

**Submitted by:**  
**Date Submitted:**

**Motion: SDIAA Area 8 AC to support the General Service Conference Proposed Agenda Item Motion for 2024 conference.**

*GSC Proposed Agenda Item Motion:*

*Propose that AAWS/GSO make a plan to begin translating critical AA literature into American Sign Language. The literature priority list has been identified from a survey of deaf AA members on Nov 2, 2022. The priority list includes*

*Big Book personal stories in the upcoming 5th edition.*

*P-16 The A.A. Group...Where It All Begins*

*P-19 G.S.R. General Service Representative*

*AA Service Manual*

**Intent/Purpose:**

In keeping with our Primary Purpose; provide access to critical pieces of AA literature in American Sign Language (ASL) for Deaf alcoholics and ASL Deaf groups.

**Current Practice:**

Currently the only chapters describing the A.A. recovery program, the original Twelve Steps and the personal histories of A.A. 's co-founders from the 4th Edition of the Big Book have been translated into American Sign Language. The personal stories have **NOT** been translated.

No group service literature available for Deaf AA members/groups in American Sign Language. Very few Deaf alcoholics have ever had access to tradition based AA groups business meetings, District and Area business meetings to learn by experience.

A common misconception about American Sign Language is that it is a simple translation of English. Native Deaf ASL users find it difficult to process written text because it's technically a whole different language to American Sign Language. Signed languages have a different grammatical and sentence order making them very different from spoken and written languages and can prove difficult for sign language users to translate effectively. Consequently, an ASL user has many of the same challenges with reading and writing in English as others for whom English is a second language.

People who were born deaf to hearing parents often suffered from language deprivation during the critical period of language acquisition, approximately the first five years of a child's life. For these individuals it's even more challenging to successfully learn to read and write English.

**Budgetary Impact:** No budgetary impact to SDIAA Area 8 AC. Cost saving suggestions have been included in the GSC proposed agenda item submission form.