



The ARA BRIDGE

American River Alano, 9346 Greenback, Suite# 8
P.O. Box 2354, Orangevale, CA 95662

December 2009
Wally Rapp, Guest Editor

Board of Directors 2010

Steve Sarro,

President

984-9786

Dave Rohrdanz,

Vice President

276-6743

Robert Samuel,

Secretary

342-1404

Wally Rapp,

Treasurer

989-8563

Gary Wilburn,

Sergeant-at-Arms

987-1941

Roger Edwards,

Past President

549-5776

Members-at-Large:

Al Martinez,

837*-4362

Amy Doyon,

233-7911

Bill Sugnet,

934-9277

Kellie Smith

988-8119

Sandy Masters

660-9535

A Memo from Membership

By Sandy Masters

Welcome to our newest member: Debbie D.. Joining the American River Alano is what keeps our doors open. Although group donations for using the space do contribute to the bottom line, we rely primarily on annual membership dues to operate the Alano. Spread the word and invite your friends to join! **Anyone** can be a member!! As of the end of November, we had 59 paid up members.

Holiday Al-ca-thons:

Christmas – 8 PM, Dec 24th thru
8 PM Dec 25th, every 2 hours

New Year's: 8 PM Dec 31st thru
8 PM Jan 1st, every two hours

Enjoy a serenity escape!

Depressed?

Read Critter's poem - attached

New Building Fund now has:

\$3,504.52

The ultimate goal for a down payment is:

\$100,000.00

2009 General Membership

Meeting, Nov 15th

Thirtythree members attended the annual meeting on Sunday, November 15th, to hear the annual report by the Board, and to elect six members to fill the Board vacancies. Sandy Masters, Steve Sarro and Wally Rapp ran for reelection and won. Also, three members were newly elected to fill the remaining vacancies, they are: Amy Doyon, Gary Wilburn and Robert Samuel. Our Congratulations to all of you! We hope you find your term fruitful and rewarding. Also, our heartfelt thanks to Elizabeth Rymysza and Ray Liston for their service on the Board these past several years.

The American River Alano's revised website now allows for contributions, donations and membership renewal by credit card through PayPal. At our homepage, in the left margin, click on "Support" to see the portals to select whether you want to renew your membership, contribute to the New Building Fund, or, donate to the General Fund for day to day operations. You can also read the latest Newsletter, review our By-Laws, or see our last tax return. Please visit:

www.AmericanRiverAlano.org

Merry Christmas



The ARA BRIDGE

Page 2

December 2009

Alcathons. . .

The Thanksgiving Alcathon was sponsored by the Spiritually Speaking Group. The Christmas Alcathon will be sponsored by the Saturday Reflections Group, and the New Year's Alcathon will be sponsored by the Thursday Pathfinders Group.. Our thanks to these groups for their service

Sodas and Bottled Water are available, in the refrigerator. Please make a \$1.00 donation to ARA for these items, so they may be replenished. We do appreciate your donations. Please note that the autonomous meetings at the American River Alano provide coffee and tea for your enjoyment.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES ! !

We **need** workers for our Work-groups, listed below, especially Meetings and Membership, which should have more than one person doing the work. Remember, we depend on volunteers, and some tasks **have** to be done, so if you see something you think is lacking, or needs more work, **Volunteer to do it!** You don't have to be a Director, or on the Board, to be a Trustee, or workgroup member. More hands lighten the load. . . , **but let us know** to avoid duplication of effort

Literature: Ray Liston is the Literature Coordinator, please

Be sure to reimburse him or put your literature payment in the box at the side of the Literature Rack. Do **not** pay for literature with the rent, **or** make the literature checks out to the ARA, he can't cash them!

Coffee: Coffee grounds, creamer, sugar, sweetener and cups are provided for the groups use on an **Honor** basis. The groups are asked to keep track of their use, by number of pots, and reimburse the ARA when they pay their rent. We feel \$1.50 per pot is fair.

Clean-up: Each group/individual is expected to clean up their own messes, and cleaning material in the utility room is included, please don't just move your mess from the hall to the utility room!

Latest Survey Stats:

Monthly total: 2978 Attendees; Weekly average: 723
Daily average: 103 Annual average: 35,745

| Work Groups | Leaders | Phone |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Meetings | Cheryl P. | 370-3511 |
| Coffee & Supplies | Robert S.. | 342-1404 |
| Finance, New Building | Kent O. | 614-3204 |
| Internet Website | Bill S. | 934-9277 |
| Maintenance | V a c a n t | |
| Membership | Sandy M. | 660-9535 |
| Cleaning | Ken C. | 530-559-4067 |
| Newsletter Editor | V a c a n t | |

Contact a Work Group Leader to participate in a Service Position.

Happy New Year

EARTHWALK IN THE MIST

BY: Critter, Don Reid

The weather is dreary,
The power's off and
The evening news I missed ...

Feeling lonely,
I really need an
EARTHWALK IN THE MIST

Saw a gentle ol' doe and her younguns'
Within the first mile
My heart all of a sudden is starting to SMILE.

Now I'm crossing One Eye Creek
The wind in the trees
Is starting to speak

I love One Eye Creek, so green and lush,
Way more pleasant than
THORNY ol' buck brush.

In the quiet, wet woods
I find deep peace of mind,
On busy Greenback Lane one would never find.

I startle a brush rabbit,
It scurries into the brush.
Now I see bear tracks, always a little rush.

A walk in the forest,
For depression a cure . . .
Now a connection to Mr. John Muir.

A lone raven flies over
And sounds off with a croak,
Now magic is in the air and that's no joke.

My feet are getting wet,
It's no big deal,
The hole in my soul is startin' to heal.

I just jumped a four point buck, marveling at his moves,
Now I spot in the fir trees,
A screech owl takin' a snooze.

In my church of the GREAT OUTDOORS,
I am one with my Creator,
I feel the need to pray. Now better than later.

I journey through a huge grove of Madrones,
And later on
The land of pine cones.

Mother Nature brings me joy,
As if you couldn't tell,
Yes, years ago my daddy taught me well.

My health is O.K., I'm well
And ALIVE . . .
Not too shabby for one who's sixty damn five,

A miracle, from my addiction,
I AM FREE!
And yes, God's been GOOD to me . . .

Getting away from my own kind,
I do find tranquility,
Great Spirit's LOVE, way beyond my ability.

It'll be dark soon,
I'm headin' for my abode.
My friendly ol' wood stove will soon remove the cold.

As I walk up my driveway
My cowdogs greet me with joy,
Somehow I think of the high desert when I was a boy.

What a blessing, a God thing,
MY EARTHWALK IN THE MIST,
My spirit is renewed and that's really a gift!