

Accessibilities Workbook Review

Amended (2/18/22) Notes from 2/9/2022

Tonight we decided to start taking notes for referencing changes we would like to see to the new workbooks in the future. We understand a newer workbook is in progress having been approved but delayed in publishing. This group has been meeting for 3 weeks (since Jan 19th) but these are the first notes. Kathi will check again with the Area to find out how we can get a copy of the transcript in the future and if there are any from weeks past.

Bobby wanted to emphasize the need to revise **Form MG04 Guidelines** for Conventions and Assemblies. On site reviews should be with an experienced accessibilities person. The time for access is before the hotel is contracted.

ADA has obligations/responsibilities in public areas of assembly. See attached.

Jerry B. asked that we start taking notes to document our thoughts reviewing the literature so that we can document things that may need revisions.

Jerry B. also said he realized his comments last week about childcare in meetings (and taking them for walks or to the powder room) was part of a Grapevine story and not a recommendation.

Kathi thought the conversation last week on the technology aspects and stories missing from the workbook was important to track and be sure the kit gets updated again. Jessica mentioned there is no technology and assistive devices section and that should be added or improved because it is lacking.

We all agreed that if we can draw more attention to the workbook we can continually move to update it.

Workshops on Access explain all of these issues, the needs, the reasons, guidelines. Area 29 will be planning a Workshop similar to the workshop outlined in the workbook. Area 29 has multiple workshops coming up monthly, some are on technology and assistive devices, etc.

Kathi mentioned we will attend NERAASA and be available to observe and help out with ASL and Spanish interpretation in preparation for our state convention. Bobby says they are very well signed and have reserved seating but this is not on the MG04 form either.

Kathi said she would contact access@aa.org to ask for the status of the new downloadable workbook. We agreed paper copies are being phased out but the need still exists. (this has been done, no response as yet).

The Meeting Guide App does not have accessible information. Each area is autonomous. Some meetings guides in different areas have been printed in extra large format. The single ISA (see below) would be perfect for a universal symbol in AA to describe accessible meetings.

We learned that the wheelchair symbol is the International Symbol for Accessibility (ISA) and we agreed that one symbol could simplify the meetings lists to denote accessibility. We may revise our trifold to make this more well known. I always assumed it meant wheelchair accessible only. (Trifold has been revised).

Amendments: Bobby provided the attached form on **ADA Standards Section 221.2 for Areas of Assembly** that he spoke of at the Accessibilities Workbook discussion meeting on Feb 9th. I share this with you so as to help understand the shared responsibility all organizations, including AA have for compliance in large venues such as Conventions, Conferences, Assemblies, etc. (MG-04) to designate a certain number of Accessible Seating for persons with Disabilities and Special Needs. My hope in moving forward that we in AA can incorporate these standards in our Guidelines in all our meeting venues including group meetings up to the International level.

1) under the ADA organizations of events have the responsibility under section 221.2 Areas of Assembly to provide a Designated Accessibility Seating area..

2) at NERASSA 2020 we were able to designate, clearly marked accessible seating area with the designated ASL seating are,

3) this is the International Symbol of Accessibility



See attached ADA Standards Section 221.2 for Areas of Assembly

ADA Compliance – 2010 Standards – Section 221,2

221 ASSEMBLY AREAS

221 Assembly Areas

Wheelchair Spaces/Companion Seats. Owners of large assembly areas have historically complained to the Department that the requirement for one percent (1%) of seating to be wheelchair seating is excessive and that wheelchair seats are not being sold. At the same time, advocates have traditionally argued that persons who use wheelchairs will increasingly participate in activities at assembly areas once they become accessible and that at least one percent (1%) of seats should be accessible.

The 1991 Standards, at sections 4.1.3(19)(a) and 4.33.3, require assembly areas to provide wheelchair and companion seats. In assembly areas with a capacity of more than five hundred seats, accessible seating at a ratio of one percent (1%) (plus one seat) of the number of traditional fixed seats must be provided. The 2010 Standards, at section 221.2, require assembly areas with 501 to 5000 seats to provide at least six wheelchair spaces and companion seats plus one additional wheelchair space for each additional 150 seats (or fraction thereof) between 501 through 5000. In assembly areas with more than 5000 seats at least 36 wheelchair spaces and companion seats plus one additional wheelchair space for each 200 seats (or fraction thereof) more than 5000 are required. See sections 221.1 and 221.2 of the 2010 Standards.

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