



The Altrusa Announcer

Altrusa International of Branch County

P.O. Box 631, Coldwater, MI 49036

Volume 2, Issue 3

August 19, 2009

Altrusa 51st International Convention

Altrusa International of Branch County was represented in Indianapolis August 7 and 8 by Shirley Bailey, Barbara Burkhardt, Caroline Lowe and Julie Stratos. Altrusans from all over the United States, Puerto Rico, and New Zealand were on hand to elect new officers for the biennial and to learn more about strengthening our Altrusa organization.

One of the highlights was the unveiling of Altrusa's new marketing efforts to enhance Altrusa's image and assist in membership recruitment. See the bookmark on the following pages as an example. Another highlight was seeing the exhibits from the



out of cans. All were very inventive and unique. Maybe Branch County could borrow the idea?

various clubs. Among them was the one shown below. It was a fundraiser to assist the local food pantry and was a contest for the best sculpture made



Distinguished Club Award

By Barbara Burkhardt

Before receiving the 2008-2009 Distinguished Club Award, we applied, and to do that we first had to be a club of over 20 members and qualify for at least 85 points of a possible 153 in six areas of activity and productivity. Those areas are Service, Programming, Membership, Leadership, Communications and International Foundation. They are discussed below.

In the formal application, there are ten aspects of Service valued at a total of 46 points (we had 26) with 3 to 7 points each. For instance, if our club submits a Mamie L. Bass Award entry, but we do not win, 3 points are given - if we win, 5 points are given. Another example is 5 points are given if our club contributed more than 500 hours of community service or more than 500 volunteer hours. Our records must bear this out.

In the area of Programming, we could gain 8 points (we had all 8) - 3 for a strategic plan that is evaluated and updated yearly and 5 points for having at least 60% of our membership at each meeting.

In Membership, total points of 22 (we had 8) can be gained by having a 10% membership increase for 5 (us) or an increase of 15% for 7 points. Chartering a new club brings 7 points and participating in "Add an Altrusan Day" as we did is valued at 3 points.

The Leadership category has the greatest amount of possible points - 51 (we had 14.) Having

(Continued on page 8)

Calendar:

SEPTEMBER 2
PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
PROGRAM TO BE
ANNOUNCED

SEPTEMBER 8
INTERNATIONAL LITERACY
DAY

SEPTEMBER 16
BUSINESS MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS

SEPTEMBER 18
INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

SEPTEMBER 30
FIFTH WEDNESDAY
SOCIAL TO BE ANNOUNCED

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In
our
communities

In
our
futures

In
Ourselves

Get
Growing
With

Altrusa

BCCADV is still in need of volunteers to help with fundraising and other committee work.

Letters of resignations have been received from Lisa Dotson, Donna Swift, Lola Taylor, and Sue Wielgos.

Altrusa International of Branch County

June 17, 2009, 12:00 p.m. at The Elks of Coldwater

Business Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Barb Rosene at 12:05 p.m.

Guests: Sara Roper introduced her granddaughter, Lauren Curry.

Announcements/Happy Bucks:

- Barb Rosene thanked the ladies who helped serve the meal for the cancer survivors at the Relay for Life – Patty DeGroot, Patt Male, MaryJo Kranz, Rebecca Murfin and Sandy Mancino. Barb Rosene also served.
- Barb Rosene announced that the Entertainment Under the Stars concert series is kicking off on June 30 and will take place every Tuesday night through July 28 at the Four-Corners Park at 7pm. Promotional cards with the dates, times and performers were available on the tables.
- Chris Delaney announced that the Leading Ladies opening night at Tibbits is July 9 and that this is going to be a membership event for our club. Dinner is being planned for 6pm at Martells and the show at 8pm.
- Chris Delaney announced that the Tibbits Summer Popcorn Theatre would be starting this Friday with The Sword in the Stone.
- Chris Delaney announced that the Tibbits will be hosting a joint Business After Ours with Branch and Steuben Counties on Thursday, June 25 with a “Party in the Street” theme that will conclude with the lighting of the cupola at approximately 10:30pm.

Chris Delaney announced that the Tibbits will hold their annual golf outing on June 29.

Communications:

- Sue Crabtree reported that we received a thank you letter from the Community Health Center of Branch County thanking us for our contribution of \$35. The donation had been made to our club as a memorial and was designated to go to the CHC Foundation.

Connie Winbigler reported that we received a letter from Courtney Dirschell on behalf of the BCCADV stating that they are still in need of volunteers to help with fundraising and other committee work and to please contact her if you are willing to help.

Financial Report: A financial report was not presented because the May 31, 2009 financial reports cannot be finalized until the income and expenses from the golf scramble are completed. Treasurer, Sara Roper, indicated anyone who has not yet paid their dues will need to pay an additional \$10 to cover Altrusa International late fees. Anyone not paying by July 15 will have to re-apply for membership.

Board Report: Barb Rosene shared that the board had accepted the resignation of four members at its June 10, 2009 meeting – Lisa Dotson, Donna Swift, Lola Taylor and Sue Wielgos. Barb said it is likely that we have more resignations at this time of the year because this is when our annual dues are payable and therefore many people reconsider whether they can continue their commitment to the club.

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Committee Reports:

Service – Megan Angell

- International Relations – Chris Delaney and Cynthia Wakeman traveled to the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn recently with members of the Cultural Connections Committee. Chris and Cindy will be meeting with them again the end of July to plan the community project for this year.

Hands On – Report given by Connie Winbigler on Happy Feet – to date the Happy Feet program has provided 80 pairs of shoes/boots to children and teens in 13 different schools. The program has helped 44 girls, 35 boys, 10 teens and 5 adults.

Membership Development – Chris Delaney

Attendance/Service Hours – Chris reminded everyone of the new categories for reporting your volunteer service hours. A question was raised about recording the time spent in our club meetings and Chris advised not to record that time as it will be added based on the attendance records.

Communications – Mary Ann Ford

- Newsletter – committee is meeting on Monday.
- Yearbook – pictures are being taken of each club member and will be included in this year's edition of the yearbook. A listing of each member's contact information from the 2008-2009 Yearbook was distributed for correction/verification and each member was asked to identify her preferred point of contact.

If you would like to have a picture taken at an upcoming meeting, please let Barb Rosene or Mary Ann know in advance of the meeting so arrangements can be made.

Programs – Rhonda Ives

Meeting Organization – the committee is meeting on Monday. Please forward any ideas you have on programs you would like the committee to consider to Ginger Kesler before Monday.

Select – Cynthia Bordner

Astra – Mary Jo Johnson who chairs this committee has met with the counselor at CHS and they are working together to build the ASTRA program. They plan to invite/recruit young women they feel show leadership potential to join the ASTRA club.

Initiation of New Member: Rochelle Denney was introduced by Mary Jo Johnson and then shared some of personal background and thoughts with us. She was then initiated as a new member. Her co-sponsors are Cheryl Moore and Shirley Bailey.

Tibbits Membership Tickets Raffle Winners:

Members have been purchasing raffle tickets and placing them in boxes for a chance to win our show tickets that we have as a result of our Tibbits membership. The winners were drawn and announced as follows:

- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change – Caroline Lowe
- Leading Ladies – Mary Guthrie
- Gentlemen Prefer Blondes – Kathy Cousino
- Hair – Nola Baker

50/50 raffle: \$33 went to Vicki Kibiloski.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.



Growing
Together

Altrusans gain strength as individual and organizational leaders of their communities.

Altrusans stand firmly rooted in a solid club history that extends their influence into all corners of the world.

Altrusa, branching out in your community, now. Envisioning a positive future for all, from their neighbors to humankind.



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Rochelle Denney was initiated as a new member. Co-sponsors are Cheryl Moore and Shirley Bailey.

Happy Feet has distributed 80 pairs of shoes/boots to date.

Altrusa International of Branch County
July 15, 2009, 12:00 p.m. at The Elks of Coldwater
Business Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Barb Rosene at 12:13 p.m.

Guests: none

Announcements/Happy Bucks:

- Cindy Wakeman asked that anyone with information or items of interest for the newsletter please call her or email it to her so it can be included.
- Ginger Kesler announced that the 5th Wednesday meeting which falls on July 29th will be held at the Adventure Zone from 6-8pm. This will be a family event so all are welcome. Each member will receive coupons for 2 games (either putt-putt, go carts or paint ball) and one pop.
- Amy Galliers announced that the Coldwater Noon Rotary is having their annual draw down on August 1 at 6pm at the Moose Lodge.
- Barb Rosene recognized Alicia Cole for having received her Certified Financial Planner certificate.
- Julie Stratos announced that the Community Health Center of Branch County is holding an open house for its newly renovated medical building on July 31.

Financial Report: Sara Roper presented the fiscal 2010 budget. Some discussion followed. **Motion to approve the fiscal 2010 budget by Amy Galliers, seconded by Jill Smoker. Motion passed.**

Board Report: Barb Rosene shared that the board had accepted the resignation of board member Lynette Wintersteen at its July 8, 2009 meeting.

Committee Reports:

Service – Megan Angell

- Literacy – The Literacy Committee has plans underway for Make a Difference Day.
- International Relations – A Cultural Connections activity is being planned for this year.

Happy Feet – A presentation was given to the Coldwater Exchange Club on June 18. A question was raised about adult sized shoes and it was clarified that adult sized shoes are accepted by Happy Feet.

Finance – Sara Roper

- Diamond Raffle – the application for the raffle license has been submitted.
- Golf Scramble – Alicia Cole reported the results of the scramble. We profited about \$1,000 more than we did the previous year and only \$100 short of our most profitable year ever.

Caroline Lowe and Valorie Vaughan have reviewed three years of our club's financial records and everything was found to be in order.

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In our communities

In our futures

In Ourselves

Get Growing With
Altrusa

The 2009/2010 budget was approved as presented.

Plans are underway for this year's Make a Difference Day.

Select

- By Laws – Barb Burdhardt who chairs this committee reported that the committee will be meeting in late summer to begin working on some new and revised by laws.

Barb Burkhardt also reported that the Past Presidents are overseeing the revisions that are underway to our Strategic plan.

50/50 raffle: \$24 went to Sara Roper.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Altrusa's Tibbits Dinner - Great Food, Great Fun!



The planning started long before the dinner on Friday, July 31. Remus Rigg and friends (Zabonicks, Whites, and Donbrocks) enjoyed beef tenderloin stuffed with crab as their entrée with gourmet accompaniments for a delicious five-course dinner. Arriving at Shirley Bailey's Pig Swamp Hollow by limousine, Mr. Rigg's party was regaled with enthusiastic Altrusans presenting an agricultural theme and decorations. Co-Chairs Christine Hilton and Cynthia Bordner put together a great team to cook, clean, and serve a dinner party worthy of a five-star restaurant. Never underestimate the talent of a group of Altrusans, especially if it's a worthy cause for a local organization like the Tibbits.

Committee Highlights

by Cindy Wakeman

Let's Make News!

All it takes is a photo and a few notes for Carrie Welsh to create an article for The Daily Reporter. We are fortunate to have a ready outlet for sharing all we do. Carrie was asked to chair the Public Relations Committee four years ago and has been doing great work ever since. But she does work alone. Carrie would enjoy having a partner to keep up with events. If you have an interest, this is a ready-made opportunity.

Have you noticed the many Rotary and Exchange Club articles? We can put aside modesty, just think in pictures. Volunteer work, contributions, donations, program features, awards, new members and all of our community connections can be translated into photos. Public Relations is every member's responsibility and starts with ourselves taking pride in what we do. The purpose is to increase awareness and a positive reputation within our community and our organization.

The process is very simple. Call or e-mail Carrie to let her know when you want photos taken, borrow the camera or send a photo file you've taken. You may write an article or give the details to Carrie and she will do the rest.



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The Tibbits Dinner was another great success with both guests and hostesses enjoying a pleasant evening.

Let's Make News!
Help our Public Relations Committee spread the good works of Altrusa.

9:43 AM
08/17/09
Cash Basis

ALTRUSA OF BRANCH COUNTY
Profit & Loss
June 2008 through May 2009

	<u>Jun '08 - May 09</u>
Income	
50/50 - Happy Bucks	817.75
Award Income	175.00
Cookbook	650.00
Diamond Raffle	7,770.00
Dues	5,119.67
Golf Scramble Income	17,990.00
Guest Lunch	33.00
Happy Feet	584.00
International Relation	100.11
Late Charges	30.00
Lunch Dues	10,358.33
Other Income	21.50
Rainy Day Income	684.00
Savings Interest	97.44
Scholarship Rebate	1,200.00
Total Income	45,630.80
Expense	
1st Vice President/Program	130.00
Brochures	63.22
Comm. Serv.	12,988.48
Comm. Serv.- Cole Memorial	35.00
Comm. Serv.- Literacy	1,975.00
Comm. Serv.- Rainy Day '08-'09	2,000.00
Comm. Serv.- Teen Share	500.00
Comm. Serv.- Vocational Service	2,074.00
Comm. Serv.-Tibbits 07-08 Rainy	304.76
Diamond Raffle Expense	2,321.41
District Conference Annual Fee	10.00
District Conference Fees	1,000.00
District Dues	742.00
Golf Scramble Expense	6,076.94
Hands On Project - Undecided	0.00
International Convention Dues	20.00
International Dues	2,950.00
International Foundation	200.00
International Relations	1,237.31
KCC 07-08 T. Van Auker	1,200.00
Lunch Fees	7,270.03
Member Rainy Day Fd Exp	1,437.95
Misc. Expense	752.25
Newsletter	180.00
Park Project	200.00
Planning Award	125.00
Postage	123.32
President Expense	207.20
Public Relations/Hospitality	89.63
Special Membership Events	144.13
Supplies	211.20
Treasurer Expense	101.04
White Elep.Auction 08/09	2.00
Year Book	459.97
Total Expense	47,131.84
Net Income	-1,501.04

A bit of wisdom picked up at the Altrusa International Convention:

Follow the rule of the airport: Only handle the bags that are actually yours.

Altrusa History - Looking Back at the History of Our Local Altrusa Organization

by Nola Baker

Our local Altrusa organization was organized in 1982 after professional women in the Coldwater area saw the need for a women's service organization. I interviewed Barbara Burkhardt, who joined Altrusa in 1982. Barbara shared with me what the organization was like at that time and her personal experiences with Altrusa. I learned a lot about our local organization that I did not know. I found this interview to be most interesting and I hope that you enjoy reading it.

1) Why did you decide to join Altrusa?

There was a lot of women in our area who felt the need to network, socialize and help the community when possible. I was among those 50 plus women. Jane Kuckel, who now lives in Florida, headed the effort. I identified with those ideas and wanted more association with those who came.

2) What were some of the activities or highlights of our local organization 27 years ago?

There was much discussion about whether to affiliate with an international organization or go it on our own. We investigated two possible organizations - Zonta and Altrusa. Once we settled on Altrusa, we met with the people from Altrusa who helped us organize and charter. The first couple of years were about getting organized and establishing how we wanted to go about meeting, where and what committees to form. We established a hospitality committee that greeted and collected lunch money at each meeting as well as served to provide an event or two. There was a lot of positive energy and ideas flowing at that time. All were excited to be a part of this new club of women who were leaders at their workplaces. At that time, Altrusa International required that we follow a classification model. That means only a specific percentage of members could be from any one profession to keep the club varied with representatives from many areas of community life - and it was strict. No prospective member could hold a position at the workplace that was other than the top or managerial. Since that time, the classification model has been used only as a guide rather than a rule. I tell you this to explain why the first group was so dynamic on top of being a new entity. You may want to look at the first two or three yearbooks to add to this. I have them and would be glad to loan them to you. Beyond this, the members were very conscious of community needs and began looking for a project that would have meaning and appeal for the club and eventually the Shelter house was born of a need identified by member, Jan Storrs, with full club approval. Our early meeting place was Benedict's Restaurant, located in what is now Dobson's State Farm building. Opal Benedict, owner and hostess, recently passed away and her obituary appeared in the Reporter within the last year.

3) Looking back on your Altrusa experiences, is there anything that you would like to say to someone who may be thinking about joining our organization or perhaps someone that is a new member?

We are the only club of women dedicated to community service in our area. That alone makes us desirable. We come to know and support each other realizing that our meetings are often the only place we see each other. New members should be encouraged to reach out to older members when at meetings - older members want to know about each new member and their ideas for the club. Community service needs new ideas and energy and all of us need new acquaintances in our lives that provide opportunities to become stronger and better at life. Altrusa provides that opportunity.

Greeters' Schedule

September 2
Tammy Brown
&
Kathy Cousino

September 16
Mary Ann Ford
&
Paulette Porter

September 30
Sue Crabtree
&
Mary Jo Kranz



Don't forget to check these Altrusa websites for valuable information.

[http://
www.altrusabranchny.com/](http://www.altrusabranchny.com/)

[http://
www.altrusa.com/](http://www.altrusa.com/)

[http://
www.altrusadistrictfive.org](http://www.altrusadistrictfive.org)



Altrusa International of Branch County

Patriotism. Efficiency. Service.



President: Barb Rosene

Editor: Julie Stratos

P.O. Box 631, Coldwater, MI 49036

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monthly board meetings, monthly committee meetings, training sessions for officers and attending workshops, conferences and conventions are given 3 to 7 points each. Serving on the District or International Boards and committees bring 5 to 7 points each.

Points for Communication efforts are given for having a web page, sending a newsletter electronically and providing published and web information to International and District officers for a total of 23 (we had 20).

Finally for 20 possible points (we had 11), clubs are asked if they contributed to the International Foundation, have a majority belonging to Club 21, applied or received a Foundation grant and participated in a Foundation fundraiser at conference or convention.

All of this allows us to evaluate our club's performance by a basic standard and gives us a roadmap to becoming a better club overall as we are measured by Altrusa International. Each president and board of our club strives to become a **DISTINGUISHED CLUB SET OF LEADERS** as they represent the club members. In turn, members are asked to do the necessary leading and record keeping that feeds into the final result which then produces a club that gives to its members invaluable skills and friendship along with a tremendous gifts to the community at large. We met those goals in 2008-2009 by garnering 87 points in this evaluating tool, the Distinguished Club Award Application and were awarded the yellow patch. Congratulations to Altrusa International, Inc. of Branch County.

Member Spotlight



Laura Shemel

by Mary Ann Ford

My name is Laura (Fronczak) Shemel. I was born in Mt Pleasant, MI, but grew up in Blanchard, MI. While attending Central Michigan University, I met this great guy from Coldwater, Don Shemel. After graduating, Don moved home to Coldwater and we decided to marry in 1978. Don started his own floor covering business at Coldwater Lake in 1979, and as the business grew I left my job at CHC to help out. In 1984 we moved to our current location in downtown Coldwater and added beautiful window fashions to our mix of home decorating.

We have two amazing children. Andrea (Purdue grad, 2002) works in Washington, DC for IBM. Greg has just graduated for Western Michigan with a degree in Food Marketing and International Business.

Don and I have always been active volunteers in our community through St Marks Church, Coldwater Jaycees, Tibbits and others. Being part of Altrusa (after growing too old for the Jaycee's ☺) has allowed me to continue to help the community. I believe (as the Jaycee Creed says) that Faith in God gives Meaning and Purpose to Human Life and that Service to Humanity is the Best Work of Life.

Congratulations to Alicia Cole, CFP

Altrusan Alicia K. Cole, Assistant Vice President and Trust Officer has earned the designation of Certified Financial Planner in addition to her Certified Trust and Financial Advisor designation earned in 2000. Cole joined Century Bank and Trust in 1998 and is responsible for Trust Administration and Estate Settlement. She is a 1989 graduate of Bronson High School, a 1994 graduate of Western Michigan University, and a 2000 graduate of the Cannon Trust School. Within the community, Cole is chair of the Branch Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the secretary of the Calhoun County Estate Planners Council, as well as a member and past president of Altrusa International of Branch County.

The CFP marks identify those individuals who have met the rigorous experience and ethical requirements of the CFP Board, have successfully completed financial planning coursework, and have passed the CFP Certification Examination. CFP certificants also agree to meet ongoing continuing education requirements and to uphold the CFP's codes, rules, and standards.