

Is Your AA Meeting Handicapped Accessible?

The Area 47 Accessibility Committee was asked to present the Area with the “basic guidelines” about the criteria a building must meet to be considered Handicapped Accessible, which would make the AA Meeting(s) held there “A truly Handicapped Accessible AA Meeting.”

In developing our findings it we researched the ADA (Americans Disabilities Act; published in the Federal Register in 1990; Revised July 1, 1994; Amended August 5, 2004), the ABA (Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities), and past American Disabilities Court Cases. All Legal Documents can be found On-Line.

Your Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting place is truly Handicapped Accessible if the building where your AA Meeting is held meets the ADA Guidelines. **(See attached Diagrams)** New or refurbished buildings are required to meet the ADA Guidelines. In many Counties, Cities, Towns, and Townships there are Grandfather Clauses which allow “existing structures” not to be required to meet ADA Guidelines until the building or facility is sold, or the “original purpose” of the building or facility changes. Many Local interpretations of the ADA Regulations vary widely.

The Accessibility Committee of Area 47 asks that should your Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting place choose or need to move, please select a building that is truly Handicapped Accessible. There are many resources available for our alcoholic brothers and sisters who have sight, hearing, and physical challenges. The *A.A. Guidelines Serving Alcoholics with Special Needs*; can be found on GSO’s website. We believe “I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there.”

Our Committee has been blessed with many gifted individuals, from Ithaca, Elmira, Dansville, Syracuse, and Rochester; worked together in the development of our findings. All who wish to help our Committee are solicited.

RESPECTFULLY, THE AREA 47 ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE