

ALANO SOCIETY OF SAWYER COUNTY NEWSLETTER



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President's Message

By: Barry Hill

I hope all of you were able to join us at our holiday parties and open Clubs. Besides the usual Wednesday and Friday open Clubs, we were open for Packer and Viking games on Sundays plus special parties on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve. The party on New Year's Eve was co-hosted by Shell Lake Alano Club and was a big success. Those attending were treated to a prime rib dinner, catered by our own Jamie A.

This has been a tough winter on our roof and repairs from leaks will be necessary. We've had several leaks in the back side of the building, particularly in the NA meeting room. Ryan P. has offered to do what he can to fix the leaks but we may need to hire a roofing contractor for a more complete fix. We are hoping our members can support us financially in this effort. The Club has a reserve fund but, of course, we want to keep as much as possible in that account.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"Alcohol and drug abuse continue to be serious problems in Sawyer County. At any given time, most of the inmates at our county jail are there due to alcohol and drug related offenses. To address this problem, there are several facilities or programs in the county dedicated to the rehabilitation of alcoholics and addicts. The Alano Society of Hayward has been in existence for several decades and has offered a safe meeting place for addicts, alcoholics and families. Additionally, Sawyer County has other facilities

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Board Member Highlight

Each issue will feature a short bio of one of the Club board members. This issue features board member, Steve Helmers.

Steve hails originally from southern Wisconsin and currently lives in Winter with his wife Carole and dog Coco. He was a commercial pilot before retiring in 2002 and is now an active member of A.A. and the Alano Club. He brings with him experience in other A.A. organizations and is our "test case" for involving snow birds on our board.

Steve is an Army veteran and a member of the VFW.

that provide temporary housing or re-hab programs for alcoholics and addicts. Alano Club members are taking a weekly meeting into the Transition House as part of our participation in the Drug Court program but other facilities are not being adequately served. The LCO halfway house sends its members to our Club on a regular basis but we do not take meetings to their facility. Nor do we carry the message into the county jail. We do support Drug Court with attendance by board members and others at Court sessions.

Club Finances

Financial information for the Club activities and operation are posted monthly on the bulletin board in the main room. For the year, 2013, the Club operated at a loss of \$761, due mostly to a shortfall in budgeted rental income from our 12 Step Groups. This loss is partially offset by profits from the concessions and games operations. Other expenses include building maintenance, snow plowing, cleaning, insurance, heat and A/C and waste disposal which were in line with budget and last year. While we have been able to meet our day to day expenses, we need to provide for the



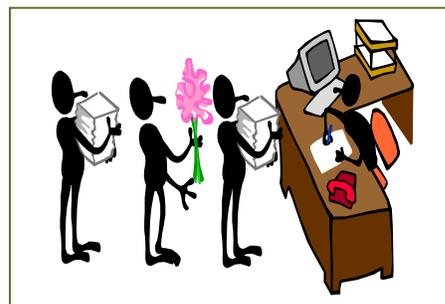
replacement of major items in the future. Accordingly, we have a capital fund available for things such as roof repair, replacement of major appliances and building systems. Our fund is currently insufficient to meet major expense such as a new roof.

Job Opportunities: Immediate openings 2nd Notice!

Our 12 Step Programs remind us that we need to continually reach out to others. We have been given a wonderful opportunity to give to others what has been so freely given to us. There are, of course, many ways to do this. Oftentimes, all we need to do is show up at meetings and greet others with a smile, but just as often, we need to give more of ourselves to keep the message viable in our community. For example, we have 26 group meetings per week, each of which needs help to function properly. Each Group needs a leader to assure the Club is open and coffee is made before

the meeting begins. Each group should also have a treasurer to keep the collections secure and pay the bills. A good sponsor often volunteers his/her sponsee for such activities, but to help all a person has to do is raise a hand and volunteer. Other than 12 Step groups, the Club itself has any number of activities that could use the help of volunteers. The Club is open on Wednesday and Friday nights as well as Football Sundays. Ryan P. and Ean M. give unselfishly of their time running the concessions and could use help.

We have but one primary purpose, to carry the message to those who still suffer.



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