

THE DELTRUSAN

August 2007

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Altrusans Enjoy a Presentation by Dolphin House

“Dolphin House” Director, Kay Alexander and Board Member Sharla Schell spoke at Altrusa’s Augusts’ Luncheon. The Dolphin House is a Child Advocacy Center serving the 7th Judicial District including the counties of Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel. It can be described as a non-profit, child-friendly location which provides coordinated and professional assessment and investigation of child abuse. It is a safe place for families to get help. The dolphin symbol was chosen because of their gentle, caring, protective, nature in helping those weaker and in need within their community. In this case, protection against Child Abuse is the focus.

The “house” is literally a friendly, home environment in which to bring children during this trying time. The intent is to nurture and protect. Kay pointed out that when there has been an allegation of abuse or neglect, it is necessary for several entities to each access what the child has to say. Repeated interviews are difficult for the child. The Dolphin House provides a way by which all necessary agencies can do this with minimal impact on the child who has already been through an ordeal. They are endeavoring to become accredited so as to coordinate more efficiently with other agencies. Children assisted range from birth to 18. Many local statistics were shared that we may be aware of what really is a “desperate need” right here in our own community. Altrusa’s own ASTRA club of caring teens was highly praised for partnering with the Dolphin House to paint and decorate, and has been con-



tinually providing them with frozen cookie dough. The smell of cookies is very good medicine for a traumatized child being brought into this safe house. ASTRA is also helping with a play-yard.

Prior to becoming the Director of The Dolphin House, Kay Alexander served as a State Rep in the Colorado Legislature for six years. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and holds a Master’s Degree in this field. Kay expressed that there is a great need at The Dolphin House for funding for administrative costs, salaries, even basic items such as paper and ink cartridges. Case Workers and Social Workers are needed as well. A program called “Friends of the Dolphin House” is being created in which a pledge to donate regularly can be made by those interested in doing so. Any donations at all would be welcome. Packets of information are available. Anyone interested in helping these amazing people can contact Kay or Sharla, or Donna Rose at dolphinhouse@qwe.net or call at 970-240-8655.

Communications Committee

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dearest Altrusans,

The month of August started out with another very successful 4-club social at David's. We had a great turn-out from the surrounding clubs, a good time and great food was had by all. Thanks again David!

We now need to gear up for World Literacy Day Sept. 8, when we will be presenting the Delta Opportunity School \$500.

At our September 26 program meeting Rhoda Struhs our District 10 Governor will be here. Don't miss this important meeting!

This month's program meeting will be Kay Alexander from the Dolphin House, with an update on the activities there.

Have a great rest of the month!
In Altrusa love,
Linda

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is in great need of items other than the usual staples. These include juices, coffee, condiments, dressings, and baking items. If you can supply any of these, please bring to the next meeting.

Sandy Dombrowski, Director of the Food Pantry, reports that Delta County has more seniors per capita than any other county in the state. The Food Pantry serves on average 90 child and many more adult meals per month. Contact Fran Deaver if you can help with volunteer hours at the Food Pantry.

Delta Opportunity School (DOS)

Our October program meeting will feature a program by Willyn and Hank to update us on the activities at DOS. Be sure to attend and sign up to help - Jeannie Brown has forms for volunteers.

This year, the Delta Opportunity School will not have any janitorial services and are asking Altrusans to help in areas such as cleaning, painting, and front yard care. Adult volunteers will assist the students at the school in this work.

Service Committee — next meeting is Tuesday, October 2, at 11:30 am at First National Bank Conference room (call Holly, 874-6105).

Funds/Services Request form is available at Ruby's Floral or through Holly. The form is also on the Club's website, as is the Scholarship Application and the Impact letter.

www.altrusainternationalofdelta.com

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Altrusa celebrates World Literacy with gift to Delta Opportunity School

Altrusa International of Delta awarded the Delta Opportunity School \$500 in celebration of World Literacy Day. Principal Hank McCallum and teacher/counselor Willyn Webb accepted the donation on behalf of the school district and the 35-40 students enrolled at the Delta Opportunity School.

The United Nations designated September 8 World Literacy Day in celebration of literacy for all humankind. According to a United Nations proclamation, "Literacy is inseparable from opportunity, and opportunity is inseparable from freedom." Promoting literacy is one of the chief aims of Altrusa International, and supporting the efforts of the Delta Opportunity School has been an objective of the Delta Altrusa organization, says Service Chair Holly Burton.

The Delta Opportunity School specializes in helping at-risk students in grades 8-12 to complete their high-school education. Many of these students are self-supporting or have life circumstances that require flexibility, so the school uses alternative strategies to help each student balance the demands of work, family and school life. The school uses a combination of traditional methods, such as academic classroom instruction, and non-traditional methods, such as on-the-job training, to help students maximize their education outcomes.

The donation from Altrusa will be used to help fund the school's Gold Club program. The Gold Club is an incentive program that doubles as a teaching tool. Students that meet certain criteria for attendance and completion of academic work are eligible to participate in Gold Club activities, such as field trips to museums or hiking trips. Gold Club activities are intended to help students develop healthy strategies for recreation while rewarding them for meeting educational goals.

"We feel this program is important," Burton says. "Many of us take it for granted that kids just automatically get exposed to culture or to healthy, beneficial leisure activities. But a lot of youth don't have opportunities to participate

ASTRA

We are gearing up for the beginning of school, which means getting back into routine and such.

During registration at the high school we had a table set up to inform students of our club and all that we do for the community. We should have some new faces at our next meeting.

During the time we were at the high school we heard lots of positive comments about the job we did painting at the high school. If you haven't seen what the ASTRA members did, it's well worth a trip to DHS to check it out.

It's been exciting to see members being hired to earn money for their trip to Jamaica in February. They like that they are *earning* their way.

The club will resume their regular schedule of meetings at the end of August. They will meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Their next scheduled meeting is August 27th at 6:30 at the DHS library.



in a fun evening bowling or an excursion to the mountains. Being exposed to healthy alternatives is an important part of education." Burton adds that Altrusa members also volunteer as helpers at the school and as chaperones for the Gold Club excursions.

**Altrusa International, Inc. of Delta, Colorado
Business Meeting - August 8, 2007**

Call to order: by Linda Sorenson at 12:08p.m. The Collect and Pledge of Allegiance were recited.

Members: 29 **Guests:** 4 Linda Sorenson brought a friend Marie Hymel, Cindy Lonis accompanied her sister, Debbie Kahanek, Susanne Bobo had her daughter Brittany here and Becky Brown brought prospective member Peggy Bellmire.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved with an addition that states that a check for \$500 will be presented to the Delta Opportunity School

Correspondence: One thank you note was shared from Jan and John Skinner about the impact Altrusa has and thanking us for our effort at Deltarado Days.

Accent: Nancy Stevens gave the nine step accent on "Pathway to Altrusa Membership". Handouts are available from Kim Guthrie-Burch explaining the exact process, and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Treasurer's report: Judy reviewed the June/July finance report. To date \$3811 has been collected and by her calculations, an additional \$88 is due from members who are expected to purchase a ticket for the event. The expenses are \$873.59 and \$76 is expected from Meadow Gold as a refund on product not used. It is estimated that there will be between \$2800 and \$2900 profit on the vent. Jeff Lane and Judy still have some work to do in streamlining the report process as well as the budget.

Judy reviewed the proposed budget: In the Operating Budget there are new line items of \$200 each for each of the four committees and the Board. This line item is intended to cover administrative expenses incurred by the committees, i.e. postage, copies, envelopes etc. Each committee needs to manage those funds carefully, however, there are members who own their own businesses and are willing to assist with copies, etc. Without going into individual detail, the Operating Budget Income is proposed to be \$16,818.50 with the Operating Expense at \$16,525.00. David Mangum questioned if the two numbers should match. Vicki stated that it is within \$300. In the past there was a concern for a budget that did not match. The Service/Foundation Budget projects an Income of \$28,318.00 with Service Expense at

\$28,303.50. Vicki Ripp made a motion to approve the budget; the motion was seconded by Nancy Stevens; motion carried. The budget will now be presented to the Foundation Board for its ratification or questions.

Committee reports:

Communications: Diane Sales reported that the Program meeting for August will be by Kay Alexander of Dolphin House, 7th Judicial District Child Advocacy Program.

Finance: Thelma thanked everyone for making Deltarado Days a success. She reported that \$2900 was made by Deltarado Days. Sugar Plum Task Forces are lined up. Someone is needed to head up the Food Task Force. The position involves getting a committee together, choosing the food and preparing it. Let Thelma know, if you are interested. Prices for the Sugar Plum Festival will stay the same. The luncheon will be \$25 and Friday night will be \$10. The committee made the decision that if a member makes an appetizer for Friday they will get in for \$5. Sign up sheets will be out shortly.

Membership: Kim thanked David for hosting the Four Club Social. Kim presented Peggy Bellmire as an applicant. The Board has accepted her application. Peggy told a little about herself. Members have seven days to August 15th to contact Kim Guthrie—Burch to express concerns.

The Christmas party is scheduled for December 12th. The exact time and location are yet to be decided.

Time was taken to have members announce on what committee/s each is participating. Next meeting - September 4th at 5:30 p.m. at C J's Café.

Service: Holly is looking into ordering/making new pins. Contact her if you need one. The Service Hours Book is done and being passed around. The tab with your name on it is directly on your page where you will record your service hours. Vicki Ripp will be the Vice Chair. Thanks were given to Crystal for personally donating \$500 worth of Coloring books that Renee' and she delivered to TCRC. Kelly Harrison also helped deliver to House of Promise and the hospital.

The Food Pantry sign up was sent around. Baby First Books budget has been increased from \$1200 to \$1500. We give out 30/ month on average.

Jeanie Brown will coordinate the Delta Opportunity School (DOS) Gold Club task force. The check will be presented to the DOS and pictures will be taken. Altrusa is hoping to make the Delta Opportunity School Gold Club our World Literacy Day Project on September 8th. Holly is working with Suzanne Bobo and Dianne Sales to create an article about I for the September 5ht edition of the DCI. Wilyn of the DOS has approved the publicity that will be generated.

Scholarship award checks are going out this week. The application for Altrusa help will be put on the website. Communications will post it and run a press release to notify the public. Also, copies have been distributed to Ruby's Flora, and anyone needing one can contact Holly, she'll email you a PDF version or send one snail mail if needed.

Communication will put the "Denim and Diamonds" hospice event on August 25th on the calling tree. The Hospice budget has been raised from \$200 to \$1100.

Service has been asked to look into having another Book Fair in conjunction with the Sugar Plum Festival. A task force chair is needed. Anyone interested please contact Holly. The next Service meeting is Tuesday, August 21, at 11:30 at the First Colorado National Bank conference room. Holly requested grant information from Foundation. There deadline is September 30th.

Foundation: The committee will have its annual meeting before the next Board meeting now that the budget is approved.

ASTRA: An article was in the local paper regarding ASTRA members painting the high school. ASTRA will meet this Friday to plan how to boost membership. One idea was to be available during high school registration. Some of the members are already being hired for jobs to earn money for the January trip to Jamaica. They toured the new Dolphin House facility and will keep us informed about it.

New business: For Peggy Bellmire's application see above.

Announcements: Linda Sorenson announced that she is passing around sheets she got from the Altrusa International website that shows different Club membership numbers. We only need ten more members to be able to send five people to the conference.

Member Phyllis Goad's mother passed away August 7, 2007. A service for her will be in Yuma, AZ.

Jan Pappas announced that Altrusa supplies are now at 361 Palmer, at Leading Edge, instead of at the Paperworks.

Onions and Orchids: were shared

Drawing: \$_13 __ Winner: Liz Quintana

Benediction was recited. **Adjourn: 1: 04p.m.**

Minutes prepared by Demeris York, Secretary

Communications Committee -

The Communications Committee is in charge of the newsletter and updates on the website, among many other duties.

If you would like to see items in the newsletter, please send them to:
alowetta@westernslopegeeks.com or
Call 921-3132

Updates to the web are made at a variety of times - Contact Lita for info updates

Dianne Sales is chair of the committee and is on top of all aspects of Communication, see her for other information!

Don't Miss our September 26th
Program Meeting
District Ten Governor
Rhoda Struhs
will visit and provide an update

Thanks to our Newsletter Sponsors

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Pathway to Altrusa Membership

1. Invite the prospective member to a couple of meetings and introduce the guest as a prospective member to the membership and personally to the membership chair.
2. An application for membership is filled out by the sponsor and given to the membership chair.
3. The membership committee approves the application and submits it to the board.
4. If the board approves the application, the membership chair prints out prospective member's information to give to the general membership. This includes their name, where they work, classification, and their address and phone number.
5. There are also instructions stating the following member/members have submitted their applications and have been approved by the membership committee and board for membership. It instructs the general membership to contact the membership chair within seven days if they object to the application.
6. If an objection is made, the membership chair recommends the membership committee meet with the person/persons making the objection to find out if it is a legitimate reason to reject the application. The membership committee should then meet to decide if the application should be accepted or rejected.
7. If it is decided by the membership committee to reject the application, the board should be advised of the committee's decision and the board should vote whether to deny the application. If denied, the secretary should notify the prospective member in a letter at that time.
8. If the application is accepted, the secretary sends a letter to the prospective member. The letter will include the information that the application has been approved, and the amount due for new members dues and fees. The prospective member will contact the treasurer who will then notify the membership chair so she/he can set a date for orientation and initiation.

Finance Committee News

The Finance Committee still needs someone to head up the task force of deciding the menu and arranging the cooking for the Sugar Plum Festival in November.

Please contact Thelma Starner as soon as possible if you are interested. You do not have to be on the finance committee for this assignment.

Many helpers are needed, not just the leader!

Volunteers from the membership are needed to help deliver books two times per year to the DOC library. See Holly or anyone on the Service Committee for More information.

You can advertise your business in the Deltrusan for just \$2.50 per month. Send your business card to alowetta@westernslopegeeks.com or give it to Dianne Sales or anyone on the Communications committee. We thank our previous supporters and invite you to join them!