Area 19- Chicago Accessibilities

Physical Accessibility of Your AA Meeting. Is your meeting physically accessible especially to those using mobility devices or wheelchairs?

The meeting location should be physically accessible so that anyone may arrive on site, approach the building, and enter the meeting without barriers. Here are some questions your group can answer to determine the overall accessibility of your meeting space.

Entrance

- ❑ Does the entrance have steps, a threshold, or other physical barriers?
- ❑ If so, is there a ramp to enable someone using a wheelchair to enter the building?
- ❑ Are the doors wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair (32”)?
- ❑ Can the doors be opened by someone using a wheelchair?
- ❑ If they are heavy or difficult to open, will there be someone to assist?
- ❑ If the main entrance is not accessible by wheelchair, is there an alternate wheelchair entrance?
- ❑ Is there signage indicating the location of the wheelchair accessible entrance?
- ❑ If the entrance is accessible by means of a lift, is the lift in good working condition?
- ❑ If the lift is operated by a key, does someone know where the location is or who has possession of the key?

Path of travel to the building entrance

- ❑ Is there a path of travel accessible by wheelchair from the street or parking area?
- ❑ Are “disabled parking" spaces provided near the entrance?
- ❑ Are the paths or sidewalks even and in good repair?
- ❑ Are the sidewalks and paths being maintained in wintertime weather?

Path of travel inside the building

- ❑ Is there a level path of travel from the entrance to the meeting area?
- ❑ If not, are there ramps to enable someone using a wheelchair to reach the meeting area
- ❑ If not is there someone to assist the person to reach the meeting?
- ❑ Is there a lift or elevator in good operating condition?
- ❑ Will there be a member of the group who will be responsible for all accessibility issues?

Restrooms

- ❑ Are restrooms wheelchair accessible?
- ❑ Are the restrooms in reasonable proximity with proper signage?
- ❑ Will there be a person to assist if there are barriers preventing accessibility?
- ❑ Remember that lifting someone over steps or stairs is not an acceptable solution.