

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## SPRING 2025

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Altrusa International Ocala, Florida

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*Altrusa Principle #12 Altrusa believes it is not good enough to be good; Altrusa must be good for something. Each member must be doing the piece of work that is hers (or his) in a way that puts her (or him) in the front ranks of accomplishment.*

Our club year comes to a close and we finished **STRONG!**

Thank you to all the members that contributed to the success of our club year. We have added members with more on the horizon...we raised a record amount of funds for our club projects...we impacted the teachers and children of Marion County through our work with the Public Education Foundation, Kimberly's Center for Child Protection and the Early Learning Coalition AND we finally **CHAR-TERED WEST PORT HIGH SCHOOL ASTRA.**

I suspect there are many other areas we accomplished, but those were the highlights for me. It is always a pleasure to go to District Conference and be able to reap the rewards of all the good we do.

Thank you to the committee chairs, officers and Foundation members that served the club and **THANK YOU** to those members willing to continue to serve.

You all have definitely been "Good for Something"...now continue on under Helen's guidance for another fantastic year.

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*Altrusa love & hugs*

*Colleen*



*Ninja*

# COLLEEN'S *Ninja* ROSTER



**MAY**—Becky Long for her creative efforts in our membership drive, officer installation, and her continued service to the club.

**APRIL**—Debbie Catabia for all her contributions to the club and diligent efforts toward all our service projects..

**MARCH**—Elaine Goodelle for stepping up and taking on the task of co-chairing the fundraiser **ONE MORE TIME1**

**FEBRUARY**—Maclyn Walker —for always being willing to review, comment and improve our award applications.

**JANUARY**—Judi Zanetti—for taking us to the next level in social media and creating and posting wonderful captures of our activities and events.

**DECEMBER**—Mary Cay Landt —for opening up her home and hosting us all for a wonderful holiday gathering.

**NOVEMBER**—Frances Ferguson —for always being willing to step in and serve, one of our charter members who continues to take on leadership roles even after 48 years.

**OCTOBER**—Wendy Williams—for all her assistance with anything asked of her, especially the flyer for the annual trivia night and for bringing us so many opportunities to serve our community through the Early Learning Coalition.

**SEPTEMBER**—Kate Fink—for her “dive right in” efforts working on our fundraiser, obtaining sponsors, and inviting individuals to be member.

**AUGUST**—Helen McDavid—for her extra efforts in obtaining all the “deals and steals” for furnishing the Book Nook.

**JULY**—Connie Larsen and Scott Tice—for serving, again, as Club and Foundation Treasurers and their quick and efficient work on the yearly budgets.

## FUTURE CLUB YEAR AT A GLANCE

June 5, Board Meeting—ZOOM

June 12, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

*Program—TBD*

June 19, Cluster, 6pm, Canterfield

July ?, Board Meeting—ZOOM

July 10, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

*Program—TBD*

July 17, Cluster, 6pm, Early Learning Coalition

August 7, Board Meeting—ZOOM

August 14, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

*Program—TBD*

August 21, Cluster, 6pm, Early Learning Coalition

Sept 4, Board Meeting—ZOOM

Sept 11, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

*Program—TBD*

Sept 18, Cluster, 6pm, Canterfield

Oct 2, Board Meeting—ZOOM

Oct 9, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

*Program—TBD*

Oct 16, Cluster, 6pm, Early Learning Coalition

Nov 6, Board Meeting—ZOOM

Nov 13, Club Meeting—Braised Onion

*Program—TBD*

Nov ?, Cluster, 6pm, Early Learning Coalition

## ASTRA



The West Port High School ASTRA Charter Ceremony as held on April 8. We were joined by Governor Dimple Overstreet and District Three ASTRA Committee Chair, Kitty McElhaney by ZOOM.

What a promising group of young adults!





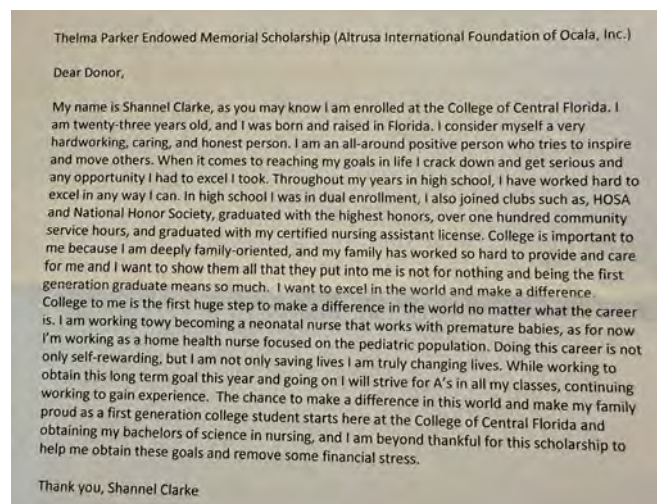
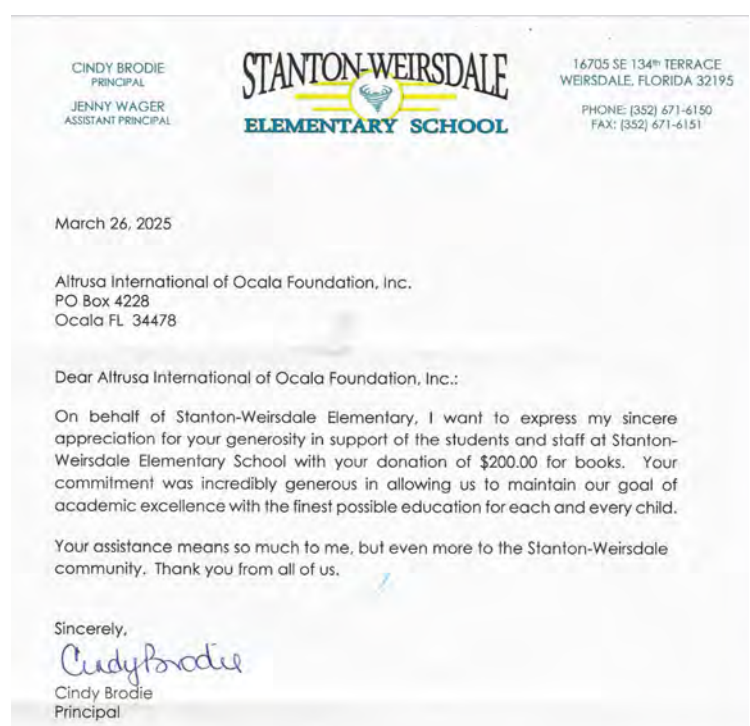
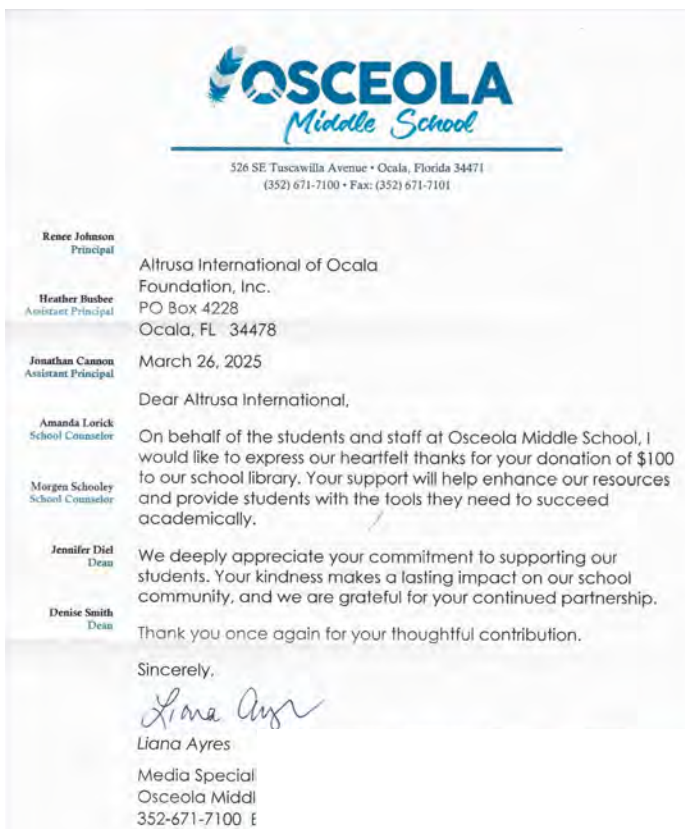
## CLUSTER/FUNDRAISING

The Cluster Club members joined forces with the fundraising committee with the purpose of improving our trivia night fundraiser. Here are some of our plans for 2025-2026.

- ◆ Update the trivia night logo and flyer
- ◆ Investigate AMFund Travel as an auction item
- ◆ Secure March 7, 2026 for our next Trivia Night at the Country Club of Ocala
- ◆ Secure Kevin Christian as the emcee

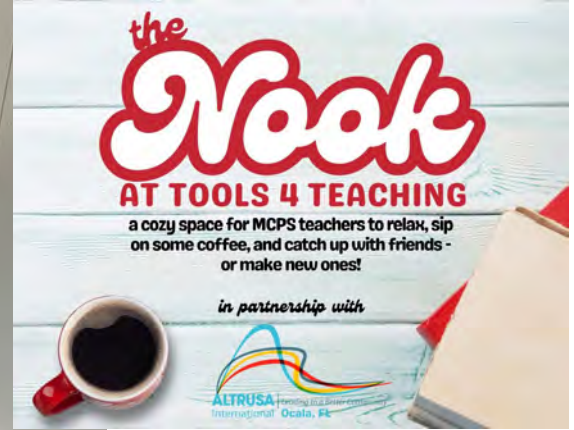


## THANKS AND KUDOS





## SERVICE



On March 27, books on resiliency were delivered to The Nook at the Public Education Foundation for our Marion County teachers.



On May 8, we installed a Little Free Library filled with quality books at Kimberly's Center for Child Protection. We also donated over 100 bottles of water.



# Altrusa District Three Conference Moments





## TRIVIA NIGHT SCHOOL WINNERS



Harbour View  
Elementary  
received \$300  
for their  
school library.



Stanton Weirsdale  
Elementary was  
chosen to receive  
\$200 for their Media  
Center.



Osceola Middle School  
received \$100 for their library.





## PROGRAMS



**Please help me welcome new member Anita Winter! Anita was sponsored by Becky Long and Brenda Ford!**



**“Take Me Out To The Ballgame” was the theme of the installation of officers on May 9. Colleen Duris was the coach, pitcher, catcher, and was “at bat” many times!**





## NANCY JONES EYEGLASSES TO SEE



Since school started in August, 11 certificates have been sent out and 7 students have received eyeglasses. Lentsch Eye Care is our valuable partner in this endeavor.

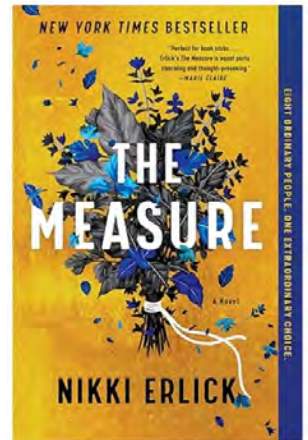


## Reading Recommendation

### *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick

“The great American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, ‘It is not the length of life, but the depth of life.’ You don’t need a long lifetime to make an impact on this world. You just need the will to do so.” – Nikki Erlick *The Measure*

One morning everyone, everywhere in the world, wakes up to find a small wooden box on their door step. Inside each box lies a string. Soon it is evident the length of the string corresponds to each individual’s life span. This novel follows eight diverse characters and they grapple with profound questions about fate, choice and the value of time.



The novel also delves into broader societal impacts such as discrimination based on string length, political exploitation and individual choice – who can be required to open their box? Can you open your spouses’ box? Your adult child’s box? Not everyone wants to see or measure their string.

This novel prompts many questions- such as if you knew how much time you had left, how would you choose to live? *The Measure* is a through provoking book for book clubs and discussion groups.

Submitted by Judi Zanetti

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### Foundation Members 2025-2026

**Maclyn Walker**

**Connie Larsen**

**Brenda Ford**

**Mary Cay Landt**

**Angie Dansby**

**Elaine Goodelle**



# Altrusa Accent



Altrusans across the world are excited to head to Quebec City, Quebec, Canada for the upcoming Altrusa International Convention. The first convention was held in June, 1918, in Indianapolis. The first Altrusa International Convention held outside the U.S. was in 1937 in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

## REMINDERS

- Cluster/Fundraising meets on 3rd Thursday at 6 pm at Early Learning Coalition or Canterfield; next meeting 6/19/25 at Canterfield Senior Living, 9589 SW State Road 200, Ocala
- 2025 International Convention—July 23-26, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
- Chapters and Cheers fundraiser for PEFMC at Reilly Arts Center, 6/5/2025
- Board Meetings held on the first Thursday at noon via ZOOM
- Business Meetings are held on the second Thursday at noon at the Braised Onion, 754 NE 25th Ave., Ocala
- Juanita Cunningham's 100th birthday celebration will be held June 21, 2pm, at Ocala Health and Rehabilitation. Let Colleen know if you will attend.



## CARE

If you know anyone in need of our support, please let Angie know at:

**[adansbyaltrusa@gmail.com](mailto:adansbyaltrusa@gmail.com)**







**Altrusa International  
President  
Linda Smith,  
Salina, Kansas**



Happy Spring Altrusans,

Just as the weather has seasons, so does Altrusa. We will soon be winding up Conference season and are entering our transition season. Club and District officers are changing and in July we will install a new International Board. As your officers and committee chairs change, please go to Group Tally and update the information.

We are busy making final preparations for the 2025 International Convention in Quebec City, Canada. Our Altrusans in Quebec City and looking forward to welcoming us to Canada. The International Altrusan will be sent to members soon that will include updated information on the Convention, service project information, candidate photos and bios, the proposed biennial budget, and proposed bylaw changes. Please read the publication carefully so that you are prepared for voting at Convention.

I look forward to seeing how many of clubs accepted the Add an Altrusan month challenge and recruited a new member in April. David and the staff will be drawing in early May to determine which 5 clubs will receive the \$100 prize.

As the Altrusa years winds down, please go to the Service page on the website and enter your book donations, acts of kindness, and Days for Girls donations We want to have as accurate information as possible to report at the Convention.

It is hard to believe that this biennium will soon come to a close. This is my last article for The Compass. I want to thank all of your for embracing our theme – Altrusans R.O.C.K. You have definitely Realized Opportunities and Created Kindness. I have been inspired by your many projects and enjoyed reading about them in your newsletters and on your social media pages. I know you all will continue to work hard as Altrusa continues to grow and move forward into the next biennium, Until then...Keep on Rocking!

Linda K. Smith, President

Altrusa international, Inc

**2025 International Convention  
Quebec City, Quebec, Canada  
July 23—July 26, 2025**



**District Three Governor**

**Mantha Young, Lake City, Florida**



Dear Altrusa Friends,

What a buzz-worthy time we had at our District Three Conference in Cherokee, NC! It was a joy to gather with so many dedicated Altrusans and to celebrate the heart of our organization—service, leadership, and fellowship. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who helped plan and host such a meaningful and memorable event. From the sessions to the receptions, every detail reflected the care and commitment of our members.

As your newly installed Governor, I am honored to serve District Three under the theme: “BEE Essential.” Just as bees work together to build a thriving hive, each of you plays a vital role in keeping our Altrusa family strong and growing. Your energy, compassion, and dedication are what make this district so special.

Club Presidents, please bee on the lookout for an email invitation to a special Zoom gathering. I’d love for us to connect, share ideas, and build relationships across our clubs. When we get to know one another, we strengthen the entire hive.

As summer unfolds, may you find joy, rest, and renewal—and let this quote remind you of the beauty we create together:

“The hum of bees is the voice of the garden.” – Elizabeth Lawrence

Thank you for all you do to make our District thrive. Let’s make this biennium buzz with purpose!

With appreciation,

**Mantha Young**

**Governor, Altrusa District Three**



**2025 International Convention**

**July 23-26, 2025**

**Quebec City, Quebec Canada**

\*Don't forget to get your passport ready\*





**June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026**

**Officers**

President .....Helen McDavid  
 President-Elect.....Becky Long  
 Secretary.....Wendy Williams  
 Treasurer.....Scott Tice  
 Immediate Past President...Colleen Duris  
 Director.....Debbie Catabia  
 Director.....Frances Ferguson

**Committee Chairs**

ASTRA..... T. J. Bright  
 Care.....Angie Dansby  
 Cluster.....Judi Zanetti  
 Fundraiser.....Kate Fink  
 Membership.....Becky Long  
 Newsletter.....Colleen Duris  
 Program.....Gloria James/Ann McKenzie  
 Service.....Debbie Catabia/Wendy Williams  
 Webmaster.....Helen McDavid



**April 22 Debbie Catabia**

**April 26 Elaine Goodelle**

**April 27 Scott Tice**

**May 10 Gloria James**

**May 20 Helen McDavid**

**May 21 Anita Winter**

**May 26 Jenn Rappa**

**June 2 Cindy Van Heyde**

**June 18 Juanita Cunningham**

**June 20 Diane Barrineau**

**June 29 Maria Kusmierz**



# Board Briefings and Club Meeting Minutes

- **A Little Free Library will be installed at Kimberly's Center for Child Protection in May.**
- **West Port High School ASTRA will hold its chartering ceremony on April 8 at noon.**
- **Trivia Night fundraiser was a great success and we raised just under \$17,000.**
- **Received a report from the nominating committee**

## ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF OCALA, INC

Minutes of Business/Regular Meeting, February 13, 2025

Call to Order at 12:10 by President Colleen Duris

Altrusa Grace was recited by all present

Pledge of Alliance by all present

Minutes of previous meeting approved as corrected

Correspondence – Elaine Goodelle reported she received invoice from Dr. Lynch, checks for Trivia Night. Becky Long reported she received a letter and pictures from Arnette House thanking us for Christmas donations. She will bring them to the next meeting.

Treasurer – Scott Tice reported all member dues have been paid.

ALT has a balance of \$60.43

Prize drawing was donated by Maria Kusmierz and won by Frances Ferguson and guest Anita Winter.

ASTRA – TJ Bright reported Westport High School ASTRA Club has reached the 15 members required to charter. A charter banquet will be planned.

CARE – A memorial service for Michelle Smith is March 8<sup>th</sup>. Our Governor's husband, Grady Overstreet, passed away and a card signed by club members will be sent.

Cluster/Fundraising – Cluster Club will meet February 20<sup>th</sup> at Brookdale. Trivia Night is March 1<sup>st</sup> and set up for event will be on that Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00. All who can please come to help. Elaine Goodelle reported that Kevin Christian will emcee.

Program – Todays program is Add An Altrusan and will be a Safari trip through Altrusa. March meeting program will be Miss Florida, Casana Fink.

Service – Debbie Catabia reported a Little Free Library at Kimberly Center is being installed in March. She requested members bring snacks to the next meeting for the event. Debbie met with Marion County Schools Social Work Services and talked about Altrusa.

Newsletter – Helen Mc David reported the deadline for the next newsletter submissions will be March 20<sup>th</sup>. TJ Bright volunteered to write a book review for the newsletter.

Colleen Duris presented her Ninja of the Month – Macklyn Walker. Treat for Club was Cookie Hearts.

Gloria made an announcement that Oakcrest School needs donations of panties, socks for boys and girls. Contact her for information.

The nominating committee has a slate except for Foundation Director. If you have an interest please contact Mary Cay.

District Conference delegates and alternate were elected. Frances Ferguson and Debbie Catabia will be going as delegates and Becky Long will be the alternate.

A motion made by Scott Tice and seconded by Connie Larsen, passed to send for the Governors Gift, \$50 to be taken from ALT

President Colleen Duris announced that if anyone needs to purchase anything from the Altrusa Store at District Conference, let her know.

Lots of Happy Bucks were given by TJ Bright, Judi Zanetti, Mary Kay Landt, Debbie Catabia, Diane Barrineau, and Brenda Ford

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm with members present reciting the Benediction.

Members present: Colleen Duris, Frances Ferguson, Debbie Catabia, Helen McDavid, Diane Barrineau, Janet Behnke, TJ Bright, Karen Elliott, Brenda Ford, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Mary Cay Landt, Becky Long, Ann McKenzie, Scott Tice, Maclyn Walker, Connie Larsen, Cindy Van Heyde, Judi Zanetti

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ferguson, Secretary

## ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF OCALA, INC

Minutes of Business/Regular Meeting, March 13, 2025

Call to Order at 12:05 by President Colleen Duris

Altrusa Grace was recited by all present

Pledge of Alliance by all present

Guest – Anita Thomas Winter (second visit) and Joy David and Skeeter (Laura Doran) as guests of Colleen Duris

Minutes of previous meeting approved as presented

Correspondence – Elaine Goodelle reported she received an invoice from Dr. Lentsch, a thank you from the Arnette House recipient, and the post office box renewal.

Treasurer – Scott Tice reported all member dues have been paid. Invoices for annual dues will be forthcoming.

ALT has a balance of \$10.43

Prize drawing was donated by Colleen Duris and won by Wendy Williams.

ASTRA – TJ Bright reported Westport High School ASTRA Club has reached the 15 required to charter. Presentation of Charter will be April 8<sup>th</sup> 12:15 – 1:00.

CARE – Juanita Cunningham fell and had surgery. She is doing well.

Cluster/Fundraising – Cluster Club will meet March 19<sup>th</sup> at Canterfield. On March 26<sup>th</sup> books will be delivered to the schools that won at Trivia Night. Trivia Night was a great success thanks to all who participated.

Program – Program today was Miss Florida, Casana Fink. April's program will be presented by Patricia Tomlinson.

Service – Debbie Catabia reported a Little Free Library at Kimberly Center is planned.

Newsletter – Helen Mc David reported the deadline for the next newsletter will be March 20<sup>th</sup>. TJ Bright volunteered to write a book review for the newsletter.

Colleen Duris presented her Ninja – Elaine Goodelle. Treat for Club was Nestle Crunch.

Nominating committee has a proposed slate as follows: President: Helen McDavid, Vice President: Becky Long, Secretary: Wendy Williams, Treasurer: Scott Tice, Directors: Debbie Catabia and Frances Ferguson. There were no nominations from floor. Slate was elected.

Foundation slate is as follows: Connie Larsen, Mary Cay Landt, and Brenda Ford as new directors. No nominations from floor. Slate elected. Angie Dansby and Maclyn Walker will be completing the second year of their first terms.

Service Project at District Conference will be collecting Kitchen items. A list is being sent and can order from Amazon to be sent direct. A motion was made by Helen McDavid to take \$80 from the President's budget line item and \$120 from the membership contributions to purchase items. Seconded by Kate Fink. Passed. Scott Tice will order the items.

International Convention will be attended by Scott Tice, Becky Long and Colleen Duris.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm with members present reciting the Benediction.

Members present: Colleen Duris, Frances Ferguson, Debbie Catabia, Helen McDavid, Diane Barrineau, Janet Behnke, TJ Bright, Karen Elliott, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Mary Cay Landt, Becky Long, Ann McKenzie, Scott Tice, Maclyn Walker, Connie Larsen, Cindy Van Heyde

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ferguson, Secretary



ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF OCALA, INC

Minutes of Business/Regular Meeting, April 10, 2025

Call to Order at 12:06 by President Colleen Duris

Altrusa Grace was recited by all present

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present

Minutes of previous meeting approved as presented.

Treasurer – Scott Tice reported annual invoices had been emailed to members. He asked that members who needed reimbursements to please send to him as soon as possible.

ALT has a balance of \$11.43

Prize drawing was donated by Debbie Catabia and won by Scott Tice.

Program – Next meeting will be the installation of officers for 2025-2026.

Anita Winters was installed as our newest member.

Today's program was a presentation on Arts In Health given by Patricia Tomlinson.

ASTRA – TJ Bright reported Westport High School ASTRA Clubs charter was presented to the Club on April 8, 2025. A letter was presented to them from District Three ASTRA chair, Kitty McElhaney with congratulations on their Charter.

Cluster/Fundraising – Cluster Club will meet April 17th at ELC conference room. Kate Fink has a tentative date for Trivia Night 2026 as March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Service – Debbie Catabia reported the Little Free Library at Kimberly Center is scheduled for May 8th.

Newsletter – Helen Mc David reported the deadline for the next newsletter will be May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Colleen Duris presented her Ninja – Debbie Catabia. Treat for Club was an Easter Egg filled with chocolate.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm with members present reciting the Benediction.

Members present: Colleen Duris, Frances Ferguson, Debbie Catabia, Diane Barrineau , Janet Behnke, TJ Bright, Karen Elliott, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Mary Cay Landt, Becky Long, Ann McKenzie, Scott Tice, Maclyn Walker, Angie Dansby, Maria Kusmierz, Wendy Williams, Anita Winter

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ferguson, Secretary