



March 17, 2020

District Eight Altrusa Members:

It is with much disappointment I am notifying our members that the 2020 District Eight Conference scheduled for April 23-26 in Fort Smith, Arkansas is being cancelled. The District Eight Board voted unanimously to cancel due to the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

The health and well-being of our Altrusa members is of our utmost concern. While the number of people effected by the virus in our four states is still relatively low, we must follow recommendations given by the President as well as the Center for Disease Control to help slow the spread of this highly contagious, and sometimes fatal, disease.

We will be refunding all registration fees. If you have already sent payment to our District Treasurer and your check has been cashed, or if you sent payment electronically, we will be issuing refunds. If your check has not been cashed, we will return your check.

If you have already made a reservation at the DoubleTree in Fort Smith, Arkansas, contact them directly to cancel your reservation at (479) 783-1000.

We will still be voting on matters that need attention, so please notify us of your delegates as previously requested. Notification will be sent out to delegates as to the manner of how we will vote.

We will also still be judging and determining all awards as previously outlined. We will announce winners through our District Service Bulletin, mail any checks to the winners, and present the actual award to the clubs at a later date.

There will still be some form of leadership training for incoming Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries. Details are still being determined.

Please realize that how quickly this virus spreads and for how long will determine how long we "socially distance" ourselves, which may mean that we will not reschedule this Conference. It will also determine hosting of regional events. This is a very much "wait and see" situation.

This is also true of your clubs. I have heard from a few of you that you are having to cancel meetings due to venues closing. That is probably what we need to do, especially in our larger clubs, to help stop the spread.

I have always believed that the beauty and strength of Altrusa is that we as individual clubs can determine our projects and meetings. Get creative! Find other ways to get information out and to hold committee meetings. Do an online donation service project to help in your community. Help with home delivery or drive-through food deliveries to those in need. We can still be effective as an organization without meeting. After all, we are leaders in service to our communities. We need to continue to lead through this crisis.

Yours in Altrusa service,

Penny Daugherty
Governor, District Eight
Altrusa International, Inc.