

Around the Coffee Pot...

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Board Meeting Highlights from 2/23/09...

Annual tax reports and license to solicit charitable contributions have been submitted to the appropriate agencies.

Fundraising for the building project has reached the 70% mark of the \$225,000 goal as we now have \$158,000. Grants have been submitted to a number of foundations and fundraising will continue. Thank you to those who have contributed to date! If we are unable to reach our total fundraising goal, we will seek financing from the bank.

The annual bowl-a-thon fund raiser is scheduled for Saturday, February 28, 2009, at 1 p.m. Please help by supporting one of the bowlers with a pledge!

There will be a hearing on March 11, 2009, at the City of Charlevoix regarding the parking issues. The Zoning Board of Appeals has the final decision for this subject. Richard will attend and

speak on behalf of the Club. A favorable outcome with no additional expense is hoped for.

Alano Club operations will be relocated to the temporary facility across the parking lot on April 1, 2009 following the noon meeting. Arrangements will be made for a coffee machine to be installed prior to moving the tables, chairs and supplies to the temporary facility at the old fitness center. (See Richard's letter on page 2 for more details.)



"Just because the monkey is off your back does not mean the circus has left town."

The directors discussed having a Grand Opening celebration to be held sometime in July of 2009. It was suggested that we host a pig roast on the premises as a way of thanking participants and introducing the new facility to the community. The directors also discussed ideas for possible speakers at the first open meeting following the renovation project along with open house ideas including ribbon cutting ceremonies with local officials and media attention.

A Serenity House-Alano Club of Charlevoix statement of conduct was reviewed by the board. The statement has been placed on the tables of the Club and members are encouraged to speak up if they observe misconduct occurring at the Club. Maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all participants in activities at the facility is the goal. Your help in this effort is appreciated.

Current

Past Due / Due Soon	10
Due in 2009	20
Due in 2010	11
Due in 2011+	2
Lifetime	23
TOTALS	66

Upcoming Events:

- 2/28—Bowl-a-thon Fundraiser at Paul Bunyan Lanes in Charlevoix, Saturday, February 28th at 1:00 p.m.
- Speaker meetings at the Alano Club—3rd Friday of the month—6:30 pot-luck, 7:00 speaker
- 3/20—Bob N from Traverse City
- 4/17—Bill S (aka: Coast Guard Bill) now living in Traverse City
- Board Meeting—Monday, March 23rd, 6:30 pm at BASES

"We are all looking for someone who will make us do what we can."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

SERENITY HOUSE - ALANO CLUB OF CHARLEVOIX, INC.

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Helping you help yourself.

We're on the web:
charlevoixalano.org



Recovery Happens Too!

A letter from Board Chairman...

As I write this on February 21st with a light snow falling, the outside temp is 21degrees and I am thinking that soon, oh please soon, spring will be here. April 1st is but five weeks away and that's the date that the things will start to happen. At least the really visible stuff. The board has been busy for about two years in preparation for this spring.

April 1st we will start moving our meetings across the parking lot to the old fitness center for what looks to be about a three month relocation. We have reached a verbal agreement with the owners on a month-to-month rental fee at a fair price. We (the board) will need some help moving the basics, tables, chairs, books and meeting materials and of course the coffee maker. We know that we can count on all of you. The rest of what is in the

The "Serenity House - Alano Club of Charlevoix, Inc." was organized in 1986 to provide an alcohol and drug-free environment for 12-step recovery programs. The organization is a non-profit corporation governed by a volunteer Board of Directors elected from its membership. Club membership is never required and should never be implied for participation in 12-step meetings held at the club. We request each group to organize itself as suggested through their respective 12-step program to avoid any violation of their traditions. Alano Club membership dues are \$5 per month or \$50 per year or you can invest in a lifetime membership for \$1,000. Married couples membership is available for \$75 per year. For your membership, you will receive newsletters, have voting rights in determining the activities of the organization, receive an anniversary coin at no cost, have more opportunities for fellowship and service through our annual bowl-a-thon and special events. As a club member, you will also be making a positive contribution toward the continuation of recovery support services in our community. Meetings held at the Alano Club in Charlevoix account for over 30% of available meetings within a 40 mile radius. Revenues to cover the annual operating budget for the Alano Club come from the following sources: 36% from Meeting Rent, 32% from Fundraising Activities, 20% from Donations, and 12% from Membership Dues. You can join the Alano Club by using one of our donation envelopes at the Club or mail in your membership dues along with your name, address, city, state, zip and e-mail address if you have one. Checks can be made payable to "Charlevoix Alano Club".

current meeting space will go into storage for the time being. The timetable looks something like this; April 1st move, April 13th start digging (weight restrictions permitting), footings and basement construction immediately following. The main structure which is now under construction at the high school will be moved to our site and set in place by mid-May. While this is going on the current meeting room will be undergoing some major renovation in preparation for its union to the new addition. In the final weeks of May, Carlson Construction will be tying the two buildings together and finishing both exterior as well as interior construction.

Sub-contractors have been chosen and all bids received and OKd. By the end of



The Alano Club is supported by the Charlevoix Emmet United Way.

June we hope to have our project wrapped up and be back home in our new meeting space.

Fundraising has been going well although we still have a ways to go. If you have not had the chance to participate as of yet please step up if you are able. Donations over \$100 will be recognized on a memorial plaque to be on permanent display in the club.

You all have been just great through this and the entire board thanks you for your patience and understanding.

Richard O

Results of the January '09 Membership Survey

63 different people completed the survey in early January 2009

3.7 meetings per week is the average reported attendance

90% of meetings attended are at the Charlevoix Alano Club

8.2 years of sobriety is the average length of clean time

4.8 was the average score on a 1 to 5 scale of 5 being "Very Important" rating were meetings at the Club to the individual's sobriety

50 were from Charlevoix County, 4 from Antrim, 4 from Emmet, 1 from Ottawa, 1 from Kent, 1 from Oakland, 2 didn't know where they lived

Most common request (from 6 people) was for more evening meetings from people with less than one year of sobriety—this presents a great opportunity for those with years of sobriety to take these newcomers to out of town meetings!! Newcomers, please speak up and let people know if you would like a ride.

Of the 58 that reported length of sobriety:

21 were sober less than one year

9 were sober 1-5 years

6 were sober 6-10 years

22 were sober 10+ years

Of the 62 that reported their age (51.2 average age):

11 were under 40 years of age

20 were 40-49 years of age

12 were 50-59 years young

13 were 60-69 years young

6 were 70 and older

(Reminding us all to take better care of ourselves
because you too might just live longer than you expected!)

A Final Look at the Meeting Room (1/26/09)

