

The Triangle Alano Club Newsletter

October 2014

Published Occasionally

Membership Report TAC Memberships are the lynchpin to our financial viability. The money from the 7th tradition baskets cover 70-75% of our annual operating costs while the money contributed by the roughly 100 TAC members covers the other 25%+ of our costs. We regularly get asked "what do I get from being a TAC member"? As a board, we frequently take a look at "membership benefits" and ask ourselves if members are getting enough value for their \$150 annual membership. No one ever answers this question in the same way and for now, we have chosen to keep the list of tangible benefits modest and hope that the spiritual, mental and service benefits of membership act as our calling card.

We maintain priority on the member lounge (furniture, flat screen TV and cable), personalized mug & mug wall and two book exchange programs (spiritual and pleasure). If you have comments about current aspects of your TAC membership or want to propose new benefits, we'd love to hear from you. As always, you can join the TAC via the website or the combo meeting schedule / membership form on the column in the middle of the main meeting room.

Building and Grounds Our facility gets a lot of wear and tear hosting 46 meetings a week. This year we replaced the thermostats and had the furnace repaired (remember those January meetings with hat and coats on?), we mourned the death of our old Bunn coffee machine and we replaced it with one that (gasp!) has an electronic display electronics. (For the inside scoop, please read the unforgettable, detailed saga of the coffee maker's demise on the carytac.com website).

We replaced another 14 chairs in the main meeting room with heavy duty, double padded chairs and intend to upgrade all the chairs as the old ones break. The front door needed a major overhaul (remember the slamming front door and all the loving hand-made signs telling us to make sure the door was shut)? Our soda machine has decided it only likes coins but apparently no one carries piles of quarters in their pockets anymore. To our surprise, it is a quirky and expensive crowd who fix "dollar bill acceptors" and ours appears to be extra quirky. No easy or cheap (\$700) answer in sight yet but we have several people committed to "fixin' to try to see what they can do". Such words are normally only heard from new sponsees....

Wonder how the facility stays relatively clean and not smelling too bad? You can thank the volunteer TAC Clean-up TEAM that meets Fridays at 1:00 PM (*following the Living Now Speaker Meeting*). They are a small team and can always use more help or you could do something totally crazy and just clean up at a time that is convenient for you. Cleaning supplies are in the closet across from the Men's Room. Regular opportunities exist for sanitizing tables and counters, steam-cleaning and vacuuming rugs, cleaning bathrooms, mopping floors, cleaning blinds and the refrigerator.

carytac.com Got a resentment and want to start a new meeting? No need to buy a coffee pot - find the form to start a new meeting at the TAC at www.carytac.com! Too much work to start a new meeting? Find different meetings using the meeting schedule provided at www.carytac.com. Need to get out of yourself? Check out service opportunities at www.carytac.com. The TAC website is truly amazing and provides a host of resources to meet your needs. www.carytac.com has a "service" tab on the website that lists a few ways to get more involved and also a link for emails to ask questions regarding service & the opportunities listed. **Finally, don't miss the letter from the President and the "Inside Edition Story" of the Coffee Pot under the communications link.**

Financial Report Financially, we continue to make progress from the depths of the financial abyss of several years ago when we were on the verge of moving because we couldn't meet our expenses in the current location. In our 2014 annual budget, we projected operating costs of roughly \$60,000 and income of \$68,000 (TAC memberships + group rents from the baskets passed in the meetings). With this budget we hoped to consistently meet our monthly expenses, establish a more robust prudent reserve and make a contribution to a capital building fund that down the road (10-20 years?) would allow us to have a down payment to buy a facility or fund expansion that would create more meeting space and leisure space.

So, how are we doing to our budget? We will likely come in very close to our budget on expenses but roughly \$2000 short of our income projection. On the expense side, we have been helped by a mild summer (utility costs) but hurt by roughly \$2000 in repairs (mentioned in building and ground section) and an increase in rent. On the income side, group rent (money from the baskets during meetings) will likely decline \$2000 year over year while TAC memberships are about even to last year. Over several years, we have not been able to increase the amount of money we bring in much which is a challenge for any organization since costs continue to rise. This creates ongoing challenges paying for unexpected repairs and upgrading the facility in any meaningful way.

So, what can each of us do to help? In the near term, the only significant change we can make in our financial situation is increasing the number of TAC members. If each existing TAC member were to recruit one new member, we would double our membership (not everyone is a math major!). Not only would this give us near term financial breathing room, it would allow for needed upgrades to the flooring, kitchen area, smoking lounge, lockers, tables and chairs and the members lounge in the next year or two. You can always view detailed, monthly TAC finances on the TAC bulletin board in the hall.

Social Events It has been another busy year on the social calendar for the TAC. We have hosted Alcatons, Anniversary celebrations, 4th of July Picnic, End of Summer Speaker cook out and many other group functions. Stay tuned to for details on the annual Christmas and New Year Alcaton's that we hope to host again this year at the TAC. You can always find out the latest on events at the TAC on the bulletin board in the main meeting room and the TAC website.

Halloween Party November 1st at the TAC hosted by the Cary Young People Group – your best chance to wear those clothes from the '80's you won't throw away!

Do you love to bowl? Cheer for your TAC bowlers? We have been invited to have a **Bowling Tournament** with the **Wake Forest Alano Club** (and hopefully the Durham Alano Club) in January, 2015. More info and date to be announced soon. Sign-up on the TAC bulletin board by the coffee pot.

Save the Date – Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 2pm

TAC Annual Member Meeting, Holiday Decorating POT LUCK Party....Annual Membership meeting followed by the raising of the TAC Tree and holiday decorating party. If you don't show, you miss out on free food and the ability to influence the odd-ball collection of decorations that make it on to the walls and tables every year.

During the annual meeting, we will give a brief update on the financial and operational aspects of the TAC and we'll be holding elections for 5 board positions – President, Vice President, Secretary and 2 Officer at Large Board Positions. We also will propose an update to the by-laws that will end the current board position term limits. Today, the by-laws state that an individual can only serve two terms – a change like this requires of quorum of the membership and vote by the membership.

Board of Directors Update Contact info for your current board of directors.

Janet L. – President (zwomenmen@gmail.com)

Allison B. – Vice President (allisonbarbee@hotmail.com)

Max H. – Officer at Large (maxnotquitewell@gmail.com)

Steve L. – Chief Financial Officer (slinton105@gmail.com)

Newton P. – Treasurer (rvnprit@hotmail.com)

Jon G. – Secretary (gordo228@aol.com)

Ron D. – Officer at Large (ronsdupuy@gmail.com)

If you are not yet a member, please consider supporting

The Triangle Alano Club by becoming a member today!

Annual Contributions are \$150 or Monthly Contributions are \$15

Applications are on the center column in the main meeting room or at CaryTAC.com

To Subscribe or unsubscribe to this Newsletter:

Send an email to newsletter@carytac.com with your email address.