

# Around the Coffee Pot...

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## Board Meeting Highlights...

The Board of Directors met on July 1st and reviewed the following items:

Financial statements for June were presented and reviewed that showed total income of \$4,222.99 and total expenses of \$3,536.30 for a total of \$686.58 net income—the first net income in several months. The bowl-a-thon brought in \$1,597 with a few hundred yet to be collected. The unusual monthly expense involved the annual payment for Director's and Officer's Insurance of \$1,129.

Club Manager report was given and activities of the past month included: addressed the broken seals on the windows covered by warranty, new orange tape was placed on the step for safety, lawn was fertilized, worked on thank you notes for the bowl-a-thon, reviewed the directors and officers insurance, chaired the speaker meeting, ordered supplies from Gordon's Food Service and put it in storage and worked with Dave C to open a savings account for the raffle funds to be deposited.

We have had a series of donations contributed to the Alano Club in excess of \$1,500. The board approved this individual to be included on the lifetime membership list.

Raffle ticket fundraiser was discussed and clarification was made that the raffle will be drawn on Labor Day at 5:00 pm at the Club and you do not need to be present to win. Clarification about procedures for turning in ticket stubs that have been sold will go to Richard who will work with Dave C to maintain a record of all tickets as outlined by the state lottery guidelines. Funds will be deposited in a separate savings account that has been set up for this purpose. To date, about 430 of the 1,500 tickets have been sold. All unsold tickets will be recollected on Monday, July 22nd so that they will be available for sale during Venetian week in downtown Charlevoix at appropriate businesses that will permit this activity. Clarification was mentioned that the best way to approach people about purchasing tickets was to do so individually and NOT to do this at meetings. Any individuals that would like to help sell tickets at a table outside a local business in downtown

Charlevoix are encouraged to contact Richard O or Dave C to let them know their willingness to help.

Legacy Group funds were discussed and \$500 was approved to be directed to the Legacy Group for disbursement as they feel appropriate. Clarification that over the past three years, to meet expenses, each meeting at the club would need to pay \$21 to \$22 to be "self-supporting" rather than the \$15 charged for most meetings. The generosity of the majority of groups helps to offset this shortfall.

NA meeting rent was discussed as they have been on a much lower rate due to being a new group. A rate was agreed upon for them and will be reviewed in six months.

Much discussion ensued about the long-term focus of ensuring recovery resources in our community by having an Alano Club that most people just do not understand. See back page for more information that is hoped will assist in aiding this understanding.

Becoming a member of the Charlevoix Alano Club is available for \$5 per month, \$50 per year, \$75 per year for a couple or \$1,000 for a lifetime membership. Your membership dues help to meet the needs for the future. You can pay your dues using the envelopes and dropping it in the money box.

### Upcoming Events:

- Raffle Ticket Sales ongoing until Labor Day
- Open Speaker Meeting—Friday, July 19th— potluck at 6:30 pm, speaker about 7:15 pm
- Board Meeting— August 5th at 5:00 pm

*"We feel a (person) is unthinking when he says that sobriety is enough."*

*p. 82 A.A. Big Book*

## SERENITY HOUSE - ALANO CLUB OF CHARLEVOIX, INC.

106 Mason Street, Charlevoix, MI 49720

Web-site: CharlevoixAlano.org

E-mail: info@charlevoixalano.org

Phone: 231-547-9184

*Helping you help yourself.*



Miracles Happen Here!

## Why do we have an Alano Club?

For those that were not around before 1986, you probably don't recall the days when we had two meetings per week in Charlevoix. Those meetings were Tuesday and Friday nights at local church basements. There was usually a couple of cardboard boxes that held all of the worldly possessions of the AA group - literature, pamphlets, books, coffee pot and supplies such as cups, sugar, creamer, stir sticks and let's not forget the ashtrays. Setting up for a meeting meant that you showed up an hour before the meeting and you arranged tables and chairs, set out cups, creamer, sugar, literature and books on the table and ash trays. Back in those days, if you didn't smoke before you attended AA, you got a pack of second hand smoke during the hour long meeting. After the meeting, there were plenty of clean up opportunities as things needed to be put back the way it was before we arrived and of course, emptying the ash trays safely so the building we were using didn't get burned down. Each group elected various duties such as chairman, coffee maker, greeter and treasurer. Each group, different from a meeting, would elect a General Service Representative (GSR) who was supposed to attend district and inter-area meetings and share the concerns of the group with others and bring back lessons learned from other groups. Over the years, groups learned that an occasional meeting treasurer would make off with the cash, or the GSR would get drunk and all involved would use these experiences as cautionary tales that "drunks are not responsible" and "AA should never be organized" even though it really was with twelve steps for the individual, twelve traditions for the groups, twelve concepts for the larger collective, district committees, inter-area committees, area committees, the General Service Office in New York and AA World Services. In the summer and fall of 1985, local AA members were presented with an idea of setting up an Alano Club. The proposal from a private individual involved purchasing the two story house, garage and property located at 106 Mason Street from Ed H, the long-time Charlevoix AA member who got sober in May of 1964. Ed had been sponsor to many during the years to follow and frequently had AA members hanging around his house upstairs and business downstairs at 106 Mason talking about recovery. Many sum-

*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. From 2010 through 2012, revenues to cover the annual operating budget for the Alano Club came from the following sources: 57% from Meeting Rent, 17% from Fundraising Activities, 16% from Donations, and 10% from Membership Dues. Expenses from 2010 through 2012: 39% toward Facility Expenses, 31% toward Meeting Supplies & Materials and 30% for Contractual / Professional Services. 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. Checks can be made payable to "Charlevoix Alano Club".*

mer residents were directed toward Ed and many found long-term recovery with Ed's support and encouragement. Our Alano Club benefactor was familiar with Alano Clubs downstate so he presented the locals with corporate articles, by-laws and legal assistance from his office to establish a non-profit corporation that would become the owner of the building and property in establishment of the "Serenity House—Alano Club of Charlevoix". By the spring of 1986, the proposal had enough support and everything moved forward with the purchase of the building and property at a cost of \$35,000. Founding Members of the Alano Club were recruited for \$100 each to establish some working capital for the new venture as the Alano Club rented meeting space to the local AA groups. The garage in the back was renovated into a larger meeting room and the downstairs of the house became the Club Room while Ed maintained his residence upstairs. Within a year, Charlevoix went from two meetings per week to over 14 meetings per week. The initial schedule showed meetings every day at noon and 8:00 p.m. with Alanon for family members once per week, Adult Children of Alcoholics, specialty meetings for Young People, men's only meetings, women's only meetings and meetings at unusual times for those working odd shifts. Because we owned the building, we could have meetings whenever it fit our schedule. We consolidated our literature, supplies, coffee making machines and social activities so that by 1988, AA members were even using the front door of the Alano Club - prominently located directly across the street from the Post Office at that time. There have been various growing pains over the years and in spite of the naysayers who have said since 1985 that it will never work, that drunks are irresponsible and incapable of taking care of things, hundreds of us challenge those beliefs and prove it doesn't have to be. Since the Alano Club opened it's doors in 1986, many of us have never had another drink. We have found a way to maintain long-term recovery and continue to make positive progress in spite of our shortcomings. We invite you to join us as we all realize, together we can achieve what was impossible by ourselves. We have an Alano Club in Charlevoix because many individuals have chosen to work together to find a solution by becoming that solution!