

PORTLAND DEAF ACCESS COMMITTEE

(PDAC)

Purpose & Overview

April 2009



What is PDAC?

The Portland Deaf Access Committee (PDAC) is an AA Special Needs Committee comprised of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Hearing members of Alcoholics Anonymous who work together to facilitate ASL/Voice Interpretation services at Portland Metro Area AA Meetings and who work to cross pollinate recovery message between Deaf and Hearing communities.

Who does PDAC Serve?

The Portland Deaf Access Committee serves:

- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Members of AA.
 - Publish Schedule of Interpreted Meetings
 - Facilitate and develop Interpretation services as select AA meetings
 - Recruit and train cadre of certified “AA Savvy” interpreters
 - Respond to request from Deaf and Hearing AA members and groups for Interpretation support
 - Schedule Interpretation services



How Does PDAC Operate?

PDAC is an AA Special Needs Accessibility Committee.

- Holds regular Monthly Meetings
- Established, Defined Service Positions
- Maintains current Detailed Treasurers Report
- 12th Step Guiding Principle.
- Maintains prudent reserve to insure integrity of established services for three (3) months.
- Sends representative /shares Financial Report at each Intergroup and DCM meeting.
- Organized i.a.w. World Headquarters Guidelines.



How is PDAC Funded

PDAC is funded through contributions from the AA Community.

- Some individual AA Groups choose to earmark funds for PDAC as part of the Groups regular monthly or quarterly disbursement.
- Some AA Groups pass a “PDAC” box for contributions by members at each meeting specifically for PDAC
- PDAC occasionally receives “Ad Hoc” contributions from individual AAs interested in contributing to this 12 Step work.



Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services

PDAC facilitates access by Deaf & Hard of Hearing AA's to mainstream AA meetings by:

- Developing & Providing “AA trained, certified ASL Interpreters on a regular scheduled basis.
- Maintains ASL interpreted Portland Area AA meeting schedule- updated as required on the Web.
- Arranges ASL Interpreters “on request” for specific AA, Intergroup, DCM, Roundup and Retreat events.



Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services

PDAC Builds AA Deaf and Hard of Hearing Support infrastructure by:

- Providing a workshop for Certified ASL Interpreters who want to interpret for AA.
 - Familiarity with AA literature, concepts, principles.
 - Familiarity with AA jargon, language of recovery and spiritual growth and development.
 - Works closely with Deaf and Hard of Hearing members to ensure they are comfortable with PDAC Interpreters.
- Develop a list of AA Members available to Sponsor Deaf Members
- Develop a list of Deaf and Hard of Hearing members available to make 12 Step calls.
- Develop a list of Deaf Members available to Chair or Speak at Meetings.
- Supports Intergroup with fundraising initiatives.



March 2009 PDAC Report

- Total Income - \$ 1,138.82
- Total Expenses - \$ 985.00
- Balance ending - \$ 2,177.97
- Prudent reserve - \$ 3,000.00
- Net Available balance - \$ (822.03)
- Meetings Interpreted - 11 AA Meetings
 - 1 Area
 - 1 PDAC

Lessons Learned

- Transparent Monthly Treasurers report Crucial to success and fundraising.
- Rotation of Service in PDAC crucial to success.
- Deaf & Hearing Meetings Highly Attractive to both Cultures.
- AA message extra powerful when delivered cross culturally.
- Hearing and Deaf AA's Equal winners.