

# AROUND THE COFFEE POT...

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## NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS...

The Board of Directors met on November 19th and took care of the monthly business of the club. Annual elections were completed and finalized with following results:

47 ballots were sent out and 26 were returned. Elected to the board were Sue Goodwin (25 votes), Terry Left (24), Richard O'Leary (24), Sonny Wright (24), Joanne Beemon (21) and filling an alternate position was Dave Juilleret (19). There was one alternate slot left open on the slate of officers and Wally Rakecky who had received several write-in votes was nominated to fill the open alternate seat and accepted the nomination. This group of newly elected board members will begin their new terms in January and will join returning board members Richard Mueller, Betty Collins and Judy Rus-

sell. Scott Kelly and his staff from BASES will continue to serve as the Management Coordinators for the Alano Club in 2008. Annual net income for the Club since entering this arrangement has been \$17,627 in 2004, \$12,427 in 2005, \$11,894 in 2006. As of 10/31/07, the Alano Club has a total current assets of \$54,424. The financial policies established by the Board several years ago hold \$2,000 in checking for monthly expenses, \$10,000 in cash reserves for emergencies and remaining funds have been earmarked for future building issues once plans for the front building are finalized. (See below.) Once the building issues are addressed, the board is hoping to expand services to have a drop-in center available for those needing to find a safe haven

during the day.

A new front door with a window was installed in the back building meeting room by an anonymous donor who paid for all materials and labor to install. Wood trim has been primed and painted. Thank you notes are being sent to the donor and workers on the project. The bathroom has had an exhaust fan installed and some small bathroom mats placed on the floor to assist in sound proofing.

Next meeting January 21st at 6:30 pm at BASES.



## DECEMBER BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS...

The board met on Sunday, December 16th to discuss options on dealing with the two story front building which has been vacant for several years. Concerns were expressed that options may become limited very soon if actions were not taken at this time due to a historical district movement within the City of Charlevoix. Richard O presented a letter that was delivered to the City Manager expressing our dissatisfaction with the lack of action on our building proposal that was initiated by the City and the DDA in

February of 2006. 8 of 10 voting members of the board and two non-voting management team members were present for the meeting and passed the following resolutions: (a) purchase a demolition permit for the front building (7-1 vote); (b) not exercise the permit until we have a vote of the membership according to our by-laws (8-0 vote); (c) Scott & Richard were authorized to identify options from the DDA and the City and bring back information to the board for the January 21 meeting (8-0 vote). Next meeting will be on January 21st at BASES. (See back for more.)

### Current Membership

Past Due	1
Due in Jan, Feb, Mar '08	13
Due April to Dec in '08	26
Due in 2009+	8
Lifetime	18
TOTALS	66

### Upcoming Events:

- New Year's Eve Alcathon, Monday, December 31st, 12 noon to 12 midnight, meetings on the evens, socializing on the odds
- Board Meeting - Monday, January 21st at 6:30 pm at BASES
- Speaker meetings at Alano Club—3rd Friday of the month—6:30 potluck, 7:00 speaker
- Saturday, 1:00 pm, March 8th Annual Bowl-a-thon at Paul Bunyan Lanes in Charlevoix

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

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**BUILDING ISSUES AND HISTORY...**

The options identified by the Board of Directors to address our needs to our unusable two story front building included:

- 1) split the property and sell the front building;
  - 2) expand the back building;
  - 3) upgrade the front building;
  - 4) board up the house and perform cosmetic maintenance on it;
  - 5) tear down the house;
  - 6) sell the property and then:
  - 7) lease space elsewhere;
  - 8) buy existing space elsewhere;
  - 9) build on new property;
  - 10) relocate the front building to another location and build to our needs on the space of the front building.
- The discussion of the board meeting on 12/16/07 emphasized the board's desire to keep the Alano Club in downtown Charlevoix, seek a solution to our space problems by expanding our facility in some manner and do our best to cooperate with our community members while taking into account their issues and concerns.

For those that are not aware of the history of these issues, here is a brief overview of where we have been in recent years. In 2004, we discov-

*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. For your membership, you will receive monthly 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, Venetian Booth 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 \$25,000 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".*

ered there was a mysterious 9 feet of property that had been inadvertently dropped from the property description and lot lines with a quit claim deed issued by the previous owner in the 1970's. This issue took nearly a year to resolve and required the assistance of a lawyer to finalize. During that year, two appraisals of the property were received as well as a survey of the property and possible lot line designations to split the property were proposed. The average of the two appraisals in 2005 was \$218,000. In February of 2006, we were approached by representatives from the City and the DDA about the possibility of swapping our property for a new facility to be built on a lot owned by them on Clinton Street, one block north of our current location. We met with their architect a few months later and outlined our wishes for a new facility. The initial plans were reviewed in the late summer and once again in November of 2006. We received copies of the final drawings in December of 2006 and presented this information at our annual meeting and



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

membership meeting. All voted to move forward and the City was notified. Charlevoix's City Manager was fired a few months later and all plans were placed on hold. The new City Manager was hired and started in the fall. Scott & Richard met with the new City Manager on 10/4/07 and no action has been taken since that time when the Board of Directors met on 12/16/07.

On 12/17/07, Richard O received an early morning call from the City Manager requesting a meeting with City officials, DDA representatives and representatives from the newly created Historical District Planning Committee. Scott and Richard will participate in this 1/4/08 meeting to discuss the options for addressing our organization's needs and how we may be able to find a resolution that will be agreeable to all