



The Ambassador

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

2023-24 Issue 10 March 2024



March is an exciting month as we start to see longer days and more sun. We're *Springing Forward* as a club this month too!

Our March Business meeting will be a busy one. We start to shape the next year by electing officers, presenting a budget, and filling out committee request forms for next year. Don't let all this forward thinking fool you though - we've still got **A LOT** happening this club year. We're just planners that like to be ready when transitions happen.

Everyone looks forward to the excitement of the 4th Grade Essay Contest and the joy the students bring to our meeting. This meeting is the embodiment of all we do in so many ways. If I can urge everyone to make sure they attend one program meeting a year - it's this one! It's also very important to let Reservations know if you won't be able to attend because we'll have a full house.



Mark your calendars, bring your friends and get your tickets for the Tea in Wonderland Event happening Sunday, April 7th. This fundraising luncheon and auction will benefit the Altrusa Club of Muncie and the Muncie Altrusa Foundation. Here is a link to Eventbrite for tickets: <https://shorturl.at/blUX5>

We've also got schools setting dates for distributions in April and May to finalize our International grant. We plan to distribute books to each student in 6 of the county schools. Students will get to choose one book each from an assortment of grade-level Scholastic books for their home library. At this moment, 2,700+ books are heading to my house in the next couple of weeks. Get ready to roll up your sleeves and have some fun - much more than my UPS man may be having!!



District Conference, Add-an-Altrusan events, Annual meeting, PreK graduations.....so many more things happening that I'm out of space but you get the idea. Spring is here and we're ready to make the end of our centennial year as exciting as the Centennial Celebration was as a way to start it!

Molly



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March Meetings

Thursday, March 7th
Business Meeting
Noon at Minnetrista

Thursday, March 14th
Committee Meetings

Thursday, March 21st
Program Meeting – Minnetrista
Noon at Minnetrista

Thursday, March 28th
Board Meeting
Noon at Minnetrista
All Altrusans are welcome!

Birthdays

Betty Harrah - 2nd

Tanya Shanefelt - 3rd

Kathy Benz - 9th

Monique Armstrong - 28th

WaTasha Barnes-Griffin - 28th

Anniversaries

Bonnie Breedlove (E) 1983



Committee Updates

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

Communications

Please continue to share your committee information to [Muncie Altrusa email!](#) Remember, the communications committee can only pass on information that we have.

Fundraising

Sunday, April 7th, 2024 at 1pm at the Delaware Country Club is the Spring Tea & Auction. The Eventbrite to purchase tickets is live!! Simply click here [purchase tickets](#).

Membership

The Membership Committee held their February meeting at the Classroom Connections to combine service and connection. They learned how the organization just celebrated its 20th Birthday and how Altrusa played a role in getting it off the ground 20 years ago...and how we continue to support them. Their volunteer work included preparing 2,040 classroom supply kits that are now ready to go to local early childhood and daycare classrooms that need this resource the most.



Muncie Altrusa Foundation



The Foundation looks forward to the combined efforts for a successful Spring Tea & Auction.



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



Leadership Training: The Board hosted a leadership training course for all current committee chairs and assistant chairs in January and many members asked for more details. Information about the training is on page 7 with the PDF attached to the Ambassador email.

Venue Information: Also attached to the Ambassador email is detailed information about the meeting venue review from VP Mo Orbin.

Bylaw Changes: The Board has reviewed and updated the Bylaw changes from the International Convention. A copy has been sent via email 2/27/24 for member review and a club vote will occur this month.

District Conference:

District Six Conference 2024 will be held April 19-21.

Please let Molly (mollyharty@yahoo.com) know if you are planning to attend so that a slate of delegates can be started. Call to Conference went out 2/27/24 from Altrusa International, Inc. Printed copies are at the name tag table if you missed the email.

Volunteer Opportunities



...and many more!

Reach out to the Service Committee for more information!

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

The April Ambassador deadline is March 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
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Muncie, IN 47308-0656

Website:

<http://munciealtrusa.org>

Email: munciealtrusa@gmail.com



Committee Chairs for 2023-24

ASTRA:	Chair – Lorraine Tomlin Co-Chair – Jennifer Johnson
BRRR:	Chair – Angie Rogers-Howell Co-Chair – Sandra Hoover
Communications:	Chair – Colleen Cooper Co-
Fundraising:	Chair – Amber Burress Chair – Ashlee Anderson Co-Chair – Cathy Dowd
Literacy:	Chair – Susan Polcz-Volbrecht Co-Chair – Katherine Mitchell
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

Leadership Moment: The Accountability Pathway

I've had several requests to share The Accountability Pathway idea that we spoke about during the Leadership training in January. I hope that you take the time to watch the short video in the link below. Jolie Bain Pillsbury, a member of the Annie E. Casey Foundation results-based leadership development faculty who developed the Accountability Pathway, explains the concept much more eloquently than I ever could, but below is what I shared during our training. The quick double-sided handout we used is also provided and created from Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<https://www.aecf.org/blog/video-learn-how-to-walk-the-accountability-pathway>



This is just one concept from the Results Based Accountability framework that is used by a lot of different organizations, frequently by groups that are trying to work within community development and human services. The Community Foundation has received two grants that have been used to train a wide variety of community leaders in Muncie and Delaware County on the entire process.

For me - this module was one of the sections that also resonated on a personal level. Surprising myself by changing jobs while I took on the Presidency was a bit overwhelming. It's been useful during those moments to have something very visual to remind myself where I am on the pathway for each of my responsibilities and commitments. Sometimes, I'm at wildly different levels - all at the same time, depending on the commitment at that exact moment. Acknowledging that and deciding how to take the necessary steps to move toward the accountable side of the pathway gives me the power of choice and control.

- A few things - I've had to say no and accept the reality that I can't do it all.
- A few others - I've had to be honest with myself that although I'm VERY independent, I don't know everything, and I need to find the person who can help me.
- A couple of times - I've had to say, "I simply didn't realize that was my responsibility".

Even the way you look at that statement makes you more accountable. I didn't waste time blaming someone for not telling me. I just acknowledged where I was, took measures to make sure that didn't happen again, and moved on.

Like I said - I personally love the power of this and the worry it takes off my mind in the middle of the night. I hope some of you think it's a useful tool for yourselves. It's a wonderful tool to use in groups, or possibly your committees, to allow people the grace of honestly telling you where they are and how you can work together to "make it happen".

Molly