



Fall 2025

President's Message

“A time of hot chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and best of all, leaping into leaves!” Winnie the Pooh

Our fall season has us leaping into service, and renewing partnerships, and best of all, making new connections in the community. There is so much to be thankful for.

The back-to-school season found us writing notes of encouragement for our teachers and placing them in The Nook. For current and future Marion County teachers, we made donations to the Public Education Foundation's Grants for Great Ideas and the Teacher 2 Be scholarship program. We also participated in College Park Elementary's annual Read In. What a season of service!

Our Make a Difference Day was held at the Early Learning Coalition. We donated 2500 diapers and re-packaged 9150 diapers. West Port ASTRA assembled 200 “Help Me Grow” bags and 65 folders. In all, we had 14 Altrusans, 2 volunteers, and 5 ASTRA members participating. What a great way to make a difference!

We held a “thank you” celebration at Canterfield Senior Living facility for allowing Cluster Club to hold the evening meetings in their games room. We provided 106 residents and 75 staff members with a treat bag, 900+ pieces of candy plus cookies and brownies. What a great way to say thank you!

Our new connection is with Freedom Library. The Foundation Board has approved the spending of long-range funds for the entryway into the new, expanded children's library. We also plan for additional projects including book donations, children's room decorations and others. What a great way to plan for the future!

I've always known that Altrusa was a good fit for me. As a retired teacher, their focus on literacy spoke to my heart and the flexibility of participating that allowed my travel were a win-win. When I needed to “step away” from my responsibilities, my Altrusa sisters/brother took the wheel. I am so thankful for each one of you.

Please take some time to leap into leaves and enjoy some hot chocolate with toasty marshmallows.

*Kindest regards,
Helen*



Table of Contents:

Contact Information	2	Membership	12-13
Upcoming Calendar	3	Fundraising	14-15
Helen's NINJAs	4	International	16
Service	5-6	District	17
ASTRA	7	Altrusa Accent	18
Foundation	8-9	Club Leadership, Birthdays	19
Programs	10	Minutes & Board Action	20-31
Cluster Club	11		



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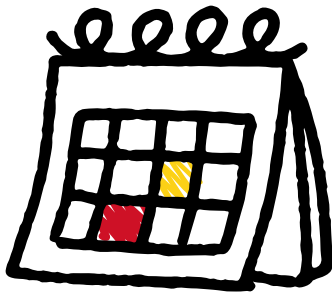
District Three
districtthree.altrusa.org

International
altrusa.org

Altrusa International of Ocala, Florida



If you know of a club member in need of our support and CARE, please contact Angie Dansby at adansbyaltrusa@gmail.com or text to (352) 427-8609



UPCOMING CALENDAR

2025

December 4th Board meeting, noon - Zoom
 December 5th Holiday Celebration - Mary Cay's
 December 11th - Club Meeting, noon, Braised
 Onion

Program: Holiday Celebration

2026

January TBD Board meeting, noon - Zoom
 January 8th January 15th Cluster Club, 6:00 pm
 - ELC
 February 5th Board meeting, noon - Zoom
 February 10th - Altrusa of Ocala 48th
 Charter Anniversary
 February 12th Club meeting, noon - Braised
 Onion
 February 19th Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - ELC
 March 5th - Board meeting, noon - Zoom

2026

March 7th - Trivia Night - Country Club of Ocala
 March 12th - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion
 March 19th - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - ELC
 April 2nd - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom
 April 9th - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion
 April 11th - Anniversary Altrusa International
 1917-1926
 April 16th - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - ELC
 April 24-25 - District Conference - Spartanburg, SC
 May 7th - Board meeting, noon - Zoom
 May 14th - Club meeting, noon - Braised Onion
 May 21st - Cluster Club, 6:00pm - ELC
 May 26th - 49th Anniversary of Altrusa International
 of Ocala (organizational meeting 1977)
 June 4th - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom
 June 11th - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion
 June 18th - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - ELC

Upcoming Service

In December, purchases for our Holiday Family and Arnette House. Assisting Kate Fink with the holiday meal for Veterans, deodorants and salty and sweet snacks. Continue to collect #2 recyclable containers and caps for the Nancy Jones Buddy Bench.





NINJA of the MONTH

Nurture Your Inner Nancy Jones Attributes



October: *Jennifer Ruppel* was an absolute beast on our Make A Difference Day. After most had finished, she continues to box up our wrapped diapers and keep them all organized. She also eagerly accepted the responsibility of creating the Gifster list for our holiday family.

September: *Gloria James & Ann McKenzie* are two best buds. They agreed to co-chair a new committee - Programs. They can always be counted on to participate in any read aloud opportunities.

August: *Jennifer Rappa* an active, service minded Cluster Club member. A super painter for the Nook who got her husband to assist. She stepped up as Cluster Club secretary this year and printed stickers for the candy bags.

July: *Colleen Duris* is knowledgeable and dedicated to our mission. Her unselfishness is always evident. She offers support to all our programs and members to ensure our club's success. She is an outstanding leader.

June: *Brenda Ford* an active supporter of Cluster club; if she doesn't know an answer, she knows where to find it. She is a great listener and offers different perspectives.

Service



9,150 Diapers packaged at Early Learning Coalition of Marion County for our Make A Difference Day



2505 Diapers collected



Service

ASTRA members joined in the Make a Difference Day of Caring at the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County

From: Robinson, Renae
<robinsor@cf.edu>
Date: Wed, Nov 5, 2025 at 12:45 PM
Subject: THANK YOU
To:
CC: Pfriendr, Leah - College Park Elementary School
<Leah.Pfriendr@marion.k12.fl.us>

Hello,
I just wanted to send a HUGE thank you to all that participated in the read-in this morning. It was truly a great turn out and we could not host this annual event without the dedication of each of you. There was so much energy and excitement and the teachers and students at CPE truly enjoyed having you all. I hope that you will consider participating in this event every year. Enjoy the rest of your day!

Best Regards,
Renae Robinson, Ed.D.
College of Central Florida
Dean | Teacher Education



Members participated in the College Park Elementary Read In

ASTRA





wphsastra WPHS ASTRA CLUB!!

 "BOOTS on THE GROUND" 
 "Growing in Service" 
HOMECOMING PARADE!!

GO WOLF PACK!! 

20 hours ago • [See translation](#)



West Port High School Homecoming Parade



Presentation of a check for \$5,000 to the Public Education Foundation Teachers 2 Be program



A+ **Teacher To Be** Scholarship

BECOMING A TEACHER?

- Have you been an MCPS employee for two or more years?
- Are you currently in school pursuing a degree in education?

YOU MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TEACHER TO BE SCHOLARSHIP WORTH UP TO \$2500!



FOUNDATION



Presentation to the Public Education Foundation of \$2,500 for Grants for Great Ideas Program



Programs



Marion County Public Schools

"Helping Every Student Succeed"

In September, Kevin Christian, Marion County Public Schools Director of Public Relations joined us and provided an interactive "pop quiz" which educated us all on the state of public education in Marion County and provided a lot of fun!

In October, Carali McLean, Executive Director of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Florida provided statistics and information on the state of mental health in Florida and Marion County, what services NAMI provides and how they are funded.



In November, Heather Gilardi and Heather Goodall spoke to us about the "The Baby Place" at AdventHealth Ocala and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



Heather Gilardi, Birth Coordinator at AdventHealth was a former ASTRA member at Forest HS when our own TJ Bright was ASTRA Advisor!

CLUSTER CLUB



Halloween Celebration at Canterfield

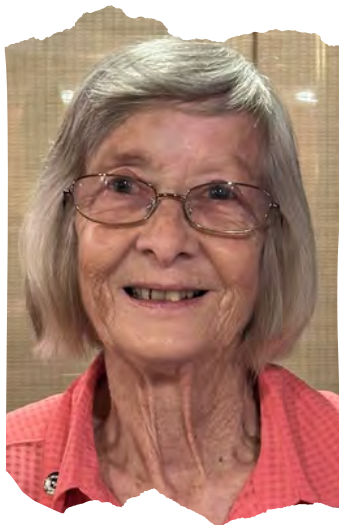


The Cluster Club members supplied treats and celebrated Halloween with the residents of Canterfield of Ocala Assisted Living in thanks for allowing us to meet at their facility.



Getting to Know You

Fun Facts about our Newest Members



Anita Winter was born in Ocala and has only left the area for 18 months of her life when she lived in Tampa to finish college. She is retired from her job as Chief Operating Officer of the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County.

Her favorite food is BBQ

The last book she read was Good Day Sunshine State, How the Beatles Rocked Florida by Bob Kealing

Her favorite vacation to date is a trip to the Virgin Islands

Amanda White was born in Winter Haven, Florida and has lived in Auburndale and Leesburg, Florida. She has been in Marion County since 2019. She is a Crime Analyst with the Leesburg Police Department.

Her favorite food is PASTA

The last book she read was Leaving Time by Jodi Picoult

Her favorite vacation to date is when she and her husband took a road trip traveling to several National Parks including Badlands, the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and Glacier National Park



Jennifer Ruppel was born in Millington, TN and has lived in the following places: Brunswick, ME, Jacksonville, FL, Virginia Beach, VA, Boca Raton, FL, Delray Beach, FL, Boynton Beach, FL, Bradenton, FL and Ocala since 2005. She is an Information Systems Manager for Highland Homes.

Her favorite food is ITALIAN

The last book she read was Complicated by Kristen Ashley
Her favorite vacations to date were an Alaskan Cruise and Cabo San Lucas



Altrusan's Pets



Connie's dogs, Maria & Kashii with Granddog, Annie



Anita's dog, Mickey



Debbie's Granddog, Jasper



Scott's dog, Tyson



Ann's "pets"

Jennifer Rappa's JAKE



Diane's Granddogs and Grandkids





2026 Altrusa Trivia Night

"Supporting Our Community"



Saturday, March 7, 2026

The Country Club of Ocala, 6:00 p.m.

ALTRUSA SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Sponsorship Commitment deadline - January 31, 2026

Name to appear on Advertising: _____

Person to Contact: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Person to Thank: _____

Select Sponsorship Level <small>(see reverse for details)</small>	Will you be using your tickets
\$1,000	8 tickets Yes ___ No ___
\$ 500	2 tickets Yes ___ No ___
\$ 300	
Below \$300	Additional tickets _____ \$65 each

Please make your Tax-Deductible check payable to:

Altrusa International of Ocala Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 4228, Ocala, FL 34478
Phone 352-572-2923

Emmit this form to both: katerolam1215@gmail.com and connie_d_larsen@hotmail.com with clean, camera-ready artwork for our program attached.

ALTRUSA CONTACT: _____

Altrusa Trivia Night Sponsorship Levels

The Country Club of Ocala

Saturday, March 7, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

\$1,000 Sponsor

- > Full page advertisement in the program
- > One table reserved for eight (8)*
- > Table sign at sponsored table
- > Verbal recognition throughout the program
- > Sponsorship recognition prior to dining
- > Sponsor of trivia questions

\$500 Sponsor

- > Half page advertisement in the program
- > Two (2) tickets to event*
- > Verbal recognition throughout the program

\$300 Sponsor

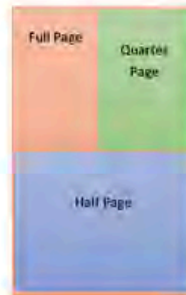
- > Quarter page advertisement in the program

Below \$300

- > Listing in Friends of Altrusa

All levels include recognition in our program booklet. \$1,000 and \$500 levels include recognition on Altrusa International of Ocala Facebook page.

*Additional tickets may be purchased for \$65 each and include admission to the event and catered dinner



Full Page (9" X 8") - \$1,000
Half Page (5" X 3.875") - \$500
Quarter Page (5" X 1.75" OR 2.375" X 3.875") - \$300

It's that time of year.... contact your favorite sponsors to support our Trivia Night fundraiser...





POLYWOOD + SAMMIE'S BUDDY BENCH PROJECT RECYCLING PROGRAM



"You don't have to be an adult to make a difference. You can be a kid too!"
— Sammie Vance

POLYWOOD has teamed up with Sammie's Buddy Bench Project to help kids cultivate friendships and promote sustainable thinking. Get your school or community group involved in our mission to make the world a little kinder—and score an official Buddy Bench for your outdoor space!

STEP 1 START COLLECTING!

It takes 1,000 #2 HDPE plastic containers to make a Buddy Bench. Here's a list of common items made from #2 HDPE:

- Milk jugs
- Water and soda bottle caps
- Shampoo bottles
- Detergent containers
- Buckets

Look for the ♻️ recycling symbol on the bottom of your containers. Collect 1,000 pieces of #2 HDPE plastic in a box or bag.

STEP 2 Drop off the plastic at your local recycling center and send us a photo of your hard work.

STEP 3 You'll receive a code to purchase a Buddy Bench at a discounted rate.

STEP 4 POLYWOOD will build your Buddy Bench from recycled HDPE plastic and send it to your playground!



MEET SAMMIE

Sammie Vance is an Indiana native who founded **Sammie's Buddy Bench Project** in 2017 when she was just eight years old. She wanted an easy way for kids to make friends, so she started collecting plastic bottle caps that could be turned into a Buddy Bench for her school. The project has been a huge hit and there are hundreds of Buddy Benches in schools across the country. *Now it's time for your group to join the fun!*

The project was a hit (and still is)! Fast-forward to now, and hundreds of Sammie's Buddy Benches fill public spaces across the country.

POLYWOOD | 1000 POLYWOOD Way, Syracuse, IN 46567 | recyclingprogram@polywood.com

We're working on establishing a "Buddy Bench" in honor of Nancy Jones. We are working with Polywood and the Sammie's Buddy Bench Project. Start collecting your recyclables!!



Dear fellow Altrusans,

I hope this finds you getting ready to enjoy another season. I love living in northern Illinois in the fall. Sweater weather with warm days/cool nights, campfires, visits to apple orchards, football games, and the changing colors of leaves in the trees.

This change in the air also applies to a new biennium. The energy and enthusiasm from the 2025 International Convention in Quebec was phenomenal! A big thank you to Immediate Past President Linda Smith, Convention Co-Chairs Brenda Smith and Susan Porazzo, District One, the Quebec Club, the International Board, and the International office staff. The workshops, keynote speakers - actually the entire convention was fantastic! There was plenty of sharing of ideas and camaraderie. My dream for those of you who attended Convention is that you share the joy of attending Convention and visiting Quebec with your fellow club members. Let's continue sharing this excitement about Altrusa with others by passing it along.

The newly installed Board of Directors and International Committees have hit the ground running and are starting to meet already. Board meetings will be held several times throughout the year, so if you should have any issues you would like to bring before the Board, please contact me or our Executive Director.

Our website has been updated to reflect the new International Committee leaders and members.

These industrious groups have already started their work for the biennium, including articles for this publication. Please check out the Altrusa website and feel free to follow up with them concerning any questions or concerns you may have.

We are off to a great start with the addition of a new club in Waxahachie, Texas. Their charter event was September 27th. You can find more information about them on the District Nine Facebook page and join me in welcoming them to Altrusa. We have several other clubs in formation, so we look forward to more charter events in the future.

In addition to our international project of Days for Girls, we will continue the literacy challenge of distributing 1,000,001 books this biennium and 500,000 literacy service ours. Keep counting and tracking your donations and service hours. Together, we can achieve this goal.

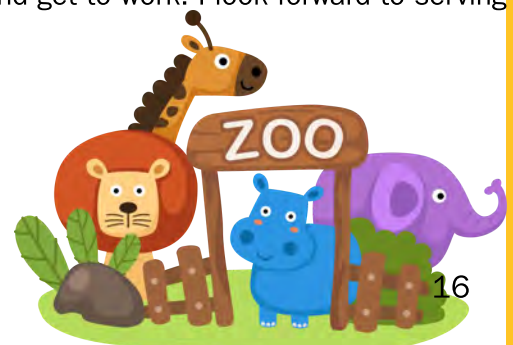
So get your favorite fall beverage, sit down, and relax while reading this edition of The Compass. Not only have I included several articles in this publication, but your new International Committee leaders are excited to share with you what they are working on. I am eager to kick off the biennium and get to work. I look forward to serving with all of you to continue leading to a better community.

With Altrusa Love,

Christine "Chris" DeVlieger

President of Altrusa International, Inc.

**International Convention 2027
Hyatt Regency, Columbus, Ohio
July 21 - 24, 2027**





Buzzin' with the Governor – November 2025

By Mantha Young, District Three Governor

November is such a special month. It brings crisp air, golden leaves, cozy gatherings, and of course -Thanksgiving. It's also a time to pause and reflect on gratitude. Did you know November is the only month that hosts both Veterans Day and Thanksgiving? It's a season that reminds us to honor service, celebrate community, and give thanks for the blessings in our lives.

And what isn't new to me is Altrusa - and how much Altrusans Bee Essential! This isn't just a slogan, it's who we are. We care deeply about one another, our communities, our projects, and those in need. Just like bees working together for the good of the hive, Altrusans make an impact when we join efforts to serve.

As 2025 begins to wind down, now is the perfect time to start preparing your District Award applications. Shine a light on your club's accomplishments, service projects, and the creative ways you've been essential in your community. Recognition not only honors your work but also inspires others to keep buzzing with service.

My wish for you this November is a season filled with gratitude, joy, and plenty of reasons to celebrate. May your Thanksgiving be rich with love and fellowship, and may we continue to Bee Essential together in all we do.

With warm appreciation,

Mantha Young

Governor, Altrusa District Three



District Conference 2026

Spartanburg, SC

April 24-25, 2026

Altrusa Accent

What Is an Altrusa Member?

The Altrusa member today is the only one who says it CAN be done. The member has suffered losses and defeats—yet tries again. The member is the one who is so bold to make a past to remember and a future to mold. So here is to Altrusa and all the members who continue to say “I CAN.”

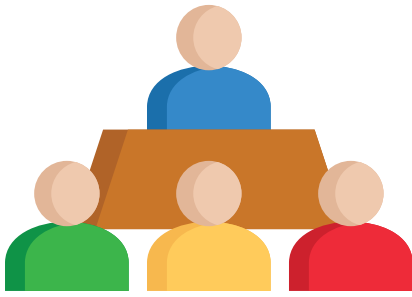
The Altrusan today is:

- A**—Active and alert
- L**—Learned and loyal
- T**—Thinking and thorough
- R**—Receptive and responsive
- U**—Unassuming and unbeatable
- S**—Scintillating and selective
- A**—Accepted and accomplished

The Altrusan today is true to themselves —to their fellow man, to their community, and to their country. They are the one who will continue to say “I CAN AND I WILL.”

Reprinted from District Eleven.





CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President - Maclyn Walker
- Treasurer - Connie Larsen
- Director - Brenda Ford
- Director - Angie Dansby
- Director - Mary Cay Landt

CLUB COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- ASTRA - T.J Bright
- CARE - Angie Dansby
- Cluster Club - Judi Zanetti
- Fundraising - Kate Fink
- Membership - Becky Long
- Program - Gloria James/
Ann McKenzie
- Service- Debbie Catabia/
Wendy Williams



- December 1 TJ Bright
- December 3 Jennifer Ruppel
- December 22 Mary Cay Landt
- December 31 Ann McKenzie
- January 13 Judi Zanetti
- January 19 Wendy Williams
- February 20 Cathy Ackerman



MINUTES

Altrusa International of Ocala, Inc. Business Meeting Minutes August 14, 2025

The meeting was held at Braised Onion.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by President Helen McDavid.

The Altrusa Grace and Pledge of Allegiance were recited.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Wendy Williams introduced Dr. Michelle Grant Harris, Early Childhood Program Director at the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County. Michelle oversees the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The July Business Meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE – Elaine Goodelle: The Interfaith Newsletter was received.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Scott Tice: There are one or two members who haven’t paid for their quarterly lunches.

AL T. RUSA – Becky Long: There is a \$23.47 balance.

RAFFLE: This month’s raffle prize was donated by Wendy Williams. Scott Tice won.

PROGRAM: Maclyn Walker introduced Levonda Goodson, CEO of Estella Byrd Whitman Community Health Center (EBWCHC). Levonda took the lead at the health center about a year and a half ago. She was previously with Heart of Florida for 14 years. The Estella Byrd Whitman Community Health Center started in 2009, after Carolyn Adams promised her grandmother, the center’s namesake, that she would return and provide community healthcare to the underserved West Ocala community.

Levonda shared the growth the health center has had since she joined, both in number of patients served and number of services offered. EBWCHC provides adult and pediatric primary care services. They are opening a second location at SMA Healthcare. They dispense medications to manage chronic illnesses. There is an EBWCHC bus to help address transportation challenges, enabling patients to get transportation to EBWCHC and to specialists they may be referred to. All patients receive a depression screening. In 2023, they had 321 patient visits (125 unique patients). In 2024, this increased to 2,823 patient visits (749 unique patients). This shows that patients are coming back for ongoing medical care, shifting behavioral patterns of using the ER for medical care. Through June 2025, they’ve had 4,715 patient visits (468 unique patients). There has been a significant decrease in hospital readmissions.

EBWCHC is hosting their 2nd Annual Taste of the Town fundraising event on Friday, September 12, 5-8 p.m., at the Ocala Downtown Market. They also participate in Give4Marion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ASTRA – Helen McDavid: Eleanor Gilliam, the West Port High School Club Advisor, has participated in a recruitment fair. She will encourage Club officers to attend the October 25 Day of Giving to help wrap diapers.

Care – Angie Dansby: Cards were passed for Betty, Val, and Juanita’s family.



MINUTES



Cluster/Fundraising:

- Helen McDavid reported that the next Cluster Club meeting will be at the Early Learning Coalition. Nanci Schwartz and Traci Gamble will be attending from Altrusa Lake County. Additionally, Altrusa District Three Governor Mantha Young will be attending. Jennifer Ruppel will be initiated as a new member. Attendees are encouraged to wear their Altrusa nametags and pins.
- Elaine Goodelle reported that we have been assigned the week of February 9, 2026, to display our banner across West State Road 40. The banner needs to be updated. Helen added that the Fundraising Committee would like to email our guest speakers an invitation to Trivia Night.

Long Range Planning – Connie Larsen: The committee met Tuesday and discussed ideas. Currently exploring a project at the expanded Freedom Library and/or a StoryWalk. The next committee meeting is Wednesday, September 10 at noon.

Membership – Becky Long: Jennifer Ruppel will be initiated at the August Cluster Club meeting.

Newsletter – Colleen Duris: The newsletter deadline is August 15.

Program: Maclyn Walker announced that September's guest speaker will be Kevin Christian from Marion County Public Schools.

Service:

- Wendy Williams thanked members for bringing in soap, toothpaste, and deodorant for the Community Partnership School. The donations will be delivered August 15 at 11 a.m.
- Upcoming projects:
 - Helen McDavid and Colleen Duris are delivering books to the Public Education Foundation today for both Juanita's Shelf and the Book Nook.
 - Assembling Ready to Read bags at the Library Headquarters August 20, 10-11 a.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m.
 - Collecting diapers for the Early Learning Coalition in October.
 - October 25 Day of Giving – wrapping diapers at the Early Learning Coalition from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Web/Social Media – Helen McDavid: All is fine.

FOUNDATION REPORT – Maclyn Walker: No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Colleen Duris reported that at the Altrusa International Convention, the decision was made to change Club 21 to Club 52. Members can donate \$1/week (\$52/year) to raise money for international projects through the Foundation. Altrusa.org website or give donations to Colleen to send in on our behalf. Over \$10,000 was raised at Convention.
 - Colleen Duris moved to take \$42 from the Club Contingency Fund and move it to the Club 21 line item, bringing our Club 52 contribution to \$252. Scott Tice seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- A check was presented to the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County to support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Photos were taken after the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/HAPPY BUCKS:

MINUTES

- Helen McDavid named Colleen Duris as July's NINJA for being knowledgeable, dedicated, unselfish, and supportive.
- Mary Cay Landt asked for prayers for her back injection, was thankful for Brenda Ford's assistance with a bookkeeping problem, was celebrating the start of football in two weeks and two days, and was grateful that an accident in the garage while she was helping Bob only bruised her forehead rather than putting out an eye.
- Ann McKenzie's husband had two injections for his sciatica and was finally beginning to feel better.

REMINDERS:

- Board Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at noon via Zoom
- Business Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at noon at Braised Onion
- Cluster Meetings are the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. The August meeting is at the Early Learning Coalition
- Track your volunteer hours
- Newsletter deadline is August 15
- Delivering soap, toothpaste, and deodorant donations to the Community Partnership School August 15 at 11 a.m.
- Assembling Ready to Read bags August 20 from 10-11 a.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Marion County Public Library Headquarters
- Collecting diapers October 9-25 for the Early Learning Coalition
- October 25 Day of Giving – packaging diapers at the Early Learning Coalition from 10 a.m. - noon
- Trivia Night is March 7, 2026, 6 p.m. at Country Club of Ocala
- Web addresses for Altrusa International (altrusa.org), District Three (districtthree.altrusa.org), and Ocala (districtthree.altrusa.org/Ocala/)

BIRTHDAYS:

- August 10 – Connie Larsen

The Benediction was recited, and the meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Diane Barrineau, Janet Behnke, Angie Dansby, Colleen Duris, Karen Elliott, Frances Ferguson, Brenda Ford, Elaine Goodelle, Mary Cay Landt, Connie Larsen, Becky Long, Helen McDavid, Ann McKenzie, Scott Tice, Maclyn Walker, Wendy Williams, Anita Winter

Submitted by Wendy Williams





MINUTES

Altrusa International of Ocala, FL Inc.
Cluster Club Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2025
Early Learning Coalition
2300 SW 17th Road, Ocala, FL

The meeting was called to order by Judi Zanetti at 6:00 pm and everyone in attendance recited the Altrusa Grace followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests in attendance: Traci Gamble and Nanci Schwartz from Lake County Altrusa were introduced by Scott Tice

The minutes of the July meeting were approved as submitted.

Correspondence: Received thank you letters from Interfaith & Kimberly Center.

Program: Initiation of Jennifer Ruppel by membership chair Becky Long

Business Meeting recap:

ASTRA: Eleanor @ West Port participated in a Recruitment Fair. The ASTRA officers will attend the Day of Giving event on October 25th.

Fundraising: Trivia Night is booked, deposit is made. Banner will be up the week of February 9th on W Hwy 40.

Membership: January is Add an Altrusan.

Program: Estella Byrd Whitman Community Health Center recap by Wendy

Web/Social Media: "On Point!"

Care: Debbie Catabia's husband had a procedure and seems to be ok. Charter member Juanita Cunningham passed away and details were shared.

Long Range Planning: Zoom meeting on August 12th. Suggestions to look into are: Freedom Library, Buddy Bench (Nancy Jones-South Ocala), Story Walk. All suggestions are welcome.

Newsletter: Colleen may be reaching out. Deadline was August 15th.

Service: Books for Tools for Teaching and the Nook. 13 volunteered for Ready to Read bags. 413 hygiene items were collected. Collecting diapers for ELC for repackaging on October 25th.

Old Business: CANVA: Wendy presented new logo ideas and offered training if needed.

New Business: Club 21 Scott informed us about the new Club 52.

Handwritten thank you notes were completed for the Trivia Night sponsors to be included with the legal letters.

Announcements/Happy Bucks: Helen McDavid announced her July NINJA—Colleen Duris

Reminders:

Bring diapers to September & October Cluster Meetings.

Long Range Planning: Next zoom meeting is September 10th @ 12:00 noon.

Next Cluster Meeting: September 18th @ Canterfield Senior Living at 6 pm

October 25th from 10AM to 12 noon—Day of Giving—repackage diapers

October 30th @ 2PM: Thank you celebration at Canterfield for 106 residents & 75 staff. Candy bags, cookies & brownies.

\$20 in Happy Bucks were collected and \$2 for Al T. Rusa

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm with all members reciting the Altrusa Benediction.

Attendance: Colleen Duris, Kate Fink, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Connie Larsen, Becky Long, Helen McDavid, Jenn Rappa, Scott Tice, Amanda White, Wendy Williams, Anita Winter, Judi Zanetti & Jennifer Ruppel. (with guests: Traci Gamble & Nanci Swartz)

MINUTES

Altrusa International of Ocala, Inc. Business Meeting Minutes September 11, 2025

The meeting was held at Braised Onion.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by President Helen McDavid.

The Altrusa Grace and Pledge of Allegiance were recited.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: none

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The August Business Meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE – Wendy Williams reported that Elaine received a thank you note from Kimberly's Center for Child Protection for the Little Free Library, a thank you note from the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County for the donation to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and the Interfaith newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Connie Larsen reported that Scott emailed the treasurer's report to the Board.

AL T. RUSA – Becky Long: Last month's balance was \$23.43. Debbie Catabia reported the current balance is \$25.43.

RAFFLE: This month's raffle prize was donated by Ann McKenzie. Maclyn Walker won. Becky Long will hold on to the raffle money and the lunch cards for Scott.

PROGRAM: Gloria James introduced Kevin Christian, Marion County Public Schools Director of Public Relations. Kevin brought giveaways: note pads, zippered pouch, pencils, pens, and screen cleaners. Leftovers will be brought to the Cluster Club meeting.

Marion County Public Schools started 156 years ago, and Kevin has been with the district for 25 years. Kevin had an interactive presentation – members scanned a QR code and took a pop quiz.

- As of Sept. 9, the district has 46,096 students and expects more through October.
- There are 53 schools in the district plus 5 public charter schools. If a student leaves a charter school and comes back to the public schools, the funding does not come with them.
- The southwest quadrant of the district is the fastest growing.
- Two new elementary schools opened this year, both in the southwest quadrant.
- The district is the largest employer in the County with about 7,000 employees – more than double Advent Health, which is the second largest employer.
- South Marion High School will open in 2026. It's behind Summer Glen, just outside Marion Oaks. It will have a 3-story building and will cost \$165 million. The last high school to open was Forest High School 20 years ago and cost \$6 million.
- The ½ cent sales tax that voters passed pays for non-recurring expenses, renovations, replacement facilities but cannot be used for salaries.
- The ½ mill on property taxes goes toward art, music, physical education, media, teacher retention, and school safety.
- 3,143 students are expected to graduate in 2026.
- Marion County Public Schools:
 - Has the #1 public VPK program in the state. Reddick-Collier Elementary is the top VPK program. Reddick is also the most under enrolled school at 50% capacity.
 - Has 5 National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists



MINUTES

- Cut \$64 million from their proposed budget

Colleen and Diane tied with 9,000 points each on the pop quiz!

One-third of MCPS students have chronic absenteeism, meaning they miss 10% or more of class time. Missing 15% or more is truant.

86% of students never receive a referral (but the media reports on 1 out of 10 students with problematic behaviors).

MCPS is a B-rated district working to become an A. It is hard to achieve and maintain A status due to the formula.

New law this year means students who are cognitively unable to complete their required credits will not receive a certificate of completion. This will primarily affect students at Hillcrest.

The district has an 80.3% on-time graduation rate. On-time means students graduate in four years. Additional students graduate, sometimes the summer following their class.

About 2,000 students are considered homeless. They may be in motels, campers, cars, or on a friend's couch.

This year's budget of \$1.3 billion is the second highest in their history (2nd to last year), due to new construction projects.

Florida funds public education with property taxes. Other states have a state income tax.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ASTRA – Colleen Duris reported that the ASTRA club will be processing the International grant.

Care – no report

Cluster/Fundraising – Helen McDavid reported there will be a Thank You Celebration for Canterfield on October 30 at 2 p.m. All are invited. Candy bags will be prepped at the October Cluster meeting. At the September meeting, uplifting letters will be written to teachers. The Fundraising Committee is working on a new Trivia Night logo, updated banner, and sponsor forms. The banner is scheduled to be up the week of February 9 at the West 40 location. It's not too early for everyone to think about their baskets.

Long Range Planning – **Connie Larsen:** The committee met yesterday and is waiting on information from the library. Wendy Williams provided details for a StoryWalk®, which would be \$5-10,000 depending on options. Colleen Duris brought information about Buddy Benches, including an opportunity to get a discount on a bench made from recycled plastic when we collect bottle caps. Kevin Christian confirmed the schools participate in collecting bottle caps for Buddy Benches and that we can coordinate individually with any school we want to assist.

Membership – **Becky Long:** No new members in the wings. Becky suggested we look at additional ways to include Altrusa's name in the The Nook along with information for potential members.

Newsletter – **Colleen Duris:** Helen McDavid announced how fabulous the newsletter looked. Colleen created it in Canva. Colleen reported that the next newsletter will be in November. Items can be sent to her before then.

Program – **Gloria James/Ann McKenzie:** Gloria reported October is Mental Health Awareness Month, and our guest speaker will be Carali McLean, Executive Director of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Florida.

Service – **Debbie Catabia/Wendy Williams:** Debbie reported that at 11 today, a \$5,000 check was presented to the Public Education Foundation for Teachers to Be. Five certificates have been given out for Nancy Jones Eyeglasses to See. The Public Education Foundation mentioned their rookie teachers program – we will write thank you letters to them in October. We will also be collecting diapers at the October 9th meeting. The Early Learning Coalition needs larger sized diapers (sizes, 5, 6, 7, 2-3T, 4-5T, and 6-7T). October 25 is Day of Giving –





MINUTES

wrapping diapers at the Early Learning Coalition from 10-12. Debbie passed around a sign-up sheet. Helen, Wendy, and Elaine delivered 413 hygiene items to the Community Partnership School after our last meeting.

Web/Social Media – Helen McDavid: Colleen Duris received some assistance in getting newsletters uploaded, so our website is up to date.

Foundation Report – Maclyn Walker: No report.

NEW BUSINESS: Colleen Duris announced she was collecting Club 52 donations to mail in.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Helen McDavid announced that the August NINJA is Jen Rappa for being service minded, painting the Nook (and recruiting her husband to help), serving as Cluster Secretary, and preparing candy bag stickers.

HAPPY BUCKS:

- Becky Long – her husband had a repeat cardiovascular procedure and everything is good. Her grandson won a soccer shoot out and is going to state.
- Mary Cay Landt – Happy that Mike Norvell from FSU Seminoles hired an Offensive Coordinator and hopes Billy Napier will too. She is hoping to get a back injection in S1, where the first shot should have been.
- Brenda Ford – saw her son Kyle in Colorado to get her three-month fix. Got sick while she was there but he is doing wonderful.
- Diane Barrineau – Kevin Christian does such a great job in the community. She hopes to be gone before he retires in five years because she doesn't want to see what happens when some kid replaces him. Kevin said he is training someone he hopes will stick around.
- Gloria James – added that Kevin is the Music Director at Wings of Faith in Silver Springs Shores. They have a wonderful orchestra and Christmas program the second weekend in December. Kevin said they will also be performing at the Chapel at the World Equestrian Center.

REMINDERS:

- [Track your volunteer hours](#)
- Board Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at noon via Zoom
- Business Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at noon at Braised Onion
- Cluster Club meets the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. The September 18 meeting is at Canterfield Senior Living.
- Trivia Night is March 7, 6 p.m. at Country Club of Ocala
- October 9 - collecting diapers for the Early Learning Coalition
- October 25 Day of Giving – packaging diapers at the Early Learning Coalition from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- October 30, 2 p.m. - Thank you celebration at Canterfield Senior Living
- Web addresses for [Altrusa International](#), [District Three](#), and [Ocala](#)

The Benediction was recited, and the meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS: 9/7 Kate Fink, 9/21 Cindy Athey, 9/25 Amanda White, 9/30 Janet Behnke

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Diane Barrineau, Janet Behnke, Debbi Catabia, Colleen Duris, Karen Elliott, Frances Ferguson, Brenda Ford, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Maria Kusmierz, Mary Cay Landt, Connie Larsen, Becky Long, Helen McDavid, Ann McKenzie, Maclyn Walker, Wendy Williams, Anita Winter

Submitted by Wendy Williams

MINUTES

Altrusa International of Ocala, FL Inc.
Cluster Club Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2025
Canterfield Senior Living
9589 SW SR 200, Ocala, FL

The meeting was called to order by Judi Zanetti at 6:11pm and everyone in attendance recited the Altrusa Grace followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the August 21, 2025 meeting were approved as corrected. Judi will make the necessary corrections.

Business Meeting recap:

Correspondence: Elaine had some returned mail & invoices for Dr. Lentsch/Nancy Jones Eyeglasses to See.

Treasurer: Scott will have invoices for lunches out next month.

Program: Kevin Christian, Public Relations Officer for Marion County Public Schools shared an interactive presentation of our local school district. He also handed out plenty of pens & pads. Dianne & Colleen were winners.

ASTRA: Members have been invited to help with Day of Caring on October 25 when diaper will be packaged and they were provided information to apply for an international grant.

Cluster/Fundraising: Wendy presented new logo for Trivia Night and it was voted for the one with the open book. Banner is being updated with Colleen's google # and new logo and will be up on February 9th @ W Hwy 40. Sponsor sheets will be updated and emailed to members.

Membership: N/A.

Program: Kevin Christian as above.

Web/Social Media: Beautiful!

Care: Debbie and Becky's husbands are both doing well.

Long Range Planning: Zoom meeting on September 10th. Freedom Library is to get back to us with a proposal, Buddy Bench (Nancy Jones) and possible Story Walk (5-10 thousand). Information was provided about collecting plastic bottles and caps to be used in the manufacturing of the Buddy Benches. Newsletter: Was AMAZING!

Service: Check was presented for the Teacher 2 Be scholarship program at the Public Education Foundation. Hygiene products were delivered to the Community School program at College Park Elementary. Five certificates for eyeglasses have been distributed. Diapers for ELMC will be collected in October. Start thinking about raffle basket ideas.

Did You Know?: Helen brought information about Altrusa to let new members know what we do for the community which will continue for future meetings. This month's focus was on Born Learning Trails and Little Free Libraries.

Announcements/Happy Bucks/August Ninja: Jennifer Rappa

New Business:

Long Range Planning: Next zoom meeting TBA.

Next Cluster Meeting: October 16th @ ELC. Connie to bring snacks. Will prepare candy bags for Canterfield event on the 30th and bring diaper donations.

October 25th from 10AM to 12noon: Diapers at ELC.

October 30th @ 2PM: Event for Canterfield residents & staff. Candy bags, cookies & brownies.

November meeting: Bring Christmas items for Arnette House.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm with all members reciting the Altrusa Benediction. Some stayed after to complete cards for teachers.

Attendance: Colleen Duris, Brenda Ford, Valerie Foster, Elaine Goodelle, Connie Larsen, Helen McDavid, Jennifer Rappa, Jennifer Ruppel, Scott Tice, Wendy Williams & Judi Zanetti.



MINUTES

Altrusa International of Ocala, Inc. Business Meeting Minutes October 9, 2025

The meeting was held at Braised Onion.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. by President Helen McDavid.

The Altrusa Grace and Pledge of Allegiance were recited.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Miranda Barrineau

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The September Business Meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE – Elaine Goodelle: The following were received this month: Interfaith Newsletter, two bills from Dr. Lentch, and a Volunteers of America solicitation.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Scott Tice: Quarterly lunch invoices were emailed.

AL T. RUSA – Becky Long: \$25.43 balance.

RAFFLE: This month's raffle prize was donated by Connie Larsen. Ann McKenzie won.

PROGRAM: Maclyn Walker introduced Carali McLean, Executive Director of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Florida. Carali used to work at Heart of FL. She provided some 2024 statistics on the state of mental health in FL and Marion County:

- 1 in 5 Floridians had a mental health issue
- 1 in 6 Floridians had a substance abuse issue
- 1 in 5 youth had a mental health issue
- 1 in 10 youth had a substance abuse issue
- FL suicide rate: 14.1 per 100,000
- Marion suicide rate: 20.6 per 100,000
- FL drug overdoses 30.8 per 100,000
- Marion drug overdoses 57.5 per 100,000

Stigma and costs are barriers to accessing help. Florida is 43rd in the nation for available mental health professionals per capita. This is due to low salaries, insurance reimbursements, and an abundance of rural counties (there is a higher likelihood of licensed professionals in areas with universities).

NAMI provides education, support, and advocacy for people with lived experience (dealing with a mental health issue themselves or with a loved one). They do not provide counseling. They offer free and low-barrier assistance both in-person and virtually. They provide workplace services, as most people struggling are in the workforce. NAMI on Campus is a high school student group, and their Next Gen Panel is for 18–25-year-olds.

NAMI is completely funded by grants and donations (no government funding). NAMI Marion is holding a fundraising walk in March.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ASTRA – Helen reported that the ASTRA students participated in their Homecoming Parade. Their officers are planning to assist with our diaper wrapping service on October 25.

Care – Cards were passed for Val Forster and Betty Cluster.



MINUTES

Cluster/Fundraising –

- Trivia Night: Helen reported that the committee approved a new Trivia Night logo. Wendy and Colleen have updated the Trivia Night Sponsor Letter and Form. Helen asked that members send their sponsor forms to both Kate and Connie for record keeping. The Country Club of Ocala has sold. The Committee will follow up in November to ensure our signed contract will still be honored.
- Cluster Club will be preparing candy bags at their Oct. 16 meeting at the Early Learning Coalition. The candy will be given to Canterfield residents at the Oct. 30 Thank You Celebration.
- At the September meeting, Cluster Club members wrote thank you notes for teachers that will be available in the Book Nook.
- Cluster started "Did You Know" to help new members learn more about Altrusa. September's topic was the Little Free Libraries and Born Learning Trails. October's topic is the Nancy Jones' Eyes to See for Literacy.

Long Range Planning – Connie Larsen: The Committee met on Monday.

- Maclyn received a proposal from the library that was higher than anticipated (\$40k) with little detail. Maclyn will get additional details from the library. Connie added that they would like the big project to help Marion County. A Freedom Library field trip may be planned.
- A decision was made to use a portion of the Nancy Jones funds on a Buddy Bench. Colleen will move forward with getting additional details. Begin saving #2 plastic bottles.

Membership – Becky Long: No report

Newsletter – Colleen Duris: No newsletter deadline currently. Send Yearbook changes to Colleen.

Program – Gloria James/Ann McKenzie: November is Prematurity Awareness Month and AdventHealth NICU representatives will be presenting.

Service – Debbie Catabia/Wendy Williams:

- A sign-up sheet was passed for the College Park Read In on November 5, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.
- Helen, Becky, and Debbie delivered the \$2,500 grant check to the Public Education Foundation today
- Thank you to those who brought in diaper donations. Debbie will send the sign-up list for the October 25 Make a Difference Day diaper wrapping.
- Debbie has sent out 11 certificates for the Nancy Jones Eyeglasses to See. Dr. Lentch has been partnering with us for years. It takes about three months for a child to get in for an exam. If anyone knows another doctor who could assist, please let Debbie know. Judi Zanetti has one possible doctor. Debbie added that there are a few times when the family can't pay the \$30 fee. When that happens, we cover the charge. One school asked about assistance with hearing aids. If anyone knows of an agency that helps with hearing aids, let Debbie know. Mary Cay added that hearing aids are very expensive and not something we want to start offering.
- Helen has the wish list for our Christmas family. The family has a set of 10-year-old triplet girls and a 9-year-old girl. Mom is out of work and also taking care of her sister and niece. Jennifer Ruppel will set up Giftster. Please accept the invitation when you receive it. If you wait, they must resend the invitation. There will be a separate list for the Arnette House Closet.
- The Public Education Foundation will be providing us with a list of rookie teachers. We will be signing cards of encouragement for them at an upcoming meeting.

Web/Social Media – Helen McDavid: Carali visited the site, so there is website traffic!

FOUNDATION REPORT – Maclyn Walker: No report.



MINUTES



NEW BUSINESS: The Christmas Party will be at Mary Cay Landt's home on Friday, December 5 at 5:30 p.m. Those who would like to participate in the optional gift exchange can bring a gift valued at \$15-\$20. Board members will bring wine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/HAPPY BUCKS:

- September NINJA: Helen named Gloria and Ann, co-chairs of the Program Committee, as this month's NINJAs for their work planning speakers and for always participating in read-ins.
- Mary Cay:
 - Family came for Robert's birthday, and they went to a game. Robert's friend, an FSU fan, texted, "Damn, we suck again and you don't!"
 - Her remaining Christmas ornaments have been put away and the boys brought her a new tree.
 - Rachel is pregnant and they have listed their house to move back to Ocala!
- Maclyn:
 - Thank you for submitting your lunch orders.
 - Schools send her requests for judges for various student activities (HOSA, FFA). They are often for public speaking, preparation, Robert's Rules, so you don't have to know anything about their field. Let Maclyn know if you are interested, and she will forward the requests.
 - Last week she adopted a six-month old Pyrenees, "Tristan"
- Ann:
 - Gators finally got it together.
 - She and her husband got their COVID, flu, and RSV shots in preparation for their cruise.
- Anita: After six months with no pet, she adopted a four-year-old Dachshund, "Mickey", last week.
- Colleen: Send a picture of your pet (or grandpet)

REMINDERS:

- [Track your volunteer hours](#)
- Board Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at noon via Zoom. November 6 is the next meeting.
- Business Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at noon at Braised Onion. Next meeting is November 13.
- Cluster Club meets the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. Next meeting is October 16 at the Early Learning Coalition. Collecting diapers for ELC and filling candy bags for Canterfield Thank You Celebration.
- Make a Difference Day is October 25. We will be wrapping diapers at the Early Learning Coalition, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- October 30 at 2 p.m. is the Thank You Celebration at Canterfield Senior Living, 9589 SW SR 200, Ocala.
- Trivia Night is March 7, 6 p.m. at Country Club of Ocala
- Web addresses for [Altrusa International](#), [District Three](#), and [Ocala](#)

The Benediction was recited, and the meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

BIRTHDAYS: Karen Elliott's birthday is October 30.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Diane Barrineau, Debbie Catabia, Colleen Duris, Frances Ferguson, Brenda Ford, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Maria Kusmierz, Mary Cay Landt, Connie Larsen, Becky Long, Helen McDavid, Ann McKenzie, Scott Tice, Maclyn Walker, Wendy Williams, Anita Winter

Submitted by Wendy Williams

MINUTES

Altrusa International of Ocala, FL Inc.
Cluster Club Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2025
Early Learning Coalition, 6pm
2300 SW 17th Rd., Ocala, FL

The meeting was called to order by Helen McDavid at 6:05pm and everyone in attendance recited the Altrusa Grace followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
The minutes of the September 18, 2025 meeting were approved as presented.

Business Meeting recap:

Correspondence: Interfaith & two bills that have been paid.

Treasurer: Lunch invoices.

Program: Recap: Carali McLean, LCSW, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness.

ASTRA: Students participated in their Homecoming parade. Officers will be volunteering October 25th at ELC for diaper wrapping.

Cluster/Fundraising: Sponsorship letter and commitment forms were approved. Some discussion about updating a banner was held. (February 9th @ W Hwy 40) Wendy has prepared a "Save the date".

Membership: None.

Program for November: NICU/Advent Health.

Web/Social Media: Great!

Care: None.

Long Range Planning: Freedom Library got back to us with a proposal which was a bit more than expected & vague. Maclyn has a meeting with Julie (head of the library) on October 21st to clarify information. Will proceed with the Buddy Bench (Nancy Jones). Information was provided about collecting plastic bottles (#2) and caps to be used in the manufacturing of the Buddy Bench.

Newsletter: No deadline as of yet.

Service: Collected 510 diapers for a total of 2,300. \$2,500 check was presented to Grants for Great Ideas @ Public Education Foundation. 11 certificates for Eyeglasses to See have been issued.

New Business: Did You Know? Debbie Catabia presented wonderful information about Nancy Jones and her many, many attributes, as well as the Nancy Jones Eyeglasses to See program. Also discussed raising Altrusa's financial contribution to Dr. Lentsch and possibly finding another eye doctor for the future. Wendy will provide snacks for November and we will not have a December Cluster meeting.

Announcements/Happy Bucks/September NINJA's Gloria James & Ann McKenzie.

Reminders:

Long Range Planning: Next meeting TBA once proposal from library is clarified.

October 25th from 10AM to 12 noon: Make a Difference Day at ELC wrapping diapers.

October 30th @ 2PM: Thank you celebration at Canterfield residents & staff.

November 5th 7:30-8:30am-College Park Read in.

November 13th: Next business meeting at Braised Onion.

November 20th: Next Cluster Meeting at Early Learning Coalition. Wendy to bring snacks.

December 5th @ 5:30pm-Holiday party at Mary Cay's. \$15-20 gift if participating in the exchange.

March 7th: Trivia Night at County Club of Ocala. Think of basket & raffle ideas.

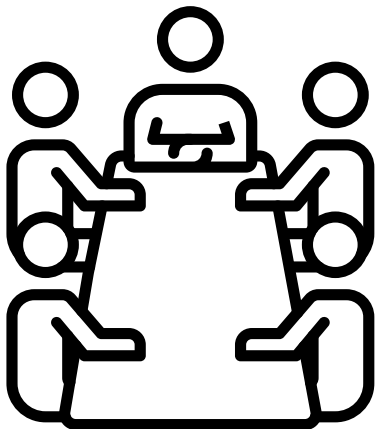
Operation Christmas Dinner: Full size men's deodorant, individual wrapped snacks, 12 pack sodas can be brought to Holiday Party and/or next Business and/or Cluster meetings.

Jennifer Ruppel will send an invite for Giftster. Family items should be wrapped & tagged with a name.

Arnette Closet items do not need to be wrapped. (Also bring to upcoming meetings/Holiday Party).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm with all members reciting the Altrusa Benediction. After the meeting we assembled 180 candy bags for the celebration at Canterfield on October 30th.

Attendance: Debbie Catabia, Kate Fink, Brenda Ford, Connie Larsen, Helen McDavid, Jennifer Rappa & Wendy Williams.



Board Action

At the August meeting the Board discussed obtaining a CANVA account, new member Jennifer Ruppel's application was approved, Club 52 membership was approved and the long-range planning committee was set to meet on August 12th.

In September the Board had further discussions regarding the annual fundraiser and heard of the potential long range project ideas.

In October, the Board discussed the holiday family project and action related to the present service projects, delivery of checks to the Public Education Foundation and Fundraising committee activities.