Meetings and Use of Technology

- In rural areas, use of online meetings incredibly helpful
- Hybrid area assemblies effective in getting more people to general service events
  - a. Key for those in remote communities but also those with accessibility barriers
- Delegate's material translated in multiple languages to make more accessible for Fellowship
  - b. Some areas have trilingual communication on area website
  - c. Challenge obtaining a budget for interpretation and translation
- Utilizing closed-captions on virtual platforms is helpful for other languages and those hard-of-hearing.
- Phone hot spots can be used to host online meetings in remote areas

## American Sign Language

- Many groups voiced a desire to have more ASL interpretation at meetings and events.
  - a. One delegate shared translation is financially supported from area. ASL interpretation provided by some accessibility committees.\*

## Creative Engagement

- One delegate shared about hosting a tailgate party before a district event to garner interest
- To increase participation throughout the area, a delegate shared on rotating assemblies around districts, including dark districts
  - o Active districts can "adopt" a dark district to support more engagement
  - o Virtual districts could help support engagement from Remote Communities in General Service
- Share the availability of the LIM Bulletin with people who can't make it to many meetings.

## Inclusion

- One delegate shared the following suggestion:

"People sometimes forget who is NOT in the rooms. I suggest having a phone list for a district remote communities chair to have of responsible

queer/trans longtimers that are willing to be telephone sponsors or just supportive AA members. Announce that this phone list exists/put this announcement in the area newsletter. People won't know there is a need if we aren't proactive."

- a. Another delegate noted the importance of the local office/intergroup having a 12<sup>th</sup> step list of folks with different language abilities, different cultural backgrounds and understandings.
  - b. Awareness of cultural differences necessary. Used the term "subtle" – referencing communities that could be identified as remote – even those in communities we've already reached.
- Remote Communities can include nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
  - Some areas are creating Inclusivity committees which intersect with Remote Communities, Accessibilities.
  - Remote Communities can include those who are often uprooted – Military, seasonal workers; firefighters & miners. An idea was brought up to use CPC to contact companies that bring these workers in to inform them (the companies and the workers) about A.A.
  - More discussion on how to connect to individuals on reservations, indigenous cultures.
    - c. Area 89 has a Native Community Convention, an annual AA Convention in Aug on the North Coast.

\*Here are some examples of how American Sign Language interpretation is funded in various areas/districts/intergroups:

### **Seattle – “Blue Can” ASL Fund**

- **Through the [Accessibility Committee](#)**
- “Let the Deaf/hard-of-hearing person know there are ASL-interpreted meetings and A.A. materials available. Offer them a newcomer packet if your group has them. In addition, ask if they would like to have a Deaf person in recovery contact them. Give them the contact information for the Accessibility Committee at Greater Seattle Intergroup, (206) 587-2838, [accessibility@seattleaaa.org](mailto:accessibility@seattleaaa.org).”

- There's a standing position within the committee to coordinate assistance. For more information, please contact [accessibility@seattleaa.org](mailto:accessibility@seattleaa.org). Seattle Intergroup schedules only professional, certified interpreters. As professionals, they adhere to a code of ethics and confidentiality; so all alcoholics remain anonymous at ASL-interpreted A.A. meetings.

***Maryland Deaf Access Committee (MDAC) established 2023 – “Yellow Can” ASL Fund***

- ***Groups can pass an MDAC can for group contributions to ASL fund***
- ***Remember this is language access to A.A.***



Supporting A.A. Groups and Members in Carrying the A.A. Message to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alcoholics

"When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that, I am responsible."

<http://mdacAA.org>

Contribute via Paypal @  
MarylandDeafAccess@gmail.com



***Can label:***

***On website:***

**Please consider sharing your 7th tradition with MDAC!**

- District \_\_\_\_\_ %
- Intergroup \_\_\_\_\_ %
- MDAC \_\_\_\_\_ % (AA Service Entity)
- Area \_\_\_\_\_ %
- General Service Office \_\_\_\_\_ %

***We can only accept contributions from AA members.***

**PayPal** contributions can be made using either your credit card, checking account, or your PayPal account. Use the link below.

Treasurer: Kathi K

<https://www.paypal.me/DeafAccessMD>

***New York Deaf Access Committee – under the district***

- <https://nycdacao.org/>

**Why support the NYC Deaf Access Fund?** Centralizing contributions via The NYC Deaf Access Fund allows money to be used in a timely manner, wherever it's needed most, to make more in-person meetings accessible to the Deaf community. This fund allows meetings that can't otherwise afford an ASL interpreter to provide one, while meetings that *can* provide one on their own can continue to do so, creating a "both/and" approach to accessibility. **The Fund also allows Deaf fellows to request an interpreter at a meeting of their choosing**, ensuring broader and more equitable access to our fellowship.

- ***Contributions are used to provide ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters at AA meetings in NYC. We pay interpreters \$70 for a 1-hour meeting.***
- ***Detailed breakdown of traditions and asl funds*** - <https://nycdacao.org/the-12-traditions>

### ***Portland Deaf Access Committee (free standing)***

- ***Requesting ASL Interpreter*** - <https://pdacao.org/requesting-an-asl-interpreter/>
- ASL support we can provide is based your contributions. In keeping with AA Traditions, we only accept contributions from AA members and groups. Some groups and districts send a monthly contribution which help us maintain a stable budget. Some groups choose to pass a separate PDAC contribution can so a member who puts money in the box knows exactly where their dollars are going. To get a PDAC contribution can contact us at [info@pdacao.org](mailto:info@pdacao.org). Our financial information is open to all: Download our latest [Treasurer's Report](#) and [Contributions Summary](#) for more information. Treasurer's Reports from [2022 are here](#).

### ***Area 08 Gold Can ASL Fund***

- ***About page*** - <https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/The-Sign-Language-Fund-8-2-21.docx.pdf>
- ***Working toward having 90 meetings in 90 days for deaf members***
- The Sign Language Fund pays for interpreters by accepting contributions from AA groups, districts and individual AA members. Contributions are not used for any other purpose. In keeping with the traditions we have no other affiliation and accept no outside contributions. We rely on contributions from AA members and entities to pay for interpreting services. Most groups pass the Sign Language Fund's "Gold Can." Groups and districts are welcome to make regular contributions by group conscience. We appreciate regular contributions as they help us maintain a stable budget. Checks should be made payable to "District 6".

Please write "Sign Language Fund" in the memo line. All contributions, whether large or small, are appreciated.

- You can get a Gold Can for your group at San Diego or North County Central Office or contact us at: [aslsandiegoaa@gmail.com](mailto:aslsandiegoaa@gmail.com) Or, (213-255-0571) The fund's balance sheet may be viewed at:  
<http://sites.google.com/site/aslsandiegoaa/sign-language-fund>