

Sam Adams Alliance Donor Disclosure Policy

The boards of directors of the Sam Adams Alliance have elected to adopt a formal governing policy on this question.

It is the position of the Sam Adams Alliance to respect the wishes of our supporters who want others to know they support us, as well as the wishes of those who desire privacy.

In adopting this position, we endorse and follow practices consistent with the standards promulgated by the American Association of Fund Raising Counsel, the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, and the National Society of Fund Raising Executives.¹

Donor Bill of Rights

"Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the not-for-profit organizations and causes that they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

- I. To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
- II. To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.
- III. To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.
- IV. To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
- V. To receive appropriate acknowledgment and recognition.
- VI. To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
- VII. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.
- VIII. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.
- IX. To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.
- X. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers."

The tradition of voluntary disclosure and respect for donor privacy in American charitable giving owes much to NAACP v. Alabama, a 1958 U.S. Supreme Court case. Southern segregationists wanted to intimidate those who funded NAACP projects, but first they had to find out who those donors were. Consistent with America's tradition of protecting and preserving the rights of free expression and association, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the NAACP could not be compelled to release the names of its donors.

At the Sam Adams Alliance, we welcome scrutiny of our work. We know that not everyone wants to challenge our work on its merits. We expect some people and organizations to resort to name-calling, to conjure up conspiracy theories and to attack people who support our work.

Because of that kind of critic, we are grateful for our First Amendment rights, the American tradition of voluntary disclosure and privacy, and our judiciary's firm respect for donor privacy.

¹ <http://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm/bay/content.view/cpid/30>

We're proud that one hundred percent of our support is voluntary. We neither seek nor would we ever accept government funds.