

What is Suburban North Alano, Inc.?

Suburban North Alano, Inc. is a non-profit corporation, which owns the Alano building and property, has a member elected board of trustees to manage the operations of the corporation, and it has members that are its “shareholders” and a primary source of its operating funds through pledges.

The purpose of the Alano as stated in the Articles of Incorporation:

to aid and assist alcoholics, without compensation, to attain complete and lasting sobriety through the Alcoholics Anonymous program and philosophy by teaching and practicing that program, and by explaining it through the medium of interviews, classes, lectures and meetings, to assist members and prospective members in securing proper medical and hospital treatment, moral and spiritual guidance and training, social activities, and in all other ways to promote the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual welfare of alcoholics.

In short, the Alano exists to help alcoholics, mostly by providing space (the building and rooms) for AA meetings, but also step classes, social activities, and by providing instruction and support.

The Articles of Incorporation, together with its Bylaws and Corporate Minutes, define the rules for how the company is run. It is a “bottom up” organization, as it relies on its members for its funds, and its members have a vote in all of its important decisions. For example, the board cannot take out a loan or make a large expenditure without member approval. The Board members, all volunteers, are the executive officer’s; they manage the day to day operations. The Squad Leaders Council is comprised of all of the squad leaders at the club; it is mainly a deliberative body, channeling information between the board and the squads. All Alano members and trustees are prevented from making any monetary gain from the organization, even upon its dissolution. We honor the AA tradition of being self-supporting.

Of course, managing the club requires money...we can’t grow our own coffee! We have to raise our own money. While the numbers vary from year to year, most of the clubs revenue (33%) comes from Member Pledges, while the second largest portion (27%) comes from Room Rent. Some member driven fundraising, such as the Omelet breakfast, can be substantial, generating as much as 5% of the annual expenses. Most of the other income is dedicated to specific expenses, like Literature and Medallions, Banquet income, Coffee, or the Building Fund.

Our building is old, but it is paid for, so at this time, we basically only need to maintain it and pay the bills. Some years that can be expensive, such as when our furnace and air conditioner went out. And the bills can be more than some people think. We buy over \$2000 in coffee each year, the electric bill is about \$2000 a year, and our heating costs about \$1900 a year, depending on the weather. We have been blessed with a lot of donated service work, which has saved the club thousands of dollars, but we still have over \$20,000/year in operating expenses. To manage these costs and keep the rent amounts low, we require our members to make a monetary pledge, which they typically pay through their squads. The accompanying pledge card also serves as the clubs record of its “shareholder”.

AA and the Alano

Alano members at our club are AA members, and the AA members create AA Groups and hold AA meetings, but the Alano is NOT AA. We are more like a store that sells AA; we can promote the AA program internally provided that we respect AA's legal rights and boundaries, and that we understand that we don't own the AA brand. AA is itself a corporation called AA World Services. AA World Services decided long ago to separate from the clubs (see [AA Guidelines for Clubs](#)). So we can be AA members and Alano members, and we have our AA meetings in the Alano Building.

AA Contributions/Address Information

None of the funds given to the Alano are "passed up to AA" as you see in many other groups like churches and social clubs. Contributing to the AA organization is an action that squads and individuals need to make on their own. AA has a suggestion that it be fully self-supporting, to not accept outside contributions, so AA will not accept donations from the Alano club. The Alano society does encourage all squads and individuals to understand the AA organization, and to support it with your personal service and financial contributions.

See also the [AA Group Treasurer](http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/f-96_theaagrouptreasurer.pdf) (http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/f-96_theaagrouptreasurer.pdf) and [Self-Support: where money and spirituality mix](http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/f-3_selfsupport.pdf) (http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/f-3_selfsupport.pdf)

<p>General Service Office NY</p> <p>For contributions to G.S.O., make checks payable to "General Service Board" and send to:</p> <p>General Service Office P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163</p> <p>or visit Contributions on line at www.aa.org</p>	<p>Southern Minnesota Area 36</p> <p>SMAA P.O. Box 2812 Minneapolis, MN 55402</p> <p>www.area36.org</p>
<p>Area 36/District 21</p> <p>General Services P.O. Box 47322 Plymouth, MN. 55447 www.district21area36aa.org</p>	<p>Minneapolis Intergroup</p> <p>7204 West 27th Street Suite 113 St. Louis Park MN 55426-3112 www.aaminneapolis.org</p>