



The Altrusa Announcer

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

Volume 2, Issue 9

February 17, 2010

From the President



Hope everyone is warm and shoveled out from the last snow storm. I cannot believe how efficient our City's Department of Municipal Services are during the snow storms.

I am hoping all Altrusans are boning up on the information that is in the Year Book as we get ready for the Past President's Special Event on March 31st.

Your Board who is in charge of coming up with special events would like to announce that we are planning a Very Special Event –

Please join us on Saturday, March 13th when we will go to Benedict's Steakhouse (special menu guaranteed to get us in and out in a very timely manner) and then to Tibbits to see **Not for Women Only**. Tickets are \$17 unless you are a Tibbits member then the cost is \$15. Make it a date night or come by yourself or with a friend...but let's make this special event a great fun time. More info will be on the tables at the February 17th meeting .

Also a very special salute to Alicia Cole who was the only Branch County Altrusan with true perfect attendance.—attending 24 out of 28 meetings. The following have perfect attendance by District V criteria (one meeting a month for 12 months) – Cynthia Bordner, Katherine Cousino, Sue Crabtree, Rebecca Duke, MaryJo Johnson, Jill Smoker, Julie Stratos, Valorie Vaughn, Cindy Wakeman, Carrie Welch, Connie Winbigler, Norma Wojack. This is a pretty impressive number as well...Congrats go to them too.

We will be getting more information in this newsletter about District V Conference in Columbus – April 23 – 25. Please consider going. I know we will have a great time and learn a lot too.

Have a great rest of February.

Barb

Calendar:

MARCH 3
PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
FABULOUS FUN AFTER 50
NANCY DAVIS

MARCH 17
BUSINESS MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS

MARCH 31
PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
PAST PRESIDENTS' DRAW-DOWN

APRIL 7
PROGRAM MEETING
12:00 NOON—ELKS
THE LIBRARY LEAPS INTO TECHNOLOGY
NOLA BAKER

Hands-On Committee Update

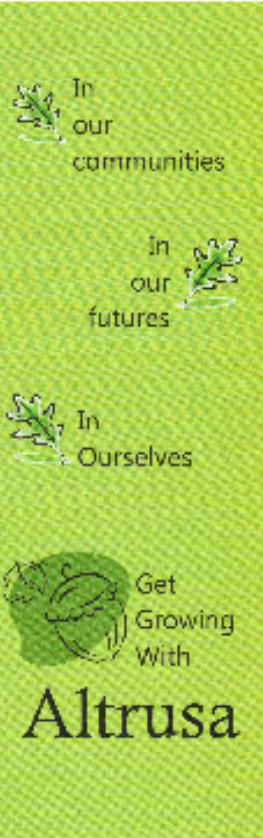
By Connie Winbigler

For Teen Share we gave the residents gift baskets for Christmas containing snacks, socks, personal hygiene items and a gift card to Meijer's. Currently there are 3 girls and 1 boy in residence. A new director has been employed at BCCADV. She has indicated strong support for the Teen Share program. She further indicates she feels this program within the organization needs to receive top priority in the forthcoming year. She is applying for a Hearst grant to support many of the ideas she has for improving the environment and the programs needing to be implemented. There is some remodeling going on at both houses as she is having created a small efficiency apartment for both houses where an R.A. will be housed resulting in more supervision of the youth. Some of Altrusa's Teen Share dollars will be used to help supply the kitchen and bed needs for the efficiency for the boys house. One of the boys bedrooms can be made into the office and with bunk beds, 4 boys can still be housed. Anytime you want to donate laundry soap or hygiene products for Teen Share just bring them to a meeting and I will see they get delivered.

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Patsy Karbon presented an informative program on CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children) of Branch County.

The 55th Annual District Five Conference will be in Dublin (Columbus), OH this year April 23-25.

Altrusa International of Branch County January 6, 2010, 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 12:15 p.m.

Guests: Rebecca Duke introduced her friend Alisha Locklin.

Announcements:

- Barb Rosene announced that the Board will be working on the District Awards and that they will be calling on members to assist.
- Barb Rosene announced that the Ice Fest will be held January 30th and that there will be additional attractions this year.
- Mary Feller asked for volunteers to go to Englewood following today's meeting to take down the Christmas decorations.
- Chris Delaney announced upcoming Tibbits activities which include a food event with the Singing Chef and auditions for the upcoming children's presentation.
- Barb Burkhardt announced that she had a ticket available to Jersey Boys.

Barb Rosene announced that Rebecca Murfin's father passed away recently in case anyone wants to send a card.

PROGRAM: Patsy Karbon, Coordinator of CASA of Branch County

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children. It is a program under the Probate Court system that tries to unite children who are in foster care with their parents. It is made up of trained community volunteers who meet at least once a week with the children. The volunteers work with the probate court, the family, lawyers and the DHS caseworkers. This is a great program in our community that needs additional volunteers.

50/50 raffle: \$30.00 went to Rochelle Denney.

Next Meeting: January 20, 2010, Greeters are Sherry Haylett & Alicia Cole

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

Sara Roper for
Jill Smoker, Recording Secretary

Treasure Altrusa—Invest in Service

By Mary Ann Ford

55th ANNUAL DISTRICT FIVE CONFERENCE . . .

is in Dublin, OH April 23-25 this year. The distance is a short 3 ½ hour drive from Coldwater. It promises to be a great experience for the novice as well as the experienced. Where else can you meet new people with same goals and ideals as our club? What a great place to network new ideas and programs for our own local club!

So sponsors, contact the new members you brought into the club and invite them to go. The cost per room is \$129.00 and if we double or triple or quad up the cost for the event is minimal.

Altrusa International of Branch County

January 20, 2010, 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 12:10 p.m.

Announcements/Happy Bucks:

- Sue Crabtree announced that she was back but that it was cold in Florida.
- Cindy Wakeman announced the community choir would be performing.
- Julie Stratos announced that the CHC Gala would be held March 20 and that they are in the planning stages.
- Nola Baker announced that there would be discussion groups at all branches of the Branch County library for the book *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* starting March 8th and ending March 13th. Then on March 15th at 1:00 pm the author will be at Tibbits for a book discussion and book signing.
- Barb Rosene reminded the club about the Coldwater Downtown Ice Fest that will be held on Jan 30th. She also told the club how great the soup is that she bought at the Tibbits auction and that Connie Winbigler supplies. And, she reminded us that the Quincy Tip-Up is next Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
- Chris Delaney gave a Tibbits update.

Communications Report: No report.

Financial Report: Sara Roper reported that our budget is on track, that we don't have a final diamond raffle report yet and that the community service budget is being dispersed.

Board Report: No report.

Committee Reports:

Service – Megan Angell

Community Service – checks are being presented as we go through the year and two today.

Hands On

- Shelterhouse – They have a new director who is concerned about and is making Teen Share a top priority. She is making some changes there. She is applying for a large grant for the whole program, there are more staff changes happening. They do need some kitchen supplies and bedding for the boys house. She is also developing a BCCAD brochure.
- Happy Feet – continues to be busy and has applied to United Way for \$2,000
- Vocational Services – meeting in February
- Literacy – Kathy Cousino presented a check to Jeanni Milnes who is the President of the Literacy Council. Jeanni thanked us for our support.

Community Service – Connie Winbigler presented a check to Cindy Wakeman for the International Relations committee. That committee continues to meet and plan their Cultural Connection event which will be on 4/16/10.



Growing
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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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Barb Rosene commented on how good the soup made by Connie Winbigler was. Barb purchased the package at the Tibbits Auction.

The Shelterhouse has a new director who has great interest in Teen Share.



Pat Sampsel was initiated at the 1/20 meeting. Pat is a returning Altrusa member.

Happy Feet has distributed nearly 300 pairs of shoes and boots this year compared with 80 last year.

(Continued from page 3)

Membership – Chris Delaney asked Sue Crabtree to report on attendance. Sue announced all who had perfect attendance for the quarter. Sue also pointed out that there is now another column on the sign up sheet and it is for Community Event Participation representing Altrusa. It was suggested that all a member had to do to represent Altrusa was wear the Altrusa pin.

Communications – MaryAnn Ford

- Newsletter – committee is meeting
- Yearbook – completed but Barb asked that any changes be sent to her.
- Public Relations – Carrie thanked the club for the new camera.

Finance – Sara Roper asked Alicia Cole to address the golf scramble. She said that they are starting early and she asked that everyone participate. It will be held on May 28th. There are some sponsorship changes. She asked that members not sign up to work that day unless they are sure they can come.

Programs – Rhonda Ives – no report

Select – Cynthia Bordner

- By Laws, Resolutions and Recommendations – the committee should have the changes to us next month for a vote.
- ASTRA – Mary Jo reported that since the Snow Ball was last month, they are meeting to discuss how they are going forward.

Nominating Committee: Barb Rosene asked for volunteers for the nominating committee for next year’s Board of Directors and officer. The following volunteered:

- Shirley Bailey – Chairperson
- Caroline Lowe
- Sherry Haylett
- Patty DeGroot
- Alicia Cole

Initiation: Pat Sampsel, who was a former member, was initiated back into the club. Welcome back Pat. Connie Winbigler and Susan White were her sponsors.

District Conference Discussion: Barb Rosene advised that the club has been asked to host the district conference in 2012. Discussion followed. The biggest concern is finding a location to have it. A committee was appointed to work on finding a location preferably in Branch County.

50/50 Raffle: Courtney Reneau won.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Sara Roper for Jill Smoker

Recording Secretary

(Continued from page 1)

The committee continues to be busy purchasing shoes and/or boots. We have distributed close to 300 pairs this year compared to 80 last year. We completed and submitted an application to United Way asking for a monetary grant to further support this program. We have received multiple thank yous from social workers this year thanking us for this program and what a relief it is that they have us to fall back on when they see children with a need. We have followed up with a report to Soles for Souls. We shared with them how we have been distributing their boots they gave us and also mentioned we really are in need of more boys boots. Remember, we still can place into inventory gently used shoes or boots that fit Head Start or grade school children. Just drop them off at Hauska Home and Farm or bring them to an Altrusa meeting.

ALTRUSA OF BRANCH COUNTY
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 June 2009 through January 2010

	Jun '09 - Jan 10	Budget
Income		
50/50 - Happy Bucks	531.25	750.00
Cookbook	280.00	300.00
Diamond Raffle	7,100.00	7,500.00
Dues	3,886.20	4,136.00
Golf Scramble Income	0.00	18,000.00
Happy Feet	311.00	
Late Charges	30.00	
Lunch Dues	7,078.30	10,528.00
Other Income	50.00	500.00
Savings Interest	30.69	75.00
Total Income	19,297.44	41,789.00
Expense		
1st Vice President/Program	0.00	150.00
Altrusa Information	36.71	
Astra	0.00	200.00
Brochures	0.00	50.00
Comm. Serv.		
Community Service All Other	8,462.88	15,109.00
Happy Feet Carry Over	562.73	563.52
Literacy	1,724.54	1,951.00
Scholarships	0.00	1,951.00
Teen Share	500.00	500.00
Tibbits Dinner carry over	400.00	400.00
Total Comm. Serv.	11,650.15	20,474.52
Diamond Raffle Expense	628.25	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	4,602.00	7,630.00
Member Rainy Day Fd Exp	150.00	
Misc. Expense	59.25	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	327.87	200.00
Public Relations/Hospitality	351.52	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	22,441.44	44,952.52
Net Income	-3,144.00	-3,163.52



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June 2009 through January 2010, lunch dues have generated \$2,476.30 in income.

Through January 2010, revenues year-to-date are \$19,297.44 with expenses year-to-date of \$22,441.11



Altrusa International of Branch County has \$23,162.29 in assets.

The Nominating quickly completed filling the slate of officers thanks to the willingness of all called to serve.

ALTRUSA OF BRANCH COUNTY Balance Sheet As of January 31, 2010

	Jan 31, 10
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking Account	3,899.77
Savings Account	19,368.52
Total Checking/Savings	<u>23,268.29</u>
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	-106.00
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>-106.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>23,162.29</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>23,162.29</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	26,107.32
Retained Earnings	198.97
Net Income	-3,144.00
Total Equity	<u>23,162.29</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>23,162.29</u>

Report of the Nominating Committee

By Shirley Bailey

For the slate of officers for the year 2010-2011

Altrusa International of Branch County

The following members in good standing have agreed to serve as follows:

- PRESIDENT Megan Angell
- PRESIDENT-ELECT Ginger Kesler
- 1st. VICE PRESIDENT Christine Delaney
- 2nd. VICE PRESIDENT Susan White
- IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Barbara Rosene
- RECORDING SECRETARY Nola Baker
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Susan Crabtree
- TREASURER Sara Roper
- DIRECTOR 1 Rebecca Murfin
- DIRECTOR 2 Jill Smoker

Respectfully Submitted,

Shirley Bailey-Chair

Caroline Lowe, Alicia Cole, Patty DeGroot, Sherry Haylett

That's How Our Money Grows

By Cindy Wakeman

Thank you. The International Relations Committee will invest the \$200 contribution from Community Services in the Third Annual Cultural Connections Celebration at Tibbits. This collaboration with funds and volunteer services strengthens the current Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs mini-grant application from the Young Michigan Dances. By continuing this successful project to bring rich cultural experiences to students and residence of Branch County, we will also be eligible to request another Altrusa International grant.

Save the date - Friday, April 16th, 7:00pm - for the exhilarating Kuungana Drum and Dance performance at Tibbits. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$7 for students. The free Cultural Festival and Reception begins at 6:00 pm. This is an ideal outing for your children and grandchildren.

Hosting District Five Conference in 2012

By Shirley Bailey

The committee for exploring the feasibility of hosting conference in 2012 presented the following information to the membership at the Feb. 3rd meeting.

- The conference should be held in Branch County, and no assessment on members should be necessary. Registration revenue should cover expenses except gratuities to whomever we ask to appear, i.e., presentation and retirement of the flags at opening and closing, and any speakers we may provide.
- Two of the committee met with the manager and owner of the Comfort Inn. We were advised we could have the entire facility if revenues reached \$11,000. Calculations indicate this to be achievable.
- The hotel has 60 rooms or housing for 120 plus. The cost per room would be \$95 plus 11% tax. Double occupancy (which attendees do) would be \$105.45 or \$53 per person, which is much less than rooms at previous conferences.
- Two suites would be available for the Governor and the Board. Five breakout rooms holding 25-30 are available.
- The hotel uses either Linda Grant or Martells' as caterers and would have a bar set-up. We would do the menu planning with the caterer. The selection of menu item costs would be factored into the registration revenues. We would be responsible for three sit-down meals, Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday lunch. The hotel would provide continental breakfast Saturday and Sunday.
- We would be responsible for greeters/welcomers, Friday night opening ceremonies, a speaker or program at lunch on Saturday, and entertainment at the Saturday night banquet. The District conducts the Sunday memorial, but we would provide the clergy.
- The subjects and presenters for the workshops are the function of the District Board. We would provide equipment needed for the presenters. Selection of the theme of the conference is ours.
- IT WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL EACH AND EVERY MEMBER PARTICIPATE. A chair and co-chair will be needed.

It is my understanding Gov. Kathy Karmack plans to visit to review our plan on March 3. Final decision will be made after her visit.

Greeters' Schedule

March 3
Norma Wojack
&
Paulette Porter

March 17
Pat Male
&
Carrie Welsh

March 31
Rhonda Ives
&
Barbara Burkhardt

April 7
Barb Faulkner
&
Megan Angell



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

<http://.altrusabrancho.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

Connie Winbigler by Mary Ann Ford



Prior to making Coldwater my home, I was born in Logansport, Indiana, and lived all my life in Monticello, Indiana until such time as I went to nursing school in Ft. Wayne. Therefore I was a dedi-

cated Hoosier for many years and therefore an avid basketball fan with Purdue being my passion. Our kids went to Purdue camps and our grandchildren are following in the steps of being all about Purdue.

I grew up in a grocery store which three generations of my family owned and operated. My father also was an Archway cookie salesman and so learned during the summer how to check for stale cookies and fill shelves pretty fast.

Being an only child, I loved going to my great aunt and uncle's farm in the summer. They had 5 children and it was an experience to be in their house. Little did I know it probably helped to prepare me for motherhood of three boys and living on 12 acres, having a large garden, learning to bale hay and feed thrashers, and following later with a lot of canning and freezing and preserving of foods.

I began to babysit when 11, worked at a nursing home when 15, was a nurse aide in local hospital at 16, and then finished my high school period by working in a physician's office. I was so excited to learn I was accepted at Parkview Methodist School of Nursing in Ft. Wayne. That is where I met my hubby, Paul. When we decided to get married, I would not move to Ohio and he would not move to Indiana so we became residents of Michigan. Shirley Bailey hired me to work at CHC where I ended up fulfilling the responsibilities of multiple positions throughout my 39 and one half years of working there.

I guess I always wanted to "belong" as I was a Girl Scout, a member of Christian Youth Group, Student Council in nursing school, professional organizations for nursing, the Tibbits, etc. When I decided to join Altrusa it was out of my nursing sphere, but so great to expand myself in meeting persons from various careers and from our community.

I joined the club in 1985 and served as president from 1987-1988. I found myself really enjoying meeting the members of the club and talking about things other than nursing and health care.

Perhaps I am a "hyper" person as I always need to be busy. Therefore I have been an involved person in the community and as a member in professional organizations when I was employed. I am a member of Lockwood Church where I help feed the homeless, work at the 4-H Fair in the Republican booth, serve on the boards of LifeCare Ambulance Service, Presbyterian Health Clinic, Branch County Community Foundation, and am just leaving the Tibbits board after serving 14 years. I continue to be a member of the Tibbits Executive Restoration Committee. I am thankful for my supportive husband who helps me with the many activities of these groups.

Our son Steve lives in Wilder, Kentucky with his family, while son Craig lives in Brighton, Michigan with his family. Dane and his family reside in Harper Woods, Michigan. Our seven grandchildren, ages 16, 14, 9, 7, 6, 6, and 1, keep us busy. We travel a lot to see them as well as lots of hours are spent together on The Winbigler Farm, on tractors, sleds, in the pool, and just laughing and having fun being together as a family. Paul and I celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary 12-27-09.

What's \$92,450.39?

By Cindy Wakeman

That's how much the previous eleven Altrusa Golf Scrambles have raised to support our community projects! Despite the difficult times, the \$12388 from

2009 was only \$88 less than our all-time high in 2006. The Scramble is our largest fund raiser and represents approximately two-thirds of our Community Services budget.

Please match the needs of next year with your extra efforts now. Contact Cynthia Bordner or Alicia Cole to volunteer.

P.S. A new Gold Level Sponsorship of \$500 is available with extra advertising and display benefits plus \$70 off the cost of a team.