The anonymous article below was written by a club member several years ago. - editor (2008)

228 Club - Our Heritage

(Organized December 20th, 1980)

For a number of years, A.A. members in the Richmond area had felt a need for a club, but the time never seemed 'right'.

In 1980 interest reached new heights -- a catalyst was needed to make it happen. This catalyst took the form of Dick A., who was new in town, and active in the fellowship.

He and other interested people began formulating plans at a luncheon meeting in November 1980 at the Holiday Inn. A steering committee was appointed: Dick A., John P., Keith G., and Lou J..

Getting into action, those present backed up their words with money. A $5 monthly club dues was decided upon, and many present contributed for November and December.

Other committees were appointed: Bill C. and Joe L. to draft proposed bylaws for the club. John P., Bill C., and Bob S. were selected to find a suitable building that would be affordable. Real estate agencies were contacted, newspaper ads check daily, and personal contacts made whenever a likely structure was spotted. More than 50-odd locations were checked.

The present site was found by chance. During a luncheon with John P., Father Van, a member of the fellowship, said that Saint Andrew's Catholic Church had a building for rent on South 6th Street near C Street standing empty. It had formerly been the nun's home.

John P. contacted the Saint Andrew's parish Priest the next day and committee members viewed the building. It seemed ideal for our purposes. Details of rent and upkeep were soon worked out with the Priest and the church council.

The organizational meeting was held December 20, 1980 in the dining room of the Addiction Services at Richmond State Hospital. Thirty-five voting members attended and elected the first club board: Jean P., John P., Holly D., Florence L., and Yvonne S.. Holly served as the first board president. The drafted bylaws were approved with minor changes. Since the street number of the building was 228, it was voted to assume the name "228 Club." The building was totally unfurnished. Members cleaned it and painted some walls. A serving window was out in the wall between the kitchen and small front room. Many interested people contributed used tables, chairs, a coffeemaker, etc., to make the large rear room ready for group meetings.

The first A.A. meeting was held Christmas night 1980 by the Thursday night group. Forty-seven people attended. Jay S. was chairman: Joe and Florence L. gave a dual lead.

Although names are mentioned of the organizational committees and the first club board, tribute is due to numerous other members of the Richmond fellowship. These people supported the club idea and worked hard behind the scenes to make it happen.

(This history of the 228 club was compiled from notes and recollections of that Maxine A., John P., and Florence L..)