



The Altrusa Announcer

Altrusa International of Branch County
P.O. Box 631, Coldwater, MI 49036

Volume 2, Issue 6

November 17, 2009

From the President



This has been an extremely sad month for our Altrusan membership. Please keep in your prayers and thoughts Mary Jo Kranz and Caroline Lowe, who both lost their husbands, and Sara Roper, who lost her father.

I want to encourage all of us to sell, sell, sell those raffle tickets. We have about 3 weeks to go and have more than 50% of our tickets left to sell. I realize that this year will definitely be a challenge, but if all of us sell at least the tickets we were given...we can do this. Remember the funds we generate all go to help others in the community. I know when I mention this as I am asking people, I tend to get at

least one sale. Thanks to all who are selling...just a couple more weeks.

As I write this message, we are getting ready to welcome District Governor Kathy Carmack. I personally look forward to hearing what she has to say, and know that our club will welcome her and be just as interested in receiving her message.

I am hopeful that some of our club can make our Special Event on December 5th...I do know that this time of the year is a busy one for all of us.

Have a great Turkey Day!

Barb

Calendar:

DECEMBER 2
PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
DIAMOND RAFFLE

DECEMBER 16
BUSINESS MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS

DECEMBER 30
PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
PROGRAM TO BE DETERMINED

JANUARY 6
PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
LIFE COACH, REBECCA MURFIN

DECEMBER 16
BUSINESS MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS

Update on Diamond Raffle Sales

By Shirley Bailey

Deposits to date are \$3,670. We've got a long way to go in a short time. As you know, the winner may choose either diamond stud earrings of 1 carat total weight or a pendant of 3/4 carat. At the last meeting, Sue Crabtree received a prize since she turned in the most money that day. Wonder what the rewards committee has in mind for the next reward?

If we are to maintain our reputation as a leader among service clubs, we must raise the money to continue our community giving. Of course, that means sell those tickets. The drawing is at a luncheon meeting on December 5, not much time left.

IF YOU SOLD YOUR 15,
SURELY YOU CAN SELL 5
MORE. IF YOU HAVEN'T
SOLD YOUR FIRST 15—SELL
THEM AND 5 MORE!



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In our communities

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Get Growing With Altrusa

ASTRA's Advisor, President, and Vice President were Altrusa's guests at the October 7 meeting.

Health Care reform was discussed by Fran Brennan of Mark Schauer's office.

Altrusa International of Branch County

October 7, 2009, 12:00 p.m. at The Elks of Coldwater

Program Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Barb Rosene at 12:08 p.m.

Guests:

- Mary Jo Johnson introduced ASTRA advisor Julie Bucklin, ASTRA President Rebekah Mendelsohn and ASTRA Vice President Taylor Hodge.

- Sara Roper introduced Courtney Reneau with Monarch Community Bank.

Announcements/Happy Bucks:

- Paulette Porter will be celebrating her Mother's 90th birthday on Monday.

- Julie Stratos announced that an open house is being held tomorrow night for the new Community Care and Conference Center.

- Alicia Cole announced that the Chamber of Commerce is holding its Corn Hole Classic tournament on Saturday, October 17th at Cole Story and the entry fee is \$6 per team.

- Valerie Vaughan has posters available to help promote the Diamond Raffle.

- Kathy Cousino shared the Literacy Committee's plans for Make a Difference Day. They will be making books at the Coldwater and Bronson libraries on Saturday, October 24th and at the Quincy Library on November 10th. The Literacy Committee is meeting after today's club meeting.

- Norma Wojack put the names of the four top diamond raffle ticket sellers in a basket so that one name could be drawn out and that person could be rewarded. Connie Winbigler's name was drawn and she received the reward. It was noted that Connie was the first person to turn in her tickets this year. Norma also announced that each member who has sold her tickets as of the October 21 meeting will receive a prize.

- A "Linked In" and Facebook (social networking) seminar is being held on October 15th and anyone interested in attending can sign up through the Chamber of Commerce.

In Sue Crabtree's absence, Sara Roper shared the third quarter attendance report (July 1 – September 30, 2009) and that there were ten members with perfect attendance. Sara then read their names – they were Nola Baker, Barb Burkhardt, Alicia Cole, Chris Delaney, Rebecca Duke, Patt Male, Jill Smoker, Valorie Vaughan, Cindy Wakeman and Carrie Welsh.

PROGRAM: "Discussion on Health Care Legislation" by Fran Brennan

Fran was with us on behalf of Mark Schauer's office to discuss many of the issues and questions regarding the changes being contemplated in health care legislation.

50/50 raffle: \$26 went to Mary Feller.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

EFFICIENCY-SERVICE-PATRIOTISM

Altrusa International of Branch County

October 21, 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: Guests included Courtney Reneau from Monarch Community Bank and Jody Shook with the Coldwater Board of Public Utilities.

Announcements/Happy Bucks:

- Julie Stratos announced that there will be a fundraiser for Bruce Caswell at the Tibbits on November 17 and tickets are \$50.
- Alicia Cole was pleased to announce that the yearbooks are complete and that she had handed them out to those present at the meeting.
- Susan White announced that today is Rebecca Murfin's birthday.
- Cindy Wakeman announced that the International Relations Committee will be meeting today after the club meeting.
- Connie Winbigler shared that the girls at Teen Share can use donations of hygiene and paper products. A follow up email was sent to the membership following the meeting.

ASTRA will be hosting the Coldwater High School Snoball dance on December 5.

Communications Report: Sue Crabtree reported that we received a letter from Legg Middle School and she read the letter to the club. The letter described a program that is being started at the school to recognize and reward positive student behavior and the school is seeking financial support for the program.

Past Presidents Barb Falkner and Alicia Cole presented facts on Altrusa International and our club as a part of an ongoing "Club Information" series.

Financial Report: Sara Roper reported that we are on budget and that the financials were not prepared in time to make the newsletter this past month.

Board Report: Barb Rosene reported that the board accepted with regret the resignation of Laura Shemel and approved a leave of absence for Cheryl Moore through March 31, 2010.

Committee Reports:

Service – Megan Angell

- International Relations – the committee is continuing to attend the Cultural Connections meetings at MSU.
- Literacy – The Literacy Committee is doing a book making project for children for Make a Difference Day. They will be at the Coldwater and Bronson libraries on October 24 and the Quincy library on November 10.
- Community Service – the 2009-2010 Community Service Budget was presented (which had been previously distributed to members via email) and discussed. **Motion to approve the 2009-2010 Community Service Budget made by Carrie Welsh, seconded by Sara Roper. Motion passed.**



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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The girls at Teen Share can use donations of personal hygiene and paper products.

The Community Service budget was presented and approved.



In our communities

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Get Growing With Altrusa

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Hands On

Happy Feet – applying for assistance for Soles for Souls.

Englewood will be decorated for Christmas.

Teen Share – can use canned/boxed foods, hygiene products and paper products.

Membership

Attendance – Sue Crabtree has completed the attendance reports for the second and third quarters. See Sue if you want to check your attendance records.

Communications – MaryAnn Ford

Newsletter – the Newsletter Committee will be meeting on October 28.

Diamond Raffle

- Cynthia Bordner announced that we have deposited \$1,460 so far and that we are behind where we were at this time last year.

Rochelle Denney gave rewards to the members who have sold all 15 of their original 15 tickets.

Programs – Rhonda Ives – no report

Select – Cynthia Bordner

- ASTRA – MaryJo Johnson announced that ASTRA’s Snoball event will be on December 5.
- By Laws, Resolutions and Recommendations – the committee is still hard at work on their recommendations.

Park Project – waiting for a hard frost before they wrap it up for the year.

50/50 raffle: \$26 went to Susan White.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

ALTRUSA CLUB CONTINUES SUPPORT OF TEEN SHARE AND ALLIANCE FOODS, INC. JOINS IN THE EFFORT

By Connie Winbigler

Teen Share continues to be an active and busy place for homeless teens in this county. Currently there are six girls being housed in this shelter. The Altrusa Club of Branch County is continuing their support of the students and recently went shopping at Sav-a-Lot for paper products, cleaning supplies, and boxed and canned foods. Alliance Foods, Inc. of Coldwater helped support this endeavor by providing \$100 worth of coupons at the store. This is the second year Alliance has joined with the Altrusa Club to provide needed food and household items. Shown above left to right are Mary Feller, Sandy Mancino, and Connie Winbigler of the Hands On Committee for Altrusa, delivering the items out to the Teen Share Home.



There are currently six girls housed at Teen Share.

Alliance Foods helped support shopping for Ten Share with \$100 in coupons for the second year.

ALTRUSA OF BRANCH COUNTY
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 June through October 2009

	Jun - Oct 09	Budget
Income		
50/50 - Happy Bucks	276.00	750.00
Cookbook	220.00	300.00
Diamond Raffle	2,810.00	7,500.00
Dues	3,822.70	4,136.00
Golf Scramble Income	0.00	18,000.00
Lunch Dues	4,806.30	10,528.00
Other Income	50.00	500.00
Savings Interest	15.34	75.00
Total Income	12,186.34	41,789.00
Expense		
1st Vice President/Program	0.00	150.00
Astra	0.00	200.00
Brochures	0.00	50.00
Comm. Serv.		
Community Service All Other	248.41	15,109.00
Happy Feet Carry Over	701.59	563.52
Literacy	24.54	1,951.00
Scholarships	0.00	1,951.00
Teen Share	0.00	500.00
Tibbits Dinner carry over	400.00	400.00
Total Comm. Serv.	1,374.54	20,474.52
Diamond Raffle Expense	179.25	2,350.00
District Conference Annual Fee	10.00	10.00
District Conference Fees	0.00	1,000.00
District Dues	654.00	658.00
Golf Scramble Expense	0.00	6,000.00
International Convention Dues	720.00	720.00
International Dues	2,570.00	2,585.00
International Foundation	0.00	200.00
International Relations	0.00	200.00
Lunch Fees	2,826.00	7,630.00
Misc. Expense	0.00	500.00
Newsletter	35.00	50.00
Park Project	0.00	200.00
Planning Award	0.00	125.00
Postage	44.00	125.00
President Expense	227.87	200.00
Public Relations/Hospitality	80.88	250.00
Secretary Expense	0.00	25.00
Special Membership Events	0.00	200.00
Supplies	128.87	200.00
Treasurer Expense	5.00	100.00
Vocational Scholarship Advertis	0.00	200.00
Year Book	468.82	550.00
Total Expense	9,489.02	44,952.52
Net Income	2,697.32	-3,163.52

Congratulations to the following Altrusans for perfect attendance!

Perfect Attendance 2nd Quarter

- Megan Angel
- Cynthia Bordner
- Alicia Cole
- Katherine Cousino
- Sue Crabtree
- Chris Delaney
- Rochelle Denney
- Mary Feller
- Mary Ann Ford
- Mary Jo Johnson
- Vicki Kibiloski
- Mary Jo Kranz
- Patt Male
- Barb Rosene
- Jill Smoker
- Valerie Vaughan
- Connie Winbigler



Growing Together

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ALTRUSA OF BRANCH COUNTY
Balance Sheet
 As of October 31, 2009

	Oct 31, 09
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking Account	4,812.44
Savings Account	24,353.17
Total Checking/Savings	29,165.61
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	-162.00
Total Accounts Receivable	-162.00
Total Current Assets	29,003.61
TOTAL ASSETS	29,003.61
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	26,107.32
Retained Earnings	198.97
Net Income	2,697.32
Total Equity	29,003.61
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	29,003.61

Perfect Attendance 3rd Quarter

- Nola Baker
- Barb Burkhardt
- Alicia Cole
- Chris Delaney
- Rebecca Duke
- Patt Male
- Jill Smoker
- Valerie Vaughan
- Cindy Wakeman
- Carrie Welch

Altrusa International of Branch County has assets totaling \$29,003.61 as of October 31, 2009.

17 members had perfect attendance in the 2nd quarter and 10 had the same in the 3rd quarter.



In our communities

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Get Growing With

Altrusa

Local Club Policies and Procedures

By Nola Baker

Any organization needs a strong committee to implement their local club policies and procedures. Our By Law Committee is chaired this year by Barb Burkhardt along with committee members Megan Angell, Kathy Cousino, and Amy Galliers. (I apologize if I omitted the name of any committee member.)

Our local club policies reflect additions to the Bylaws and Policies published in current editions of *Bylaws and Policies* and *The Altrusa Encyclopedia* by Altrusa International, Inc. This is also known as the “big blue book” that you receive once you become an Altrusa member. There is a lot of valuable information in this book. I encourage you to read it on a cold Michigan evening preferably by a warm fire or with a hot cup of coffee or tea nearby!

Our Mission Statement is as follows: Altrusa International of Branch County is a classified group of executives and professionals from diversified fields who meet to network and socialize, and to provide assistance to the identified and agreed upon needs of Branch County.

In a quick review of our local club policies, there are basically nine main areas. They are as follows: Membership, Meetings, Board of Directors, Committees, Budget, Financial Review, Payment of Club Fees in a Timely Manner, Evaluation of Projects, and Gifts, Remembrances, and Donations. A tenth area would be for any amendments to the above mentioned areas by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the membership attending at any regular business meeting. If you wish to view our policies and procedures, go to our webpage at www.altrusabranhcounty.com

Committee Updates

By Cindy Wakeman

ASTRA Event

ASTRA with the Coldwater Junior Class is sponsoring the Snowball Dance on December 5th. This year’s theme will be Cinderella with a castle setting, carriage and large clock. Save the date and stay tuned for how we may help.

Community Service Funding

Now that we have passed the budget, Mary Feller and Connie Winbigler are distributing checks and inviting recipients over the next several months. In addition, they have contacted local organizations for donations to Happy Feet. The Eagles sent \$100, and Connie has been invited to speak to the Noon Rotary.

Members are encouraged to donate kindly used children’s boots and shoes. It’s a solution for cleaning out children’s and grandchildren’s closets. Over 200 pairs have been given to local children and we are particularly short of boy’s boots and shoes. Any donations may be brought to an Altrusa meeting or dropped off at Hauska Home and Farm .

ASTRA’s Snowball will have Cinderella as its theme this year.

The Eagles donated \$100 to Happy Feet . Donations of kindly used children’s boots and used are always appreciated.

International Convention

by Kathleen Howard, District 5 Second Vice Governor

It is such a thrill to really FEEL that we are an international group. Going to convention really brings that to the fore, beginning with the parade of flags from all the countries where Altrusa is located. I met and chatted with people from Puerto Rico, New Zealand and Russia. And, of course, there were representatives from all over the United States. It was fun to just sit at a table and learn where everyone at the table was from, and to find out a little about their clubs.

We had some very serious issues to discuss and vote on at this convention. After only a small amount of discussion, we voted overwhelmingly to use the reserves to do a —rebranding of Al-

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District 5 members at International Convention

Make a Difference Day

By Katherine Cousino



“Make a Book” is the name of our project for Make a Difference Day. Myself, Valerie Vaughan and Mary Jo Johnson worked at the Coldwater library, and Rebecca Duke and Sherry Haylett worked at the Bronson library on October 24th. Altrusa supplied the materials the children used to make their own books. Materials included construction paper, markers, crayons, stickers, stencils, and glue. The construction paper was cut to the size to fit into a sandwich size baggie. When the child was done with designing their pages, we took the page, put it into the baggie, put the baggies together and bound them with colored duck tape. The ages of the children were 3 to around 12. There were 8 children at the Coldwater library and 12 at

the Bronson library. I had a very enjoyable time working with the children. I think I had more fun than they did. It was great to see the creativity of the children. We also gave each child a new book when they were completed with the activity. We are planning to do the same activity at the Quincy library at a future date.



Greeters' Schedule

December 2
Cynthia Bordner
&
Mary Jo Johnson

December 16
Christine Delaney
&
Ginger Kesler

December 30
Rebecca Duke
&
Kathy Barone

Don't forget to check these Altrusa websites for valuable



information.

<http://.altrusabrancho.unty.com/>

<http://www.altrusa.com/>

<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



Member Spotlight

Rebecca Lee Murfin by Mary Ann Ford



I was born in Coldwater in October 1954 and raised in Branch County. I was the 5th of five children born to Robert and Kathryn Murfin. Our family remains in Branch County with the exception of my

brother who lives in Arizona.

I became a mother at an early age and by the time I was 21 years old I had given birth to three beautiful children. Today Mashon is 36, Jessy is 34 and Dane is 33. All three have children of their own and the total grandchildren count is 7!! I consider them my greatest accomplishment of all time! Years of school, college and my son's 6.5 years of service in the Army Airborne division, have become a past season in life. We now enjoy sharing grandchildren and their successful lives!

I operated a licensed Day Care so I could stay home with my children until they were in school. I was one of only a few licensed operators at the time, so I began my relationship with the Department of Social Services who placed children in my home quite regularly. Later I worked for the Department in the Family Support division, searching for "missing" parents. I then moved to the Tri-County Health Department and spent the next 15 years working in various roles including Health Education, Prenatal clinics and my most fulfilling role in Children's Special Health Care Services. These families were enrolled in our program because of severe medical conditions requiring long term care and follow up. I participated in dozens of community service boards and programs in all three counties. I became certified in Hospice, Mediation and Insurance and implemented the lead role in Individual Family Service Planning (IFSP's) bringing together the coordinated efforts of many local children services agencies. I traveled to hospitals to meet with families when necessary and to many homes throughout the counties of Branch-Hillsdale and St Joseph. Together we built trusting relationships and I was allowed to witness the courage and strength of all my families.

I was also employed at Infinisource moving from Customer Service to Sales to the Training Department. When we bought our current home here on River Road I decided to devote my time to getting settled and coordinating repairs on our rental property homes. This became a full-time venture. We constructed a greenhouse on our fifteen acres, which supports another fascinating adventure in Gardening!! I just love any creative outlet that follows a process!! We enjoy a beautiful view of the lake and boating. True to my nature, however, there are many "toys" that are workhorses here on the lake farm!

I found myself back in school again, but this time to become a Certified Life Coach. "Life Coaching" is a gift I was given throughout my life and I have found a framework to support this. As a Life Coach I teach others not how to "fix" their problems and fears, but rather to recognize and embrace them to find the opportunity in the obstacle. I don't provide the answers; rather I lead each person to find their own strengths and unique gifts through a trusted relationship. My focus has been with women who have had or are experiencing Life Altering Events. I also empower others with the gift of organization. I am designed with a true spirit of service and sharing!!

(Continued from page 7)

trusa. This is to make it easier to get new members, and to explain ourselves. And an amazing thing happened. The past International presidents and past and current governors started a fund to augment the monies so that not so much would be required to be drawn from reserves. They kicked this off with almost \$9,000. They then expanded it to include anyone who wanted to donate, and they ended up with over \$16,000! This was just a hint of how much Altrusa means to many of us. As someone mentioned, only \$10.00 per member would mean not having to draw ANY money out of reserves to do this project for the first (biggest) year.

My biggest dilemma was that I wanted to attend almost all the workshops, but there was no way to do so. One workshop presented new marketing materials, including tested wording for —cold prospect letters and —warm prospect letters. I have scanned these materials and placed them on the district website. Just click on —Search and enter the word —marketing.