



The Altrusa Announcer

Altrusa International of Branch County

Volume 1, Issue 11

April 22, 2009

President-Elect's Message

This month ends the tenure of Barb Burkhardt as President and will see a brand new Board. Committee Chairs have volunteered and many of you have had the opportunity to sign up for the many committees we have that make Altrusa of Branch County the great community service organization it is.

If you have not had the opportunity, please make every effort to look at the sheets at the next two meetings so that we can have this all completed prior to the beginning of the new year. Remember, we are only as good as our committees who do all the work for this organization.

Also, I would like to ask every member to make an effort to attend the next few meetings so that we can close out the year with a bang. The first meeting in June we really need all of you as Julie Stratos and group will be presenting Altrusa's Strategic Plan to start the new year off on the right foot and all of us have an understanding of where we are in our organization and where we are pursuing to go.

Barb Rosene



Altrusa International of Branch County Mission Statement

Altrusa International of Branch County is a group of professional women who provides assistance to identified and agreed upon needs of Branch County.

Altrusa Motto

Patriotism ~ Efficiency ~ Service

From the editor —

As you may have noticed (I hope!), this issue is a little late. I'm not sure if it was the beautiful weather, too much to do, turning 60, or a combination of all of them. I will try to be on time in the future.

Watch our next issue for a recap of the District Conference in Saginaw April 24-26, and news of upcoming events.

Racing Into the Future – Join Us for the 2009 Altrusa International Convention

Convention Dates: August 6-9, 2009

Site: Indianapolis Marriott Downtown Hotel, 350 West Maryland Street

Registration Fee: \$360 (includes four days and four meals)

Daily Rate: \$50 (meals not included)

Hotel Room Rate: \$130 plus 16% interest (\$161.24) per night

Look for more detailed Convention information on Altrusa International's Website, www.altrusa.com.

Calendar:

- MAY 6
PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS
- MAY 13
BOARD MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
- MAY 20
BUSINESS MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
- JUNE 3
PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
STRATEGIC PLANNING
- JUNE 10
BOARD MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
- JUNE 17
BUSINESS MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS

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Minutes of the March 18 Business Meeting

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF BRANCH COUNTY
BUSINESS MEETING AT THE ELKS OF COLDWATER
12:00 P.M.
MINUTES March 18, 2009

Meeting called to order at 12:20pm by President Barb Burkhart.

Announcements

- May 9 is the annual Chamber of Commerce Car Show Swap Meet – see Alicia Cole for tickets
- The International Relations Committee is still aiming for 100% club participating in the upcoming show Quetzalli at the Tibbits. The show is on April 20 at 7pm. Posters are available – see Chris Delaney if interested. You can purchase a ticket and donate back to Tibbits and it will count as your participation.
- Caroline Lowe was recognized as the Citizen of the Year at the recent Branch County Chamber of Commerce awards ceremony.
Alicia Cole is the new Chairperson for the BC Chamber of Commerce.

Correspondence – thank you’s were received from the following:

- Branch County Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Beginnings Care for Life
- Branch Area Food Pantry
- Coldwater Community Schools (for Happy Feet)
- Community Health Services Foundation

A financial report was given by Treasurer Pam Stratos – as of February 28, 2009 we have \$20,425.58 in our checking and savings accounts. Our Rainy Day Fund has a balance of \$631.50.

The following individuals will be attending the upcoming District V Conference:

Delegates: Barb Burkhart, Barb Rosene and Cindy Wakeman

Alternates: Mary Jo Johnson, Ginger Kessler and Connie Winbigler

Our Club’s gift toward this year’s Foundation raffle to be held at the District Conference will be a trip to Coldwater and will include a hotel stay, Tibbits tickets, and gift certificates to local restaurants and shops. You can purchase tickets even if you are not attending the conference.

The slate of officers for 2009-2010 was presented as follows:

President	Barb Rosene
President-Elect.....	Megan Angel
First Vice President	Rhonda Ives
Second Vice President.....	Chris Delaney
Immediate Past President	Barb Burkhart
Recording Secretary	Jill Smoker
Corresponding Secretary	Sue Crabtree
Treasurer.....	Sara Roper
Director I	Mary Ann Ford
Director II	Cynthia Bordner

Nominations were taken from the floor. None were received. Pam Stratos made a motion that

Member Caroline Lowe was recognized as Citizen of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce

Thank yous were received from five area organizations for Altrusa’s support.

Delegates to the District 5 Conference will be Barb Burkhart, Barb Rosene, and Cindy Wakeman.

Cynthia McRill, our District 5 representative, will be our guest April 1 (no fooling!).

the slate of officers be accepted as presented, it was seconded by Ginger Kessler. The motion passed unanimously.

Barb Rosene is looking for volunteers to chair committees for next year, if you are willing to help, please contact Barb.

The members present then assembled on the upper steps at the Elks for a club picture and afterward the meeting resumed.

Vocational Scholarship Committee Update – the advertisements are in the paper.

Attendance Committee Update – the quarterly attendance reports is nearing completion. If you ever want to check on your attendance record, please check with Cindy Wakeman.

Golf Scramble – if you are planning to play, now is the time to sign up.

April 29 Night Meeting – the plans for this meeting were discussed. It is likely that the meeting will be at Hauska Realty, the site of our Happy Feet project and we will have food and drink available for our meeting there.

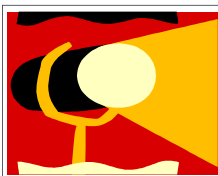
Cynthia McRill – our District V Board Representative will be at our meeting on April 1. We will also have representatives from three local food pantries – Branch Area, Bronson and Son-Shine.

Sue Crabtree won the 50/50 drawing. Mary Feller won the free lunch attendance drawing.

The meeting adjourned at 12:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Smoker



Member Spotlight Katherine Cousino

Katherine (Kathy) A. Cousino was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. After she graduated from E. L. Bowsher High School in Toledo, she worked for a major insurance company. When the now defunct, USF&G Insurance Company downsized, Kathy attended the University of Toledo. She obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in accounting and a Master of Taxation degree from UT.

Kathy worked at the William Vaughan Company in Maumee, Ohio as a staff accountant and progressed to the position of manager. When her husband's family business was sold, Kathy and Randy moved to Quincy, Michigan. Since January 2005, Kathy works as an accountant for Rumsey & Watkins, PC.

Kathy and her husband, Randy, along with their dog, Sandy, enjoy living on Marble Lake. They both enjoy watching the wildlife and relaxing near the water. Kathy is a CPA and member of the AICPA and MACPA. She serves as volunteer treasurer for her church. Her husband serves as a volunteer driver for the Department of Human Services.

Kathy joined Altrusa in March 2008 and currently serves as chair of the Altrusa Club Information committee.

Greeters' Schedule

May 6

**Rhonda Ives
&
Barb Faulkner**

May 20

**Shirley Bailey
&
Sue Crabtree**

June 3

**Julie Stratos
&
Katherine Cousino**

June 24

**Donna Swift
&
Patty Rockey**

**2009/2010
Greeter schedule
not available at
this time**

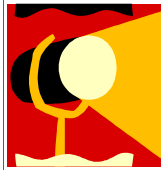


Altrusa International of Branch County



Patriotism. Efficiency. Service.

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Editor: Julie Stratos
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Coldwater, MI 49036



Member Spotlight

Committee Spotlight



We're on the Web!
www.altrusabranchnw.com

To review
the 2008 updated
Club Policies,
go to our website at
[http://
www.altrusabranchnw.com](http://www.altrusabranchnw.com)
Go to "Member's
Page", sign in, and
click on Altrusa Local
Club Policies.

From a recent Altrusa program -

Junior Achievement of Southwest Michigan impacted the lives of 27,534 KL-12 students in 1,233 classrooms during the 2007-2008 school year. Volunteers go into the classroom to facilitate age-specific lessons. Some of our own Altrusans are volunteers. For more information, call 269-968-9188 or 269-343-0860.

Valorie Vaughn

I joined Altrusa in November of 2007 to become more involved in the community. I grew up in Bronson and then moved to Coldwater in 1991. I graduated from the Mortgage Lending School associated with the Indiana Bankers Association in 1998.

I worked for Southern Michigan Bank & Trust for 18 years until my youngest daughter became ill. After her recovery, I started working for Allegis Credit Union as a Loan Officer. I have been with the Credit Union for two and a half years.

My husband and I celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary on October 16th. We have three children, Kaylyn (age 14), Justin (age 11) and Kara (age 8). The children keep us very busy all year with all their sports.

My hobbies include scrapbooking, reading and during the summer boating on the lake.

Last summer we traveled to Washington, D.C. and Alexandria, Virginia, for an exciting family vacation. We enjoyed D.C. and decided we will have to go back because there just was not enough time to take in all the sights. Our most memorable family vacation would be Kara's Make -A - Wish vacation to Disney World a couple of years ago.

This year I have served on the Literacy Committee and helped hand out books to children that attended the Community Connect project at the Heritage Building.

Yearbook Committee

Committee Members: Chair Jill Smoker, Alicia Cole, Norma Wojack

Current Committee Projects and Goals: The Yearbook Committee is responsible for updating the information contained in the yearbook, printing yearbooks and distributing them to the members. The committee is also responsible for distributing updates to existing member contact information and new member contact information throughout the year.

Committee History and Past Achievements: The Mary Shanks Award is a District Five Award given each year to the club judged to have the best yearbook. Our club has earned the first place award for our yearbook in 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2000, 1999, 1998, and 1997. We earned the second place award in 2003, 2002 and 1995.

If you haven't taken the time to review the yearbook, you may be surprised to find that it is a great source of information. It contains a listings of our Officers, Committees (including Chairpersons, Members and Board Representative), Greeters, Birthdays, Meeting and Planning Calendars, Member Contact Information, District Five and International Contact Information and our club's Strategic Plan. There's more, too, so check it out when you have a minute or two...