



December 15, 2024



Dear Friends of the Maryland Deaf Access Committee!

As the holiday season approaches, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contributions to the Maryland Deaf Access Committee throughout 2024. As excerpted in ***The A.A. Responsibility Statement***, our mission is to ensure that "when any one reaches out for help, the hand of AA is always there." Your support has been instrumental in helping us bring ASL-interpreted AA meetings to Deaf individuals seeking relief from alcoholism. Thank you for being a vital part of this important work.

As we reflect on the past year, here are just a few important facts that drive the work of this Committee:

- MDAC is a Tradition 9 Service Entity, created for alcoholics by alcoholics.
- We honor the 7th Tradition and do not accept contributions from outside of AA.
- There have not been any reported AA meetings offering Deaf access in Area 29 Maryland until 2023 after MDAC was created.
- The Maryland Office on Deaf & Hard of Hearing reports that there are 1.2 million Deaf individuals in Maryland. According to the 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 10.2% of the general population is affected by alcoholism.
- This means *there are appx. 120,000 potential Deaf alcoholics in Maryland* and very little access to AA meetings.
- Our committee consists of 4 Deaf AA members and 3 Hearing AA members. We are always in need of more volunteers, both Deaf and Hearing.
- Thanks to this work, two Deaf AA committee members and several others, all who had never had access to an in-person AA meeting, have been able to attend their first in-person AA meeting in 2024!!
- A common misconception about American Sign Language is that it is a simple translation of English. Native Deaf ASL users find it difficult to process written text because ASL is actually an entirely different language.



www.mdacAA.org

- Two monthly meetings with ASL interpretation have been established in Baltimore at the *Agape Group* on Tuesdays, many thanks to your generous contributions.
- The cost is \$130.00 per meeting, or \$260.00 per month. This is a profound example of the impact your contribution has had on the Deaf AA members struggling with alcoholism.
- Frederick Maryland has a very large Deaf population and we are aiming to start an ASL-interpreted AA meeting there as soon as possible.
- The cost to support one weekly meeting per month is \$520.00. If your group would consider us in your monthly contributions where money and spirituality mix, we would ensure that it will be used to the highest purpose.
- We are actively seeking Deaf *and* Hearing volunteers to help spread the word that MDAC has organized for this reason.
- You can find us on most Maryland Intergroup and District websites.
- MDAC has a yellow can Sign Language Fund (SLF) - email us at **MarylandDeafAccess@gmail.com** to display your SLF Yellow Can today!
- Our committee meets virtually on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 4:30 p.m. All are welcome!

We we wish you a joyful, sober holiday season, and a Happy New Year!

Your Maryland Deaf Access Committee

Cindy, Mike, Kathi, Alene, Anne, John, Jennifer

AGAPE-TOWSON

 HYBRID
 MEETS WEEKLY
 TUESDAYS
 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT

NOW offering ASL Interpretation
 on the **1st & 3rd Tuesday**
 of the month beginning September 2024

Sheppard Pratt Hospital
 Gibson Bldg.
 1 Friends Ln, 3rd Floor, Towson, MD 21204

 Zoom Meeting ID:
 120 784 691

MarylandDeafAccess
 @gmail.com

WWW.MDACAA.ORG



Maryland Deaf Access
 Committee (MDAC)
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Visit our Website!
<http://mdacAA.org>

We organize the funding
 and scheduling of in-
 person / hybrid
 AA meetings
 interpreted in American
 Sign Language (ASL)

PayPal QR code >>>



We follow all of AA's 12 Traditions We rely on contributions from only AA members & AA entities

We provide language Access via ASL interpretation Our focus is to make AA accessible to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Contributions accepted via PayPal@
MarylandDeafAccess@gmail.com