



The Altrusa Announcer

Altrusa International of Branch County

Volume 1, Issue 10

March 18, 2009

President Burkhardt's Message



Dear Branch County Altrusans,

This is an invitation to caravan with Barb, Connie, Mary Jo and I to a friendly, energizing experience in Saginaw, MI. There will be good people, much stimulating talk, great food and new friends. Now is the time to plan to go. The date is April 24, 25, and 26. The departure time is 10 a.m. at the commuter lot at I-69 and US12. We will arrive at the Four Points Sheraton midafternoon after a luncheon stop and leisurely drive with a lot of good visiting all the way. The Altrusa District Five Conference staff will be ready to welcome us with more details on the weekend events and we will make our plan for an evening dinner together before the opening of the

Conference.

Our club has been known to really enjoy our time at this event, leaving some fun memories with other Altrusans.... and we return energized with new ideas for our projects and fundraisers. Most times we return with awards and a greater feeling of pride and warmth for our members. This is one of the best opportunities to relax, share and visit with each other as we see how others interact and serve within their Altrusa clubs. Some of your long time questions about Altrusa will be answered. Our club sets aside \$1,000 for conference expense to be shared by all attending. Please choose to come and share.

Your leader in Altrusa,
Barb

Calendar:

- MARCH 18
BUSINESS MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
- APRIL 1
PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
CYNTHIA MCRILL
DISTRICT 5 REPRESENTATIVE
- APRIL 8
BOARD MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
- APRIL 15
BUSINESS MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
- APRIL 29
EVENING SOCIAL MEETING
5:30 P.M.— ELKS

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.

2009/2010 Board Slate of Candidates

At our business meeting March 18, we will vote to put the following slate of candidates in office providing there are no nominations from the floor:

- PRESIDENT - Barb Rosene
- FIRST VICE PRESIDENT - Rhonda Ives
- RECORDING SECRETARY - Jill Smoker
- DIRECTOR I - Mary Ann Ford
- PRESIDENT-ELECT - Megan Angell
- SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - Chris Delaney
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - Sue Crabtree
- TREASURER - Sara Roper
- DIRECTOR II - Cynthia Bordner
- IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - Barbara Burkhardt

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Minutes of the February 18 Business Meeting

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF BRANCH COUNTY BUSINESS MEETING AT THE ELKS OF COLDWATER

12:00 P.M.

MINUTES February 18, 2009

Nola Baker has been recommended for membership with the classification of Libraries.

Both Mary Jo Johnson and Mary Jo Kranz announced the births of new grandsons.

Altrusa Happy Feet has given 35 pairs of shoes and boots to needy children.

The Diamond Raffle netted \$5500 for Altrusa Community Service Projects.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Megan Angell at 12:20 p.m.

GUESTS: Sara roper introduced Nola Baker. Nola has been recommended for membership. Her classification is Libraries; History and Reference Librarian.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/HAPPY BUCKS: MaryJo Johnson announced the birth of her new grandson born February 15th to her daughter Gretchen. Mary Jo Kranz also announced the birth of her new grandson. Chris Delaney announced the installation of the cupola on the Tibbits building.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Pam Stratos passed out the financials for the months of December and January.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Megan Angell reported the issues surrounding the cost effectiveness of applying for 501c3 status. The process is both expensive and complicated. She and Rhonda Ives will both meet with Colleen Knight to explore other available options.

For the Happy Feet project, Connie Winbigler reported that 35 pairs of shoes and or boots have been recently given to children needing them. We are currently awaiting an additional 100 pairs of shoes and 20 pairs of boots from the Soles4Souls organization.

For Membership Development, Megan Angell reported that Nola Baker has been approved for membership and Becky Murfin will be taken into membership at our March 4th meeting.

For Public Relations, Carrie Welsh received a request from the Hamilton Club to submit a group photo of our club members to be displayed at the upcoming conference. Pictures will be taken at our March 4th meeting.

Regarding the Diamond Raffle, Sara Roper announced that the club's net was \$5,500.

For ASTRA, Laura Shemel shared her frustration in trying to get a response from the club's advisors. She has left messages for them and has not been able to connect with them.

Regarding the 2008 Club Policies, Amy Galliers has given all members copies of the revised policies.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

50/50 RAFFLE: Carrie Welsh won \$27.50. The winning ticket was drawn by guest, Nola Baker.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 1:05p.m.

Teen Share Update

The number of students in residence continues at four girls and two boys. They were very thankful for the shoes we provided. They also were in need of hygiene items and thank you to those who supplied some at the last meeting. This is an ongoing need, so continue to bring them in. Items such as shaving cream and razors, hair spray and gel, and tamps or pads will be gratefully accepted at any time. I am on vacation until April 5th, but they can be given to Mary Jo Johnson. They continue to need pillows. Again thanks to those who donated these items. We have also given a lamp, towels, plates, belts, and hangers this month. Keep those items coming. Brandee Burr of the Shelterhouse keeps us posted on their needs. Curtains for the bedroom windows would also be appreciated.

Thanks for your continued support.

Connie Winbigler

Happy Feet Activity Continues

The boxes of boots are all organized and await distribution. With the muddy weather and spring rains on their way, be sure to communicate to those you know that we have lots of boots to distribute, especially for girls. We recently provided tennis shoes and dress shoes for children at the Shelterhouse. The tennis shoes will be great for school and the dress shoes we had in inventory, so the Mom can make them an "Easter gift" to her daughters. She cried when presented with the items.

We also accepted several boxes of shoes from the Shelterhouse. They are in the process of being sorted and those that are appropriate are being placed in inventory. The others will be sent to Soles for Souls for further distribution to third world countries. We need to continue to place children's sizes of tennis shoes in inventory, so keep checking with your grandchildren and/or check your children's supplies and donate to us if you have ones no longer needed.



Laura Shemel, Ginger Kesler, and Cindy Wakeman took some time Saturday, March 7 to represent Altrusa at the Women's Health Fest. Over 300 women attended the event which featured over 40 exhibitors, workshops (including one by our own President Barb), free refreshments and childcare, and door prizes. Altrusa was a sponsor of the event.

"Sweet" Program Presented in February

With Valentine's Day coming quickly, the February 4 Altrusa program, "Pure Pleasure in Every Bite," was right on time. Sue Doty delighted those attending with Valentine cookies and both a peanut butter-chocolate and carrot cake. She demonstrated how to make edible sugar flowers and talked about how she creates her specialty cakes. (Sue carves the shapes from stacked cakes!) Sue brought pictures of her creations which ranged from cakes decorated to look like a pizza or hot dog to an 18 inch high dog as well as flowers and superhero cakes. While she made it look easy, talent helps!



Greeters' Schedule

April 1, 2009

**Lola Taylor
&
Mary Jo Kranz**

April 15

**Amy Galliers
&
Carrie Welsh**

April 29

**Cheryl Moore
&
Susan White**

May 6

**Rhonda Ives
&
Barb Faulkner**

May 20

**Shirley Bailey
&
Sue Crabtree**

June 3

**Julie Stratos
&
Katherine Cousino**

June 24

**Donna Swift
&
Patty Rockey**



Altrusa International of Branch County



Patriotism. Efficiency. Service.

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Committee Spotlight

Member Spotlight



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

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

Altrusa Archives

Committee Members:

(Chair) Sandra Mancino
(Board Representative) Cynthia Bordner
(Members) Lola Taylor

Current Committee Projects and Goals:

- Keep current on collecting articles for the scrapbook
- A new book for 2009-2011 has been started

Past Achievements:

Finished scrapbook for the years 2006-2008

What One Thing Will You Remember Most About Working on this Committee?

I have really enjoyed doing this scrapbook and I hope to continue this as long as I am in Altrusa.

Please keep on handing in any pictures or articles you would like in the scrapbook.

Caroline Lowe Chosen Chamber's Citizen of the Year

Altrusa's very own Caroline Lowe was chosen as the Branch Area Chamber of Commerce's 2008 Citizen of the Year. Caroline was selected for her community service over the past 20 plus years.

Specifically noted were her contributions to the Tibbits Opera Foundation on the Board of Directors as Treasurer and President, as volunteer for the Tibbits auction and bookkeeping, as well as her financial contributions.

Also noted was her role as a charter member of Altrusa International of Branch County and her part in the formation of both the Shelterhouse and Teen Share.

Caroline joins fellow Altrusans Barb Faulkner, Barb Burkhardt, and Julie Stratos as well as several past Altrusans as Chamber Community Award recipients.

Other recipients this year included Walmart Distribution and Transportation, Business of the Year; the Great Hospice Duck Race, Outstanding Community Program; and Kristin Dogan, Teacher of the Year.

Perhaps club members might consider nominating a fellow Altrusan as Citizen of the Year or one of our many service projects for Outstanding Community Program of the Year in 2010.



Kid's Korner



Was it really a year ago?! Carrie Welsh shares this picture (left) of her first grandchild, Isabelle Sarlow, on the occasion of her first birthday!



It's Butterfly Time!

Foremost's Butterflies Are Blooming is Meijer Gardens' most popular annual exhibition and the largest temporary tropical butterfly exhibit in the nation. Exhibit hours: Monday, Wednesday-Sunday, 9 am-5 pm; Tuesday, 9 am-9 pm, March 1-April 30. At right are Julie Stratos' grandchildren greeted by Flutter, the Butterfly, last year.