



# How does it work?

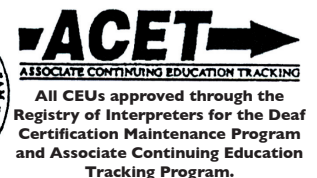
## Interpreting the 12 Steps

Working the 12 Steps can mean the difference between life and death for a person with an addiction. One reason Deaf people suffer is because they cannot get access to this potentially life-saving message. This workshop is designed to introduce interpreters to the 12 Steps found in the Big Book *Alcoholic Anonymous*, chapter 5, “How It Works.”

Set in a Nida & Taber’s framework of achieving dynamic equivalence when translating frozen texts, we will explore ideas contained within the 12 Steps such as *powerlessness*, *Higher Power*, *moral inventory*, *making amends*, and *having a spiritual awakening*. Additionally, the role of oral tradition in 12-step meetings will be discussed to familiarize participants with common approaches to telling one’s story. Participants will practice translating the steps into ASL for clarity and accuracy of meaning.

### Topics we will cover

- Describe the concept of powerlessness found in the Big Book of *Alcoholics Anonymous*
- Explain the ideas of Higher Power, moral inventory, making amends, and spiritual awakening found in 12-step texts
- Produce effective descriptions of the above concepts in ASL
- List the common elements of a 12-step talk



**David N. Evans** is a nationally-certified practitioner with over 25 years of providing ASL-English interpretation services, working extensively in conference settings as well as in music/performing arts, corporate and community settings.

Educating interpreters for two decades, David's sessions are interactive, entertaining, and informative—creating a relaxed, safe environment for all audiences. He has presented at conferences from the local to international with a record attendance of over 1,250 participants at the 2009 RID Conference in Philadelphia. Other accomplishments include presenting at two National Alliance of Black Interpreters (NAOBI) conferences and four national RID conferences. David established Bridge Communications in 1996 to further his goals of providing skill-building workshops and video materials for ASL-English interpreters.

When not on the road presenting, he makes his home with his partner, cat, and dog in Minneapolis, where he enjoys playing Frisbee, listening to disco, and taking walks around the city's many lakes.