

Alano Society of Greater St. Louis
May 16th, 2023 – 7:30pm
Intergroup Representatives' Meeting
Zoom ID: 822 1669 6438 pw: 245445

AGENDA

Opening: 7:30 (Betty)

Preamble

Ask for New IRs

Birthdays

Approval of Past Minutes: (Richard G)

Treasurer's Report: (Laura)

1. Treasurer's Report

Executive Secretary's Report: (Tom N.)

1. Keep CSO informed as to changes to your Group's meeting
2. Manager's Letter to the Groups
3. Future goals

Summary of tonight's Alano Board Meeting: (Betty) (items not on IR Agenda)

Old Business:

1. Social Committee (Richard G / Mike)
 - a. Picnic June 4, 2023

New Business:

1. New Business Items from IR's

Q&A: General Questions for Your Alano Board

Group Networking: (Groups are encouraged to exchange ideas and share issues of concern for their group with other groups, rather than just announce events that will be listed in the newsletter)

Close: I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

**Alano Society of Greater St. Louis
Intergroup Representatives' Meeting Minutes**

April 18, 2023

Opening: 7:30pm (Betty)

Preamble: (Bill)

New IRs: Joe, Don, George, Cassidy

Birthdays: Tim H. 39yrs, Lou 1yr, Kyle 9yrs, George 29yrs, Mark W

(apologies to anyone who was left out for New IRs and Birthdays/difficult to hear)

Approval of Past Minutes: (Richard G.) Approved

Treasurer's Report: (Laura)

Financial report shows income was a little higher than budgeted, but we also had higher expenses come up.

1. We experienced a transition period during the last part of March where we had two paid Executive Secretaries. Also, a Building Assessment came up, which was way higher than we would ever have expected.
2. Rising Literature prices (20%)
3. More expected expenses coming in May
4. We will also have some expenses when we are ready to bring back the Newsletter Packets.
5. IRs, please bring this information to your meetings. Let your groups know that we sincerely need you to check your group's division of finances with your group Treasurer, and please ask them to include CSO.! And please encourage them to continue contributing to Central Services. That's our main source of income, contributions from groups and individuals. We could really use you to please spread this information, and make sure our individuals and groups are making contributions to CSO if possible.

Executive Secretary's Report: (Tom N.)

Covid has affected CSOs finances:

1. Has accelerated the hybrid movement
2. Many people are reading the Big Book online, on phones, and on tablets, rather than the paper book. 7 to 1 ratio Online to In-person attendance at the April IR Meeting.

3. We're not selling as much literature, coins, books, etc., because people can get it online, or order it from AAWS, rather than coming to the office bookstore.
4. People on our online and hybrid meetings often have difficulty with scanning and paying with a credit card, versus putting money in the 7th Tradition basket.
5. You can sign up to subscribe to the Newsletter and Flyer Mailings now, if you like. Please contact CSO with a mailing address to where you want it sent, a Contact Person for your Group, and the Name and or Number of your group.

*Intergroup offices across the nation are less able to rely on literature sales and are becoming more dependent on individual and group contributions. We at CSO, are finding ourselves a bit behind in contributions. *Please share this information with your group, and other AA meetings you attend. *

*We want to increase our budget somewhat to bring back the paper Newsletter and Flyer Mailings, update the Meeting Changes, and keep up with the paper price increases.

Summary of the April 18th Board Meeting: (Betty, Alano Board President)

1. We look forward to seeing more of you here in person at the IR meetings.
2. Please ask your groups and other meetings you attend, to encourage people to make contributions, and put in a little extra in the 7th Tradition Basket if you can.
3. Since the pandemic, it's been harder to get contributions, because people aren't meeting as much, and aren't passing the 7th Tradition baskets to as many people as we did before Covid hit. Please let people know that CSO has a financial need at this time. Recently, CSO has had, and will soon have, more big, unexpected expenses.
4. We're working on bringing back the paper-printed Newsletter again. We're Collecting addresses to where we need to send the printed Newsletter. We know that many people like the Newsletter in print. It won't be this month, and we don't know when that'll be. When we do have it ready to go, it will be another good way to keep in touch with our membership.
5. We have vacancies, and we're looking for Alano Board Members. If interested, contact CSO, or email to: alano@aastl.org

Old Business: Social Committee (Mike M.) Picnic June 4, 2023

1. We are pleased to welcome our new Social Committee members: Rene B., Don. P, and Kelli R. We would like to have a lot more new members from the IR Group to join us. Please encourage people in your groups looking for a fun service commitment to join. Call the CSO office and let us know that you'd like to join.
2. For the day of the June 4th Picnic, we need a number of people who have pickup trucks and cargo vans to meet us at Central Services at the back dock at 9am. We will transport the picnic supplies from the storeroom at CSO to nearby Deer Creek Park. Call Central Services, or email Tom N. at: alano@aastl.org ,and let Tom know you have a vehicle to help us out.

3. We'll have a Registration and Information Table this year at the June 4th Picnic. We'll have name tags, the opportunity to recruit new members for the Social Committee and sell raffle and Basket Tickets. Don P. will manage that.

4. Lunch will around noon followed by Rod H. (AA) and Carrie B. (AI-Anon), our speakers for the 1pm meeting. After the meeting there will be a Sobriety Countdown followed by the drawing of the 50/50 raffle winner. The Basket Winners will be drawn during the Speaker Meeting, and there will be a bulletin board where the Basket Winners can verify their tickets and claim their prize.

New Business:

1. Possible Return of the Big Book Workshop District 17 hosted may be coming up again (10–12 week series of 1-hr. sessions before the meeting). Contact: IR Dave L

2. Working on improving Wi-Fi

3. Saturday Night Live Picnic 1st week of May

4. Wang Dang Doodle coming up (Fund Raiser for CSO)

5. Women's Luncheon May 7th

6. Meeting Invite: A Simple Program Meeting Time: Wednesday nights 7pm at The Lindell Club. Trans-inclusive meeting. Everyone welcome.

Close: Responsibility Statement

2023 Alano Budget vs Actual

March-verified

YTD

INCOME

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
All Contributions	\$7,673	\$10,196	\$38,160	\$30,588
Literature	\$8,446	\$6,250	\$19,858	\$18,750
All Other Income	\$4,556	\$2,454	\$8,472	\$7,362
TOTAL INCOME	\$20,675	\$18,900	\$66,490	\$56,700

Disbursements

All Literature	\$6,749	3,500	\$16,236	10,500
Payroll	\$12,431	8,703	\$31,606	26,110
Rent & Utilities	\$5,402	5,125	\$17,091	15,375
Insurance	\$1,251	1,300	\$4,045	4,100
All Other Expenses	\$754	1,708	\$2,935	5,125
Total Disbursements	\$26,587	20,336	\$71,913	61,210

Total P&L

(\$5,912) (\$1,436) (\$5,423) (\$4,510)

Beginning Check Book Balance \$37,314

Ending Check Book Balance \$36,178

2023 Alano Budget vs Actual

	April (estimated)		YTD	
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
All Contributions	\$9,367	\$10,196	\$47,527	\$40,783
Literature	\$8,471	\$6,250	\$28,304	\$25,000
All Other Income	\$3,309	\$2,454	\$11,781	\$9,817
TOTAL INCOME	\$21,147	\$18,900	\$87,612	\$75,600
<u>Disbursements</u>				
All Literature	\$6,408	3,500	\$16,236	14,000
Payroll	\$8,886	8,703	\$29,353	34,813
Rent & Utilities	\$5,144	5,125	\$17,384	20,499
Insurance	\$1,336	1,300	\$4,045	5,200
All Other Expenses	\$2,116	1,708	\$4,851	6,833
Total Disbursements	\$23,890	20,336	\$71,869	81,346
Total P&L	(\$2,743)	(\$1,436)	\$15,743	(\$5,746)
Beginning Check Book Balance		\$31,722		
Ending Check Book Balance		\$29,032		

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An Appeal for Funds in Uncertain Times: A Letter from your Central Services manager

The Brief Summary: Since 2020, when Covid began, our expenses Central Services have decreased significantly, but our income has decreased even more. The number of A.A. meetings has also decreased, and attendance is lower in the meetings that continue. Some members have continued with online meetings, where it takes much more effort to make a contribution, compared to passing the basket. Consequently, our bank balance is the lowest it's been in over ten years – less than our expenses for one month's operations. At the same time that we're facing these Covid-related trends, the landlord hit us with a property management bill literally ten times higher than last year's – and more than a month's rent!

Now we are looking at our budget to see where our expenses may be adjusted, but that is not a quick process. In the meantime, we're asking the groups in the St. Louis area to dig behind the sofa cushions and check your other jacket for a little bit of extra support to get us over this hump – especially those groups who are meeting again, but have not yet resumed contributions.

The Detailed Discussion: A good deal has changed in the last few years – in the world, and in Alcoholics Anonymous. Covid came in like a lion, and most of us learned to “Zoom in” to meetings. Toilet paper became a hot commodity, and just about everyone who could sew made masks. Then the economy became unstable and we learned about other “supply chain disruptions” in addition to TP and masks. Now, most of the masks are gone, but we're still seeing inflation and economic effects that started with Covid. There is one supply chain disruption that has a direct effect on our A.A. literature – paper!!

Certain kinds of paper remain hard to get, and we've been waiting months for back-ordered A.A. pamphlets and books, like “A Newcomer Asks,” the soft-cover version of *As Bill Sees It*, and *Pass It On*, A.A.'s biography of our co-founder, Bill W. And if you've been coming to meetings since before Covid, have you noticed at book studies that maybe half of the people in the group are reading the Big Book and Twelve and Twelve on their phones?

In the recovery world, the Covid pandemic seems to have accelerated trends that were already in place – specifically those related to more activities moving online or going digital. This spring, the St. Louis Intergroup Representatives meeting went from being online-only to being hybrid. At our last meeting, in April, thirty-five group representatives attended via Zoom, and four attended in-person. This seems to be very common in service meetings, especially; but, many people have continued to attend their recovery meetings online, even after face-to-face meetings have resumed. And, while many groups encourage their members to make online contributions, it just isn't as easy as throwing a couple of bucks in the basket. So, both contributions and literature sales are still down, even as most people get back to face-to-face meetings.

Central Services has three main sources of income: group contributions, literature sales, and meeting room rent from the groups that meet here. When you look at our income since the Covid shut-downs, you see that there has been some improvement, but our income still isn't to pre-pandemic levels. That may or may not ever happen, and we're looking at our expenses with this in mind. At the same

time as these big changes in society and the economy are occurring, the landlord has given us a “common areas maintenance” bill (landscaping, building maintenance, security) that was ten times what it was in the previous four or five years – more than our monthly rent. (The details of these charges follow this letter.)

In the short term we have bills to pay, and we’re asking the groups in the St. Louis area to dig behind the sofa cushions and check your other jacket for a little bit of extra support – especially those groups who are meeting again, but have not yet resumed contributions to the service entities – the Central Services office, your District, Area, and the A.A. General Service Office. In terms of the Seventh Tradition and “self support,” we are financially dependent on our groups, and ultimately responsible to you, too.

We do have a prudent reserve, just as the A.A. literature on finance recommends; but as you can imagine, we’d rather not deplete those savings, if the groups can help us to get over the next hump. In the meantime, we will continue analyzing our budget, trying to guess what the economic future will look like, and seeing where possible adjustments can be made.

Tom N.
Office manager
9 May 2023

2022 Operating Expense Reconciliation

Name	2022 Actual	2022 Expenses:	
HVAC R/M - CAM	5,287.00	Grounds	11,715.00
Electric R/M - CAM	-	Snow	6,143.00
Plumbing R/M - CAM	248.00	General R/M	25,352.00
Public Lights - CAM	1,091.00	Mgmt Fees/Admin	9,659.00
Roofing - CAM	1,509.00	SBP CAM	13,140.00
General R/M - CAM	7,074.00		66,009.00
Labor - CAM	764.00		
Materials - CAM	-	2022 Taxes	32,756.00
Alarms - CAM	623.00	2022 Insurance Expense	4,074.00
Mobile Security - CAM	8,756.00		
Lawn Care Mowing - CAM	4,129.00	Base Year/Cap Expenses	
Snow Removal - CAM	6,143.00	2010 Taxes	40,019.57
General Maintenance - CAM	7,586.00	2010 Insurance Expense	2,570.32
Grounds Labor - CAM	-		
Miscellaneous/Administrative	-	Prorata Share	22.22%
CAM - Business Park	13,140.00		
Management Fees	9,659.00	Prepayments	
Total Building CAM	66,009.00	2022 CAM Prepay	(9,372.00)
		2022 Taxes Prepay	-
		2022 Insurance Prepay	-
Common Area Maintenance			
2022 CAM Expense	66,009.00		
Prorata Share	22.220%		
Total CAM Expense	14,667.20		
Less prepayments	(9,372.00)		
Total CAM Due	5,295.20		
Real Estate Taxes			
2022 Real Estate Taxes	32,756.00		
Base Year Expenses	40,019.57		
	(7,263.57)		
Prorata Share	22.220%		
Total Share of Taxes	(1,613.97)		
Less prepayments	-		
Total Taxes Due	-		
Insurance Expense			
2022 Insurance Expense	4,074.00		
Base Year Expense	2,570.32		
	1,503.68		
Prorata Share	22.220%		
Total Share of Insurance	334.12		
Less prepayments	-		
Total Insurance Due	334.12		
Total	5,629.32		