

## **The Alano Club in Redding California**

*With the opening of the Alano Club in Redding after the Coronavirus Pandemic, I thought it would be great to write about the history of the Alano Club. I would like to thank Gary B. for this information.*

Three men watching the Superbowl in 1974, talked about finding a place to hold meetings. The three men were Wallace P., Richard (Dick) Lawry and Dick Henry referred to as "Rabbit Dick".

There was a guy that they had twelve stepped who owned a building on Locust Street. He rented it to the guys for \$275 per month and was lenient with the rent as they were always short in the beginning. The pigeon believed in the Alano Club and that one-day it just might save his life. Others involved in the beginning were little Joan A. from Central Valley and a woman named Fawn that was an Alanon.

One of the early stories is of a board meeting where Wallace brought to the attention of the board that for the Alano Club to become a non-profit organization, it had to have bylaws. Dick (Rabbit) Henry was so opposed that he was fighting mad saying that no way was that going to happen. Wallace replied that after the meeting, he would be glad to take it outside but AA business first. The vote was 5-1 in favor of the bylaws. The bylaws were written by Wallace.

Behind the Alano Club, a member rented a place and started an auto repair business and called it AA Auto Repair which stood for Andy Anderson. Jim B. worked for him as a mechanic. They would meet in the half-measures room at 7am every morning for coffee before opening the shop. Later they were joined by the attorney Ted and Erick C, and after a time, enough people showed up and that's how the 7am meetings started.

In 1988 while I was in jail for my last drunk driving offence, they moved the Alano Club to the State Street address where it currently is. When I got out of jail, I had my girlfriend drop me off on Locust Street for a meeting. She drove off and when I tried the door, it was locked. I then went to the phone booth at Buzz's Crab and called Intergroup. They said yes it had moved and gave me the new address. The Intergroup office at that time was at 1313 and a quarter Court Street. It was later moved to the back of the new Alano Club.

Around 1993 or '94, the rental house was torn down to build the parking lot. The McConnell Foundation donated grant money to pay off the building under the conditions that there could be no rentals. The house before was mainly rented by people in recovery.

I joined the Alano Club 3 different times, two times while the Club was on Locust Street and finally around 1990. I have been a continuous member for 25 years.

The Alano Club is on the front lines of sobriety. It's where most people go when they first get sober. Sad to say that a lot of people quit going to meetings there after they got some time. I pray that I never have to go to the very place that helped me stay sober in the beginning.

Gary B.