

LITTLE WHITE HOUSE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2013

Dakota Alano Society

3920 Rahn Road Eagan, MN 55122
651-452-2921 (during meeting times)
www.dasinc.org



24 Hours a day:

MPLS Intergroup Hotline: 952-922-0880
St. Paul Intergroup Hotline: 651-227-5502

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday, September 8th, 6:00 p.m.

Take a meeting to Hastings Detox
Meet in the parking lot at 6:00 p.m.
to car pool to Hastings

Sunday, September 15th, 6:00 p.m.

DAS Annual General Membership Meeting
Main room at the White House
All individuals who attend meetings at the
White House are welcome and encouraged
to attend.

Sunday, September 22nd, 6:00 p.m.

September Board of Directors Meeting
Main room at the White House
Squad leaders are encouraged to attend
All members are welcome to attend

4TH STEP WORKSHOP

6 Tuesdays beginning Sept. 17th
(9/17 - 10/22)

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Bloomington Alano

2062 West 98th Str., Bloomington, MN
(6 blks west of 35W / 1 blk east of Penn)

For registration contact:

Simone: 651-324-0088

Liz: 612-749-5077



UPCOMING EVENTS

23rd Annual Heartland Roundup

Experience the Serenity

Friday Sept. 6th - Sunday Sept. 8th

Northern Pines Assembly Grounds

Fish Hook Lake, Park Rapids MN

www.heartlandroundup.org

55th Annual Southern MN Roundup

We are Going to Know a New Freedom

Friday Sept. 6th - Sunday Sept. 8th

Best Western, North Mankato MN

mankatoaa.org

68th Annual Duluth Roundup

A New Outlook

Friday Sept. 20th - Sunday Sept. 22nd

Marshall High School

1715 Rice Lake Rd, Duluth MN

www.duluthroundup.org

The Dakota Alano Society and The Board of Directors

To many who attend meetings here, we are known as “the little white house” or simply “the white house”. Officially we are The Dakota Alano Society, Inc. - a non-profit organization who’s purpose is to provide and maintain a facility for fellowship, meetings and the programs of Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Alateen. We became incorporated as a non-profit 35 years ago on December 11th, 1978. There were 5 original “incorporators” and 12 members on the first Board of Directors. In addition to being guided by the 12 Traditions of AA, the DAS (Dakota Alano Society) is governed by our Articles of Incorporation, By Laws and the laws of MN regarding non-profit organizations. The GSO (AA’s General Service Organization in New York City) also provides guidelines regarding the relationship between AA and Alano Clubs.

The current Board of Directors consists of 9 Board members, each serving a 3 year term. Board members are elected from and by the general membership at an Annual General Membership meeting, which is held the 3rd Sunday in September. The purpose of the Board of Directors, as stated in the By Laws is to provide and maintain a facility for the DAS, to coordinate all activities that occur on the property and to be responsible for all financial transactions of the DAS. In other words, to take care of the business of running a non-profit organization and manage the day-to-day affairs of the white house.

The DAS rents the little white house from the Mount Calvary Lutheran church. (We are tenants of the church, but have no other official relationship with the church.) Therefore one of the top priorities of the Board is to make sure that the white house is being utilized according to the terms of our lease. The Board is responsible for paying the rent and utilities, and purchasing supplies (coffee, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, etc.), literature and medallions for use by the groups. The Board also takes care of maintenance and security issues, provides keys to squad leaders, stocks the pop machine, publishes squad leader guides, prints meeting cards and donation envelopes, publishes a newsletter and maintains a physical and digital Archives of board meeting minutes, motions and votes, treasurer’s reports, etc. Additionally the Board of Directors finances the Hospitality Suite at Gopher State and supports the Annual Picnic.

The Board of Directors consists of 4 officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary) and 5 board positions, each of which takes on a specific responsibility. The Board utilizes an Operations Journal which outlines its policies and procedures, as well as, the duties and responsibilities of the various Board positions. The Operations Journal is updated periodically and changes to the Ops Journal must be voted on at a Board meeting.

The following is a general (and incomplete) description of each of the positions on the Board:

President - conducts Board and Membership meetings, is the primary liaison to the church, oversees and negotiates contracts, is an authorized signer on bank accounts. Must have served on the Board for 1 year.

Vice President - fills in for and assists the President when necessary, is responsible for inventory of literature and medallions, is an authorized signer on bank accounts. Must have served on the Board for 1 year.

Treasurer - responsible for paying all bills and invoices, reviews and reconciles group deposits, maintains accurate banking records, provides monthly financial reports, prepares and presents annual budget and year-end fiscal reports, oversees annual pledge drive. Must have served on the Board for 1 year.

The Board of Directors (cont.)

Secretary - Records and publishes minutes from all board and membership meetings, publishes rosters of current board members, keeps the DAS archives up-to-date

Assistant Treasurer - Assists Treasurer in all financial responsibilities

Facilities Maintenance - Responsible for general house maintenance, ongoing repairs and replacements, monitors heating and air conditioning, oversees house cleaning schedule

House Security - Maintains inventory of keys and list of current key holders, distributes and collects keys as determined by the Board, periodically checks doors, windows and locked cabinets for tampering

Supplies - Checks inventory of supplies on a regular basis and purchases replacements on a timely basis

Publications - Publishes monthly newsletters, prints meeting cards and donation envelopes, assists president in posting notices and flyers, is primary liaison to the webmaster for the DAS website

The Annual General Membership Meeting

The 2013 Annual General Membership meeting of the DAS will be held on Sunday, September 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the main room of the white house. This meeting is sometimes referred to as the "annual board meeting" when in actuality this is a meeting of the general membership that is lead by the Board. Elections for new Board members are held at the Annual General Membership meeting. New business can be brought before the Board by members in attendance. A report of the DAS financial position is also given.

Elections for 5 Board positions will be held on the 15th. There are two 2-year positions to be filled, and three 3-year positions to be filled. Qualifications for Board candidates are one year of continuous sobriety or one year of attendance at Alanon, and the ability to attend monthly Board meetings on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Willingness to take on a board responsibility is also required and candidates must be present at the General Membership meeting to be elected to the Board.

It has been my privilege to serve on the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board for the past 6 years. I can not adequately express my gratitude to this White House, it's members and the Board of Directors for the role they have played in my Recovery. Serving on the Board not only contributes to my recovery, it allows me to give back to an organization that has been instrumental in my sobriety.

Serving on the Board is certainly not for everyone. It demands a specific time commitment (that sometimes interfere with Sunday football games). It requires a willingness to take on responsibility, work with a group of individuals, and place principles before personalities. Sometimes it's kinda boring. But without volunteers to serve on the Board, the White House would not be able to host the 18 meetings that are held here each week. I hope that if you meet the requirements and are looking for a rewarding service work opportunity you will at least talk to a Board member about serving on the Board. Board members phone numbers are posted in the kitchen.

Yours in Service, Susan H - outgoing board president

REGARDING HOUSE SECURITY

The Board of Directors continues to have concerns about the security of the Alano House. A break-in occurred between Wednesday evening, July 17th and Thurs. morning, July 18th. The front door was the apparent entry point of the break-in and sustained damage. No other damage and no theft was discovered. A police report was made at the request of the church.

Additionally, there have been reports of an individual sleeping on the front porch of the House.

All Squad Leaders and meeting attendees are requested to keep an eye out for unusual activities and doors left open. Members should not hesitate to contact a DAS Board member or call the Eagan Police if they noticed any suspicious behavior, unusual activity or evidence of a break-in or damage to the House. Any member who notices something worth reporting but does not wish to contact the Eagan Police, should notify a Board Member as soon as possible. Board phone numbers are listed on the bulletin board in the kitchen.

This is a good time to remind Squad Leaders to be diligent about checking to make sure the House is locked and secure upon leaving, and that keys to the House should never be loaned out.

Thank you for your cooperation!

MONTHLY CLEANING SCHEDULE

Each meeting group is responsible for a thorough cleaning of the White House during one month of the year.

Upcoming Cleaning Schedule

Sept	Sunday	4:00 p.m. A.A.
October	Thursday	7:30 p.m. A.A.
November	Saturday	9:00 p.m. A.A.

The suggested time for monthly cleaning is before or after your regular group meeting time. Allow adequate time to complete the tasks listed below.

Cleaning supplies are kept under the sinks in the kitchen and both bathrooms. The House has two vacuum cleaners, and there is additional cleaning equipment in the front entry closet. If you know your group is going to clean and supplies are needed, please call Brad C (612-270-8238).

Monthly House Cleaning consists of:

- Vacuum all carpets:
upstairs, downstairs, and stairway
- Vacuum and/or shake out mats in
kitchen, hallway and bathroom
- Vacuum & damp mop linoleum floor
(with Swiffer mop in front entry closet)
- Clean both bathrooms
- Clean kitchen sink and counter tops
- Wash all coffee pots
- Wipe down all tabletops in all rooms

The Board and all members of the Dakota Alano Society appreciate each group's efforts to keep the White House clean. Thank You!!

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Dual Recovery Anonymous
(DRA) Meeting**

**Has been moved to Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
beginning on September 3rd**

The purpose of the dual recovery meeting is to support those affected by both chemical or alcohol dependency *and* an emotional or psychiatric illness.

The Dual Recovery Program is based on the principles of the Twelve Steps and the personal experiences of men and women in dual recovery.

This is an OPEN, MIXED meeting.

Anyone may attend. Come try this meeting out!

***The Saturday 6:00 p.m. Meeting
is always looking for speakers.***

*If you would be willing to share a short version
of your story please sign up on the sheet posted
on the door to the kitchen, or attend the
meeting and talk to the Trusted Servant.*

***The Friday 6:00 p.m. Meeting
is offering a Beginner's Small Group
Meeting after the break for anyone
new to A.A. who wishes to have
an introduction to A.A.***

*The Beginner's Meeting meets upstairs after
the meeting break.*

**The Dakota Alano Society's 2013
Annual General Membership Meeting**

Sunday September 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Elections for new Board members will be held

Please see pages 2-3 for more information

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Open with Serenity Prayer

Welcome and Introductions

Annual Secretary's Report
(minutes from the 2012 General Membership mtg)

Annual Treasurer's Review

Presentation of Old and New Business

Review of Board Positions and Responsibilities

Review of Election Rules

Board Nominations

Voting and Results

Close with the Lord's Prayer

***On behalf of the
Mount Calvary Lutheran church
Thank you to all members for
your patience and cooperation
during the parking lot
renovation project !!!***

STEP NINE

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

"Direct Amends". I often wonder what qualifies as a direct amend in this world of advanced communication technology, and what the A.A. Founder's would think of the idea of amends being made via email, chat, or text. When I read "direct amends" in Step Nine, I believe it to mean "face-to-face", in person, verbal. I personally consider texting an intimate form of communication I only use with those I am close too - the text goes straight to the person it's intended for, is delivered quickly, and by nature is concise and direct. But it seems to fall short of the task of making amends.

"Wherever possible". I imagine in the old days "wherever possible" applied to every situation unless the amendeed in question was deceased or impossible to locate - or when to do so would injure them or others.

Wherever possible, I personally would like to use email to make my amends. This gives me the opportunity to really put thought into the amend itself and state it in a way that is clear and complete. Truthfully tho, this approach spares me the experience of true humility which can only come from a face-to-face amend. It also deprives the other person of receiving an amend they can know is truly from the heart.

There are many parts of the Big Book that some think could/should be "updated" to be more in tune with the developments of our generation. Conventional A.A. wisdom and experience, however, tells us that what worked in 1936 works today, despite the social, educational and technological differences.

I recently received an amend via text message. As I read the message I could not be sure if it was heart-felt and sincere or simply a knee-jerk reaction to a situation. Its brevity made it seem like it could apply to any number of harms to any number of

- Continued next column

TRADITION NINE

A.A. as such, ought never be organized: but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Tradition Nine - The Long Form

Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles: they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

people. I finally decided it was an olive branch to defuse the tension and that the "real" amend would come later.

When we make our 9th Step amends we are told that we can not control how they will be received or whether they will even be accepted. Our part is to simply make direct amends wherever possible. A similar concept applies to receiving an amend. We don't get to instruct the person making the amend. We don't get to choose the amend or how effectively it is delivered. Our only choice is whether we accept it. I've heard that accepting an amend does not necessarily mean forgiving the person. Neither does working toward forgiveness need to wait for an amend. Sometimes I need to work toward forgiveness in the absence of a "real" amend. My program and my Higher Power help me to do that.

- Contributed Anonymously