

## **Access for AA members who are Hard of Hearing**

### **Assistive Listening Devices (ALD)**

**What are ALDs?** Assistive Listening Devices are amplification systems designed specifically to help people hear better in a variety of difficult listening situations. ALD can be used with a personal hearing aid or by themselves to help overcome background noises and being too far from the sound source. The basic function of an ALD is to improve "signal to noise ratio" for the listener. This means that sounds (signal) are amplified, and undesirable sounds (noise) are minimized. ALD can be used in many listening situations. They can be used to enhance sound in large public facilities or in group situations. There are several types of ALD: Personal Amplified Systems, Infrared Systems, FM Systems and Loop Systems.

**Does your meeting facility have ALD?** The easiest way to determine if your meeting facility has ALD is by watching for the symbol:

(ALD) Assistive Listening Devices For the Hard of Hearing

This symbol indicates that the facility is equipped with ALD system. The second easiest way is to contact the audiovisual or maintenance department responsible for your facility, they will often be the most informed on the status of an ALD system if one exists since they are most often responsible for insuring it is operational and functional. If all else fails contact the administration of the facility you utilize.

### **Can your AA meeting be accessible for the Hard of Hearing?**

Many public buildings and facilities now have ALD available. There is no cost to use the ALD's. It just takes some service work to find out if your meeting facility has them and turning on the system before each meeting.

If your facility is equipped with ALD your group might wish to consider using them and publicizing that your group has them to provide access for Hard of Hearing AA members.

If you're starting a new meeting, especially a speaker meeting, you might want to consider selecting a facility that is equipped with ALD.

If you are planning a convention or quarterly business assembly try to pick a facility that has an ALD system available already in place.