

[8/3/20217/30/2021](#)

Proposed Revision to D10 Service Manual

Revise and rename Section IV C 2 Accessibilities

Background:

To paraphrase an old adage, all inclusive meetings are accessible, but not all accessible meetings are inclusive.

A review of the GSO Guidelines document: [Accessibility for All Alcoholics](#) will show that the guideline's primary focus is to aid groups in overcoming barriers "whether those are mental, physical, geographic, cultural, or other factors that vary among people." It is critical for AA to address these barriers to make the fellowship available to all individuals. What is not discussed in the document are the more subtle, harder to quantify barriers that are based on personal biases and narrow beliefs about what AA should be.

AA is making efforts to accommodate people of diverse backgrounds and needs. The statistics indicate only partial success. Despite the reality that we are confronted with an affliction that knows no gender, racial, socioeconomic, sexual preference or philosophical barriers, we are still very much an old straight white male Christian based fellowship. We are learning to welcome and respect diversity and change but the battle to create a fellowship that is inclusive for all is made more arduous by our insistence in clinging to archaic outdated dogmatic literature and practices.

AA cannot accommodate the physical, mental, emotional, or philosophical concerns of every one of its members, but we can make members aware that such issues exist and are often real barriers for the newcomer.

The following proposal changes the name of the committee from "Accessibility" to "Inclusivity". It maintains the responsibility to consider barriers to membership for the physically, emotionally or developmentally challenged while adding barriers that may exist based on gender, race, socioeconomic status, sexual preference, or philosophical views.

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[8/3/20217/30/2021](#)

Proposed Change

IV C 6. Inclusivity

Explores, develops and offers alternatives so the AA message is accessible to those who are blind or ~~has low vision~~~~visually impaired~~, deaf or hard of hearing, wheelchair users and others with physical disabilities, homebound or chronically ill or developmentally disabled; establishes, develops and maintains an updated list of members willing to bring meetings to the homebound; acts as a clearinghouse for information to share the accumulated experience and knowledge in the accessibility area; raises the awareness of accessibility and related needs throughout the meetings in District 10; ensures that ~~wheelchair~~~~handicapped~~ accessible meetings are identified to the Records Keeper for publication in the meeting schedule.

Explores, develops, and offers alternatives so the AA message is presented in a way that welcomes everyone (particularly newcomers) regardless of gender, race, socioeconomic circumstances, sexual preference or philosophical beliefs; acts as a clearinghouse for information to share the accumulated experience and knowledge in the inclusivity area; raises the awareness of inclusivity and related needs throughout the meetings in District 10.

Paragraphs in IV C need to be renumbered.

Also need to replace Accessibilities with Inclusivity throughout the Manual including sections: IV C, IV C 1, VII, and page 11 Welcome to Area 48 District 10.