

# AROUND THE COFFEE POT...

Volume 4, Issue 9  
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## TEACH US TO LAUGH AGAIN...

Two men are sitting at the bar at the top of the Empire State Building drinking, when the first man turns to the other one and says: "You know, last week I discovered that if you jump from the top of this building, by the time you fall to the 10th floor, the wind around the building is so intense that it carries you around the building and back into the window." The bartender just shakes his head in disapproval while wiping the bar, but says nothing. The second guy says, "What? Are you insane? There's no way in hell that could happen!" "No, no... it's true..." said the first man, "let me prove it to you." He gets up from the bar, jumps over the balcony and plummets toward the street below. When he passes the 10th



floor, the high wind whips him around the building and back into the 10th floor window. He takes the elevator back up to the bar. He meets the second man, who is astonished. "Oh my God, I saw that with my own eyes! But that must've been a one-time fluke. That was scientifically impossible!" "No, I'll prove it again," says the first man as he jumps. Again, just as his body hurtles towards the street, the 10th floor wind gently carries him around the building and into the window. He takes the elevator back to the bar. Once upstairs, he successfully convinces

his dubious fellow drinker to try it. "Well, what the hell," the second guy says, "I've seen that it works, so I'll try it!" He immediately jumps over the balcony - plunges downward rapidly passes the 11th, 10th, 9th, 8th floors... Then his body hits the sidewalk...Splat!!!!!! Back upstairs, the bartender who had been silent the whole time turns to the first drinker, and shakes his head and says...."You know, Superman, you're a real asshole when you're drunk."

Scott's favorite email joke of 2007



## ...BUT DON'T LET US FORGET THAT WE CRIED.

"My therapist told me the way to achieve true inner peace is to finish what I start. So far today, I have finished two bags of chips and a chocolate cake."

"My wife and I were sitting at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table. My wife says, "Do you know her?" "Yes," I sighed, "She's my old girlfriend. I understand she



took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since."

"My God!" says my wife, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?" So you see, there are really two ways to look at everything."

"I AM in shape. Round IS a shape!"

"STEPS—Solutions To Every Problem Sober"

"NUTS—Not Using The Steps"

### 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

**2007 ANNUAL  
MEETING  
INCOME REPORT  
ON PAGE 3**

**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.*

**We're on the web:  
charlevoixalano.org**



**Recovery Happens Too!**

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".

**LAUGHTER IS STILL GOOD MEDICINE...**

You know you are from Michigan if...

- You've never met any celebrities
- Vacation means going to Cedar Point
- Half the change in your pocket is Canadian
- You drive 86 mph on the highway and pass on the right
- Your idea of a traffic jam is 40 cars waiting to pass an orange barrel



- You know how to play (and pronounce) euchre
- It's easy to get Vernors Ginger Ale, Sanders Hot Fudge sauce and Faygo pop

- You know how to pronounce Mackinac
- You've had to switch on the "heat" and the "a/c" in the same day
- You bake with SODA and drink a POP
- The movie "Escanaba in Da Moonlight" wasn't funny; you consider it a documentary
- The word "thumb" has geographical meaning, rather than anatomical significance
- You show people where you grew up by pointing to a spot on the back of your left hand
- Traveling coast-to-coast means driving from Port Huron to Muskegon
- You measure distance in minutes
- You know that Kalamazoo not only exists, but it isn't that far from Hell
- Your year has two seasons—winter and construction



**DENIAL**—Don't Even Notice I'm Lying  
**SPONSOR**—Sober Person Offering Newcomers Suggestions on Recovery



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

**ACTION**—Any Change To Improve Our Nature

**PROGRAM**—People Relying on God Relaying A Message

**SLIP**—Sobriety Losing Its Priority

**HOPE**—Happy Our Program Exists



**2007 ANNUAL MEETING INCOME REPORT ON PAGE 3**

- Home Depot on any Saturday is busier than toy stores at Christmas

# 2007 Meeting Rent Report

Group Name (Report includes income from 1/1/07-12/30/07)	Rent Total	# of Meetings	Per Meeting \$\$ 2007	Per Meet- ing \$\$ 2006
At or above the \$10.00 rent mark				
1. Sunday 10:30 AM AA Meeting	\$1,227.00	52	\$23.60	\$18.56
2. Thursday 8:00 AM Men's AA Meeting	\$1,097.55	52	\$21.11	\$22.56
3. Fri PM Open Speaker Meeting (includes 50/50 raffle incomes)	\$245.11	12	\$20.43	\$22.97
4. Tuesday 8:00 AM Men's AA Meeting	\$1,041.15	52	\$20.02	\$21.08
5. Saturday 8:00 AM Men's AA Meeting	\$1,032.00	52	\$19.85	\$18.56
6. Friday 12:00 Noon AA Meeting	\$771.80	52	\$14.84	\$12.22
7. Saturday 9:30 AM Women's AA Meeting	\$770.10	52	\$14.81	\$12.92
8. Tuesday 12:00 Noon AA Meeting	\$612.56	52	\$11.78	\$10.90
9. Sunday 8:00 PM AA Meeting (returned to meeting schedule 4/8/07)**	\$394.05	38	\$10.37	\$1.76
10. Thursday 8:00 PM AA Meeting	\$533.10	52	\$10.25	\$7.02
Below the \$10.00 rent mark				
11. Thursday 6:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous Meeting	\$500.66	52	\$9.63	\$6.57
12. Wednesday 12:00 Noon AA Meeting	\$472.15	52	\$9.08	\$6.21
13. Tuesday 8:00 PM AA Meeting	\$430.35	52	\$8.28	\$7.56
14. Monday 12:00 Noon AA Meeting	\$424.37	52	\$8.16	\$4.13
15. Thursday 12:00 Noon AA Meeting	\$404.75	52	\$7.78	\$5.32
16. Wednesday 6:30 PM Alanon Meeting	\$307.75	52	\$5.92	\$9.73
17. Monday 6:30 PM Women's AA Meeting	\$286.60	52	\$5.51	\$6.27
12 of 17 groups increased the amount of meeting rent paid in 2007 compared to 2006. 10 groups averaged over the \$10 mark compared to 8 groups last year. One meeting was returned to the schedule in 2007**.	<b>Total \$\$ 2007 \$10,551.05</b>	830 total meet- ings in 2007	<b>2007 Average \$12.71</b>	<b>2006 Average \$11.10</b>

\$10.00 per meeting is the recommended rent. Meetings are asked to be self-supporting when possible; however, groups need to understand that the \$10.00 fee does not meet expenses for what is provided. The Club provides all coffee, cups, sugar, creamer, stir sticks, sweet'n'low, napkins, kleenex, weekly meeting room cleaning, cleaning supplies, heat, lights, water, electricity, paper towels, toilet paper, trash bags, ice melt, snowplowing, phone services with meeting schedule on machine, web-site with meeting schedules posted, insurances, repair expenses, maintenance fees, plastic tokens, pamphlets and copies. Pop, water, medallions and books are available on a cost basis to be able to replenish these as needed. The Club does the ordering, stocking and maintaining of these items. Membership dues cover expenses of monthly newsletters, member medallions and other expenses not covered by meeting income.

**If the groups wish to be fully self-supporting, based on budgeted expenses for the items outlined above (\$18,500) and 16 full-time meetings and one monthly meeting (844 meetings total), the average per group meeting rental rate would be \$21.92 per meeting.**

*Special thanks to those groups that continue to support the smaller groups and keep the entire operation moving along smoothly. Numerous individual efforts have made this possible. Thank you one and all!*