

The Alano Club of San Jose News

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www.alanosj.org

November 2016

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The Alano Club is your Club. Our mission is to:

- Provide a safe & supportive environment where 12-step recovery can take place
- Provide information to help those new to recovery
- Provide encouragement through fellowship within a twelve step community
- Provide a place where twelve step meetings can take place
- Provide a social setting for events and other recovery-related activities

We have been a community asset for over sixty-five years.

Sobriety Milestones

| Name | Milestone | Years | Name | Milestone | Year |
|-----------|------------|-------|------------|------------|------|
| Robert R | 11/01/1995 | 21 | Gary N | 11/03/2014 | 2 |
| Gregg T | 11/03/2015 | 1 | Matt S | 11/04/2004 | 12 |
| Zenia C | 11/04/2006 | 10 | Felix C | 11/05/1975 | 41 |
| Brunie O | 11/05/1986 | 30 | Larry B | 11/06/2005 | 11 |
| Barbara H | 11/08/1992 | 24 | J.C. S | 11/11/1989 | 27 |
| Don M | 11/12/1983 | 33 | Jackie L | 11/13/2014 | 2 |
| Mark G | 11/15/2003 | 13 | Benjamin R | 11/16/2015 | 1 |
| Ernest A | 11/18/2010 | 6 | Ida L | 11/21/1971 | 45 |
| Charles M | 11/21/1978 | 38 | Karl D | 11/21/2012 | 4 |
| Gary N | 11/24/1991 | 25 | Rejoce R | 11/25/2005 | 11 |
| Cynthia M | 11/28/2014 | 2 | | | |

Member of the Month – Ron N.

Ron was recently instrumental for the success of our annual End-of-Summer Camping Trip. In addition, he has a passion for 12-Step work. We want to thank Ron for all that he does around the club to support recovery and work he has done to support our many events .

The Alano Club of San Jose Would like your input!



Please Email tonybaron@alanosj.org, Facebook – “The Alano Club of San Jose”
 Or just drop off a note at the counter addressed to Kiki or Tony, with your suggestions or comments!

Alano Club of San Jose
Board of Directors Meeting
November 3rd at 6:00 pm
 Members Welcome

Fair Avenue Fellowship
Steering Committee Meeting
November 10th at 6:30 pm
 All Are Welcome

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Activities & More at the Alano Club of San Jose

Thanksgiving Dinner

Hosted by the Alano Club of San Jose



*Will be served at 2:00 PM – ? PM
You Don't Have to be Alone – Join Us*

2nd Annual Toy Bike Run - December 4th

Annual Christmas Dinner

Hosted by the Alano Club of San Jose - 2pm

Santa Visit 12 Noon

Annual Membership Meeting

December 11th @ 1:30pm

*Vote in our new board members
7 slots open*

The Alano Club of San Jose – 12 Step Meetings

| Alcoholics Anonymous | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Daily | 9:00 am, 12:00 pm |
| Mon- Fri | 4:00 pm |
| Mon-Thu | 6:00 pm |
| Mon | 8:00 pm (Tagalog) |
| Sat | 6:00 pm (Newcomers Q & A's) |
| Tue | 9:30 pm (Men) |
| Fri | 6:30 pm (Speaker) |
| Sat | 10:00 am (Men) |
| Sun | 3:00 pm (Women) , 5:00 pm (Men) |
| Mon-Fri | 7:30 pm (Spanish) |

| Narcotics Anonymous | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mon & Tue | 6:30 pm |
| Tue | 8:00 pm (Book Study) |
| Tue | 8:00 pm (Spanish) |
| Thurs | 6:00pm (women) |
| Fri | 6:00 pm (Women) |
| Fri | 8:00 pm |
| Sat | 8:00 pm (Speaker) |
| Sat & Sun | 10:00 am |
| Sun | 10:00 am (Spanish) |
| Sun | 6:30 pm (Speaker) |
| Sun | 7:30 pm (Spanish) |

| AA Medicine Crow Talking Circle | |
|--|-------|
| Sat | 12:pm |

| Cocaine Anonymous (CA) | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Sat | 8:00 pm |

| Co-Dependents Anonymous | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Sun | 5:00 pm |

| AI-Anon | |
|----------------|----------|
| Mon | 8:00 pm |
| Tue | 12:00 pm |

Help Wanted

Do you know MS Office? How would you like to be our new Newsletter Editor?

Do you know computers and networking? How would you like to be our new "I.T. Guy/Gal"?

Please stop by and talk with Tony Baron. Training provided.

A Member Talks About the Alano Club.

Steve H. came to the Alano Club of San Jose for an Al-Anon meeting the first-time May 22, 1985, on the recommendation of his sister-in-law. She told him the Club had a pool table, pinball machines and a swimming pool! Steve had a vision of riding in on his motorcycle and hanging out by the pool. Well, there was no swimming pool but there were plenty of meetings. He decided to come to Fair Avenue a couple of hours early and walked in just in time for a 6 o'clock AA meeting and decided to sit down. It was Danny O's fourth birthday and Steve realized he understood what Danny was saying. Still "It didn't sink in for a while, but I started meeting people," he said. Sonny P. was one of the first people he met and every time Sonny saw him he'd tell him how good he was doing. "I didn't feel like I was doing good...felt like I was doing lousy."

Even though he had been sober for six months he was so restless, irritable and discontent he nearly threw a pinball machine through the front window. "Tony called me into his office and told me I had to change or I couldn't stay here. And I told him I didn't need this place anyway and I started to leave." Then he thought, "Where are you going to go? What's left? What are you going to do? I knew this was the best place for me, so I stayed." It was a month later Steve decided to join the Club. It was a year and a half later he got on the Board and stayed on it for almost nine years. Eventually he became president and has had that position about three times in the intervening years.

He had been in Al-Anon about nine months but his wife was still drinking. Someone in Al-Anon told him to never make a threat you aren't going to carry out. "I went home and told my wife she had to quit drinking or leave and she decided to leave, and I was willing to accept that at that point. After that I started getting a little bit better." Tony Baron knew Steve was a contractor so he asked him to start fixing things around the club. In fact, he's spent the last 30 years of doing just that: from installing air conditioning and ceiling fans, securing street and parking lot lights to working with other guys in laying linoleum in the kitchen and mending fences.

Almost immediately he got involved in both the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, at one time cooking as many as 14 turkeys. Soon after a Club member who was an ex-Marine hooked the Club up with Toys for Tots. Steve's involvement in the BBQs began because his sponsor Danny O, who was having a birthday, wanted to "feed the people." Since then he has done about three or four BBQs a year. Steve also started the Blues Festival and about four years later he, along with other Club members, added the Bike Run. It started as an event primarily for hard core bikers, but over the years it gained popularity with other motorcycle enthusiasts and a lot of other folks as well. Eventually, he asked the Board to designate a couple of motorcycle spaces in the parking lot.

Fixing things at the Club and being involved in Alano Club events was what kept him sober several years before he began doing the steps. It was girlfriend trouble and the wise observation of his sponsor, Danny O –"You keep doing what you're doing and you'll keep getting what you're getting."—that caused him to see he needed to work on himself. When it came to the 4th step, he thought he didn't have anything to write. It turned out he had seven pages of resentments, all against himself. As he says, "When I decided to dive into the steps, I think they saved my life."

This past October Steve moved to his home in Tucson, Az. to be with his daughter. He did some research and found that compared to the Alano clubs in Tucson and many other locales, the Alano Club of San Jose is one of the most successful. "People don't realize how fortunate they are to have this. Even though I'm moving to Arizona I don't want to lose contact with this club." This is the main reason he paid for a lifetime membership to the Alano Club of San Jose just before he left. "I don't want to ever see the Alano Club close."

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Joseph Bennett
General Manager



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