



# PORTLAND DEAF ACCESS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

*I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.*

VOL I 2 October 2009

## 3rd Quarter Interpreting

Interpreters were supported for 4 meetings on a semi-weekly basis and one meeting on a monthly basis.

## Outreach this Quarter

PDAC members attended Portland Intergroup, the District 37 World of Service Fair, District 9 meeting, District 23 meeting and the District 37 meeting. We've also established a link to the Area 58 website.

## Fundraising Efforts

A multi-prong strategy is in place. Voluntary donations are collected at the social following each month's speaker meeting. PDAC fundraising cans are being distributed at the various events where PDAC members are doing outreach. Some individuals hold onto their cans, passing them around at meetings they attend. Others get their home groups to agree to pass the cans.

We have also gone to some groups that regularly have interpreters, explained that PDAC's interpreter services are funded only by direct donations of AA members, and encouraged them to support the service.

## PDAC website will accept PayPal

The website will soon feature the ability to accept donations via PayPal, on a one time or repeating basis.

## PDAC Contact Info

Email : [pdxaccess@gmail.com](mailto:pdxaccess@gmail.com)

Website: [www.pdaca.org](http://www.pdaca.org)

To subscribe to PDAC Listserv (newsletters & event announcements) [PDACfriends-subscribe@yahogroup.com](mailto:PDACfriends-subscribe@yahogroup.com)

Business Meeting:  
6 pm the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month  
Lake Oswego United Church of Christ  
1111 SW Country Club Road  
Lake Oswego, Or

Treasurer:  
PDAC  
Attn treasurer  
PO Box 68173  
Portland Or, 97268

## Low Funds Cause Service Cuts

Income for the quarter was \$2426.72. Expenditures were \$2234.00, with most (\$2160 spent for interpreters (48 hrs). In order to match expenditures to available funds, PDAC made interpreters available only semi weekly at 4 meetings and once a month at the Lake Oswego speaker's Meeting. No interpreter is being provided for the Portland Intergroup Meetings, so we don't currently have a deaf representative there.

## Our Thanks to Donors

During the months of July-September donations totaling \$2426.72 came from individual and group donations.

Alameda	\$ 25.00
District # 9	\$ 45.00
District #15	\$ 26.00
Eastside Sunrise	\$120.00
FNYP speaker mtg.	\$455.11
Free to be Me	\$ 20.00
Gryphon Group	\$202.50
Hope no Smoke II	\$ 20.00
JAM	\$ 60.00
Lake Grove Firehouse Group	\$ 25.00
LO Action Participation	\$163.00
McMinnville	\$ 31.00
Meeting among Meetings	\$ 68.52
Men's Straight Talk	\$ 10.00
Moving Forward-Amity	\$ 10.00
Saturday Morning Live	\$ 42.00
Sober on Saturday	\$135.00
Surrender at Noon	\$ 50.00
TNT	\$247.00
This is Your Life	\$ 34.04
Vision for you too	\$ 30.00
Women in Recovery	\$ 25.70
Wed. Night Lesbian Mtg	\$100.00
Willamette Group	\$ 50.00
Young at Heart	\$ 44.00
Last Saturday Socials etc	\$387.00

Please let us know at our email address [pdxaccess@gmail.com](mailto:pdxaccess@gmail.com) if your donation does not appear as expected.

## Is PDAC part of AA?

Here's a statement from our communications with GSO: "It is our experience that if a committee is made up of A.A. members, to serve A.A. members by carrying A.A.'s message, and if it operates using A.A. Steps, Traditions and principles, such a committee has been accepted as part of A.A."

## New Speaker meetings

On the last Saturday of (almost) every month we host a Speakers meeting at the Alano Club. Each meeting has 2 speakers - 1 deaf, 1 hearing. Meetings are interpreted. Meetings have been at noon for 1 hour, but that may change. A social event follows with donated food. August featured ice cream. Soup was served in September. Free will donations are requested to support PDAC's activities.

The FNYP group sponsored a dance preceded by intro sign lessons on our usual speaker's meeting date (October 30th), so the October meeting was not held.

Look forward to the November meeting on 11/28. Our featured food for the social: pies, sweet and savory

## Why hire special workers?

We've heard the question? Why can't AA members just interpret the meetings? In fact, it takes extensive training as well as a special combination of abilities to be an interpreter. You have to be able to hear and spell well, be able to listen to or observe a speaker, translate what they are saying and communicate it via words or signs all at the same time. Interpreters take at least two years of classes after mastering ASL. Do you know many AA members with those skills?

## How a hearing person can sponsor a deaf person

There is a telephone/video relay service available for deaf people by whom an interpreter will translate the deaf person's remarks into English, and your responses into sign. There is no cost. So it is possible to communicate, even if you don't know any sign. If you want to be person to person, you can have your phone conversation at the deaf person's house!

To be put on a list of people willing to sponsor deaf alcoholics. Email [pdxaccess@gmail.com](mailto:pdxaccess@gmail.com)