

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December 2025

Dear Altrusans

I had the entire President's message written and typed into this space, almost filling it. Then I realized that many are dealing with a lot of things this holiday season. Some we share and some we keep in our heart. All the things we have done this month are included in the newsletter. What I want to tell you is:



*Lisa*

**I'm proud of you**

I'm proud of you for showing up for yourself every single day, for all the tough decisions you make, and for your unwavering commitment to your own well-being. Your resilience inspires me, and your grace in the face of adversity is truly admirable. I see your pain, but more importantly I see your incredible strength. Your courage and determination do not go unnoticed. I believe in you, and I believe in the incredible person you are becoming. Keep going, because you are doing amazing.

• Author Unknown



<https://www.facebook.com/AltrusaCentreCounty>  
[altrusacentreco@gmail.com](mailto:altrusacentreco@gmail.com)

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**Altrusa International of Centre County**  
210 W Hamilton Ave. #171  
State College, PA 16801

*Please print on 100% recycled paper*

Location: Good Shepherd Catholic Church  
867 Grays Woods Blvd, Port Matilda, PA and on Zoom

### JAN 2026 BUSINESS MEETING

**Date:** January 21st

**Time:** 5:30 pm social/6:15 pm Program:

**Phyllis Corman on Parliamentary**

**Procedure questions. Email will be sent later about food for the meeting**

No computer? You can call +1 646 876 9923 and enter meeting ID [REDACTED] # to listen to the meeting



## BOARD

**VP:** Susan Babcock Hoover

**Treasurer and Finance Chair:**

**Recording Secretary**

Betty Kenney

**Immediate Past President**

Laura Ulrich

**Directors:**

Kimberly Lillie (2025-2027)

Becky Schrope (2024-2026)

**Committee Chairs**

**Communication Chair -**

Robin Cain

**International Relations Chair**

Jackie Esposito

**Membership Chair**

Sindy Butler

**Service Chair**

Roxanne Barzona

**Parliamentarian**

Phyllis Corman

**Newsletter Editor**

Roxanne Barzona

**Present:** Lisa, Roxanne, Betty, Laura, Robin, Kim, Susan and Amy  
November Board Minutes approved by acclamation.

Meeting called to order 7:02 p.m. by Lisa.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** Amy Total: [REDACTED] balance: [REDACTED] checking; [REDACTED] CD  
Check from Wreaths Across America has been received but not deposited yet.  
Still collecting for Ethel Beaver Fund.

To date seventeen people including June and her daughter will be coming to the  
Holiday Party at GiGi's, December 10, 2025. If inclement weather, Amy and  
Robin will alert all members.

### **Service:** Roxanne

December 2025 Kim and Robin worked hard on project the Families in Need.  
Wreaths Across America: Waiting to see if group will be going December 13.  
Roxanne is unsure due to Roxanne ear illness. If not, she will be going to the  
cleanup on January 10, 2026. Will keep members informed whether to go on  
December 13.

School Supplies delivery on January 28 or 29 per Lisa.

Kim and Robin (project local families in need) Kim noted most of all Amazon  
Wishlist items were received; club will try to get the Christmas Bags filled at the  
party; then distribute to Centre Safe and Out of Cold, before Christmas. This  
should take minimal time to put this into action.

February is shoe bank and books; that is Brenda's event. She will advise on the  
status of this project in January (or maybe the Holiday Party).

Sindy has been sick; and Phyllis is also sick; they may have spread it to Lisa  
now, who is feeling a little sick.

**Membership:** Nothing to report as chair was absent due to illness.

**Communications:** Robin - everything is going okay. Allison agrees to write an  
article for Helping Hands to be submitted by the deadline of Dec. 26. Per Robin,  
Newsletter will be delayed a few days this month to include photos of holiday  
party.

Out and about area in the newsletter that Robin has asked members to submit  
fun facts or outings. Kim's family has a new member, and we'll post a pic in  
Newsletter. Encourage members to submit updates to Robin.

**International Relations:** No report available

Lisa asked if any comments about the process of nominations and vote for  
open positions to be held in January 2026. No questions or comments noted.

**New Business** - No new business.

**For the Good of the Order:** no comments

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:14 p.m.

## SERVICE HOURS

THANK YOU!

Altrusa International of Centre County

November 2025

Community Service Hours

Total # of Service Hours - 331

Altrusa-organized Service Hours - 186.75

Non-Altrusa Service Hours - 144.25

-Terry Johnson

Mark your  
calendar!

January

21st

Business Meeting



# Upcoming events

DEC 2025-JAN 2026

DEC

13

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Sign up with Roxanne. We have not yet decided on what time we will be leaving to go to Indiantown Gap.

DEC

24

## READING TO SENIORS

Wynwood House  
Bernel Rd  
1:30 pm-2:30 pm  
Sindy is reading.

JAN

5

## Mid-Year Madness Supplies and School Book Drive Launch

JAN

7

## BOARD MEETING

7:00 pm on Zoom. All are welcome to attend.

JAN

10

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CLEANUP

Sign up with Roxanne. We have not yet decided on what time we will be leaving to go to Indiantown Gap.

JAN

21

## BUSINESS MEETING

5:30 pm Meal  
6:15 pm - Business Meeting and Q&A of Parliamentary Procedures.

JAN

21

## BOOK CLUB MEETING

Join us at Marzoni's following the Business Meeting. The current book is "Still Life" by Sarah Winman.

JAN

24

## READING TO SENIORS

Wynwood House  
Farmstead Lane  
1:30pm - 2:30 pm  
Roxanne is reading.

JAN

28

## READING TO SENIORS

Wynwood House  
Bernel Rd  
1:30 pm-2:30 pm  
Jill is reading.

JAN

29-30

## Mid-Year Madness Supplies and School Book Drive Delivery

### UNITED NATIONS DAYS

DEC 1 - WORLD AIDS DAY  
DEC 10 - HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

JAN 4 - WORLD BRAILLE DAY  
JAN 24 - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION  
JAN 27 - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Zoom link for Board and Members meeting

[REDACTED]

No computer? You can call +1 646 876 9923 and enter meeting

[REDACTED]



## DECEMBER

- - Kathy Cox
- - Jill Lillie
- - Lisa Carey
- - Allison Baker

## JANUARY

NONE

## Do you know anyone who lives near the PA-MD border?

A member from South Central is moving to Carroll County, MD. She is hoping to start a new Altrusa club.

Think you know someone who is interested? Give them a call and talk about Altrusa. If they are interested reach out to Melissa Kolesar or Jeanette Wolfe as soon as possible.



## Altrusan's Beware

There is a scam that is making its rounds of Altrusa clubs again.

The message asks recipients to pay vendors for Altrusa Clubs using Venmo. Past scams have also asked for gift cards.

This email is **NOT** legitimate. Do not respond, click any links, or send money. All Altrusa payments of any kind are made through our club treasurer. Feel free to reach out to a board member if you have any questions.



## Minutes

**Present at Meeting:** Laura, Robin, Kathy, Roxanne, Sindy, Betty, Amy, Jill, Allison, Susan, Lisa, Phyllis, Brenda, Sandi, and Shari Gomez (District Two 1st Vice Governor)

**Guests** - Walt Durhammer - presenter, Lori Miller (friend of Lisa, Sindy and Phyllis) and Shari Gomez

Lisa called the **meeting to order** at: 6:12 pm

Shari Gomez, representing District Two Board provided upcoming events and organizational changes. She mentioned the April Conference to be held in York, PA, and the creation of a new club in Maryland. Shari also discussed financial events to streamline district operations by eliminating the second Vice-Governor position and increasing board member involvement in meetings. She encouraged members to suggest topics for online workshops and expressed appreciation to our club for our timely submissions of newsletters. Sidenote: (Shari, Navy retired; put herself through college; teacher 7<sup>th</sup> grade English; last 20 years as an instructional technology resource teacher)

**Program:** Allison introduced this month's speaker; Walt Durhammer as he presented his non-profit, Koleton Cares. Walt's wife and son died in auto accident in September 2024. His wife was 32 weeks pregnant at the time. He stated they had already had plans for baby shower; in addition, they purchased and/or received many baby items for their son's nursery. After reaching out to community, he was able to donate most of these items; however, he realized that there was a real need for these items, so he wanted to continue with the program. With the help of his mother-in-law, he started a 501(c)3 non-profit. To date, he has helped at least 20 families. Mostly Centre County and drop offs in Philipsburg and Millersburg. As of right now, there is no income eligibility to receive this donation only a need. Many of our members volunteer ideas to improve his funding raising goals. Note: Walt mentioned that the sentencing for the man who caused the accident will be tomorrow, November 20<sup>th</sup>. We were all touched and moved by Walt's story; Phyllis made a motion to donated \$100 to Koleton Cares, Roxanne 2<sup>nd</sup>; all in favor; motion passed.

Roxanne had the **accent note** from Reading/Berks Newsletter. Generosity was the topic. Topic was moving and it will be included in our December newsletter.

**Birthday's:** Club's Birthday November 17<sup>th</sup>: along with Eleanor's (who was absent due to family illness); Amy's birthday November 23. A hearty Happy Birthday cheer was sung to Amy.

**Happy Notes** were shared: **Roxanne's** brother coming to patch and paint inside of house; **Kathy** glad election is over, thanked Robin for helping with the Bellefonte Library, and Thanksgiving. **Laura** shared that father passed away this morning. She stated that she was surprised to hear so many people were concerned about her Dad, but didn't visit during the past year. **Robin** thanked everyone who helped out at the food drive: Roxanne and Kathy; **Amy** is going home for a week, family time; and Dec. 2, is her 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary at new job; **Jackie** has been a lot of fun doing movie club night; **Lisa's** daughter and husband are coming for Christmas and Thanksgiving. **Sandi** very proud of everyone coming together for food insecurity; granddaughter married in Athens, Georgia; granddaughter Lizzy accepted into certificate program in Peace and Justice; **Phyllis** going to visit relatives in Ohio.

Approval of October 2025 minutes. (changes made to attendance) Roxanne made a motion to accept the minutes as revised, Susan 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, Motion passed.

**Finance Committee:** Budget (attached spreadsheet) Balance in Account \$9850.35; \$4554.48 checking, \$5295.87; still getting money from Wreaths Across America \$65; money still coming in for Bulb Drive; and an invoice was recently paid for Centre County Council for Human Services (not shown in numbers yet). Holiday Party information Dec. 10 at Gigi's, please RSVP to Amy ASAP 6:30 p.m.

Collecting for Ethel Beaver fund, tax deductible, payable to Ethel Beaver Children's Fund.

Minutes continued on next page

minutes continued...

**Membership Committee:** Sindy: January is membership month. No large membership anniversaries this year and no new members. As a result, Phyllis will be answering questions on Roberts' Rules of Order. Another fun night to be held in Bellefonte in March 2026.

**Communications Committee:** Robin: Newsletter to be a few days late so we can include pictures from the Holiday Party. Susan will be taking our Rack Cards to distribute throughout Bellefonte. Will need someone to take around State College, Jill volunteered to do this. We will be making new Rack Cards to add current information. Communications is working on diverse ways to advertise our events. Pizza box flyers to stick to boxes for free. We just need to print and provide to Pizza Mia. Do we want to do Mid-Year Madness school supply collection for the flyer on the pizza boxes? Allison will prepare article.

**International Relations:** Please come to February meeting for International Presentation; working on getting food with ethnicity of Ghana.

**Service Committee:**

Roxanne reported the following:

- Midstate Literacy Book Fair – Lisa, Roxanne, Robin, Kathy, Terry and Jill.
- Wreaths Across America December 13, to Fort Indiantown Gap, to place wreaths on graves. Ceremony starts at 11:00 a.m. Dec. 1 is deadline for wreath purchases. Those who are planning on going will work out carpooling. Make sure to let Roxanne know if you are planning on going.
- December service project: Robin and Kim putting together basic need bags; many parents don't get luxuries for themselves shampoo, toiletries; etc. Hoping to get 20 bags together to distribute to Centre Safe and Out of the Cold; please bring any purchased items to the Holiday Party. Robin has also made an Amazon wish list.
- Mid-Year Madness – Lisa – Bellefonte Elementary just received a grant for \$20,000 for school supplies from Staples. Lisa talked to Bellefonte Elementary Principal, and he suggested to give to a school that needs it more. Liberty-Curtin School Elementary has the lowest literacy rate in the county at 30-34%. They are part of the Clinton County Keystone Central School district. But the school is physically located in Centre County. Roxanne thought the supplies were for whatever school is in most need. Do we need to make a motion each year for what schools we are giving each year? Phyllis said yes. Motion to give to Liberty-Curtin made by Roxanne, Brenda seconded. All in favor; motion passed. School Supply Committee is looking to expand our reach. Nice to get some State College organizations to donate supplies or money. We need to start reaching out to organizations now, letting them know we are doing this at the beginning of January. The last week of Jan. is collection deadline.
- Food drive was \$370; gift cards \$265; truck unloaded was totally filled.

Roxanne asked that if you have a comment regarding service project, send your email to only the Champion. Let the Champion send out the clarification. It makes the chain of communications easier for all parties on the committee.

**ONGOING BUSINESS:** Still have a bulbs leftover. If anyone wants to purchase, please do so ASAP

**NEW BUSINESS:** Lisa spoke about the nominating committee. This happens every year. The nominating committee asks the officers if they want to continue. From this, we determine what positions need to be filled. Becky (as a Director) will be going off Board of Directors. Additionally, a Vice President will be needed since Susan will not be continuing. In January people will be doing the nominations, voting in February (please review separate email from Lisa with latest information). Nominating committee can be anyone who is an active member but not on the current Board. One member must be a past president. Lisa will put out information to all members.

**For good of the order:** Nothing

**Meeting Adjourned** at 7:44 p.m. by Lisa.

## BOOK FACTS

Curious to know where we get books?

We get books from various places. We get 95 % of the donations from individuals, churches and libraries. The remaining are books purchased by club members.

Where do our books go?

Our books go to:

Our Little Free Libraries

Park Forest Preschool

Bellefonte and Wingate Elementary schools

St. Paul's Shoe Bank (kids get a book when they get shoes)



Books Donated-431

Food Donated to PSU  
Veterans Pantry - 577

Goal is 700  
books

Goal is 1,500 items





# Membership



## Want to spend more time with your friends?

Remember to invite your friends to a meeting that might be of interest to them or one of our many service projects.

Every member should bring at least one guest a year

# Service

**Every month** we are collecting the following :

Period products for Lion Pantry

Food for PSU Veterans' Pantry

Collecting empty cereal boxes to be recycled into jewelry by Jabco Studio's

Wear your **Altrusa** pin with Pride - or pay a \$1 fine.



Wondering where you can get some nice Altrusa wear?

check out <https://altrusastore.com/>

**PSU Veterans' Pantry has requested the following items:**

- Canned food (veggies, tuna fish, chicken, soup, chili, ravioli, etc.)
- Snacks (granola bars, Cliff bars, packaged cookies, peanut butter crackers, individually wrapped peanuts, pretzels)
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Mac and Cheese
- Packaged Muffins







## Pictures from 2023

(due to bad weather in 2024)



On December 13, 2025, at 12:00 pm, Altrusa International of Centre County will be helping Indiantown Gap National Cemetery to REMEMBER and HONOR our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. We had 53 wreaths sponsored this year. If you would like to help lay wreaths at Indiantown Gap, please contact Roxanne. Please note this could change based on the weather.

Just reading this now? Sorry you have missed the 1 December deadline for sponsoring wreaths for 2025. But never fear, you can still donate today, and it will go towards the **2026** Wreaths Across America program.

you can go to: <https://wreathsassamerica.org/pages/163935/Overview/?relatedId=0>

Share this link with family and friends.

The link says 2024 however, it is the correct page. We have not been able to change the date.



# Altrusa support of YMCA Anti-Hunger Program

November gave our club members a lot of opportunities to support those less fortunate in our community. The majority of our members participated in some way to our Emergency Food Drive on November 15<sup>th</sup>. This was a huge success; we were able to collect enough food to fill a truck plus a carload for the YMCA Anti-Hunger program. We were also able to support our four-legged friends with 2 boxes of food (and peanut butter) for animals, which we gave to PAWS. A number of members also participated on Tuesday evenings in the YMCA backpack program where food is distributed to Centre County schools so that children have food for the weekend. Additionally, a couple of our members have helped with the YMCA for Thanksgiving Blessing Boxes which are given out at multiple areas the week of Thanksgiving. 600 Blessing Boxes were distributed at the Philipsburg, State College, Bellefonte and Penns Valley locations.



## EMERGENCY FOOD DRIVE



Interested in learning more about the YMCA Anti-Hunger Programs?  
<https://www.ymcaofcentrecounty.org/programs/youth-development/feeding-our-children/>







## Necessity Bags

On December 10th, Altrusans assembled 20 Necessity Bags for women who are currently experiencing homelessness or fleeing unsafe situations. Many women prioritize their families' needs over their own, so we aim to provide a small token to brighten their day.

These bags not only include essential everyday items but also delightful extras such as nail polish, face masks, puzzle books, and an inspirational note written on a small bag. This message is to remind them that they are strong, loved, and never alone. Robin and Kim





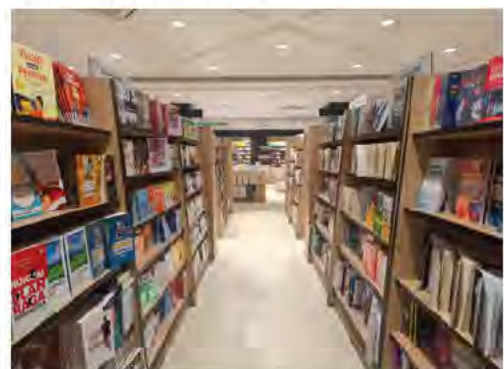
# A Soldier's Hands

Altrusans were hard at work again this month on November 14<sup>th</sup> packing candy for A Soldier's Hands. Did you ever wonder where all the candy comes from? We had that question answered when a family of three came in with a LOT of candy. It took three trips with a large trolley, and the candy filled an entire wall of an office. These treats were collected by organizations, churches and real estate companies in the Philadelphia area. We jumped in to sort and divided 2 large bags of candy into small plastic bags weighing 2 ounces each. We had 4 volunteers but we assembled 343 bags that will be included in the care packages for service members. Since chocolate doesn't travel well, it was sent to the Penn State Veterans office. This is the second year Trish made Veterans Day treat bags for the 612 Veteran students at Penn State.



## Mid-State Literary Council Book Fair

On Friday November 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup> six Altrusans assisted at the Mid-State Literary Council Book Fair. This organization focuses on adult literacy in Centre and Clearfield counties. Approximately 13% of adults in the 2 counties can't read. And approximately 72% of children are at risk of having low reading skills because their parents have poor reading skills. Jill helped on Friday and the rest of us on Saturday morning.





# Mid-Year Madness school supplies and Book Drive collection starts in January

We are excited to announce an important update for our annual school supply drive. In the past we have supported Bellefonte and Wingate Elementary schools. This year, we are expanding our efforts to include an additional school: Liberty-Curtin Elementary School. We are able to do this because Bellefonte Elementary School was recently awarded a \$20,000 donation from Staples in State College as part of a national contest. In a wonderful display of community spirit, Bellefonte's principal has agreed to give their portion of school supplies to Liberty-Curtin Elementary School. Liberty-Curtin Elementary school is part of the Keystone Central School District (located in Centre County near Beech Creek). The second part of the school drive provides additional funding for the schools to purchase literacy tools.

There is no change to our Elementary School Book drive which we run at the same time as the school supplies drive. Bellefonte and Wingate Elementary schools will both receive books.

## How can you help?

- Spread the word about the project to your friends. Encourage them to donate items or money.
- Check with your place of worship and/or other businesses to see if they would be willing to be a collection site for supplies.
- Donate supplies or money.

## Why is this important?

The best thing we can do as a club is to help the parents and the schools by supplying resources to ease their burden. In Centre County approximately 23% of families live below the poverty line. In a time when food is expensive and parents work multiple jobs; they are often forced to prioritize food over school supplies.

Our club targets grade 1-3 because fourth grade is when students move from “learning to read” to “reading to learn”. When a child in fourth grade is still learning to read, it is difficult for them to keep up with their peers academically. Unfortunately, the gap gets wider every year, until the student drops out of school. Adults who are poorly educated are also less likely to be involved in their child's education and this perpetuates the cycle of poverty and illiteracy in our community.

# HOLIDAY PARTY

On Wednesday, December 10th, most of our members gathered at GiGi's Southern Table in State College for a special meeting. The event brought together both longstanding and newer members, fostering a warm atmosphere. We were honored to have June Krumrine, our longest serving member, join us for the occasion. It was also a pleasure to welcome Delores (Dee) Weaver, who is not only Kathy Cox's mother but a former member of Altrusa. Their presence added a meaningful connection to the group's history. The gathering provided everyone with the opportunity to connect and share conversations. In addition to socializing, the group dedicated time to a service project, furthering Altrusa's mission of community service and support. Overall, the evening was a wonderful combination of camaraderie and service, making it a memorable for all who attended.





# **District Two 70<sup>th</sup> Conference.**

**Make plans now to join us.**





PROUDLY PRESENTS...ANOTHER CULTURAL CORNERS EVENT!

# Cultural Conversations

## International Holiday Potluck

Celebrating Holiday Traditions from Around the World!

December 12, 2025 from 6 - 8 pm

South Hills School of Business and Technology

480 Waupelani Drive, State College, PA 16801

Free and Open to the Public! RSVP and SIGN UP here:

[Community Diversity Group International Holiday Potluck Sign Up](#)

For questions, email: [CommunityDiversityGroup@gmail.com](mailto:CommunityDiversityGroup@gmail.com)

On the bus route!

Find further details on our Facebook page!



Thanks to the State College Borough  
for their support!





# Altrusans

## Out and About

Christmas tree

Chinese proverb says: "If you always give, you will always have."

Generosity is like a magic key.  
It opens doors to hearts and homes, creating bonds of love and friendship.  
Generosity is not just about giving money or things.  
It's about sharing what you have  
your time, your skills, your smile, and your kindness.

Generosity is like a seed.  
When you plant it in your heart, it grows and blooms.  
It makes you feel good about yourself. It makes you feel rich, not because  
you have a lot of things, but because you have a lot of love to give.

Generosity is like a candle.  
It lights up the world around you.  
It brings warmth and brightness to the lives of others.  
And the most amazing thing is, when you light other candles with your  
candle, your light doesn't get any less. It gets even brighter.

Generosity is like a boomerang.  
What you give comes back to you.  
Maybe not right away, maybe not in the way you expect,  
but it always comes back.  
So, be generous.  
Share what you have.  
Spread love and kindness.  
Light up the world.

And watch how the magic of generosity transforms your life  
and the lives of those around you.



Take CARE  
OF Others



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