

Altrusa of Troy
Minutes of Dinner Meeting
Nov. 7, 2011

Our meeting was held at the Hayner Cultural Center. President Mary Davis called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. with members reciting the Altrusa Grace. There were 29 members in attendance and 1 guest present.

Dinner committee was Deanna Riley, Chair, Mindy Phelps, Karen Eliason, Deb Kappers, and Tamara Baynard-Ganger.

Guest Mary Ellen McKinley, from the Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) program gave a short presentation on the ABLE program in the hope that Altrusa would consider providing grants to help students with the cost of taking the GED test. ABLE is offered at multiple sites in Miami County, with classes in Troy offered at the First United Church of Christ. ABLE is currently working with 600 students, with most enrolled in GED classes with others being tutored in college readiness classes (such as remedial English) and some in nursing readiness classes (remedial math). Current cost to take the 5 GED tests is \$40 and to retake any failed test is \$10. In 2014 the State of Ohio is turning the administration of the tests over to a private company and the cost is expected to rise to at least \$120. Tests are expected to become more difficult and will all be taken on-line. 25% of Miami County's population does not have a high school diploma. Shelby County's rate is 33%. Mary Ellen also spoke of the need for volunteers to tutor in basic skills: reading, writing, grammar, math, and English. Classes in Troy are 6-9pm, Monday & Wednesday, and run in 5 week cycles with a week off in between. At our last Board meeting the Directors had discussed the possibility of offering a limited number of scholarships, with a limited dollar amount set. The Board had decided that it was a project that should be passed to the Service committee for consideration as to whether we wanted to pursue the project. Linda Roth said the Service committee feels it is a worthwhile project and they are willing to take \$500 out of the service budget to fund grants starting in January. Details need to be finalized on the application process, when/how many grants, and at what dollar amount will be awarded. Mary Ellen has developed a potential application and will work with us to determine who the recipients should be. Ellen Luken moved we adopt this service project and Babs Wesbecher seconded. Motion was approved. Teresa Bowers cautioned that we need to keep in mind what we will do when the cost increases in 2014.

Secretary's Report: Judy Nickras moved to approve minutes from Oct. 3 and Oct. 19 that had previously been emailed to membership. Ann Baird seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Tamara Baynard Ganger moved to approve the treasurer's report that was previously emailed to membership. Deanna seconded. Motion carried. Balance of the operational account is \$1379.89; balance of the Foundation account is \$17,556.71. Karen reported that profit from the fall Snooty Fox Bus trip was \$967.52, which went into the Foundation account.

Committee Reports:

ASTRA – Sharon Buse reported that Miami East has a new advisor, Dannielle, and has 92 club members; Tipp City has 21 members; Troy has 50 members; Newton has 10 members – club cannot be chartered until they have 20 members.

Sally Adams reported that the book drive has yielded over 400 books so far. Last year we'd collected over 1000. The service committee has allocated money to buy more books. If anyone has any more books please call Sally or bring them to the noon meeting.

COMMUNICATION – Tamara has the newsletter done, awaiting Mary's approval.

DCAC - None

FINANCE – Susan Harbaugh reported that sales of the Elder Beerman coupon books were very slow. She doesn't know if we will be able to sell books this weekend or not. See her if you are able to work if we are given the opportunity.

LITERACY LINKS – Amy Dawson & Sandy Christian are almost finished with the review of the web site.

MEMBERSHIP - Table tents encouraged everyone to talk turkey ... discussing how they cooked their turkeys! Orientation will be offered 11/29 and 1/16 for our three new members: Carol Morgan, Kim Heintz, and Sharyl Onder.

MOBILE MEALS - None

PROGRAM – Faye McNerney will be the speaker at the next noon meeting. She will be speaking on her recent medical mission trip to Africa and the impact of HIV on the area.

SERVICE – GED discussion detailed above. Babs also reported that they are still collecting school supplies. If we do not have enough supplies come February, they will purchase what they are lacking. Cards for veterans were also on all tables for our members to write personal notes to the veterans.

SPELLING BEE – Sally Adams has agreed to be Co-Chair with Ellen.

Other Business: Get well cards for Mary Hobson & Barb Owen were passed around for all to sign. A sign-up sheet for the Christmas party was circulated.

Roundtable: Remember to vote tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned with the Altrusa Benediction.

Next meeting is Noon, Monday, Nov. 21st at Riverside.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Bowers