

## ACCESS COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The Portland Access Committee (PAC) and the Oregon Area Access Committee (OAC) meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at the 12X12 Club in Portland. The PAC meeting is at 4PM followed by the OAC meeting at 5PM. All AA members are invited to attend. Below are the minutes of the December 2002 meetings.

Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer, members in attendance was Barbara L., Chris C., Steven R., and Skip F.

PAC minutes.

Steven R is the bookkeeper for PAC, keeping a running total of money collected and dispersed. He reported that his calculations and the checkbook are not in agreement and requests a complete list of check registry to resolve this. Barbara L. is the treasurer for PAC, as she has most direct contact with interpreters who need to be paid and will email both Steven and Chris with all records of the PAC checkbook.

Chris C. announced that he was voted member at large of the Portland Intergroup.

Chris plans to put together 9 access packets for the Portland DCM's of information that PAC has been using. He requests reimbursement for this expense and will know the final amount needed after the New Year.

PAC is looking for any AA members who have computer expertise in solving computer problems. An AA member in Corvallis Len F. donates used and refurbished computers to the new graduates from the Northwest Deaf Addiction Center (NWDAC) with 6 months of sobriety to use for internet access and email with AA members. Chris will contact Wayne and David to see if they know someone or are available. Steven will contact Mark from the Grotto meeting.

In the past PAC has tossed around the idea of an advisory board composed of members of the community who work with disabled people. It has been decided that this will be dropped from the PAC plan of action to avoid any conflicts with traditions.

The recording of the Grapevine continues. Darson is very grateful and has made a donation to PAC in appreciation of the work done. He has also offered his time to give a workshop for people interested in volunteering to record the Grapevine. He has some hints and how-to's for a good recording. Chris will ask the DCM's to ask their districts for volunteers and he will

coordinate the monthly volunteer schedule. Also we are open to hear from anyone who wishes a copy of the Grapevine tape for their own use.

The Portland ASL interpreted meetings continue and are running well. Ideally PAC would like to see the same meeting each week as host to the NWDAC. This way the inpatients will have more consistency with the people they see each week and we will eliminate problems with finding the location and scheduling. At this point a Thursday night meeting would be best. A special thanks to all the groups that continue to assist with carrying the message of AA by paying for an interpreter monthly: Sober on Saturday, Gryphon Group, Knuckleheads, Mens Roundtable, Womens Night Out, Willingness Will Work, and Sit Down Shut Up and Listen (SSAL).

#### OAC minutes

All of the above is related to the Oregon Area Access Committee as these are the ways that we have found to begin this work of access in Portland.

Specifically, a member of District 14, Skip F. visited the OAC, and a discussion ensued about having a workshop on access information in his district. PAC has put on a workshop in the past with panel members who have experienced some sort of disability effecting their access to AA sharing their experience, strength and hope. Skip is concerned that the workshop hold peoples attention and makes them interested in attending. It was decided that Chris would write up an outline of the proposed workshop to email to Skip so he could present it to the district. It was decided that the workshop would involve each participant in a physical way (more to be revealed). Also it was discussed that there are many ways that District 14 could begin doing access in much the same way that Portland started. The best way is to get AA individuals, set up a monthly meeting, assign a disability topic for each month and start sharing information from GSO, other access committees and AA members. This way you could find specific focus of the access needs in your area.

Lastly, Barbara L. was excited to hear that District 13 has an access committee. Susan the chairperson has done research about issues related to the blind or visually impaired. Especially of note were community resources that could offer equipment to allow AA members to access our literature.

As usual both meetings ended with the Serenity Prayer. Yours in Love and Service, Barbara L.