

Trusted Servants in
Your Employ:
Mary G.
Jessica J.
JoAnn B.
Judy H..
Tanya S.
Jessica J.
Debi H.
Angie C.
Tony B.

The San Jose Alano Club News

Trusted Servants on
The Board Of Directors
Cora S.
Mike A.
Thomas G.
Michelle A.
Cha-Cha W.
Randy G.
Edie M.
Frank P.

Home of the Fair Avenue Fellowship

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January 1999 A Community Asset For The Last Forty Eight Years Volume 48.1

And a Happy New Year to All:

The three R's: reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic, are no longer enough. We must add the three C's: computing, critical thinking, and the capacity for change.

Consider Yourself Invited to A Salute to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Saturday, January 16.

The Program starts at 1:00 pm:

1:30 Gospel Tribute-----Northern California Community Choir

4:00 Men's AA Meeting Speaker Rev. Chuck N. and a Women's AA Meeting Speaker Gloria N.

5:30 A Real Soul Food Dinner with a Guest Speaker, John Bostic, Director Financial Aid, Foothill College

8:00 AA Speaker Meeting, Bill M. Santa Rosa, 23 years

10:00 Dancing with Music by DJ Kid GC.....\$8.00 includes dinner/dance in advance...
\$10 at door , involves high risk of being sold out.

Those Great and Wonderful Members with a Milestone in January, Congratulations!

Archie D. 01/01/96	Jody K. 01/01/83	Andy D. 01/01/91	Arron H. 01/01/98
Craig S. 01/ 01/96	John A. 01/02/85	Steven M. 01/03/94	Scott H. 01/04/85
Juan A. 01/05/82	Barry P. 01/06/86	Esther O. 01/07/62	Steve M. 01/08/73
Michelle G. 01/09/90	Fred B. 01/10/70	Alice L. 01/11/91	Dale S. 01/12/65
Stan S. 01/12/96	Rudy C. 01/14/78	Steve G. 01/14/98	Robert C. 01/15/90
Carlos W. 01/21/98	Alice M. 01/24/97	Edith M. 01/29/82	Robert T. 01/20/96
Nestor R. 01/15/98	Dan O. 01/15/73	Rachel P. 01/16/94	Bill R. 01/30/89
Judy P. 01/30/95	Mark F. 01/31/89		

The Board of directors would like to extend a special thanks to: Jerry V. as member of the month for his volunteer work behind the counter on Sundays and to Judy H. for her help in organizing some new Christmas decorations for an old Club. We at the Club would like to offer many thanks for all the help that we got from good folks on the Thanksgiving and the Christmas activities.

WHAM, BAM

January 1975 started on a somewhat positive note. Harold P. was back, Al B. was re-elected president of the new board, a clean up committee was formed and a cuss box with a five cent penalty was put at the coffee bar. Pathways was allowed to bring 10 people to dances and NA was allowed to have a dance at the club on January 25th. Estimates were being obtained for a fence around the property and Al was continuing to serve as manager in addition to his duties as president of the board. In his report at the January 25th board meeting, he suggested "caution should be exercised so we remain in black ink."

By July, the club had been painted on the outside, the restrooms were being remodeled, the parking lot was being considered for paving and Bingo was improving, showing a profit. The financial statement had been modified, combining some revenue items, poker income from the card room was low and a small deficit was showing up from bad checks. In August, cases of steak and grapefruit were reported stolen, and Andre L. suggested it be recorded in the P & L statement. He also requested an audit to determine the extent of the loss. A lock was put on the back room door, and things settled down.

By the end of the year, dances were being held every Saturday night, live bands the 2nd and 4th Saturdays and jukebox dances the remaining Saturdays. The board had voted in November to raise dues to \$5.00 per month effective January 1st, 1976, to help pay for the growing costs of business, management and the several major improvements planned for the club. The December newsletter included a "Special Thank You" to Al for the fine job being done.

1976 began as usual, activities planned, improvements progressing and things generally going well. There was nothing much different than the past year, until one mid-year morning the club wasn't opened at the normal time. When someone with a key to the office finally arrived, the bad news began to unfold. The floor safe was open, all the cash was missing, and no sign of forced entry. As the day progressed, a call to Security Savings & Loan found a dry savings account. That was bad enough but as the days passed, checks began showing up at the club marked "insufficient funds". Al and the clubs money had disappeared.

Panic set in and an emergency board meeting was called. The first priority was to keep the club going, so volunteer help manned necessary posts, creditors were called to explain the problem and keep essentials coming in and the whole club was stunned. Except for AA meetings, not much else was talked about for some time. Several members had gone to the board asking for their resignations, feeling they had neglected their duty in not paying closer attention to financial reports and the like. None resigned, but each felt a greater sense of caution in any actions of the board.

Law enforcement agencies and bonding companies began their tasks in taking care of such unpleasant matters while another group began to hold discussions outside the club. After the club moved from Minnesota Avenue in 1962, a church group rented the property for use as children's bible school. Coincidental to the disaster at Fair Avenue, the Minnesota building was now vacant. A word here, a word there and before long a large group held a meeting at the vacant building. Topics ranged from the recent theft to the foul language and abuse from addicts to what do we do now. Hard as it was to swallow, the only thing that seemed right was to give up the club many of them had worked hard to build, and start again. A board of directors was elected, volunteers offered help and support and a name was chosen: Alano Club West was born. The doors opened for business in October 1976. Meanwhile, a new manager was hired back at the Alano Club of San Jose, and Tony B. rolled up his sleeves

Next Month: A New Beginning