

Akron Altrusan

Altrusa is an international non-profit organization, making our local communities better through leadership, partnership, and service.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Committee Reports	2
Spring Fling	3
Roving Reporter	4
Conference 2022	5
Birthdays	6
District News	6
International	6
Report Your Hours/Dates	7



As we “spring” into April, there are many ways to celebrate this month starting with Altrusa’s birthday and Altrusa Awareness Day on April 11th. April is Add an Altrusan month and we will be observing this tradition by celebrating six new members being initiated at our upcoming program meeting. April is also National Volunteer recognition week and month. The theme for National Volunteer Month this year is “Empathy in Action”. “There is a strong connection between volunteerism and empathy. This profoundly human connection is at the heart of healthier individuals and stronger communities”. What better way to celebrate the many ways that our compassionate and giving Altrusa volunteers help our community than by honoring our members during this special time. Our sister club in Youngstown was finally able to host a much-anticipated District Five conference after being postponed several times due to the pandemic. Members who attended will have much to share about new ideas and networking opportunities with other District Five clubs. And lastly, with Altrusa’s focus on bettering our community by helping women and children, especially our emancipated and homeless teens, we should all be aware that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

I was recently behind a car with a bumper sticker that read: “humankind – be both”. Altrusans strive for both.

In Altrusa service,

Ann

“What is Altrusa?”
Altrusa is an international non-profit organization, making our local communities better through leadership, partnership, and service. We are civic-minded people who strive to create better communities worldwide.

“What Does Altrusa Do?” Giving over 1 million hours annually, across 12 countries, our focus is Literacy, with general service areas in HIV/AIDS and Disaster Relief. Additionally, individual clubs meet a wide variety of local needs. You may know us locally by “Princess Night”, “Project Helping Hands” or through our past participation in “Relay for Life”.

Meeting: April 21, 2022
Location: The Venue 10 Tallmadge Cir Tallmadge, OH 44278 @ 6:00 PM
Program: Jackie Helmsworth with Access
Altrusa Minute: Kerry Sutherland
Board Meeting: May 2, 2022 @ 6:00 PM Ellet Community Center

Service

Princess Night

~Authors~ Alice Luse, Linda Rittenour & Margaret Hoffner

PRINCESS NIGHT WAS A GREAT SUCESS!! Thanks to everyone who collected dresses, sorted dresses, set up at the YMCA, and worked on March 11th and 12th. The new location at the Kohl Family YMCA worked out beautifully. We had 246 from 56 schools come to the event. Special thanks to our supporters: Breland Homes, Two Men and A Truck, YMCA, Beckwith Heating, & Cooling, Inc, and Messiah Lutheran Church.

Membership

~Author~

No Report

Communications

~Author~ Alice Luse

Princess Night generated lots of publicity for the event and the club. We received coverage with Fox Channel 8 website, Akron Public Schools Website, Barberton School Website, AkronOhioMoms Blog page, Next Store Neighbor website, News 5 website, Beacon Journal, NPR WKSU and WCPN, Falls News Press, LinkedIn, Hudson Hub, Westside Leader, Springfield Schools and more. Facebook was the number one way that the girls heard about Princess Night.

Finance

~Author~ Linda Rittenour

Just a friendly reminder that we continue to collect dues. Our goal is that all dues of \$98.00 be turned in by May 15th.

As we look forward to our 2022-2023 year, all project and standing committee chairs need to turn in itemized budget requests, also, by May 15th.

Good News! We have been informed that the Haven of Rest Ministries will be holding their annual client-family picnic on June 29th. Since Covid restrictions have been lifted, this will be a return of an event that the Mission has held for over 20 years. We would like to once again have our book table at the event. No budget request was turned in last year so we, the Finance Committee, are recommending to the membership that \$500 of the \$1,872.71 of the listed carryover be used to purchase books and bookplates for this event. A vote will take place at our April program meeting.

Our Vision: Altrusa International of Akron supports and promotes personal growth through opportunities for leadership and fellowship while serving their community.

Our Mission: Altrusans do **what** they can, **when** they can, **how** they can, and **where** they can to improve the lives of those in their local and worldwide communities.

The Membership Committee suggests you come early to our meetings so you have a chance to chat with your Altrusa sisters before the meeting.

Also, please make a special effort to introduce yourself to any guest(s) so that they get to know this wonderful group of women and what we do!

Don't forget to check out the pictures on our Facebook page....

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/AltrusaInternationalOfAkron>

Check out our New Instagram page,,,,

Altrusaakron

NEW

Check Altrusa out on Akron.com

<https://www.akron.com/?s=Altrusa>



Spring Fling

TIME TO SUPPORT The SPRING FLING! It will be held at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cuyahoga Falls on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Please continue to ask friends and family to attend. We currently have 64 reservations and want to get to 100 in attendance. Share the flyer that was emailed to everyone and send your checks made out to Altrusa International of Akron Foundation for \$20 per person to Alice Luse, 184 Castle Blvd, Akron OH 44313 or bring it to the April meeting. We also need items for the silent auction, the Chinese auction and the dollar bags. You all brought great items to auction in November. Please look around your house and bring it in!!!

The committee consists of Alice Luse and Margaret Hoffner- co chairs (also chairing the silent auction), Marcia Gilmore (heading up the kitchen with help from Mary Murray and others, Margaret Robinson (50 /50 raffle) Barb Mitchell and Sue Goodyear (Dollar Bags and Chinese auction). Margaret and Alice want to thank everyone for signing up to help on the different aspects of the event. Set up will be Friday from 10 to 1. We have secured terrific items for the auction and a beautiful quilt was donated by Ann Haas that will be raffled off. PLEASE BRING your items for the event to the April meeting. This has been the most successful event held by our club in its history and we hope to set another new record this year!

LAST MINUTE CALL FOR YOUR HELP!!!

Sue Goodyear and I have received minimal items for the Dollar Bags. If you have some items, please bring them to the April meeting. Also, if you have items for the Chinese Auction, it would be nice if you can bring those to the meeting.

Dollar Bag items should be in the \$3.00 to \$8.00 range. Chinese Auction items should range from \$10 to \$20.00.

The Roving Reporter

This month we get to know our Project Review chairs, Barb Mitchell and Sue Goodyear. Barb became a member of Altrusa in 2014 after being invited to a meeting by Cathy Kostich which whom she worked at the Akron Police Department. Barb stated that at her first meeting she was sold on joining after learning about all the various projects and ways that Altrusa supports our local community. Barb wanted a meaningful volunteer experience as she neared retirement and Altrusa was a match for her. Barb's volunteer experience dates back to her days as a "school mom" at her daughters' elementary school. She became active in PTA and eventually held every office except as treasurer of the PTA. She also became a Girl Scout leader and neighborhood cookie coordinator. A surprise delivery of a truckload of cookie boxes, forced her to move the furniture in her living room to accommodate the Girl Scout cookie orders one year! Barb's professional career always involved a caring aspect from working as the school lunch lady, being an exemplary Kelly Temp employee, to eventually working at the Akron Police Department rising to a position in service to the Chief's office. Barb's volunteer experience with school activities has come full circle with her love for our book give away projects and assisting women and children through our Helping Hands project. Barb is an enthusiastic Altrusan who gives of her time to help Altrusa succeed whether it's the dollar bags for our Spring Fling fundraiser, assembling the hospitality bags for women at ACCESS, or overseeing service proposals on the Project Review Committee.

Sue has been a member and volunteer of the Cuyahoga Falls Cancer Club for many years which is an organization that assists cancer patients struggling with financial issues, equipment needs, and emotional support. Sue provides in person counsel to the cancer patients assigned to her and is an active fundraiser for this organization. Sue became a member of Altrusa in 2017 after Barb Mitchell, whom she had recruited to the Cancer Club, invited Sue to a meeting. Altrusa's service projects and involvement with the community resonated with Sue and filled a gap left in retirement from her 39- year career as manager of a local Circle K store. Her beloved job as manager had allowed her to serve and get to know many of the residents in the senior high rise across the street from the store where she delivered groceries and looked out for their welfare as she became acquainted with them. Some of her youthful customers narrowly avoided trouble when Sue's compassion and understanding for their situations convinced the local police that there was another path to prevent a possible charge for petty thievery. Sue always put customer service first - a personal philosophy which serves her well as an Altrusan who enjoys hands on service for our Helping Hands and Princess Night projects. Sue recruits her husband, George, to participate in these projects, too. George was one husband who was responsible for cleaning up and organizing the Helping Hands unit this past year. Lastly, Sue has been instrumental in recruiting several new members from her Cancer Club to join Altrusa. These new members will be installed this month

Please join me in celebrating Barb and Sue during Altrusa's birthday, Add An Altrusan month, and National Volunteer month.

District Five Conference 2022

The Literacy Tree



There were cookies everywhere!



Join District Five in Mansfield in April 2023 for "Reform the Norm"

Friendship Calls

A reminder to call Yvonne Smerick if you know of an Altrusa sister who is ill, has lost a family member or is going through a tough time and could use an encouraging word. Spread the word!



The Altrusa International Foundation donated a total of \$40,000 to four agencies for Ukranian Relief. Each agency received \$10,000. The agencies are:

UNICEF
World Central Kitchen
Doctors without Borders
Ukranian Red Cross

If you would like to donate, you can do so by going to the International Website and go to Altrusa.org/Foundation. You may donate to any of those four agencies. If you have any questions, contact Shelley

District

Conference
April 21 - 23, 2023

Mansfield, Ohio

International

Convention

July 19 - 23, 2023
San Antonio, Texas

President:
Ann Haas
Immediate Past
President:
Barbara Simons
Vice President:
Alice Luse
Secretary:
Kerry Sutherland
Operating Treasurer:
Linda Rittenour
Directors (2020-2022):
Beth Haas
Mary Murray
Directors (2021-2023):
Margaret Hoffner
Christine Walton
Foundation Treasurer:
Barbara Simons
Phyllis Gray

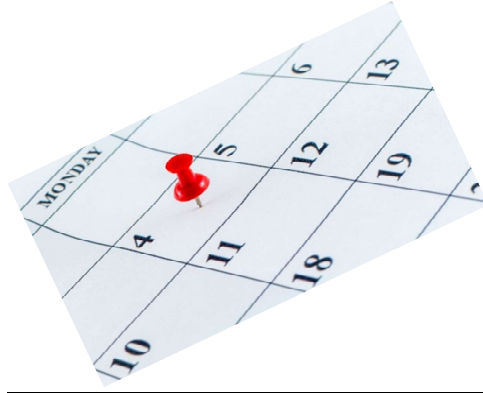
Altrusa Meetings/Administration -Time spent on Club, District or International operations. (Includes activities such as yearbook, newsletter or website preparation, internal operating committee meetings., planning and execution of leadership training, serving as presenter/ facilitator/ delegate at conventions or conferences, etc)

Altrusa Service- Time spent for service projects and activities sanctioned by Altrusa. Includes time spent in planning, preparation, execution and evaluation of external fundraisers and Altrusa service projects.

- (Operating and internal fundraisers to fund the operating budget do NOT qualify for service projects.)

Other Service - Number of other volunteer service hours donated to non-Altrusa organizations (for example, volunteer work in hospitals, schools, libraries and not-for-profit organization.)

DATES TO REMEMBER



April – National Volunteer Month
April - Autism Awareness Month

April 1 – April Fool’s Day
April 2 – World Autism Awareness
April 17 - Easter
April 22 – Earth Day
April 24 – Orthodox Easter