

## Motion for Accessibility Budget Increase

### **Motion:**

In response to a request from the Hispanic community the Accessibility Committee is requesting a \$1,800.00 budget increase to provide interpretation and translation services at the 50<sup>th</sup> MGSSC as well as to continuing to provide Spanish interpretation and to add ASL interpretation at our monthly Accessibility meetings. Procedurally, we are asking this committee to move this motion forward to the Assembly for approval of this increase.

### **Background:**

We have run this by the Finance Committee who indicated we should look to the State Convention Committee for the funds. However we have met with the Convention Committee and agree the Accessibility Committee is the appropriate committee for Spanish Interpretation and that this is the custom in several other Areas.

The 50th State Convention will be held in person in June 2022. We have a Baltimore Hispanic Intergroup established in Halethorpe to centralize the needs for the Spanish community currently living in Area 29 Baltimore, Essex, Lansdowne, Annapolis etc. This convention is also open for invitation to all members English and Spanish from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia, and elsewhere.

Spanish interpretation has been successful in Area 29 at the Intergroup Liaison monthly meeting going on 3 years. They also have shown up for 2 access committee meetings already, one when we met in December specifically to talk about interpretation at the convention when 8 members came to support it. The other again in January at our first meeting. They will continue to participate as long as we can meet the interpretation needs. Their Baltimore Hispanic community is extremely young in service. They are active in service at the intergroup level and they have no connection to any Area service or an active Accessibilities committee. They live here and they have asked to participate and be included.

Area 29 also has experience successfully interpreting NERAASA when it was held in Hunt Valley in 2019. We have a full plan in place for implementation. We have the support of Area 13 in that they have offered to lend us their interpretation equipment. We have the State Convention's support in providing space for meetings and interpretation services and will be looking for volunteers as the Accessibilities Committee will be handling all aspects of Spanish interpretation. We feel this aspect does not fall within the purview of the Convention Committee any more than Literature, Archives, Grapevine or any other MGS committee providing services at the Area Convention.

Spanish interpretation is an expressed need in line with Tradition 5. The timing of this historic 50<sup>th</sup> State Convention and the fact that the Area has excess funds for no stated purpose makes this a genuine way for us to carry the message to other suffering alcoholics in our community.