

AROUND THE COFFEE POT..

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BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board met on 2/5/07 to review and approve financials for January which showed a net income of \$3,429.60 primarily due to the addition of three new life-time members at \$1,000 each—thanks to Richard O, Celia K and Dan H.

No updates were offered from the Building and Grounds Committee with some contacts to be made in the weeks to come with City and DDA representatives to see how things are coming along.

There was extensive discussion about encouraging a group registration of meetings in Charlevoix which led to clarification about how the Alano Club differs from AA. It will be important to continue to educate club members as well as those who attend meetings at the

Alano Club on the differences. Future newsletter articles may be able to address these issues.

The board received an update on crisis planning initiatives being promoted by the health department in the event of a pandemic outbreak. One of the main concerns related to the Alano Club involves the possible restriction on "group gatherings" to reduce the spread of infectious disease. Discussion ensued about firming up lines of communication with our members and researching internet resource options that would permit communication from remote locations. A representative from the board will search out some information about on-line meetings and we will encourage meeting chairs to establish updated phone lists while also using our an-

swering service to direct those in need.

The board regretfully accepted the resignation letter from Liz G. Thanks to Liz for her service to the Alano Club for the past year. The board moved Mary Ellen P from an alternate position to a board member position due to voting results in December. The next board meeting will be Monday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m. at BASES, located at 208 West Lincoln in Charlevoix.



Web-site hits:
December—1,889, January—2,425

Current Membership

Past Due	3
Due in Feb, Mar, Apr	10
Due in 2007	21
Due in 2008+	19
Lifetime	16
TOTALS	69

Upcoming Events:

- Pot-luck and Speaker Meeting - Friday, February 16th at 6:30 pm food / 7:00 pm - speaker (Mary Ellen P. from Charlevoix)
- Next Speaker Meeting - Friday, March 16th
- Board Meeting - Monday, March 19th at 6:30 pm at BASES (208 W Lincoln, Charlevoix)

COMMUNITY-WIDE AA GROUP REGISTRATION ?

It has been suggested that Charlevoix form a "community group" for the purpose of registering various AA meetings with the General Services Office in New York. Currently there are only two of the near twenty groups that meet at the Alano Club that are registered meetings. It is hoped that a group registration will

foster additional participation in the AA community outside the Charlevoix area by having someone serve as a General Service Representative and participate in District and Inter-Group activities. Registered meetings would also be easier to access for our visitors.

Please discuss this important issue in your groups.

Laughter is Good Medicine

"During one of my drunken geographics, my eight-year-old son became concerned when he learned that my wife and I would be driving two separate cars to our new town, several states away. Anxiously, he asked me, 'How will we keep from getting separated?' 'We'll drive slowly, so that one car can follow the other.' Not reassured, he persisted, 'Yeah, but what if we do get separated?' Becoming impatient, I said, 'Well then I guess we'll never see each other again.' 'Okay,' he said, 'I'm riding with mom'."

Jan. '07 AA Grapevine

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

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Charlevoix, MI 49720

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Phone: 231-547-9184

Helping you help yourself.

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



Recovery Happens Too!

TID-BITS FROM THE DESKTOP...

- 1) We've come a long way since 1986. The fact that we are still in operation is a testament to the service of many different people over the past two decades. Meeting attendance seems to be on the rise in the past couple of months and there is a nice balance of long-term sobriety and newcomers that are sticking with it. The big book study groups and the twelve and twelve meetings appear to be doing very well while the gender specific groups are booming. All of this while public resources are becoming scarcer and will likely continue to dwindle as there are proposals to send more non-violent criminal offenders back into the communities. Conservative estimates suggest that 60% of the incarcerated population are there for alcohol or drug related crimes. The strength of a recovering community will be tested in the years to come and with our strong base, we will do very well.
- 2) The internal issues for our organization in 2007 are not much different than they were in the 1980's and the 1990's. Since the Charlevoix Alano Club's inception, there has been controversy of one sort or another over the AA groups following the traditions outlined by the founding members of AA. Back in the 1990's, the board purchased 100 pamphlets titled, "The AA Group" to distribute throughout the AA community to encourage local meeting attendees to learn about how the AA group is recommended to be structured. Additional pamphlets such as "Self-Supporting Through Our Own Contributions" pro-

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".

vide suggestions for AA groups about how to distribute excess funds they may have after they have paid their expenses. There is also a very good 2 page outline titled "AA Guidelines for Clubs" that talks about the distinction between an Alano Club and the AA group. These materials were reviewed at the most recent board meeting and are available through the AA web-site found at: www.aa.org

- 3) The current proposal to form a "Charlevoix AA Group" will incorporate all of these issues and with a bit of divine influence, will lead us to a bridge where the Alano Club can carry out its business as a non-profit corporation in the state of Michigan and the AA groups that utilize the Alano Club facility can operate within the traditions of the AA program. It is hoped that AA members from Charlevoix will become more active in the overall structure of

AA by participating in inter-group activities and our community will become better connected with the larger AA network. Dust off those Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions books and start learning about the Twelve Concepts outlined by our founding fathers. Show your gratitude by participating in something. Here in Charlevoix, there are many opportunities for service—through the Alano Club, through your local group, doing outreach to jails and local treatment programs or venturing into cyberspace to take on the frontiers of the digital world.

- 4) We've added several more links through our "Resources / Links" page to include Area 34 AA web-site which has some great resources including a discussion opportunity for those in recovery. We've also added a link to the national AA homepage, local AA meetings listed in the Petoskey News Review, local Narcotics Anonymous web-site and a national search engine for treatment programs throughout the country. This is great for finding resources for friends and family in other places.
- 5) Due to our current financial standing, we declined from asking for funds from the Rainbow Shoppe this year so they could direct funds to their building.
- 6) A new web-site that I've recently come across with lots and lots of stuff: <http://www.recoveryemporium.com>
- 7) Next movie night: Friday, March 2nd, 6:30 pm at BASES. All are invited.



AA Co-Founders—Dr. Bob Smith and Bill Wilson