

Altrusa Tiffinette

Upcoming events

Tues.,
September 1

3:30 - Seneca
County Youth
Center for crafts

6:30 - Board mtg.
at Elmwood at the
Shawhan

7:00 - Meeting at
Elmwood at the
Shawhan

Tues., Sept.
15

7:00 Noble
Elementary
School, 130
Minerva St.

Thurs.,
Sept. 17

6:30 - Seneca
County Youth
Center for games

President's Message

Just came in from mowing my yard and am seeing many leaves on the ground already. I hope it is only because of the lack of rain we have had and not due to fall being too close by. However, when I see the school supplies, etc. on the store shelves, it is a reality check that, yes, fall is not far off.



I know things have been a bit tense in the club lately. Everyone has their problems that add to it with cutbacks in their work areas, the economy. We must try really hard to work together to keep Altrusa running smoothly. Altrusa has been in Tiffin since 1965 and we have done so many great things in our community and Seneca County. I think we are really being noticed for this. Let's keep our good name going and continue to do for the charities and families as we can.

Our bus trip is coming up soon, so please keep trying to sell these last tickets. We had such a great time last year and I am sure we will again this year.

I want again thank the committee chairs and committee members and all Altrusa members for stepping up to the plate and doing a great job so far. We started really enthusiastically. Let's keep this going and make it a very productive year. Yes, our funds are low, but it does not always have to be about money. There are other things we can do to help our fellow man.

In Service and Friendship,
Carol

Indianapolis Altrusa International

by Kathleen Howard

Going to the International Convention is quite different from going to the District Five Conference. There were Altrusans from New Zealand, Puerto Rico and Russia (that I know of).

One of the most moving parts of the convention is the presentation of all the flags from all the countries where Altrusa is located. While the flags were being brought in, one at a time, we sang the national anthem (at least those who knew it) of that country.

Later we had a Banner ceremony where each of the clubs and Districts brought in their own banners in a parade.



Kathy Carmack – governor of District Five leads the way for District Five bringing in their banners.



Tiffin and Findlay attendees get together for a group picture. (Jean Disher, Kathleen Howard, Nancy Beers, Sheran Stump, Amy Temple, Nancy Frederick).

But aside from the pomp and ceremony, some very important issues were discussed and voted on. After a little discussion concerning

using some of the reserves to do a “rebranding” of Altrusa, the budget passed. This “rebranding” is to make it easier to get new members, and to explain ourselves

to the public. Once this passed, 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 but then they expanded it for anyone who wanted to

donate, and they ended up with over \$16,000! This is just a hint of how much Altrusa means to many of us.

There was a proposal to add an Altrusa International project. This was defeated mainly because it was



District Five delegate seating area.

Convention 2009 – Recap



International Rep at our Akron Conference).

Treasurer: Cynthia R. Schad, *District Three*

Directors: Terri Houston- *District One*; Silvia Silverman- *District Two*; Carolyn Rash- *District Nine*; and Chris Mouter- *District Fifteen*

Nominating Committee:

Linda Robison – *District Three*; Jan Albright – *District Seven*; Debbie Holesko – *District Eight*; Linda Peterson – *District Twelve*; Carmen Lugo – *District Fourteen*

Foundation Board of Trustees:

Ann Marie Snyder – *District One*; Melva Hill – *District Nine*; Rosemary Watson – *District Fifteen*.

harder to find supporters, members and participants of all kinds.

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.

One of the speakers, Larry Checo talked about what “branding” really is, and why organizations need to do this. One of the things he said that resonated with me was “any organization who says they are the ‘best kept secret in town’ really needs to work on branding”.. . Sound familiar? He pointed out that if people do not really understand what you do and how you do it, it is

As a place to visit, Indianapolis was really lovely. Nearby was a canal park that was lined with museums. We felt perfectly safe walking there in the early mornings, and there were interesting things to look at everywhere. You could rent paddle boats to float along the canal, or take a Segway tour, or simply walk along the wide walk-ways.



felt that this should have been suggested to the Foundation, which actually does projects, and not because it was a bad idea.

Of course, we voted in the new International Officers:

President (not voted on at this election): Donna Johnson, *District Three*

President-Elect: Dona Garretson, *District Ten*

Vice President: Ilona Kirby, *District Twelve* (some of you may remember her as the



District Five board took advantage of a brief lull in activities to hold a mini board meeting in Kathy Carmack's room. Janice Walker, District secretary, taking notes during board meeting.



District Five Governor - elect Kathy Schrein looks for hero Audie Murphy's name on the U.S. Military Medal of Honor memorial next to canal.

Sign-up for Seneca County Youth Center visits

1st Tuesday of each month at 3:30 pm & the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Joyce Lather

6:30 pm

Gloria Fraley

Mary Lou Harrison

Tuesday, October 5, 2009

3:30 pm

Karen Knaur

Nancy Frederick

Thursday, October 20, 2009

Carol Hammer

6:30 pm

Nancy Steinmetz

Call or email Karen Knaur, if you want to help with this service project. The first of the month we're doing crafts and the 3rd Thursday, play games.

The Center has a wishlist for these items: **Big Packs of Markers with a variety of colors; Folders; Arts and Crafts Supplies-** Wood crafts to paint, things to make necklaces & bracelets, cardmaking scrapbook kits, yarn, scrapbook paper, stickers, etc.; **Another Corn Hole game; 100 - 500 Piece Puzzles; Radio; Games- Scattergories, Pictionary, Junior Outburst & Junior Taboo; Regular size pack of markers; Cranium variation board games** They are especially grateful for our donations of the multiple knitting devices and yarn. Numerous hats and scarves have been donated by the teens at the center to local charities for children.

Contact info...

Tiffin Altrusa President **Carol Hammer**,
(419) 443-1311 or
mscshammer@hotmail.com

Altrusa Tiffinette Newsletter Editor Karen
Knaur, (419) 435-419-3131 or
LoisLa0303@aol.com

Special thanks to contributors: Sandi
Yarbrough, Harriet White, Karen Simonds,
Mary Lou Harrison, Kathleen Howard,
Elva Aller and Carol Hammer

The *Altrusa Tiffinette* is published at the
beginning of each month. Articles,
minutes, inspirational pieces, story ideas,
recipes and even jokes are welcome.
These are due by the second meeting of
each month. Please send them in 12 pt.
Arial. Do not use all caps or funky type,
please!

Checkout our website at

<http://www.tiffinaltrusa.com>

Altrusa's Annual



Girlfriends' Shopping Weekend in Chicago

Saturday, September 26

Leave 8 am from Westgate near Old Fort Bank

Return Sun., Sept. 27 around 9:00 pm

We're staying at the Goldcoast Hilton Doubletree
with the Magnificent Mile just 2 blocks away or
Navy Pier just 4 blocks away Each
room has 2 queen-sized beds
sleeping 4 people



Cost **\$125** per person

Make checks payable to

Tiffin Altrusa

For details, call Dawn Riedel 419-448-8560, cell 419-
618-0259 or Nancy Frederick 419-443-0887 or Karen
Simonds 419-448-8837

September: Literacy month

by Sandy Yarbrough

The Literacy Committee has purchased board books for the maternity ward at Mercy Hospital. A big thank you to Karen for going to Columbus to



pick them up. We will put the Altrusa stickers on them at the September 1 meeting and they will be delivered to the hospital the next day. Literacy will host the September 15 meeting. We will be meeting at Noble School where Patty Smith will talk with us about the Reading Program. We will also have a guest, Jane Tomaszewski, from the

Friends of the Library who will explain what they do and how we can help. October 24 we will be at Ruffing Care center for Make a Difference Day. We will be reading to the residents and playing games with them. September 8 is



Mayor Jim Boroff presents a Literacy month proclamation to Club President Carol Hammer and Literacy Chair Sany Yarbrough.

International Literacy Day and there will be a proclamation signed by the Mayor for Altrusa.

Sponsor a new member in six easy steps

INVITE: Invite a qualified prospective member to attend a meeting, preferably a program meeting. "Qualified members are executive and professional people, active or retired who are of good character and who endorse the purpose and principles of Altrusa." (*Altrusa International By-Laws and Policies 2003-2005*)

INCLUDE: Prepare a name tag for your guest. If dinner meeting pay for guest meal

Introduce your guest to as many Altrusans as time permits. It is the responsibility of every Altrusan to make the guest feel included and welcome to the meeting, but members should not invite the guest to join, as this was just a get acquainted meeting.

INTRODUCE: When guests are introduced during a meeting, give your guest's name and business affiliation. A member of the Membership/Classification Committee will invite the visitor to sign the club's guest book.

INQUIRE: After the meeting, contact the guest to determine if the person is interested in Altrusa. Be sure to share information about Altrusa, the obligations of club membership and pertinent information about service projects. If appropriate

get information to fill out a Recommendation for Membership Form, but do not extend an invitation to become an Altrusan as only the Board has the authority to offer membership.

INVITATION: During the membership process, any Altrusan may submit to the Board pertinent information about the prospective member which may reflect upon his/her eligibility. Following Board approval of the candidate, the Secretary will send a letter of invitation along with a copy of the Altrusa International brochure "Leaders in Service."

INFLUENCE: Be a positive influence. Shortly after the invitation has been extended (you will receive a copy of the letter), contact your prospective member to answer any questions the person might have and to also share what you like about Altrusa. Please tell the person that you sincerely hope he/she will accept the invitation to membership. If your guest does accept membership, your guest's meal cost will be reimbursed.

Courtesy of 2000 Membership Committee

Altrusa International Inc. Spartanburg, SC

Altrusa International, Inc. of Tiffin, Ohio Business Meeting August 4, 2009 Autumnwood Care Center

President Carol Hammer called the meeting to order. Pledge of allegiance and Altrusa collect were repeated by those attending

15 members present, 8 excused, 1 resignation (Lana Rodgers due to new job) Volunteer hours were not given

Minutes for July 7th were read & approved, Treasurer's report was not given

New budget for the 2009-2010 year was read and approved by the club. Kathleen Howard made the motion, seconded by Karen Knaur

Karen Knaur is making baskets for our Seneca County Vets living in Sandusky and she is making arrangements to visit on a Wednesday later this month, several members will accompany Karen on the visit

Committee Reports

Community Service – no report

Fundraising – Dawn Riedel only has 1.5 buses filled at this time for the Girlfriends Shopping Weekend in Chicago on Sept 26th, we still need to sell another 80 seats to meet our goal. Riedel also reported that the club made \$111 from the Christmas-in-July sale at Something Special on July 25th.

Sunshine – everyone is healthy right now

Program – Nancy Steinmetz has all the programs setup for the 2009-2010

Membership – Nancy Fredericks is working on the new brochures and Kathleen Howard volunteered to copy them at minimal cost

Special Events – Lana Rodgers resigned so Joyce Lather volunteered to be the new chairperson

Yearbook – Nancy Frederick said the new yearbook would be ready by 9-01

Literacy – Sandy Yarbough is getting prices for 40 baby books for newborns at Mercy Hospital,

Scholarship – Joyce Lather reported that we have 12 apps to review

Astra – no report

Newsletter – Knaur needs pictures and articles for the Sept newsletter

Bridal Fair – Tami was absent, no report

Kathleen Howard and Nancy Frederick will be attending the Altrusa International Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, Aug 6-9. The club asked Howard to express our opinions about spending less money on the marketing advertising budget and possibly lowering the yearly dues for individual members. Motioned was approved by Riedel and seconded by Fraley

Board declined the offer from American Red Cross to man the food stand for their upcoming Bingo parties every Wed. night at the Tiffin Mall.. A weekly commitment of this nature would be too stressful at this time.

Bob Evans approached a couple of our members about manning a food stand for them at the upcoming Heritage Festival...more information is needed before we can obligate ourselves to this venture.

Thank you card was read from FISH for our food donation

Pres. Hammer noted that everyone had a great time at the club picnic held at Barb Vogels home on July 19th.

Box of Love was given by Mary Lou Harrison to Dawn Riedel for her hard work with the Fund Raising Project

The raffle given by Gwen Stallard was won by Opal Sendelbach

Pin fines and Happy dollars were collected and the meeting was adjourned

August 18, 2009 Business Meeting Home of Gloria & Bill Fraley

President Carol called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with 17 members and one past member Donna McConahay present. A quorum was met.

Roll Call & Volunteer Hours were taken by Attendance Chair Opal Sendelbach.

Minutes for August 4 were approved.

Treasurers Reports were emailed to all members by Wendy Stallard and Sandy Yarborough.

Fundraising stressed importance of filling second bus for Chicago next month. Members volunteered to call past customers.

Literacy reported (40) New Born Baby Books for Mercy Hospital have been purchased, Sept. 15 the program will be at Noble

IF MY BODY WERE A CAR...

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish, and my paint job is getting a little dull. But that's not the worst of it. My headlights are out of focus, and it's especially hard to see things up close.



My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins. It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

But here's the worst of it —

Almost every time I sneeze, cough or laugh, either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires. **CASH FOR CLUNKERS.....I QUALIFY - How about You?** From Elva

Minutes continued from page 6

School on Literacy and Volunteering as a reader.

International Relations is working on the Oct. 20th potluck, foreign students as our guests. *Changes have been made by committee on potluck items.

Strategic Plan was read by the committee of White and Simonds. Two items were added and then approved. MaryLou Harrison made the motion, seconded by Theresa Hoschar - carried.

Newsletter Editor Karen Knaur is asking for committee articles and other articles that would be of interest to membership including International Convention experiences.

Add an Altrusan Day dates have been changed to May 2-8 beginning in 2010.

Make A Difference Day is Oct. 24th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Ruffing Care Center.

Sandusky Soldiers Home Visit Karen Knaur passed a sign-up sheet for those who would like to go over. She also has made a decorated basket with treats to take over for the residents.

Bob Evans Nancy Frederick will look into this request, report back to members.

International Convention Kathleen Howard and Nancy Frederick reported. Programs were interesting, connecting with other members from all over the world, new ideas shared and possible changes in the works for paying membership dues. Some discussion was held about the high cost of dues and the International budget.

Correction on Policy of Vouchers A motion made by Sandy Yarborough, seconded by Kathleen Howard as follows: Vouchers must be submitted from close of a project. It is the responsibility of the member to fill out the voucher and have the committee chair sign it and then present it to the appropriate treasurer to be paid. Receipts must be attached to the voucher before it can be paid. Any expenses over \$150.00 must first be approved. Motion carried

Prior to meeting members enjoyed a wonderful, "low calorie" dessert bar provided by Bill and Gloria Fraley.
Harriett White, Secretary

The versatile coffee filter!

COFFEE FILTERS Coffee filters ..who knew! And you can buy 1,000 at the Dollar Tree for almost nothing.

1. Cover bowls or dishes when cooking in the microwave. Coffee filters make excellent covers.
2. Clean windows and mirrors. Coffee filters are lint-free so they'll leave windows sparkling.
3. Protect China .. Separate your good dishes by putting a coffee filter between each dish.
4. Filter broken cork from wine. If you break the cork when opening a wine bottle, filter the wine through a coffee filter.

5. Protect a cast-iron skillet. Place a coffee filter in the skillet to absorb moisture and prevent rust.



k1043634 www.fotosearch.com

6. Apply shoe polish.
7. Recycle frying oil. After frying, strain oil through a sieve lined with a coffee filter.
8. Weigh chopped foods. Place chopped ingredients in a coffee filter on a kitchen scale.
9. Hold tacos. Coffee filters make convenient wrappers for messy foods.
10. Stop the soil from leaking out of a plant pot. Line a plant pot with a coffee filter to prevent the soil from going through the drainage holes.
11. Prevent a Popsicle from dripping. Poke one or two holes as needed in a coffee filter.
12. Do you think we used expensive strips to wax eyebrows? Use strips of coffee filters.
13. Put a few in a plate and put your fried bacon, French fries, chicken fingers, etc on them. Soaks out all the grease.
14. Keep in the bathroom. They make great "razor nick fixers."

OH YEAH, THEY ARE GREAT TO USE IN YOUR COFFEE MAKERS ---from Mary Lou

Committee reveals seven point Tiffin

Every Altrusa club is required to update their Strategic Plan, and we have not done so for quite a few years. Karen Simonds and Harriett White were given the task of designing a plan.

What is it you ask? To our way of thinking, it is a road map for us to follow in making our club stronger and more adaptable to changes in the world as well as in our communities.

following article on Team Leadership and it's worth revisiting here. When we start to doubt the wisdom of teamwork, heed these lessons from an unlikely source—a flock of geese.

*As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird following. By flying in "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% more to its flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: *It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing the leader's role.*

In formation, the geese from behind honk to encourage those in front to keep up the speed.

Lesson: *Sometimes team members need to hear a little honking.*

If a goose is sick or tired, two geese drop out of formation to help and protect it. They stay with it until it can fly again.

Lesson: *Stand by one another in times of trouble.*

Strategic plan 2009-2010

Goal I

Sustain the high quality of membership in the club by retaining existing members.

Goal II

- Recruit and retain new members by developing and maintaining a recruitment brochure describing benefits, functions and membership requirements.
- Maintain local website where members access bylaws, policies, strategic plans and links to District and

International Altrusa sites.

- Have one social event per year for potential new members.
- Achieve membership to sufficiently support our club's mission.
- Identify recruitment incentives to achieve 50 members by the year 2012.

Goal III

- Increase public awareness of Altrusa and uphold a positive reputation in our community and within our organization.
- Provide monthly club reports in the local newspapers.
- Exhibit the Altrusa emblem when participating in community events and in correspondence.
- Wear your membership pin to meetings and events locally, district and international.

Goal IV

- Evaluate and update the club's service projects to ensure that we are current in serving Community in non-monetary and financial needs.
- Collaborate with other service organizations. Research need for hands-on projects based



One of the goals is to sustain the high quality of membership in the club by retaining existing members. And may we say we are proud of our members both past and present who are dedicated to serve us in all walks of life benefiting our community.

A few years ago Mary Lou Harrison printed the

Lesson: *Teammates who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they're going quicker and easier when they travel on shared power.*

When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

Strategic Plan for 2009 - 2010 year

on community need derived through several sources and recommend to the club.

- Apply for Altrusa and community service grants.

Goal V

- Improve communications among members by devising ways to “mix” members at meetings and events.

- Spotlight members at meetings and include bios in the Altrusa newsletter.
- Have fun activities such as formative, puzzles, crosswords, district history notes and international notes.

Goal VI

- Evaluate and update club fundraisers to ensure that we are able

to support chosen Service projects.

- Determine if club supported fundraiser 100%.
- Develop a manual for each fundraising project so that future committees will know how to continue the project.

Goal VII

- Develop one or more Astra clubs in the area.

- Contact schools, school counselors and principals to seek help in achieving this goals
- Altrusa Astra committee should be composed of one member from each standing committee plus Astra club officers and an advisory committee from the schools

International Relations Committee plans October event

On October 20th our club will host exchange students from Heidelberg, Tiffin University, Columbian, Calvert and possibly one or two from the county schools.

It will be an exciting night where we reach across the world and become connected with countries such as Spain, Netherlands, Turkey, Brazil and maybe a couple other ones yet to be announced. Theresa thought she would bring a girl from China.

We'd like to have an International Potluck with members signing up for main casseroles, vegetables, desserts and breads at the September 1st meeting.

Any decorations from other countries we would appreciate you bringing to share. Anyone who

speaks another language let us know. Tiffin Lions Club is graciously loaning us their international flag set via

family events, join them in school and university events and we might assist them financially if needed.

gathered items to furnish apartments for refugee and immigrant homeless children; awarded scholarships to two visiting foreign student and renovated a schoolroom which was being used for ESL classes.

A New Zealand Altrusa Club provided clothes, games, and writing materials for the Vanuatu Islands and Altrusans in Montrose, Colorado purchased steel molds and filters for needy households in Mazatlan, Mexico.

We were told there even is a doctor in Tiffin who travels back to his country annually to help support a school. Wouldn't that be a great project for Altrusa to assist in? Co-chairs Harriett and Elva

Nancy Steinmetz.

It is hoped we can connect with each of our international students, invite them to individual

Researching what other Altrusa clubs do around the world, we found a variety of international projects. For example, in Dallas, Texas Altrusans

