

Spring 2026



## President's Message

**“Endings are beginnings, and beginnings are ours to turn into something good”**

**Elizabeth Chandler**

My year as club President has come to an end. I am so proud of our many accomplishments.

We continued supporting the Public Education Foundation of Marion County's Teacher 2 Be scholarship program, Grants for Great Ideas, and book donations for Juanita's Shelf and The Nook. Once again, we participated in the Early Learning Coalition's diaper drive and donated to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. For veterans, we participated in Operation Christmas Dinner. For at-risk youth, we helped supply the Arnette House closet and provided a family with holiday gifts.

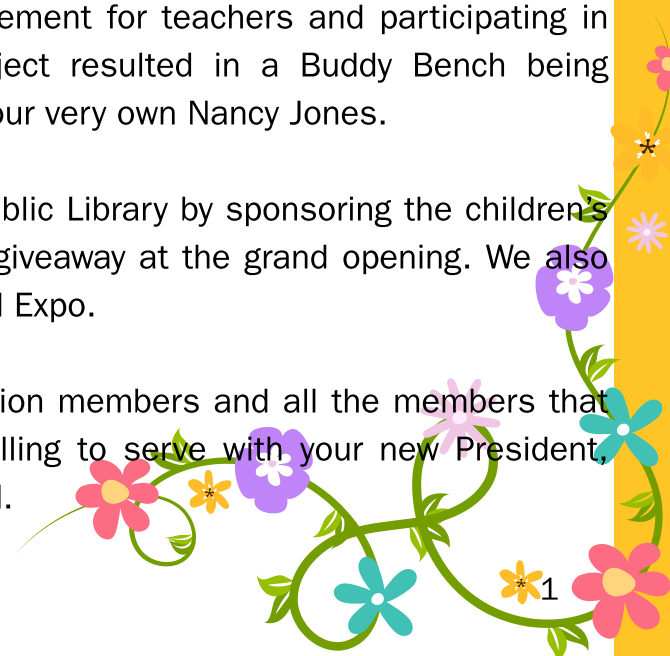
Our new projects included writing notes of encouragement for teachers and participating in the global Kindness Postcard Day. A recycling project resulted in a Buddy Bench being installed at South Ocala Elementary School to honor our very own Nancy Jones.

We renewed a partnership with the Marion County Public Library by sponsoring the children's entryway at Freedom Library and conducting a book giveaway at the grand opening. We also assembled Born to Read Bags for their Ready to Read Expo.

Thank you to the officers, committee chairs, Foundation members and all the members that served the club. Thank you to all those that are willing to serve with your new President, Becky Long. Turn your beginnings into something good.

Kindest regards,

**Helen**



## Table of Contents:

Contact Information	2	Trivia Night	15-18
Upcoming Calendar	3	District Conference	19
Helen's NINJAs	4-5	International	20
Buddy Bench	6	District	21
Service	7-8	Altrusa Accent	22
ASTRA	9	Club Leadership &	
Programs	10-12	Birthdays	23
Foundation	13-14	Minutes & Board Action	24- 32



Post Office Box 4228  
Ocala, Florida 34478

### **Helen McDavid**

President  
altrusamcdavid@gmail.com

### **Colleen Duris**

Editor  
cmdaltrusa@gmail.com

Ocala  
[districtthree.altrusa.org/ocala](http://districtthree.altrusa.org/ocala)

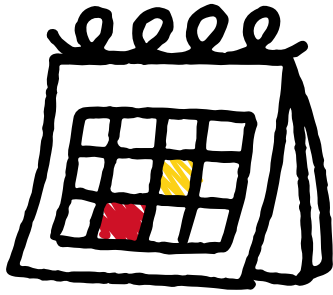
District Three  
[districtthree.altrusa.org](http://districtthree.altrusa.org)

International  
[altrusa.org](http://altrusa.org)

## **Altrusa International of Ocala, Florida**



If you know of a club member in need of our support and CARE, please contact Scott Tice at [scottaltrusa@gmail.com](mailto:scottaltrusa@gmail.com) or text to (352) 266-5964



# UPCOMING CALENDAR

## 2026

June 4<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom  
June 11<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion - Todd Belknap, Veterans Helping Veterans USA  
June 18<sup>th</sup> - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - The Glen  
July 2<sup>nd</sup> - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom  
July 9<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion - USA 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Altrusa history quiz  
July 16<sup>th</sup> - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - The Glen  
August 6<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom  
August 13<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion - Dr. Barbara Brooks, CEO R.A.M.A.L. Educational & Social Services  
August 20<sup>th</sup> - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm- The Glen  
September 3<sup>rd</sup> - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom  
September 10<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion - Program TBD  
September 17<sup>th</sup> - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - Early Learning Coalition (ELC)  
October 1<sup>st</sup> - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom  
October 8<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion - Program TBD  
October 15<sup>th</sup> - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - Early Learning Coalition (ELC)  
November 5<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom  
November 12<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion - Laurie Zink, Institute for Human & Machine Cognition; Ocala Film Derby  
November 19<sup>th</sup> - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - Early Learning Coalition (ELC)  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom  
December 10<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion - Holiday Celebration

## 2027

January 7<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom  
January 14<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion - Program TBD  
January 21<sup>st</sup> - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - Early Learning Coalition (ELC)  
February 4<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom  
February 11<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion - Add An Altrusan  
February 18<sup>th</sup> - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - Early Learning Coalition (ELC)  
March 4<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom  
March 6<sup>th</sup> - Annual Trivia Night, Country Club of Ocala  
March 11<sup>th</sup> - Club meeting, noon - Braised Onion - Program TBD  
March 18<sup>th</sup> - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - Early Learning Coalition  
April 1<sup>st</sup> - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom  
April 8<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion - Program TBD  
April 15<sup>th</sup> - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - The Glen  
May 6<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting, noon - Zoom  
May 13<sup>th</sup> - Club Meeting, noon - Braised Onion - Installation of Officers  
May 20<sup>th</sup> - Cluster Club, 6:00 pm - The Glen  
May 26<sup>th</sup> - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Altrusa International of Ocala (organizational meeting 1977)



## NINJA of the MONTH

### Nurture Your Inner Nancy Jones Attributes



**December:** *Maclyn Walker* is a quietly active member that has taken the lead on our new long-range project and always makes sure we have lunch ordered!

**November:** *Becky Long* was a blessing to Helen and is a great club member. She can relate to dealing with a family member with Parkinson's and stepped up to handle the President's duties in Helen's absence along with her regular duties.

**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.



## NINJA of the MONTH

### Nurture Your Inner Nancy Jones Attributes



**January**—*Frances Ferguson* is always willing to serve our club, whether she is delivering books, preparing bid sheets, or accepting a position. As a charter member, she possesses a wealth of knowledge about Altrusa.

**February**—*Kate Fink and Judi Zanetti* these two NINJAs worked tirelessly for our successful Trivia Night fundraiser. One of them sought many new sponsorships, prepared our new and improved brochure, and handled all the details of Trivia Night, both large and small. My second NINJA created and set up the lovely centerpieces for Trivia Night, created all the trivia questions and co-hosted the event! .

**March**— *Connie Larsen and Wendy Williams* these two Altrusans were instrumental in our successful Trivia Night fundraiser. One stayed glued to Kate, helping at every stage. The other brought us the trips, became an expert on all the details, and manned the table at Trivia Night.

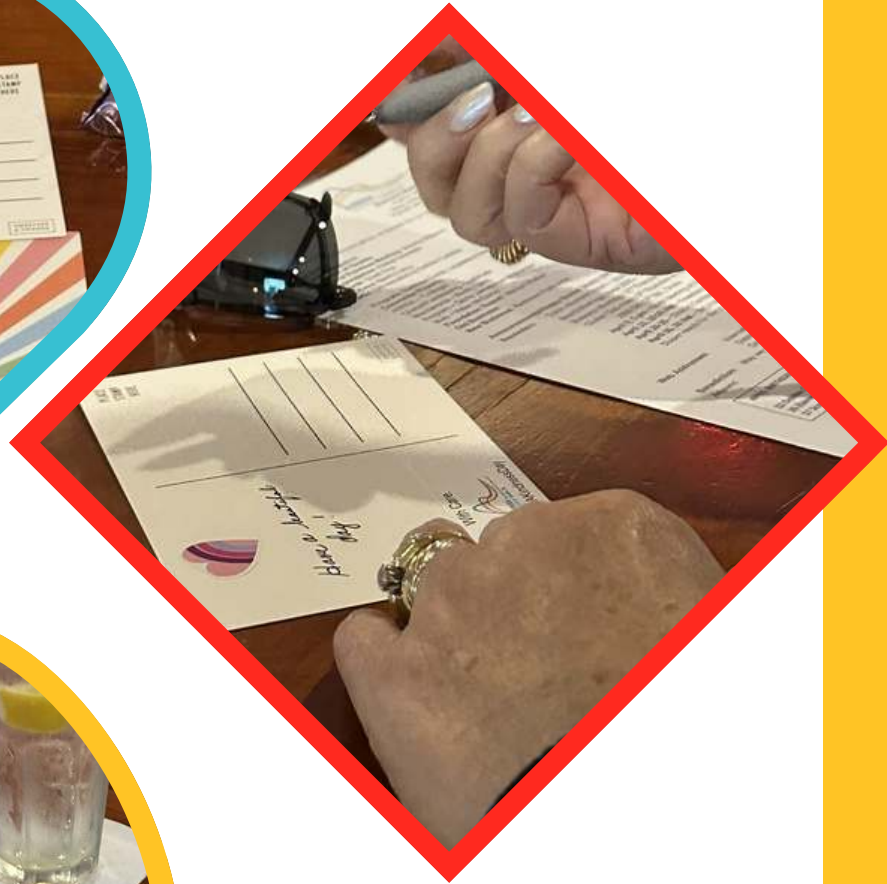
**April**— *Debbie Catabia* truly moves in stealth mode. She prefers to go unnoticed despite her many contributions to Altrusa. To share just one example of her dedication—if you have enjoyed cake at any Trivia Night, it is thanks to her. She handles everything from ordering and paying for the cake, to serving it, and even providing take-home containers.

# NANCY F. JONES BUDDY BENCH PROJECT

On May 18, 2026 we dedicated the Nancy F. Jones Buddy Bench at South Ocala Elementary School. Thanks to the efforts of the membership and National Elementary Honor Society Students, who spearheaded a recyclables collection effort at the school, we collect a total of 4,000 items, far surpassing our 1,000 goal.



# Service



# Kindness Matters

At our April 9th business meeting we joined in the ASTRA Kindness postcards day project. Members added notes of encouragement and support plus stickers to cards that were then distributed to Early Learning Coalition, AdventHealth NICU, Marion County Public Library System, Arnette House, Kimberly's Center for Protection and The Glen.

# Service



26 more resiliency books were added to the Nook at Tools for Teaching

## CARE

One of the best parts of being an Altrusa member is knowing we have a group of friends who care about one another. The Care Committee has traditionally sent cards to members during times of illness, loss, celebration, or other important life events. While those cards are always sent with love, we'd like to find more ways to support our members.

When someone is going through a difficult time, a kind phone call, a meal, a visit, or simply knowing others are thinking of them can mean so much. Because everyone's needs are different, we encourage members to let us know how we can best offer support.

Our goal is to make sure every member feels cared for, connected, and supported—not just with a card, but in ways that are truly helpful and meaningful.

Sometimes the greatest gift we can offer one another is simply knowing what is needed. Please don't hesitate to let the Care Committee know how we can best support you or a fellow member.

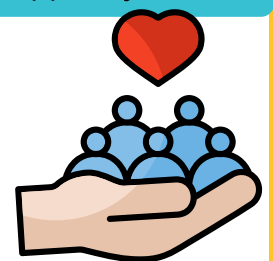
Scott 352-266-5964; scottaltrusa@gmail.com

## UPCOMING SERVICE

President Becky's *KINDNESS IN ACTION*

JUNE & JULY:

Toiletry bags for Veterans - travel size toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, soap or body wash, deodorant, comb, socks, floss, sanitizer, first aid kit or band aids. Whatever will fit in your zip lock bag.



# Kindness Matters



CONGRATULATIONS to the ASTRA West Port High School Seniors on their graduation:

KAMIAH WALKER (Club President)

KAHLEB GORDON

DELIENE SEBARILLO

ISABELLA AGUIRRE

SANIYA KAMALODEEN

We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors!



# Programs



In **March**, Stacey Perlmutter, Philanthropy Manager at Hospice of Marion County Foundation shared with us information on all that Hospice does in our community, including 40 years of service, three Hospice Houses, Bereavement Center, Nancy Rehyhart Dementia Education Program and four Hospice Thrift Stores. Ann McKenzie participated in the Linens and Love campaign, seeking donations of XL twin sheets, towels, wash clothes and blankets for families needing Hospice care.



The Hospice of Marion County Foundation is proud to join forces with our generous sponsor, Dignity Memorial, for the inaugural Linens and Love drive. Together, we're inviting our community to donate **new linens** to bring comfort and dignity to patients in our care.

- WE ARE SEEKING**
- XL TWIN BED LINENS
  - TOWELS & WASHCLOTHS
  - BLANKETS



SHOP TODAY

*Thank you*  
for Showering our Patients  
with Linens and Love.



#### SHOP ONLINE

Visit:

[hospiceofmarion.org/linens-and-love/](https://hospiceofmarion.org/linens-and-love/)

Click on the Foundation's Amazon Registry link to purchase. Your Amazon purchases will be shipped directly to us.

#### DONATE

Head to our website and hit the **DONATE** button. We will purchase the most needed linens on your behalf.

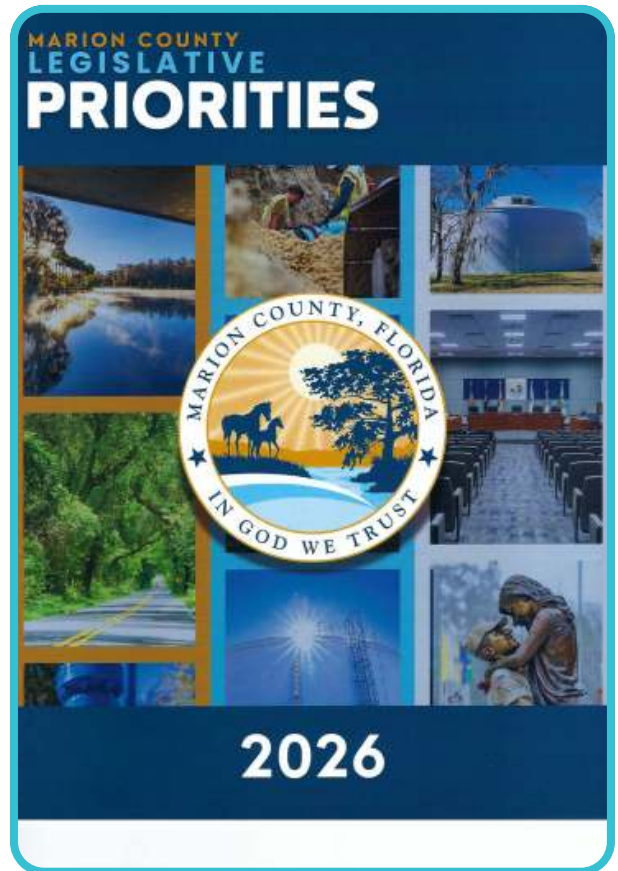
#### SHOP & DROP

Drop them off in the Linen Drive receptacles at:

- Administrative Buildings and Resale Shops
- Dignity Memorial locations

Visit our website above or scan the QR code to find a location near you!

# Programs



In **April**, Matthew Cretul, Legislative Manager for Marion County (and Becky Long's son) presented to us the County's State and Federal legislative priorities.

Marion County's 2026 priorities included:

- Funding Lowell Municipal Drinking Water project
- Construction of Marion Oaks Manor Extension project
- Restoration of swimming in Silver Springs
- FL Dept. of Health Belleview Clinic
- Improvements to the Bradford-Ma Barker house
- Creating a new category of discretionary sales tax (due to state discussions on property tax changes)
- Raising the CCNA study cap
- Special assignments on agriculturally zoned lands
- Classifying public safety equipment that requires a lease as infrastructure
- Support for additional magistrates in District 5
- Support for conversions from septic to sewer

The County also provides support to organizations with their legislative initiatives, including:

- Ft. King Heritage Foundation (assists with paperwork); Senior Services; and Veterans.

Organizations can pitch their legislative priorities directly to state representatives or through the County. Matthew works to find alternative solutions for initiatives not passed or funded.

# Programs

## Officer Installation - Colors of Leadership



### Club Officers:

President - Becky Long

Vice President - Wendy Williams

Treasurer - Debbie Catabia

Secretary - Colleen Duris

Directors - Elaine Goodelle & Jennifer Ruppel

Immediate Past President - Helen McDavid



Thank you  
Helen



### Foundation Board of Directors:

Brenda Ford, Maria Kusmierz, Mary Cay

Landt, Connie Larsen, Maclyn Walker

12

# FOUNDATION

On April 13, 2026 Altrusans attended the Grand Opening Ceremony & Ribbon Cutting for the Freedom Public Library expansion, which included the new children's section entryway, made possible by Altrusa International of Ocala Foundation!



We distributed 250 "The Flag We Love" books for the occasion.



# FOUNDATION

## COMMISSIONERS

District 1 Craig Curry

District 2 Kathy Bryant

District 3 Matt McClain, Vice Chairman

District 4 Carl Zalak III, Chairman

District 5 Michelle Stone

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mounir Bouyounes

## CONSTRUCTION FUNDS WERE PROVIDED BY:

The Citizens of Marion County, under the leadership of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners

## ENHANCEMENTS THROUGH SPONSORSHIPS AND THE DONATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES:

Altrusa International of Ocala - Children's Entryway by Reliable Finishes

Altrusa International of Ocala - Children's Book Giveaways

CPPI - Refreshments

CPPI - Future Artwork Installation

Friends of Freedom Public Library - Future LiteZilla Installation

Staff of the Marion County Public Library - Future Children's Activity Wall in Memory of Jenny Ransone (1963-2025) Senior Branch Services Division Manager

A special thank you to the Marion County Facilities Management Department, under the leadership of Director Jared Goodspeed; the architects at Rispoli & Associates Architecture, Inc.; and the construction management team at CPPI, for their steadfast commitment and unwavering dedication to delivering a high-quality building, under-budget and on time, for the citizens of Marion County.



Welcome to the  
**FREEDOM PUBLIC LIBRARY**

*Grand Opening  
&  
Ribbon Cutting*

Monday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.

Marion  
County  
FLORIDA  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
SYSTEM





Another successful Trivia Night -  
raising over \$24,000



First place team designated Harbourview to receive the \$300 prize for their media center

**Kelli Brower**  
23h · 🌐

A big Warrior thank you to the 2nd place winning team who chose to donate their winnings from Altrusa Annual Trivia Night to the Wyomina Media Center ❤️❤️❤️❤️  
#unleashingtheherowithin



Second place team designated Wyomina to receive the \$200 prize for their media center



Third place team designated Lake Weir HS to receive the \$100 prize for their media center



## Purchase A Trip of a Lifetime & Support Altrusa

Good news - our Trivia Night trips of a lifetime are still available. **Anyone** – friends, family, colleagues – can purchase them while supporting Altrusa.

For every trip purchase, AmFund will donate \$500 to Altrusa International Foundation of Ocala!

### What's Included

These are **luxury, curated travel experiences** (not discount packages), perfect for those planning a special getaway or once-in-a-lifetime trip. All packages include:

- 4-star or higher accommodations for 2
- Flexible travel through March 6, 2029 (**no blackout dates**)
- Full-service booking plus 24/7 travel support

Trip prices\* and highlights:

**Alaska Cruise**

**\$6,300**

- 8 Nights (1 night in Seattle, 7 night cruise)
- Ketchikan, Juneau, Victoria, & Skagway ports
- Balcony Cabin
- Gourmet Dining
- \$250 Onboard Credit
- Onboard WiFi, Drink Package & Entertainment

**Taste of Tuscany**

**\$6,200**

- 7 Days, 6 Nights (3 nights in Siena, 3 nights in Florence)
- Private driver from Siena to Florence
- Siena Do Eat Better Experience Food Tour
- Full-Day Tuscany experience: Pisa, Siena, San Gimignano & Chianti
- Wine Tasting
- Guided city tour, including VIP entree at the Museum Accademia
- Half Day Cooking Class & Market Tour in Florence

**New York City**

**\$3,900**

- 4 Days, 3 Nights
- Broadway Show
- Sightseeing & Gourmet Dinner Cruise
- Museum City Pass

**San Francisco & Napa Valley**

**\$3,900**

- 4 Days, 3 Nights (2 nights in Napa Valley, 1 night in San Francisco)
- Wine Train Tour & Lunch in Napa Valley
- Sommelier Winery Tour & Wine Tasting

Additional trip details and videos are available at these links:

- Alaska Cruise: [Amfund.org/trips/alaska-explorer-full-details/](https://Amfund.org/trips/alaska-explorer-full-details/)
- Taste of Tuscany: [Amfund.org/trips/tuscanyintothewinefulldetails-2/](https://Amfund.org/trips/tuscanyintothewinefulldetails-2/)
- New York City: [Amfund.org/trips/newyorkcityofdreamsfulldetails/](https://Amfund.org/trips/newyorkcityofdreamsfulldetails/)
- San Francisco & The Wine Country: [Amfund.org/trips/san-fran-landonly-fulldetails/](https://Amfund.org/trips/san-fran-landonly-fulldetails/)



### Even More Options

In addition to our Trivia Night trips, **AmFund has made their full travel catalog available to us** (about 100 different travel packages). **Every trip purchase supports Altrusa.** Trips can be purchased at the current price, and you'll have three years to travel with no blackout dates.

### Plan a Trip & Share the Opportunity

Support Altrusa while you travel! If you – or someone you know – are planning a vacation, contact:

Wendy Williams

[WWilliams@ELC-Marion.org](mailto:WWilliams@ELC-Marion.org)

352-369-2315 x202)

She'll connect you with our AmFund representative to explore options.



\*2026 Trivia Night trip pricing is guaranteed through March 6, 2027.



# DISTRICT CONFERENCE



All had a great time at Conference, we were busy bees, and our club was recognized for community service, yearbook and a membership incentive credit.





**There are the Altrusans you meet – and then there are the Altrusans who stay with you.**

**Every year, as the season begins its quiet turn toward spring, many of us head to District Conference. Two or three days. A quiet solo trip or a car full of friends. One location where people come together to connect. Yes, there is a little bit of governance, but what really happens at District Conference is compassionate people collaborating on service, leadership and making a difference. Then somewhere between workshops, business meetings, and award presentations, we are reminded that the most extraordinary experiences are rooted in connection. It's the thread that runs through our Clubs, Districts and Association. Connection to a cause. Connection to experiences and events. Connection with each other. I encourage you to attend your District Conference to experience the joy being an Altrusan offers, to meet new friends and reconnect with those throughout your District who you already call friend.**

**One more thing before my article ends...data. It is a tool that helps us learn and improve so that we know Altrusa is delivering real, measurable change. Please make sure to enter books donated and literacy service on the Membership page of the Altrusa website. Each book entered and each service hour performed adds to our shared story. A story we can share with each other, future members, and potential new partnerships and Convention sponsors.**

**I look forward to the actions you take in our membership and literacy challenges, and of course, the momentum we will build together as we gather at District Conferences. Help us extend our reach, our impact to the world by encouraging others to help us contribute to leading to a better community.**

**With Altrusa Love,**

Christine "Chris" DeVlieger  
International President

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





## **Buzzin’ with the Governor – May 2026**

By Mantha Young, District Three Governor

“May is the month of promise, growth, and blooming into something beautiful.”

And that is exactly what happened in Spartanburg, SC as we gathered for our 73rd Annual District Three Conference.

What a joy it was to see Altrusans in Harmony Always Sparkle come to life! From the moment we arrived, there was laughter in the hallways, warm hugs among friends, and the unmistakable energy that happens when Altrusans come together with purpose.

We explored, learned, served, and yes... we had FUN! Some of us hit the trails at Croft State Park for a refreshing hike. We supported our fundraisers and can't wait to share how much we raised during the entire weekend! We gained fascinating insights into bees, traced family roots through genealogy, and enjoyed a lively, thought-provoking discussion during Book Club. Our service hearts were busy too! We created cards of encouragement, labeled OTC medications, and worked together on meaningful projects that will touch lives far beyond conference weekend.

And somehow, in true Altrusa fashion, we still handled all of our important business sessions with dedication and grace.

The sparkle didn't end when the Conference closed!

You'll be hearing more highlights, stories, smiles, and the many special moments we shared in the upcoming District Service Bulletin hitting your inbox in just a few weeks. Until then—keep shining, keep serving, and always... BEE Essential.

**Mantha Young**

Governor, Altrusa District Three

***District Conference 2027***

***Gainesville, FL***

***April 23-24, 2027***



# Altrusa Accent



## Calling All Lamplighters

---



We appreciate all our Lamplighters and the support that they provide to our Foundation. Our goal is to keep our current Lamplighters engaged and to encourage and support other Altrusans to become Lamplighters. This is your Foundation and the monies raised are used to support Club projects, Altrusa awards, scholarships, children's camps, and disaster relief efforts.

Some of the questions that we get as Board Trustees and staff include is this an annual giving program, is Lamplighter recognition a lifetime recognition, and how does this work for individuals that do not have \$500 to donate at one time? To answer the first question, once a Lamplighter always a Lamplighter, however, it is an annual giving campaign and just as grants, scholarships, awards, etc. are provided annually, there is a need to continue to raise funds for these activities on an annual basis. Districts and Clubs honor individuals by giving them a Lamplighter pin. Hopefully this recognition is given with the anticipation that the individual will continue to support the Foundation through annual giving. We also realize that for some Altrusans, a lump sum contribution may not be feasible. On the Foundation website, individuals can donate weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually. An annual Lamplighter donation amounts to \$42.00 a month, not an insignificant amount, but certainly money well spent.

Currently, only 3% of Altrusans are Lamplighters and, with your help, we can raise that percentage. The Lamplighter program is your opportunity to support the good work done by local Clubs and individuals through the Foundation. Thank you for your generosity and for your support of the Foundation.

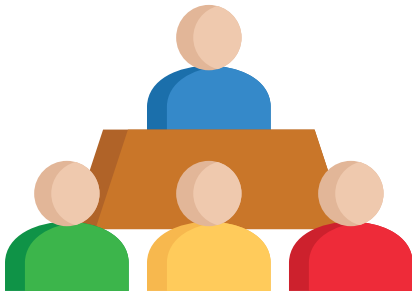
---

## VIP Lamplighter Reception

**Join us at the 2027 VIP Donor Recognition Reception** during the International Convention in Columbus, Ohio, as we honor the incredible generosity of our Lamplighters. This special reception is dedicated to celebrating those who make a lasting impact through their commitment to annual giving during the biennium.

Eligibility is simple: **Altrusans who make a Lamplighter-level donation of \$500 (US) each fiscal year of the biennium (June 1–May 31) are invited to attend.** The Lamplighter Program was created to recognize annual generosity, and this reception is our way of showing our appreciation. Lamplighters are acknowledged in each quarterly Impact newsletter, where we proudly publish the names of those who give during the current biennium. Your generosity fuels our mission, and we are honored to celebrate it together.

Questions about your Lamplighter status? Please contact [foundation@altrusa.org](mailto:foundation@altrusa.org). We look forward to recognizing you in Columbus!



**CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2026-2027**



President - Becky Long  
 Vice President - Wendy Williams  
 Treasurer - Debbie Catabia  
 Secretary - Colleen Duris  
 Director - Elaine Goodelle  
 Director - Jennifer Ruppel  
 Immediate Past President - Helen  
 McDavid

**CLUB COMMITTEE CHAIRS  
2026-2027**

ASTRA - T.J Bright  
 CARE - Scott Tice  
 Cluster Club - Judi Zanetti  
 Fundraising - Kate Fink  
 Membership - Wendy Williams  
 Program - Maclyn Walker/  
 Helen McDavid  
 Service- Anita Winter/Debbie  
 Catabia

**FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2026-2027**

President - Maclyn Walker  
 Treasurer - Connie Larsen  
 Director - Brenda Ford  
 Director - Maria Kusmierz  
 Director - Mary Cay Landt



June 20 Diane Barrineau  
 June 29 Maria Kusmierz  
 July 28 Colleen Duruis  
 August 10 Connie Larsen

# MINUTES

## Board Action

In March the Board discussed all final matters for Trivia Night, finalized details for ordering the 250 books for the Freedom Library Grand Opening; received the nominating committee report and discussed more resiliency books for the Nook.

In April the Board was notified of the date for next year's Trivia Night, March 6, 2027; discussed labeling the 250 books and participating in the Postcards Kindness project.

In May a motion was made to change the bank signatories on the club accounts due to change in officers and accepted the resignation of Angie Dansby, with regret.

### Altrusa International of Ocala, Inc. Business Meeting Minutes March 12, 2026

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:** Anita introduced Chrissy Vickers who works with United Way Strong Families.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE – Elaine Goodelle:** Received CF Foundation letter from student Val Johnson, scholarship recipient for equine studies and an invitation to the CF Foundation Donor Luncheon on April 8, 2026.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Scott Tice:** Report was submitted online.

**AL T. RUSA – Becky Long:** \$30.43 balance last month plus today's contributions.

**RAFFLE:** This month's raffle prize was donated by Maria Kusmierz. Anita won.

**PROGRAM:** Ann introduced Stacey Perlmutter, Philanthropy Manager at Hospice of Marion County Foundation. Stacey shared that Hospice of Marion County is the only non-profit Hospice in Marion County and has been here the longest – over 40 years. They provide services regardless of ability to pay. They have three Hospice Houses, and in addition to Hospice Care, offer Veterans services and palliative care. They are now affiliated with Empath Care, offering whole-life care. They have a Bereavement Center for children and adults. A Blue Butterfly program is being started, and they are hoping to get it into the schools. presented their Linens and Love Campaign. They raised \$1.7 million in a capital campaign last year to renovate a building for the Nancy Renyhart Dementia Education Program that will provide resources for caregivers. The ribbon cutting is tomorrow. The building includes a virtual dementia room where you can experience what it's like to have dementia. They have Florida's first Adult Day Center specializing in dementia. Scholarships will be available. Their four Hospice Thrift Stores raise about \$4 million per year. Their Linens and Love campaign seeks donations of XL Twin sheets, towels and wash cloths, and blankets to donate to families needing Hospice care.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**ASTRA – TJ Bright:** Eleanor said the students are participating in the Postcard Kindness project. She has several seniors that she'll work with for scholarship applications.

**Care – Angie Dansby:** Cards were passed for Val and Gloria. Gloria is doing well after her surgery.

**Cluster/Fundraising :** Connie reported that we had an exceptionally successful fundraiser. Last year we made under \$17,000 and this year it looks like we made \$24,500. We had additional sponsorships and the trips auction. We made less on the silent auctions and about the same on the raffles. We weren't charged for the room or DJ. Two or three members still owe.

Wendy reported on the AmFund trips auction. Five trips were sold at the event. We can continue to sell trips at the winning bids through March 6, 2027, and will receive \$500 for each additional package sold.

Travel must be completed by March 6, 2029. San Francisco / Napa Valley - \$3,900, Taste of Tuscany - \$6,200, Alaska Cruise - \$6,300, New York City - \$3,900. Wendy will provide the details to Colleen for the newsletter.

**Long Range Planning – Connie Larsen:** We are purchasing books for the library event on April 13 at 10:30. Colleen reported that S. Ocala Elementary School is counting their bottle caps for the Buddy Bench.

**Membership – Becky Long:** Our guest, Chrissy Vickers, is a prospective member. Becky is following up with another prospect.

**Newsletter – Colleen Duris:** No report.

**Program:** Maclyn reported that Becky's son, Matthew Cretul, will be presenting in April on the County's priorities during legislative session.

**Service – Helen announced** that we need to deliver checks to the schools selected by the Trivia Night winners. March 25 is an early release day. Please let Helen know if you are interested in joining her starting at 8 a.m.

**Web – Helen McDavid:** All up to date. Emily uploaded the most recent newsletter.

**FOUNDATION REPORT – Maclyn Walker:** No report. Need to meet regarding which fund to take the book money from.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Nominating Committee Report – Debbie Catabia:** Nominees for Foundation - Trustees: Maclyn Walker for new 2-year term, Mary Cay Landt completing the second year of her first term, Brenda Ford completing the second year of her first term, and Maria Kusmierz completing Angie Dansby's second year of her first term. Foundation Treasurer: Connie Larsen completing the second year of her second term. Colleen Duris will serve as apprentice Treasurer. Nominations were approved by unanimous consent.
- **Nominees for Club – President, Becky Long; Vice President, Wendy Williams; Treasurer, Debbie Catabia; Secretary, Colleen Duris; Directors, Elaine Goodelle and Jennifer Ruppel.** Nominations were approved by unanimous consent.
- **Teacher Resiliency Books for The Nook – Helen McDavid:** The Public Education Foundation has requested additional books for The Nook. Colleen is making one more order for Juanita's Shelf books. \$500 of remaining funds can be used for The Nook. Wendy will place the order. Helen will provide suggested titles.
- **District Conference Delegates and Alternates – Helen McDavid:** Connie Larsen and Becky Long were selected as delegates by unanimous consent.
- **District Conference Silent Auction Donation:** Becky has a bee box and scrapbooking kit. Donations can be brought next month for other bumblebee themed items.
- **AdventHealth NICU Tour – Becky Long:** Becky will email date and time options.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS/HAPPY BUCKS:

# MINUTES



- January and February NINJAs: For being a Charter Member and always willing to serve, Helen named Francis the January NINJA. For working tirelessly, securing sponsorships, designing the program, providing centerpieces, and hosting Trivia Night, Helen named Kate and Judi February NINJAs.
- Happy Bucks:
  - Connie's son brought his girlfriend to Trivia Night. She's a member of Junior League and mentioned that they do a lot of similar things as Altrusa. Connie's husband said they're the Junior League and Altrusa is the Senior League. Connie's happy buck was that he's still alive!
  - Maclyn's great niece Brooklyn, who's in third grade, showed a steer at the SE Youth Fair and had the Grand Champion.
  - Maclyn thanked Colleen for inviting her to join Colleen and her friends' table at Trivia Night.
  - Brenda met her son Kyle and his friends in St. Pete. They had a great time hanging out with ten friends who weren't on their phones.
  - Janet quoted Voltair, "I choose to be happy because it's good for my health."
  - Becky did not attend Trivia Night because they were celebrating her brother's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They didn't think he would make it due to his diagnosis.
  - Anita attended Trivia Night for the first time.
  - Wendy requested that members help secure additional diaper drives: work, church, other groups.
  - Ann is happy the cold weather is gone and that Gloria is feeling better and sounding like herself.
  - Diane said Judi and Kevin did a fantastic job at Trivia Night.

## 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 each month at 6 p.m. Next meeting is March 19 at The Glen (formerly Canterfield), 9589 SW SR 200, Ocala
- District Conference is April 24-25 in Spartanburg, SC
- Linens and Love items needed: dark color XL twin sheets, dark color towels (any size), men's & women's socks
- Web addresses for [Altrusa International](#), [District Three](#), and [Ocala](#)

The Benediction was recited, and the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Val Forster March 15, Joan Coke March 20, Becky Long March 30

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Diane Barrineau, Janet Behnke, TJ Bright, Debbie Catabia, Angie Dansby, Colleen Duris, Karen Elliott, Brenda Ford, Elaine Goodelle, 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*  
March 19, 2026  
The Glen/Canterfield 6pm  
9589 SW SR 200., Ocala, FL

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

The minutes of the February 19, 2026 meeting were approved.

## Business Meeting recap:

**Introductions of Guests:** None.

**Correspondence:** Elaine-P.O. Box renewal, Interfaith newsletter, invite for CF Scholarship and Thank You letters from recipients.

**Treasurer:** Scott-he will be sending out bills for dues.

**Day Program Recap:** Stacey Perlmutter, Philanthropy Manager, Hospice of Marion County Linens and Love campaign.

**Voting/Elections:** President-Becky Long. Vice President-Wendy Williams. Secretary-Colleen Duris. Treasurer-Debbie Catabia. Immediate past-Helen McDavid. Director-Elaine Goodelle. Director-Jennifer Ruppel. Foundation: Maclyn Walker, Connie Larsen, Mary Cay Landt, Brenda Ford & Maria Kusmeirz.

**Membership:** Chrissy Vickers, guest at day meeting from United Way.

**Web:** Helen-looking good. Will update picture.

**Care:** Gloria's surgery with marked improvement with tremors. Betty Cluster passed.

**Long Range Planning:** Connie- will order books with stickers for grand opening on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Received over 4,000 recyclables and can do 2 benches. Discussed also about a possible tree.

**Newsletter:** Colleen.

**Service:** Will order books for Nook.

**Cluster/Fundraising:** Huge success! Best numbers ever (Connie passed out detailed reports)! We killed it! Sold 5 trips with AMFund and some more are pending. County Club of Ocala will have a price increase for next year. Discussed having more silent auction items and chocolate, alcohol & cookie baskets. Jennifer Ruppel has offered to do next year's centerpieces. Way to go everyone & Kate! Judi and Kevin did an amazing job and will be MC-ing again next year.

**NINJAs:** January-Frances Ferguson. February-Kate Fink & Judi Zanetti.

**Announcements/Happy Bucks**

## **New Business/Upcoming Dates:**

March 25<sup>th</sup>-Helen will be taking checks to schools.

Thank You's are already being sent out by Colleen.

March 6 2027 will be the "Eleventh Annual Trivia Night" for Altrusa.

Next Business Meeting: April 9th @ Braised Onion.

Next Cluster Club: April 16 @ Early Learning Coalition. Jennifer Rappa to bring snacks.

The meeting was adjourned with all members reciting the Altrusa Benediction.

Attendance: Judi Zanetti, Connie Larsen, Colleen Duris, Wendy Williams, Scott Tice, Elaine Goodelle, Kate Fink, Valerie Foster, Helen McDavid & Jennifer Rappa





# MINUTES

## Altrusa International of Ocala, Inc. Business Meeting Minutes April 9, 2026

The meeting was held at Braised Onion.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by President Helen McDavid.

The Altrusa Grace and Pledge of Allegiance were recited.

Helen explained the Kindness Postcards on the tables and asked members to add notes and stickers. The completed postcards will be delivered to the Early Learning Coalition, AdventHealth NICU, Marion County Public Library System, Arnette House, Kimberly's Center for Child Protection, and The Glen.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Connie introduced her friend Libby Morgan who recently retired. Chrissy Vickers from United Way Strong Families attended her second meeting.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE – Elaine Goodelle:** We received our tax-exempt certificate and a thank you from Stacey with Hospice Marion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Scott Tice:** Scott and Debbie worked together on emailing invoices. Please remit ASAP.

**AL T. RUSA – Becky Long:** \$39.93 balance plus today's donations.

**RAFFLE:** This month's raffle prize was donated by Debbie Catabia. Connie won.

**PROGRAM:** Maclyn introduced Matthew Cretul, Legislative Manager for Marion County. Matthew advances the County's State and Federal legislative priorities. He regularly meets with the 26 county-level directors – keeping them apprised of legislative changes and gathering information about statutes that hinder their role. He takes concerns to the county administrators to determine county priorities. He then meets individually with County Commissioners. A final list of county priorities is presented at a Board Meeting for formal approval.

Marion County has six delegates at the state level (state senators and representatives). Each representative can only submit 7 bills per session and most represent more than Marion County.

Marion County's 2026 priorities included:

- Funding Lowell Municipal Drinking Water project
- Construction of Marion Oaks Manor Extension project
- Restoration of swimming in Silver Springs
- FL Dept. of Health Belleview Clinic
- Improvements to the Bradford-Ma Barker house
- Creating a new category of discretionary sales tax (due to state discussions on property tax changes)
- Raising the CCNA study cap
- Special assignments on agriculturally zoned lands
- Classifying public safety equipment that requires a lease as infrastructure
- Support for additional magistrates in District 5

# MINUTES

- Support for conversions from septic to sewer

The County also provides support to organizations with their legislative initiatives, including:

- Ft. King Heritage Foundation (assists with paperwork)
- Senior Services
- Veterans

Organizations can pitch their legislative priorities directly to state representatives or through the County.

Matthew works to find alternative solutions for initiatives not passed or funded.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**ASTRA – TJ Bright:** The ASTRA Club participated in the Kindness Postcard project last Tuesday.

**Care:** Cards were passed for Val and Gloria. Helen shared a note from Gloria.

**Cluster/Fundraising:** Connie announced that the Trivia Night ticket price might need to be raised due to rising food costs.

**Long Range Planning – Connie Larsen:**

- Colleen has ordered a black Buddy Bench for S. Ocala Elementary. We collected enough recyclable plastic to receive a discount on a second bench.
- The library books were ordered and will be labeled tonight at the ELC (7 planning to attend). The second invoice for the library entrance way was received. The Grand Opening event is Monday at 10:30 a.m. We will have a table. Becky will bring our banner. Wendy will loan a black tablecloth. The Foundation will meet to determine which funds will cover the books.

**Membership – Becky Long:** Chrissy Vickers is reviewing the application. Becky will email details to Libby Morgan.

**Newsletter – Colleen Duris:** No updates.

**Program:** Maclyn reported that next month's program will be the installation of officers.

**Service – Debbie Catabia:**

- Diaper donations for the Early Learning Coalition can be brought to the book labeling event tonight. Sizes 5,6,7 and toddler pull-ups are needed.
- Becky will resend the video on how to make the NICU graduation caps.

**Web – Helen McDavid:** No updates. The website will be updated after the officer installation.

**FOUNDATION REPORT – Maclyn Walker:** Foundation will meet today.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- Becky will schedule the AdventHealth NICU tour for 10:30 on April 16
- A basket is being put together for donation to the District Conference

## NEW BUSINESS:

- The Kindness Postcard project came from the International ASTRA Committee. It was put together as a joint ASTRA project. Altrusa Clubs got involved this year. 60 postcards were on the tables for members to



# MINUTES

write notes and add stickers. Ten cards each will be distributed to the Early Learning Coalition, Arnette House, AdventHealth NICU, Kimberly's Center, Marion County Public Library, and The Glen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS/HAPPY BUCKS:

- NINJAs:
  - Helen repeated that Francis was the January NINJA since Francis missed the last meeting.
  - Helen announced the March NINJAs: Connie and Wendy for assistance with Trivia Night success.
- Happy Bucks:
  - Mary Cay: celebrating their 38<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; granddaughter is coming Saturday; brought Jones of NY XL sweaters that can be taken by anyone who would like them; on Easter Saturday they adopted two Bernadoodle sister puppies.
  - Colleen: Michigan Wolverines basketball championship
  - Connie: Her son is graduating medical school May 31. His first-year residency will be in Suni, NY.
  - Ann: spent Tuesday with her 100-year-old aunt who uses a smart phone. Spent the rest of the day with a former first grade student who now has children of her own. Grateful that Gloria is making so much progress.
  - Maria: daughter is graduating from UF in December. She was accepted at Shands Neuro Medicine as an intern.

## 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 each month at 6 p.m. April 16 meeting is at the Early Learning Coalition.
- April 9 at 5 p.m. Labeling books at the Early Learning Coalition.
- April 13 at 10:30 a.m. – Freedom Library Grand Opening and book distribution
- April 14-25 – District Conference in Spartanburg, SC
- April 16 at 10:30 a.m. – AdventHealth NICU tour. Let Becky know if you plan to attend.
- Web addresses for [Altrusa International](#), [District Three](#), and [Ocala](#)

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

**BIRTHDAYS:** Debbie Catabia April 22, Elaine Goodelle April 26, Scott Tice April 27

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Diane Barrineau, Janet Behnke, Debbie Catabia, Colleen Duris, Karen Elliott, Frances Ferguson, Elaine Goodelle, Maria Kusmierz, Mary Cay Landt, Connie Larsen, Becky Long, Helen McDavid, Ann McKenzie, Scott Tice, Maclyn Walker, Wendy Williams

Submitted by Wendy Williams





# MINUTES

Altrusa International of Ocala, FL, Inc.  
*Cluster Club Meeting Minutes*  
April 16, 2026  
Early Learning Coalition 6pm  
2300 SW 17<sup>th</sup> Rd., Ocala, FL

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

The minutes of the March 19, 2026 meeting were approved.

**Business Meeting recap:**

**Introductions of Guests:** Giani Martinez.

**Correspondence:** Thank You letters from recipients.

**Treasurer:** Scott-dues are all paid.

**Day Program Recap:** Matthew Cretul, Legislative Manager for Marion County. (Becky's son)

**ASTRA:** Sixty kindness post cards were done and delivered.

**Membership:** Libby Morgan is on hold for now. Crissy from United Way is interested.

**Web:** Helen-looking good with new Installations pictures.

**Care:** Gloria is doing well. Cards were sent to her and Val.

**Long Range Planning:** Connie- Library Grand Opening was on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Books with stickers were

done. There are still Nancy Funds left and it was discussed about something possibly for the NICU.

Colleen has ordered Buddy Bench. Discussed and will look into a plaque for the Buddy Bench.

**Newsletter:** Colleen-nothing to report.

**Service:** Diapers are needing for ELC (sizes 5,6,7). 50 books were delivered to The Nook with labels.

**Cluster/Fundraising:** Contract is signed for March 6, 2027. Kevin & Judi have agreed to MC again.

Will look into doing trips again for next year with AM Fund. Discussed naming sponsorship levels (bring

ideas to next meeting).

**Ninja:** March-Connie Larsen & Wendy Williams.

**Announcements/Happy Bucks**

**New Business/Upcoming Dates:**

April 24-25 District Conference-Spartanburg, SC-Scott, Becky, Colleen and Connie to attend.

Board Meetings @ noon via ZOOM.

Business Meeting: May 14th @ Braised Onion.

Cluster Club: May 21st @ Early Learning Coalition. Amanda to bring snacks.

Meeting was adjourned with all members reciting the Altrusa Benediction.

Meeting: Connie Larsen, Colleen Duris, Wendy Williams, Scott Tice, Kate Fink, Helen McDavid, Rappa, Becky Long & Amanda White.

**ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF OCALA, INC**  
**Minutes of the Business Meeting May 14, 2026**

**At the Braised Onion**

**CALL TO ORDER:** at 12:05 by Helen McDavid, President

**ALTRUSA GRACE:** Recited by members

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited by members

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Chrissy Vickers.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** none presented

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Elaine Goodelle – Invoice from Dr. Lentsch, Interfaith newsletter and a thank you card from Jason Jacobs, Principal of Lake Weir High School, for the \$100.00 check presented to the Media Center.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Scott Tice – no report

**AL T. RUSA:** Rebecca Long - \$45.08

**RAFFLE:** Donated by Mary Cay Landt won by Anne McKenzie

**PROGRAM:** Installation of Officers – Colleen Duris Installed the 2026-2027 Officers.

**Foundation:** Maclyn Walker, Mary Cay Landt, Maria Kusmierz, Brenda Ford, Connie Larsen, Treasurer

**Club:** Past President Helen McDavid, President Becky Long, Vice President Wendy Williams, Treasurer Debbie Catabia, Secretary Colleen Duris, Director Elaine Goodelle, Director Jennifer Ruppel.

President Becky Long presented Past President Helen McDavid with a Gift and Plaque for her service this past year.

Her theme for the coming year will be Kindness and Service. For the months of June and July we will be collecting Toiletry bags for Veterans. A sign-up sheet for committees was passed around.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ASTRA:** TJ Bright- No report

**BUDGET:** No Report

**CARE:** none at this time. Would like to welcome back Gloria James to our meetings.

**CLUSTER/FUNDRAISING:** Connie Larsen - Reviewing different levels of sponsorship and renaming. Looking at trophies for winners at Trivia Night.

# MINUTES

**FOUNDATION:** Connie Larsen – Please submit any reimbursements as soon as possible. Year end is May 31, 2026.

**LONG RANGE:** Colleen Duris – The Buddy Bench in honor of Nancy Jones has been received. The dedication will be at South Ocala Elementary School on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 1:45. Connie Larsen- Waiting for the invoice from the Freedom Library.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Becky Long – Chrissy Vickers has submitted her application for membership. Committee members will meet after this meeting.

**PROGRAM:** Maclyn Walker – no program currently

**SERVICE:** Debbie Catabia – no report

**WEB:** Helen McDavid – updating the website with the new officers

**Newsletter:** Colleen Duris – Deadline for articles May 22, 2026. Will go out in June.

**New Business:** 2026 Conference Report – The club received Yearbook Award, Outstanding Community Service and a check for \$25.00 for a gain of 3 members. The next District Conference will be in Gainesville, Fl. The Board has accepted Angie Danby's resignation with regret. Please submit Altrusan of the Year nominations to Helen McDavid by May 22, 2026.

**Announcements/Happy Bucks:** Becky Long, Anita Winters, Connie Larsen, Anne McKenzie Helen McDavid announced the April Ninja is Debbie Catabia.

## REMINDERS:

Track volunteer hours – [www.trackitforward.com/site/altrusa-internation-ocala-fl](http://www.trackitforward.com/site/altrusa-internation-ocala-fl)

Board Meetings: June 2025-May 2026, 1st Thursday, Noon via Zoom, June 4th

Business Meetings: 2nd Thursday, Noon at Braised Onion, June 11, 754 NE 25th Ave, Ocala Cluster Club meets 3rd Thursday at 6pm. Next meeting June, at Early Learning Coalition 2300 SW 17th Rd., Ocala

Altrusan of the Year nominations due by May 22 to [altrusamc david@gmail.com](mailto:altrusamc david@gmail.com)

Newsletter deadline is May 22

Diaper needs for the ELC- sizes 5,6,7 and toddler pull ups

**Web Addresses** – International - [altrusa.org](http://altrusa.org); District Three – [districtthree.altruda.org](http://districtthree.altruda.org)  
Ocala – [www.districtthree.altrusa.org/Ocala/](http://www.districtthree.altrusa.org/Ocala/)

**Benediction:** recited by members

**Adjourn:** 12:53 pm

**Birthdays:** May 10 Gloria James, May 20 Helen McDavid, May 21 Anita Winters, May 26 Jennifer Rappa

**Attendance:** Diane Barrineau, Janet Behnke, Debbie Catabia, Colleen Duris, Karen Elliott, Brenda Ford, Elaine Goodelle, Gloria James, Connie Larsen, Becky Long, Helen McDavis, Ann McKenzie, Anita Winters

**Respectfully submitted, Debbie Catabia**



# MINUTES

Altrusa International of Ocala, FL Inc.  
*Cluster Club Meeting Minutes*  
May 21, 2026  
Early Learning Coalition, 6pm  
2300 SW 17<sup>th</sup> Rd., Ocala, FL

The meeting was called to order by Judi Zanetti at 6:01pm and everyone in attendance recited the Altrusa Grace followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no guests in attendance.

The minutes of the April 16, 2026 meeting were approved with one correction- Scott reported all invoices were sent out for dues, not that all dues had been paid.

Correspondence: Elaine shared thank you letters from Lake Weir High's principal for the \$100 donation to the Media Center and from the district 3 Conference. She also received an invoice from the optometrist in the Eyes to See program.

Treasurer: If any members have outstanding invoices, please give them to Scott or Connie before the end of May. Scott reported that all but a couple members have submitted their dues.

#### Committee Reports Recap:

- ASTRA- No report
- Cluster/Fundraising- Kate is working on updating the sponsorship forms for next year's trivia night. Wendy has sent the agreement to AmFund for next year. Wendy also shared her positive experience with her AmFund trip to Scotland. Connie shared how some items were auctioned off during a live action at Conference.
- Membership- Chrissy Vickers will be installed as our newest member at the June business meeting.
- Program- The program was the installation of officers and the theme was "Colors of Leadership"
  - List of officers:
  - President: Becky Long
  - Vice President: Wendy Williams
  - Secretary: Colleen Duris
  - Treasurer: Debbie Catabia
  - Immediate Past President: Helen McDavid
  - Directors: Elaine Goodelle and Jennifer Ruppel
  - Foundation:
  - Treasurer: Connie Larsen
  - Maelyn Walker
  - Brenda Ford
  - Maria Kusmierz
  - Mary Cay Landt
- Web-Helen has enlisted Dalton to help her with updates to the website.
- Care- Nothing to report
- Long Range Planning- Connie shared that the Buddy Bench has been installed at South Ocala Elementary. She is waiting on the invoice from the Freedom Library.
- Newsletter- Colleen said the newsletter deadline would be extended until the beginning of June.
- Service- Helen has reached out to the library regarding the Born to Read Bags. Helen shared on behalf of Becky that her vision is "Kindness in Action". To that end, June and July

members are asked to collect hygiene items for local veterans. Please put items in a qu sized Ziploc bag.

#### Foundation Report Recap:

The Foundation board will soon be electing officers.

#### New Business:

- Altrusan of the Year nominations are due to Helen by May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- A letter of resignation has been received from Angie Dansby
- Snacks for June will be provided by Helen
- Ticket prices for next year's Trivia Night – discussion tool place regarding raising t ticket price to \$75
- Sponsorship levels for Trivia Night
  - Champion
  - Advocate
  - Supporter
  - Friend of the Mission

#### Announcements/Happy Bucks:

Helen announced Debbie Catabia as the Ninja for May. Members shared happy stories.

Next month's Cluster meeting will June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Glenn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm

