



The Ambassador

The Newsletter of Altrusa International Muncie, IN, Inc.
Leading to a Better Community®

2023-24 Issue 2

July 2023



I'm thrilled that we can begin a new year riding the wave of **Momentum** especially considering that we are also celebrating a momentous time - 100 years as a club! To be a part of an organization that has such a rich history and is also so focused on moving into the future with a reinvigorated sense of mission is both a gift and a responsibility.

Committees are in full planning mode. They're rising to the challenge of a new century by taking a look at how we can grow together and as a part of our community. The Communications team is thinking of new ways to generate interest and excitement as they rework parts of The Ambassador and the website. Service is coming up with new plans rooted in the knowledge gained from community wide efforts and member interest input. Literacy is imagining beyond the typical handing out of books into the support of reading time and teacher satisfaction. Never fear though - The Altrusa Essay Contest remains a staple! Fundraising is looking at ways to make our successful Spring fundraiser grow. Speaking of growing - WE HAVE 6 NEW MEMBERS already so I think we know that the Membership committee is busy. These are just the things I've heard

so far. I'm sure that they're the tip of the iceberg considering the amazing women in this club.

I feel like a wonderful District Conference has us coming out of the gate ready to step into making this year one for the books! I can't wait to see how many ideas and connections can come as a result of a few days at the International Convention deep in the heart of Texas. The event also gives us a chance to support our members that are pillars in the Altrusa community because of their additional commitment at the international level.

Well done, Ladies and I can't wait to attend some of your workshops.

I hope everyone continues to let me know how I can help power any ideas and momentum that you're building!

Molly



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Calendar of Events:

Business Meeting
Thursday, July 6th Noon at Minnetrista

Committee Meetings
Thursday, June 13th

Program Meeting
No Meeting

Board Meeting
Thursday, July 27th Noon at Minnetrista



Birthdays

7th - Karen Brunson

7th - Tiffany Kerrigan

7th - Katherine Mitchell

12th - Sue Whitaker

14th - Bonita Ramirez

25th - Megan "Mo" Orbin

Anniversaries

1991 - Karon Nowakowski

2017 - Carolyn Scruggs

Committee Updates

“Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success.” -Anonymous

ASTRA

The ASTRA Committee oversees the growth and development of the ASTRA Club at Ball State University.

BRRR

The BRRR Committee retains By-laws and standing Rules, Resolutions, Recommendations, minutes, correspondence, attendance records, financial records, president’s speeches, special recognitions, memorial services, ceremonies, histories, scrapbook, yearbooks and the Ambassador. The BRRR Committee is responsible for soliciting nominations for annual awards as well as selecting and presenting the winners at the annual meeting. The BRRR Committee is responsible for reviewing the by-laws yearly keeping them in sync with any changes implemented by International.

Communications

The Communications Committee is responsible for creating and maintaining the Altrusa International of Muncie website, managing all social media, crafting press releases, monitoring the Club email, coordinating photos, and producing the monthly Club newsletter, the Ambassador.

This month, the focus has been on revamping the Ambassador (We hope you like it!) and updating the website. We are always looking for new ideas on how best to communicate within the club and community!

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee is responsible for the development of fundraisers for the club. Funds raised are used for service projects.

Literacy

The Literacy Committee serves the community through projects that provide literacy focused support to Delaware County families and children.

Membership

The Membership Development Committee provides a smooth transition into the club for new members, prepares new member packets, and distributes and updates the name badges for meetings. The committee is also responsible for sharing the news of members, both good and unfortunate. In addition, they assist in the personal and professional growth of the Club as well as help in the recruitment and retention of its members.

Reservations

The Reservations Committee is responsible for records of attendance at all Altrusa meetings with the BRRR Committee, for negotiating the contract with the caterer and for making all arrangements pertaining to the site for business, committee, and program meetings.

Service

Service is what we're all about, so it's an honor to be the party planners, so to speak, for the club's service projects. President Molly and the club's leadership team challenged the Altrusa Service Committee to cultivate opportunities to bring out the best of what it means to be an Altrusan.

Here's what the Service Committee agreed to do:

- We aim to leverage our local club's Altrusan leaders, partnerships, and service network to strengthen literacy, children, and family support locally.
- We'll provide hands-on service where it is needed most in our neighborhoods and community.

Thank you to all who gave feedback at the June 15th Program Meeting!

Altrusans were asked to list out non-profits or groups with service opportunities. If you weren't at the meeting or have thought of additional opportunities, please send them to Mo Orbin (mlorbin15@gmail.com).

We are compiling the list of Altrusan connections to non-profits, community events, and groups doing good work; along with new service project ideas, we are indicating if an Altrusan is interested in learning more about the group or activity listed on the Do 100 Things.

Please send the information to Mo by Wednesday, July 13th.

The club will strive to make service projects more inclusive for club members. When possible, we'll strive to create alternative related service tasks that can be carried out by members who have limitations.

In July, we'll unveil the club's new and exciting signature service project.

In September, we'll be applying for grant funding from Altrusa International Foundation. The Service Committee is aiming high and plans to apply for the upcoming Mamie L. Bass Service Award.

We encourage you to take a look at the service ads section found in the Ambassador each month for new and exciting club service projects. Sign up to participate and give back to our community. Don't forget to report your service hours!

Did you know... 25% or more of Muncie Altrusa club members currently hold key leadership positions at local nonprofits, either as staff or serving on a board?

Muncie Altrusa Foundation



Our new foundation officers:

Tiffany Kerrigan, President
Megan Smith, Vice President
Susan Volbrecht, Treasurer
Colleen Cooper, Secretary
Directors – Ashlee Anderson, Jennifer Johnson, June Kramer, Kailee McKnight, Catherine Stewart, and Stephanie Clark

***Updated Picture to Come Soon!**

The Altrusa Foundation board met on June 20th and installed new officers for the 2023-2024 club year. We are very excited about the upcoming year since we are celebrating our 40th anniversary! Last year we set a record of awarding 13 grants worth \$20,000. This year we have an all-time high budget of \$32,000. For this year only, we will be awarding grants up to \$4,000, increased from \$2,000 maximum in the past. We are currently accepting applications for the new term.

Earlier this Spring, we had immense success with the auction in collaboration with the club. We have ideas to increase fundraising efforts again this year. If anyone from the club has suggestions, please let us know!

There will be no foundation meeting in July.

The Foundation's mission is to assist organizations in Muncie/Delaware County, Indiana area for educational, literary, and charitable purposes. The organization strives to uphold its commitment to unselfish, unbiased giving.



The Foundation accepts charitable gifts to further our mission! Gifts are typically exempt from income, estate and gift taxes. Gifts can be sent to Muncie Altrusa Foundation, P. O. Box 923, Muncie, Indiana 47308.

Board News



The combined Board met on May 25th to transfer leadership to the new 2023-24 team. Following that meeting, a leadership training session was held for Board members, Committee Chairs, and Assistant Chairs. During the training, Molly and 16 club members discussed ways to make the business meetings more content-rich and ways to meet our goals for this year:

- 100 hours of reported service hours per member
- 24 additional active members

We also shared an elevator pitch to help all of us easily answer that age-old but hard question that comes up as you start to talk to people about what we do and why they might be interested in being a member.

"What is Altrusa?"

Altrusa is an international non-profit organization making our local communities better through leadership, partnership, and service. As Muncie Altrusans, we are civic-minded people who focus on literacy, children, and family support to create a better community in Delaware County.

The board meets the fourth Thursday of the month, noon at Minnetrista. This meeting is open for any Altrusan to attend. Lunch is not provided and a reservation is not necessary.

Doing What We Do Best



Altrusans volunteering at the Chamber Cup!

Volunteer Opportunities

Click on an image below to learn more!



To cancel a meeting reservation, email
Linda Barb by noon the Tuesday prior to meeting.
LSB21820@GMAIL.COM

The August Ambassador deadline is July 20th.
Please send information & pictures to MuncieAltrusa@gmail.com

Altrusa International of Muncie, IN, Inc

President: Molly Harty
Vice President Megan 'Mo' Orbin
Secretary: Michelle Badders
Treasurer: Sherrell Bryant
Director (2023-25): WaTasha Barnes Griffin
Director (2022-24): Brenda Williamson
Past President: Kathy Benz

Contact Information

Altrusa International of Muncie, IN
PO Box 656
Muncie, IN 47308-0656

Website: <http://munciealtrusa.org>
Email: munciealtrusa@gmail.com

Committee Chairs for 2022-23

ASTRA: Chair – Lorraine Tomlin
Co-Chair – Jennifer Johnson
BRRR: Chair – Angie Rogers-Howell
Co-Chair – Sandra Hoover
Literacy : Chair – Susan Polcz-Volbrecht
Co-Chair – Katherine Mitchell
Communications: Chair – Colleen Cooper
Co-Chair – Amber Burress
Membership: Chair – Della Gregory
Co-Chair – Nancy Norris
Reservations: Chair – Linda Barb
Co-Chair – Mary Louise Buck
Service: Chair – Barb Baker
Co-Chair – Stacy Wheeler
Fundraising: Chair – Ashlee Anderson
Co-Chair – Cathy Dowd

