



District Eight is comprised of 23 clubs in the following states:

Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma

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

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# DISTRICT EIGHT SERVICE BULLETIN

Biennial Theme: *Leaping Into Service!*

Vol 65, Issue 4 February 2024

*Leaping* Into Service!

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE, Lorraine Brewer



*I am privileged and excited to extend this personal invitation to you for our 68<sup>th</sup> Annual District Eight Conference!*

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Please plan to join us in Salina, Kansas, at the beautiful Hilton Garden Inn from April 25-27, 2024! Our conference theme is *Altrusans Take Flight*, and the Salina Altrusa Club and friends in nearby Altrusa Clubs have been preparing an amazing conference for us. Please prepare now for a road trip to Salina to join us! What could be better than an April road trip with friends? A weekend away can be so renewing, and time spent with Altrusa friends can be exceptional!

You now have the information for our conference in your possession! Please bring a copy of this DSB to our meeting, as it will give you a quick reference as we "take flight" and experience this district conference together. To avoid late fees, register by March 23 for our conference. You will find what you need to register and make hotel reservations in this DSB.

I hope you share my anticipation as you think about gathering together, renewing Altrusa friendships, and growing new ones while sharing a weekend. If you have never attended a District Eight Conference, this is a great time to join us for what promises to be an incredible experience with Altrusans from all over our four-state district. There are so many amazing Altrusans to meet and ideas to share. The conference provides a remarkable opportunity for fellowship, strengthening relationships between clubs across our four-state district, collaboration in service, some great fun, and even time for personal revitalization. We will return to our clubs with new ideas, inspired and invigorated, ready to do more "leaping into service" as we complete our current Altrusa year.

As you prepare, I hope you'll enjoy reflecting on your club's accomplishments and the great service your members have provided already this year. Enjoy collecting information for your award submissions and nominations of members for the

Marilynn J. Bell Humanitarian Award and the Rising Star Award.

Surely, someone in your club would enjoy using their creative gifts to visually prepare your Club Display to share your service in the past year. You are also invited to share your creativity as you prepare your club's centerpiece for our

Literacy and Leadership Luncheon. Choose your members' favorite book to feature in your centerpiece and come prepared to display it at our Saturday luncheon.

Then there's that other creative gift to consider. If you enjoy singing, please join the Altrusa Conference Choir, which will help us celebrate during the Opening Ceremony.

Be sure to pack your Altrusa Club banner and select someone from your club to join in the parade of banners, celebrating each of our clubs and their years of service. It's time to plan your Silent Auction items to bring, too. The proceeds from their sale will be donated to the Altrusa International Foundation, which supports all of us, our projects or disaster relief needs, and ASTRA Scholarships. The Silent Auction is an opportunity for us to give back. Thank you for being so supportive!

In addition, you are invited to reserve a Marketplace Table for your club to share in a fund-raising opportunity for your club. The reservation form is in this DSB. Check your club supplies, too, so you can shop at the Altrusa Store, where you can purchase Altrusa pins and other supplies from Doc Morgan.

Please read this "Call to Conference" to discover more about our conference schedule of events. Here are a few highlights!

- During our Welcome to Conference, we will have fun and a birthday party with a ceremonial cake cutting to celebrate hundreds of years of service by our Kansas Altrusa Clubs.
- Friday Fun Night will include an opportunity to explore downtown Salina's restaurants and shops. You'll find your conference bag at Baggage Claim when you arrive for the conference. Downtown stores and restaurants in Salina are eager to greet you and stamp that passport for you. You will have time to shop, eat, take pictures of the amazing murals and works of art downtown, fill out that passport, and then find prizes and a party when you return to our hotel.
- We will be honored this spring to have our Altrusa International President, Linda Smith, as our distinguished International Representative for our conference. What a privilege that is for us!
- We will learn from each other through our speakers, presentations, workshops, and casual conversations.
- There will be celebrations of excellent service, leadership, and membership growth. Expect surprises as we reflect together and celebrate those ripples of hope you've generated as you did that leaping into service together!
- There will be a fun photo opportunity and reception before our closing banquet, followed by hospitality in the Governor's suite to end the final evening of our conference time together.

Surely, you can already tell that this conference will be full of fun, renewal, celebration, and information sharing. **I can't wait to be with each of you in Salina!**

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### **ALTRUSANS R.O.C.K!**, *Linda Smith, International President*

Dear Altrusans,

My favorite time of year is fast approaching! I love conference time. This is a great opportunity for us to gather as Altrusans to celebrate our accomplishments for the past year, see friends we haven't seen since the last conference, and a chance to make new Altrusa friends.



I encourage all Altrusans to try to attend a district conference. The districts all have great workshops on Altrusa matters and other interesting topics. This is a chance to get new service project ideas, find out about other club fundraisers, and gather new ideas for membership recruitment and retention. Keynote speakers are always inspirational, so do not skip out on that presentation. Soak it all in!

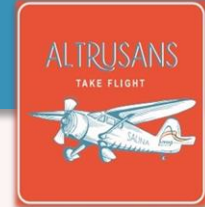
Each district will have an Altrusa International representative (either an officer or director) in attendance at their Conference. I encourage you to take the time to visit with them. They are there to share about Altrusa, meet you, and share any concerns you may have with the International Board.

I send best wishes for an outstanding Conference.

**Altrusans R.O.C.K. – Creative Opportunities, Create Kindness**

# DISTRICT EIGHT CALL TO CONFERENCE

Salina, Kansas | April 25-27, 2024



## ALTRUSANS TAKE FLIGHT

*Brenda Smith, 2024 Conference Chair*



Join us in Salina at the beautiful Hilton Garden Inn from April 25 to 27, 2024, as we host the 2024 District Eight Conference.

Thursday evening welcome night will be a birthday party celebrating 326 years of service to the four communities in Kansas that have Altrusa Clubs. Hutchinson 95 years, Salina and Emporia 80 years each, and Lawrence 71 years. What an impact these four clubs have had in their communities! We have some fun events planned for Thursday night, Friday late afternoon and evening, and Saturday night banquet. Since our club was chartered in 1944, we have a 1940s theme. We will have popular food from that period and work on entertainment for the Saturday banquet, which can include some music from the 1940s.

Arrive at "Baggage Claim" to pick up your registration materials and plan to have an awesome weekend in Salina.

*Michele Nightingale, 2024 Conference Chair*



I hope you are all as excited as I am when you think about connecting with new and long-time Altrusa friends at the 2024 District Conference. If you have never attended a District Conference, this is a great time to do so.

There are many people to meet and things to learn. You may even have things you want to share with others. The conference provides a great time of fun, fellowship, interaction, collaboration, and personal revitalization as we finish the current Altrusa year strong and look forward to what lies ahead.

This year's theme is '**Altrusans Take Flight.**' We chose this theme since our club is celebrating its 80th anniversary. As you enjoy the conference, you will see several 1944 references and themes daily. The District Conference will be held at the beautiful **Hilton Garden Inn in Salina, KS**. The hotel is **located on the south end of town at 3320 S. 9th St.**

As you pack your bags and cars for the conference, here is a checklist so you don't leave anything behind:

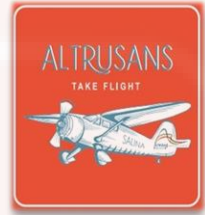
- Altrusa Pin
- Club Banner
- Club Display (be sure to reserve your table with Marcia Demuth)
- Silent Auction Items (to benefit the International Foundation)
- Service Project Items for Salina Shares (list in Service Project Article)
- Cash, Credit Card, Checkbook for Altrusa supplies, silent auction, and Club 21

We will have the Altrusa Store, where you can purchase Altrusa pins and supplies from Doc Morgan. We will also have our silent auction, and the proceeds will be donated to the International Foundation.

We will have a fundraising table for clubs that would like to participate. Please send your form to Marcia Mahoney.

We encourage you to participate in the "Passport to Shop" Friday evening in Downtown Salina (just minutes from our hotel), where you are welcome to shop, eat, and take pictures in front of our beautiful murals. Make sure to stamp your passport at each merchant you visit, as there will be prizes for winners! The conference will be full of fun and memories. During the Conference, we will have the Parade of Banners and our traditional flag ceremony, so don't forget to pack your Club Banner. We also need volunteers to join the Altrusa Choir to lead everyone in the Great State Songs!

**Altrusa International, Inc.**  
**68<sup>th</sup> Annual District Eight Conference Registration Form**  
**April 25-27, 2024 | Hilton Garden Inn | Salina, KS**



**Early Registration Discount by March 23, 2024, \$185 (After March 23: \$210.00)**

Full registration of \$185.00 includes materials, a Friday and Saturday breakfast buffet, Thursday evening Welcome to Conference, Friday Keynote Luncheon, Friday evening Fun Night, Saturday Literacy Luncheon, and Governor's Banquet.

No Refunds After April 13, 2024 – per District policy

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Altrusa International of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am attending in the capacity of (mark all that apply):  Club President     Delegate     Altrusa Member  
 Guest/Astra Member     Past/Present Governor     District Officer  
 Past/Present Int'l Officer     District Committee Chair

**Dietary Needs:** Diabetic     Vegetarian     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Registration	Fee	# Needed	Amount
Early <b>Full Registration</b> by Mar 23	\$185		\$
Early <b>First Timer Registration</b> by Mar 23	\$160		\$
Early <b>Partial Registration</b> by Mar 23 (Friday only)	\$100		\$
Early <b>Partial Registration</b> by Mar 23 (Saturday only)	\$150		\$
<b>Full Registration</b> after Mar 23	\$210		\$
<b>Friday Only Partial Registration</b> -lunch only-after Mar 23	\$130		\$
<b>Saturday Only Partial Registration</b> -lunch only-after Mar 23	\$130		\$
<b>Extra Meal tickets for guests:</b>			\$
Friday Keynote Luncheon	\$38		\$
Saturday Literacy Luncheon	\$30		\$
Governor's Banquet	\$56		\$
Registration Fee Waived	\$00		\$
<b>TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED:</b>			\$

Please indicate your plans to attend the Saturday night banquet    **Attending**     **Not Attending**

Make checks payable to **Altrusa District Eight Conference Fund**  
 Mail the completed form and check(s) **to arrive by Mar 23, 2024** to:

Connie Stoker, Treasurer  
 Altrusa International District Eight, Inc.  
 6339 Serenade Dr., Lawrence, KS 66045  
Questions? Contact Connie at: [conniestoker@gmail.com](mailto:conniestoker@gmail.com)

**Hotel Reservation Information:** Rooms are \$119/night with night-free WIFI. When making reservations, ask for the Altrusa International District Eight 2024 block. The deadline for holding the block is March 23, 2024. **When booking online, the promo code for the \$119 rate is 900.**

**Hilton Garden Inn**, 3320 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Salina, KS 67401 | 785.572.3507 844.208.1852 (additional hotel information next page)

**Online Registration:** Click the link below to register and pay by credit card. A convenience fee (approximately 4%) is charged for cc use.

<https://altrusadistricteight.regfox.com/2024-altrusa-district-eight-conference>



## ADDITIONAL HOTEL & CONFERENCE INFORMATION

- The hotel room rate does not include breakfast. You can purchase breakfast, but your Conference Registration will include a buffet breakfast on Friday and Saturday mornings. Sunday morning, you are on your own for breakfast. You can get it in the restaurant and bring it to Sunday morning meeting rooms.
- The hotel is conveniently located off I-135. If coming in on I-70, take the I-135 exit and proceed to the Water Well exit. Turn left on Water Well, then turn left on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and drive North to the hotel.
- A bar in the lobby has many spaces to sit, visit with old friends, and meet new ones.



**Some rules to follow so District Eight doesn't get fined. Please make certain to follow these rules so we don't get fined \$500:**

1. Permanent water bottles may be brought into the meetings and workshops but CANNOT be carried into the Friday evening event or the Saturday banquet. Only items purchased from the hotel can be brought into these events.
2. We will have coffee and hot tea for breakfast, but if you want another beverage, you must purchase it from the hotel.
3. Please be mindful that several members are highly allergic to dogs. Do not bring the animals into the Convention Center.

[Questions? Contact Brenda Smith at 785.822.5794 | brsmith53@cox.net](mailto:brsmith53@cox.net)

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## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE VISITOR-PRESIDENT *Linda Smith* EXHIBITS LIFE OF SELFLESS SERVICE



Linda K. Smith has been an Altrusan since 1990. She has been active on all levels of the organization. She served as local President in 1992 and completed a second term in 2017. Linda has held most local offices and committee chair positions.

On the District level, Linda has served as New Club Building Chair (2000-2001), Membership Chair (2001), Director (2002-2004), First Vice Governor (2004-2006), Governor-Elect (2006-2008), Governor (2008-2011), and Immediate Past Governor (2011-2013). She has also served several Governors as Parliamentarian. She served four terms as DSB Editor.

On the International level, Linda served as International Service Development Chair (2011-2013), International Nominating Committee Chair (2013-2015), Convention Function Coordinator for the 2015 International Convention in Kansas City, and District Eight Representative on the Altrusa International Centennial Committee. Linda served as International Director, International Vice President, and President-Elect. She was elected President of Altrusa International at the Convention in San Antonio in July 2023.

Linda is single and lives with her twin sister in Salina, KS, where they are both very active in community, state, and national organizations. Linda served as President of the local hospital auxiliary for four years and continues to serve as Scholarship Chair. She has also been President of two state-wide organizations, served four years on a national board, and recently completed a term as Chair of Humanities Kansas. She spends much of her time volunteering to make her community better! Professionally, Linda retired from the Eisenhower Presidential Library on March 31, 2023, after 51 years of federal service.

## CONFERENCE SERVICE LUNCHEON SPEAKER DEBBIE RIVERS

### *One Woman's Journey Takes Flight*

Debbie Rivers is the founder and Executive Director of Salina Shares. The generosity of spirit and acts of kindness are at the heart of this grassroots effort.

Salina Shares brings together businesses, churches, schools, civic organizations, individuals, and families to create a community of neighbors helping neighbors truly. It is also the driving force behind Laundry Love Salina.

In 2023, Laundry of Love paid for 4,367 loads of laundry for over 1,000 people and spent \$10,605 for the washing and drying. That doesn't include the food, water, and laundry supplies provided.

Salina Shares provided 53 move-ins for people starting over for a variety of reasons (domestic violence, out of prison, out of shelter, divorces, etc.) The move-ins include dishes, pots and pans, kitchen utensils and supplies, silverware, can openers, towels, pillows, sheets, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items. Coffee pots and toasters are included when they have them to give.

The organization also provided 7,344 SnackPacks-lunch bags with a main meal, such as canned pasta cups of noodles or boxed ready-to-eat tuna or chicken salad, fruit, pudding, cereal or granola bar, a small bag of peanuts, or some cheese and crackers. Other items provided include bus passes, socks, underwear, travel-size hygiene items, and laundry soap. They have also provided toilet paper, dish soap, cleaning supplies, blankets, coats, hats, scarves and gloves.

Debbie graduated from LIFE Bible College in Los Angeles. She and her husband, Steve, have two daughters and four grandchildren. In her free time, she enjoys time with her grandchildren, reading, writing, and acting of kindness adventures. She desires to encourage others through her life and her words.



## CONFERENCE LITERACY LUNCHEON SPEAKER KELLY MOBAY

### *Adult Education & Literacy: Supporting Students' Ability to Fly High & Succeed*

Kelly Mobray is the Director of Adult Education with Salina Public Schools. She has held this position for twenty-one years and came from Kansas City Kansas Community College, where she worked as a director under the same grant for two years.

Her degrees from Emporia State University include a Bachelor of Fine Arts in communication and a Master of Science in counseling with a concentration in student personnel services.

Kelly has served in leadership roles for the Kansas Adult Education Association and the Emporia State University Alumni Association and as a mentor for new program leaders under the Kansas Board of Regents.

Locally, she is involved with Southeast of Salina activities, the Trinity United Methodist Education committee, Heartland Early Education Policy Council, and a 20-year Altrusa International of Salina, KS member. Kelly is also a Poverty Simulation facilitator with the Saline County Coalition to Reduce Poverty.

Her greatest joy is her family, which includes her husband, Todd, her 16-year-old daughter, Rylee, and her 10-year-old son, Maxx. Four years ago, they built a house in Assaria just outside Salina, where they now enjoy the benefits of quiet, small-town living while still being close to a larger town.



## Conference To-Do List!

1. Make sure your **Group Talley is up to date** to determine the number of delegates you are allowed for the conference.
2. **Disseminate information** about the conference to all club members.
3. **Poll members** to see who is interested in attending.
4. **Fill out registration forms** and get them in the mail before the deadline!
5. Make your **hotel reservations**.
6. **Get delegate nominations** for club voting.
7. Have club members **discuss the issues to be voted on at the conference** so delegates will have input for discussion and voting.
8. Plan your **transportation, wardrobe, SILENT AUCTION DONATION, and service project** participation.
9. **Drive safely**, and we'll see you there!

## CONFERENCE AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED

**Altrusa International Awards:** *These three awards were updated last fall, so please use the new forms!*

- The International Board of Directors established the **Mamie L. Bass Community Service Award** in July 1963 to memorialize the first National President of Altrusa. The name was changed to the **Mamie L. Bass Service Award** by the International Board of Directors in July 1975. This award recognizes outstanding Club achievement in service to their community. <https://login.altrusa.org/files/2024/01/Mamie-L-Bass-Award-Criteria-Revision-10-2023-1.pdf>
- The **Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award** was adopted in 2003 as a memorial to the only International President who served two terms and focused on our organization's international aspect. This award recognizes outstanding club achievements in international relations. <https://login.altrusa.org/files/2023/11/Dr-Nina-Fay-Calhoun-Award-Criteria-Revision-10-2023-1.pdf>
- The International Board of Directors established the **Letha H. Brown Literacy Award** in July 1993 to honor Past International President Letha H. Brown, who introduced literacy as a major emphasis of the organization. This award recognizes your literacy efforts in your community. <https://login.altrusa.org/files/2023/11/Letha-H-Brown-Award-Criteria-Revision-10-2023-1.pdf>

## District Eight Awards:

- The **Governor's Distinguished Service Award** was established to recognize Clubs for long-term service projects that the Club continues to support. An eligible project must have been ongoing for at least five years and previously submitted for a Mamie L. Bass Service Award and the Letha H. Brown Literacy Award. Clubs can only submit one currently sponsored project that meets these criteria.
- The **Billie Jean Ward Fundraising Award** was established in 2018 to honor the longest-serving Altrusan in District Eight. This award recognizes outstanding Club fundraising achievement. It was established to encourage Clubs to develop fundraising projects in their communities to support their service projects and to encourage members of local Clubs to participate in fundraising projects actively.
- The **Rising Star Award** is awarded to an Altrusan who joined within the last three calendar years, has been an active local club leader, and has attended the District Conference. They should have demonstrated leadership as an Altrusan and made a difference to Altrusa.
- The **Marilynn J. Bell Humanitarian Award** was established to honor the exemplary leadership and contributions of a beloved Governor of District Eight from the Fayetteville, Arkansas Club, who served as Governor from 1990-1992. It is

designed to recognize an Altrusan who makes a lasting contribution to community service due to their involvement with Altrusa. Nominees must have a distinguished service record at the local, district, and international levels and be recognized beyond Altrusa International, Inc. as volunteers.

- The **Communications Award** is based solely on the quality and content of information and how useful your communication is for your members, enabling them to further their mission as Altrusans. If your Club publishes a traditional, paper-based newsletter or disseminates its information solely via e-mail or website, you should enter for this award.
- The **Club Yearbook Award** recognizes Clubs whose exemplary efforts keep their members easily informed about Altrusa using a single, up-to-date repository of information. It can be a traditional, paper-based yearbook or share its information solely electronically or by using a hybrid approach.
- **Conference Display:** Each Altrusa and ASTRA Club can set up a tabletop display (2 club displays per 6-foot table) to show projects, awards, public recognition, Altrusa Yearbook, brochures, and newsletters of the current Altrusa Year. The display board should be tabletop size and free-standing. Items may be laid on the table in front of the display. Have creative fun with it! Please reserve your spot with Marcia Demuth ([marcialdemuth@gmail.com](mailto:marcialdemuth@gmail.com)) by March 23.
- And don't forget the **ASTRA Service Award!** This award allows Altrusa International to recognize outstanding ASTRA Clubs for their service achievements. Every ASTRA Club is eligible to enter one (1) service project each year. Projects that are primarily fundraising projects are not eligible. Also, a project submitted for an ASTRA Service Award may not be submitted for the Mamie L. Bass Service Award or any other Altrusa award. ***This award application is due March 1!***

You can find the applications for the awards in the folder linked below:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vN0u26Kt2LBJ16nrAH-iJMxt68N04U7k>

## CONFERENCE AWARD JUDGING

All conference awards submissions are to be electronic. Please copy yourself on the email submission and request a return receipt. If hard copies are mailed, they MUST be received by March 23.

***The deadline for ASTRA Award submissions is March 1. All other awards must be received by March 23***

- **ASTRA Service Award** entries should be sent (by March 1) to the District ASTRA Chair

**Laura Marquardt**

[sugart1975@gmail.com](mailto:sugart1975@gmail.com)

827 Homestead Dr  
Moberly, MO 65270

*If mailing the award submission, include three copies to Laura.*

- **Mamie L. Bass Service Award** and **Letha H. Brown Literacy Award** entries are sent to the District Service Development Co-Chairs.

**Michele Nightingale**

[bluemnm@cox.net](mailto:bluemnm@cox.net) or [bluemnm13@gmail.com](mailto:bluemnm13@gmail.com)

50 Detroit Drive  
South Hutchinson, KS 67505

**Debbie Schmidt**

[dlschmid59@gmail.com](mailto:dlschmid59@gmail.com)

4716 W 26th St  
Lawrence, KS 66047

*If mailing award submissions for either of these awards, include three copies to each judge.*

- **Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award** entries go to Past Governor Penny Storms.

**Penny Storms**

[pensto53@gmail.com](mailto:pensto53@gmail.com)

16263 Sheffield Road  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

*If mailing award submission, include three copies to Penny.*



- **Governor's Distinguished Service Award** should be sent to these Past Governors for judging:

**Penny Daugherty**  
[pdaugherty415@gmail.com](mailto:pdaugherty415@gmail.com)  
3551 Lynnwood Drive  
Mexico, MO 65265

**Rebecca Wood**  
[rmwood0@yahoo.com](mailto:rmwood0@yahoo.com)  
3801 NE Oakbrooke Ave  
Bentonville, AR 72712

**Cynda Wright**  
[cynwri@cox.net](mailto:cynwri@cox.net)  
3402 Sandy Hollow Drive  
Hutchinson, KS 67502  
*If mailing award submission, mail one copy to each judge.*

- **Marilynn J. Bell Humanitarian Award** entries should be sent to Past Governor Peggy Hughes

**Peggy Hughes**  
[peggy@hughes2k.com](mailto:peggy@hughes2k.com)  
1306 East 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Hutchinson, KS 67502-5040  
*If mailing award submission, include three copies to Peggy.*

- **Rising Star Award** entries should be sent to our District Membership Co-Chair Janet Pierce.

**Janet Pierce**  
[janetdave@hotmail.com](mailto:janetdave@hotmail.com)  
3275 Sandstone Street  
Sedalia, MO 65301  
*If mailing the award submission, include three copies to Janet.*

- **Billie Jean Ward Fundraising Award** entries should be sent to District Eight Vice-Governor Christy Clift.

**Christy Clift**  
[drchristyclift@gmail.com](mailto:drchristyclift@gmail.com)  
1201 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chickasha, OK 73018  
*If mailing award submission, include three copies to Christy.*

- The **Communications Award** and the **Club Yearbook Award** entries (two separate awards) should be sent to our Communications Committee Co-Chairs and their team

**Sarah Akin, Governor-Elect and Co-Chair**  
[saraha1178@aol.com](mailto:saraha1178@aol.com)  
201 Hunters Ridge  
Jonesboro, AR 72404

**Diane Bielanski, Co-Chair and Webmaster**  
[dianebielanski@gmail.com](mailto:dianebielanski@gmail.com)  
57 Alteza Drive  
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

**Mary Mann, DSB Editor**  
[newcenturymary@gmail.com](mailto:newcenturymary@gmail.com)  
2333 Hummingbird Lane  
Fayetteville, AR 72703

**Julia Kohanek, Communications Committee Member**  
[jkohanek@uark.edu](mailto:jkohanek@uark.edu)  
6020 Clay Avenue  
Springdale, AR 72762

*If mailing award submission, mail one copy to each judge.*

## CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS-LEAPING LIZARDS THERE'S LOTS TO LEARN!-Governor-Elect Sarah Akin

It is always wonderful to meet other club members at our conferences and learn how they do their service projects, grow membership, and plan for the future. We learn about a few subjects at each gathering and return this valuable information to our local Altrusans. The conference offers a selection of workshops on Friday and Saturday, encouraging attendees to apply the knowledge at their local clubs. Through monthly ZOOM meetings with club presidents, Governor Lorraine has identified key topics for the April Conference in Salina, Kansas, based on their interests.

### Friday

- **Jumpin' Into Social Media and Marketing** of all kinds with an all-conference session on expanding marketing beyond Facebook to enhance social media and marketing efforts to reach potential new members and service groups.

#### Afternoon options:

- **Dive into Grant Writing:** A beginner-friendly session on grant application processes to support club and community projects.
- **Explore the Deeper Waters of International Service:** Guidance on growing or starting projects with global impact.

### Saturday

- **Swimming through Succession Planning and Mentoring:** This is a collective session on succession planning and mentoring to share experiences and strategies for effective mentorship and planning for future leadership. Whether we know it or not, we are probably also mentoring others. How can we assist the most as mentors or find a great mentor? As we develop succession plans and mentor each other, we will make those ripples of hope as we take bold strokes through what may seem like murky waters!

#### Afternoon options:

- **Plunge into District-wide Collaborative Service Projects:** There's no better way to add to your list of potential projects than to learn from other clubs and to collaborate and share in a district-wide project with other Altrusa and ASTRA Clubs.
- **Leap into a Long Lens Look at Your Club:** Leaping into some evaluation of your club's membership growth and engagement, leadership succession, club health, and service can help you develop a strategic plan that will inspire and unite your club in even more effective ways.

Let us know what questions you may have on these topics. We want to address your thoughts and concerns, and if there's specific information you want us to provide – let us know!

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## CONFERENCE SERVICE PROJECT-Ronda Robinson, Conference Service Project Chair

### SALINA SHARES-OUR MISSION

Generosity of spirit and acts of kindness are at the heart of Salina Shares. We are comprised of clusters of neighbors throughout our town in which community is unfolding as a way of life.

What began as group outings for random acts of kindness continues to grow into projects and outings to be a "sudden good break" to those we meet. We share what we can when we can to release hope, impact lives, and affirm the dignity of everyone we meet.

The mission of Salina Shares is to share our time, our lives, and our resources to enrich the lives of others. We invite individuals, businesses, churches, organizations, and schools to participate in building our community by sharing what we can with one another.

"Unrelenting disappointment leaves you heartsick  
but a sudden good break can turn life around.  
(Proverbs 13:12 from The Message)

"The world is changed by your example, not your opinion." Paulo Coelho

We ask members to bring the following items to the District Eight Conference. During the conference, we will assemble hygiene kits and food bags for Salina Shares to share with those in need in the Salina Community. Items needed are:

### Supplies for Hygiene Wraps

Hand towel  
Washcloth  
Small comb  
Bar of soap  
Small deodorant  
Toothbrush/toothpaste  
Nail clipper

### Supplies for Food Bags

Tuna Salad or chicken salad kit with crackers  
Canned pasta with tab opening or microwave mac-n-cheese with a can of beanie weenies  
Pudding Cups  
Fruit Cups  
Granola or Cereal Bars  
Small packets of peanuts (the best deal is Sam's)

Debbie Rivers, Executive Director of Salina Shares, will be our keynote speaker for our Friday lunch at the conference. Her story of how she started this organization is amazing and will pull at your heart.

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## DELEGATE INFORMATION-Jennifer McKeown, District Eight Secretary

Each club in the district should soon receive notification of the number of delegates and alternates your club is allowed for voting purposes at the district conference by District Eight Secretary Jennifer McKeown.

According to International Bylaws, "Each Club in good standing in International that has a total Active membership of fifteen (15) or less for whom dues have been paid to International, and to the District where applicable, shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and (1) alternate. For each additional fifteen (15) members or portion thereof, a Club shall be entitled to one (1) additional delegate and alternate up to a maximum of five (5) delegates and five (5) alternates."

The number of delegates and alternates allowed are based upon membership as of 2-14-24 and are as follows:

- 15 or fewer members – 1 delegate/1 alternate
- 16-30 members – 2 delegates/2 alternates
- 31-45 members – 3 delegates/3 alternates
- 46-60 members – 4 delegates/4 alternates
- 61+ members – 5 delegates/5 alternates

If your club has not received notification from District Secretary Jennifer McKeown by March 1, please get in touch with her at [jenncmckeown@gmail.com](mailto:jenncmckeown@gmail.com). The deadline for receipt of delegates' and alternates' names is 4-1-24.

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## ELECTION OF TREASURER-ELECT

For the first time in District Eight history, we will elect a Treasurer-Elect at our upcoming District Eight Conference. We have two candidates for this position: **Vickie Kilgore** from **Greater Kansas City** and **Diane Bielanski** from **Hot Springs Village**. Both meet the qualifications for this office. Please read their bios below and attend the District Eight Conference to vote for one of these ladies. The person elected will automatically become the District Treasurer in 2025. This position is a learning position to work with the current District Treasurer, so they are ready to step into the position in 2025. This is a non-voting position.



### TREASURER-ELECT NOMINEE **Diane Bielanski**

Diane A. Bielanski, a dedicated Altrusa International of Hot Springs Village, AR, Inc. member, has significantly contributed to the organization's growth and efficiency through various leadership and technical roles since joining.

Based in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, Diane has held the positions of Treasurer for two years, Director for four years, and served as President for two years before becoming the Immediate Past President for another two-year term. Since April 2021, she has been the Webmaster and took on the role of Communications Co-Chair in April 2023. Diane's technical expertise extends beyond her roles as she has been the Club Webmaster since June 2014 and has played a crucial part in

the Club Audit Committee for several years, in addition to her current role as BRR Chair.

Her technical understanding is evident in her work setting up the club's Treasurer's records using Quicken, a task she undertook with proficiency. She maintained the system throughout her tenure as Treasurer and continued to provide technical support. Diane's familiarity with Quicken dates back to 2007, showcasing her long-term engagement with financial management tools.

Diane's educational background includes a BA in Management Information Systems & Business Administration, earned in 2006, which has equipped her with a solid foundation in project management, leadership, and instructional roles. This education, combined with her practical experience, positioned her as a key member of a task force 2019 aimed at updating the Hot Springs Village Property Owners' Association (HSV POA) computer systems. Her consulting work, where she has taken on project management and leadership roles, further emphasizes her ability to work effectively with individual club treasurers and contribute to the organization's goals.

Through her diverse roles and responsibilities, Diane Bielanski exemplifies a commitment to service, leadership, and technological proficiency, making significant contributions to Altrusa International of Hot Springs Village and the broader community.

### **TREASURER-ELECT NOMINEE** *Vickie Kilgore*

Vickie Kilgore, a member of Altrusa International of Greater Kansas City, Inc. since 2017, has held various leadership positions within the club, including Secretary, President-Elect, and President. Currently serving as Past President, she has also taken on roles such as Membership Chair, Co-Editor of the club's newsletter, and Service Project liaison.



In District Eight, Vickie has served as the Service Chair and held liaison positions with organizations such as Support Our Soldiers and Days for Girls. With an extensive professional background in finance and accounting, including work for the Department of Defense and the University of Missouri Extension office, Vickie brings valuable expertise to her roles.

She is an active member of the Philanthropy Educational Organization (P.E.O.) Chapter DF in Plattsburg, MO, has held multiple positions, including President. Vickie is a widow with a daughter and two adult grandchildren.

## District Eight By-Law Change

### Article XI. Officers

#### Section 1. Elected Officers

- (a) The elected officers of this District shall be Governor, Governor-Elect, Vice Governor, Treasurer and Directors (optional). In each even numbered year the Conference Body will elect a Treasurer-Elect, who will assume the position of treasurer in the next odd-numbered year election. **The Treasurer-Elect is a non-voting position.**

**Rationale:** When this change was made, whether this was a voting or non-voting position was not indicated. The intent was that this would be a non-voting position, as it is a training position to assume the role of Treasurer during the next biennium. This change is to make it clear it is a non-voting position.

**Brenda Smith**  
BRR Chair



## 2024 CONFERENCE MARKETPLACE BOOTH APPLICATION

Share your talents with fellow Altrusans and generate funds for your club. Knit? Sew? Bake? Build? Craft? Have a collection? Let your creativity show! Proceeds benefit your Altrusa club. Please complete this form and return it by April 1. Each Altrusa club can use one or two six-foot tables.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Altrusa Club \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Describe items to be sold  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail or email your booth reservation to:

Marcia Mahoney, 2406 Blakemoore Dr., Salina, KS 67401 | [Mahoney\\_marcy@outlook.com](mailto:Mahoney_marcy@outlook.com)

*The deadline for booth reservations is April 1*

## 2024 CONFERENCE MEMORIAL SERVICE FORM

Please provide the following information for any member of your club who has died since the 2023 Conference. We want to honor them at our conference and celebrate their life. Please ensure your Treasurer updates the member's Group Tally record, too.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years as an Altrusa member \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Service as an Altrusan, including offices held  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please write a brief paragraph describing this person, their special qualities, and how this member impacted your club and community. This will be read during the Memorial Service. Please include a photo for use at the Memorial Ceremony.

Name of person submitting this form \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send the completed **form and photo** by April 1, 2024, to:

Past Governor Penny Daugherty at [pdaugherty415@gmail.com](mailto:pdaugherty415@gmail.com) and to

Governor Lorraine Brewer at [lbrewer@uark.edu](mailto:lbrewer@uark.edu)

Altrusa International District Eight Conference Schedule 2024			
Thursday	PM	12:00-8:00	Registration and Credentials Open
		2:00-7:30	District Board Meeting and Dinner
		8:00-9:00	Welcome to Conference
		9:15-10:00	Opening Ceremony Rehearsal (Flags, Choir)
Friday	AM	7:30-9:00	Registration and Credentials Open
		8:00-9:00	First Timers Event   Presidents' Chat with Governor
		9:30-10:00	Opening Ceremony and
		10:00-11:15	First Business Session
		11:15-11:30	Break
		11:30-12:00	All Conference Presentation
		12:00-1:30	Service Keynote Luncheon
		1:30-1:45	Break
		1:45-2:45	All Conference Workshop
		2:50-3:20	Candidate Forum
		3:30-4:20	Workshops
		4:30-9:00	Salina Exploration (Passport to Shop) and Friday Fun Night
Saturday	AM	7:45-8:45	Elections
		8:00-8:45	Past Governors' and Leadership Team's Breakfasts
		9:00-10:30	Second Business Session
		10:30-11:00	Conference Service Project
		11:00-11:30	Silent Auction and Marketplace Breaktime
		11:30-12:00	All Conference Presentation
		12:00-1:30	Literacy and Leadership Luncheon
		1:30-1:50	Chair Stretching Exercise Break
		1:50-2:50	All Conference Workshop
		3:00-3:50	Workshops
		3:50-4:30	Silent Auction and Marketplace
		5:30-6:45	Photos
		6:00-7:00	Reception
7:00-9:00	Closing Banquet		
9:00-10:00	Governor's Reception		
Sunday	AM	8:00-9:00	Conversation Café with District Leaders
		9:00-11:00	District Board Meeting

Schedule subject to change.

## OTHER DISTRICT NEWS

ALTRUSA International District Eight OPERATIONS BUDGET (Proposed) 2024-2025	
INCOME	PROPOSED BUDGET 2024-2025
<b><u>OPERATING INCOME</u></b>	
District Eight: Dues Current members	9,500.00
Conference Fees - District Eight Clubs	690.00
Conference Income - Board Basket Raffle or 50/50 Raffle	145.00
Bank Interest	-
<b>Checkbook Carry-Over</b>	2,000.00
<b>TOTAL Operations INCOME</b>	<b>\$12,335.00</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	
<b><u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u></b>	
Incorporation Expense (Missouri Secretary of State)	15.00
Surety Bond (Nationwide - E&O Insurance)	100.00
Governor-Elect Training (2024-25) (Should be \$850 Pay in June training in July)	850.00
Governor's Pin (2024-2025 Budget)	300.00
Mid-Year Board Meeting (Meeting Rms, Hotel, Meals & Mileage)	3,750.00
International Convention (2025-2026) (District Gov & Gov Elect)	-
Zoom Software License Fee	150.00
Group Tally/STRIPE Fees	-
Square Fees	20.00
Printing/Copies	50.00
Office Supplies	50.00
Postage	100.00
<b>Subtotal - OPERATING Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,385.00</b>
<b><u>CLUB SUPPORT EXPENSES</u></b>	
Club Visits by Board Members	2,000.00
New Club - Charter (charter banquet, incidentals)	450.00
New Club - Board support (travel and incidentals)	150.00
Club Revitalization	1,000.00
ASTRA - Revitalization Current Clubs	250.00
ASTRA - New Club Building & Board Support	400.00
Regional Workshops Sponsored by District Eight (Meeting Room)	290.00
<b>Subtotal - CLUB Support Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,540.00</b>
<b><u>CONFERENCE SUPPORT Expenses</u></b>	
District Eight Conference Deposit	1,000.00
Conference Registration for Workshop Presenters	600.00
Newest Member - at Conference Registration Fee Reimbursement	160.00
Honorarium - International Representative	50.00
Conference Awards 2024 (6 @ \$100)	600.00
<b>Subtotal - CONFERENCE Support Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,410.00</b>
<b>Total Operations Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,335.00</b>
<b>Net Operations</b>	<b>\$ —</b>

## TREASURERS REPORT-Connie Stoker

I cannot tell you what a thrill it is as a District Eight Treasurer to open each Group Tally auto email that tells me we have a **new Altrusa member!** I thank all the diligent club treasurers who collected the dues and promptly updated the Group Tally with the new members' information. Thank you! Thank you! This is a reminder to club treasurers and club membership committees that new members pay one-half-yearly due from December 1 through March 31. District Eight operates on the cash basis of accounting, as do many of the District Eight clubs. A brief Financial Statement is provided for your review. The District Eight Finance Committee met in January to begin budget planning for operations and the 2025 Conference. Please be sure to contact me with any questions.

<b>DISTRICT EIGHT Financial Statement</b>	
<b>Thursday, November 30, 2023</b>	
Bank of America Checking Account Balance	\$ 22,335.95
Bank of America Business Advantage Savings	\$ 1,000.05
Bank of America 7-month CD (APY 4.6% - maturity date 4/7/24)	\$ 20,000.00
Legacy Bank Account	\$ 2,448.71
<b>District Eight Assets as of 11/30/23</b>	<b>\$ 45,784.71</b>

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### CALL FOR NOMINEES FOR OUR DISTRICT EIGHT NOMINATING COMMITTEE!

Please consider nominating a Past President from your club to serve on the 2024-2026 District Eight Nominating Committee.

For your convenience, the form to submit your nominee is here in this DSB. We are eager to have great representation from all four states on this important committee, so please consider this potential service to our district.

The Nominating Committee is composed of three or more members (as determined by the District Board of Directors) elected by the members entitled to vote at Conference in nonelection years from a slate of one nominee from each Club.

The candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast serves as the chair. No club may be represented on two consecutive Nominating Committees. Committee members serve for a two-year term beginning with the close of the Conference at which they were elected. To be eligible for election to the Nominating Committee, a member must be an active member and must have served a term as President of a club. No member of the Nominating Committee is eligible to be slated for District Office while serving as a member of the Nominating Committee.

**Each club shall forward its candidate's name to the Governor by April 1 in the even-numbered year.** Candidates from eligible clubs not otherwise submitted to the Governor will be nominated from the floor during the District Conference.

In addition, our District will elect our **nominee for the Altrusa International Nominating Committee** at our District Eight Conference in April. The nominee must have served as an Altrusa Club President to be eligible. The Altrusa International Nominating Committee will be elected at the International Convention in July 2025. **Please submit the nomination form included in this DSB by April 1 for this election.**



## NOMINEE FOR ALTRUSA DISTRICT EIGHT NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Service as an Altrusan in your club, including offices held:

Roles Assumed at the district level:

Contact Information: Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Here are the eligibility requirements as described in Bylaws and Policies:

#### From District Eight Bylaws:

The Nominating Committee is composed of three (3) or more members (as determined by the District Board of Directors), elected by the members entitled to vote at Conference in nonelection years from a slate consisting of one (1) nominee from each Club.

- (i) The candidate receiving the most votes is the chairman. No Club may be represented on two consecutive Nominating Committees. Committee members serve for a two-year term beginning with the close of the Conference at which they were elected. The District Board of Directors fills vacancies.
- (ii) To be eligible for election to the Nominating Committee, a member must:
  - (aa) Be an Active Member, other Bylaws notwithstanding, and
  - (bb) Must have served a term as President of a Club.
- (iii) No member of the Nominating Committee is eligible to be slated for District Office while serving as a member of the Nominating Committee.

#### From District Eight Policies:

The slate of candidates for the Nominating Committee shall comprise one candidate from each Eligible Club. To be eligible to be slated, a candidate must have served at least a one-year term as club president before their nomination. Each Club shall forward its candidate's name to the Governor by April 1 in the even-numbered year. Nominations of candidates from Eligible Clubs not otherwise submitted to the Governor will be taken from the floor during the Conference. Each voting delegate shall vote for no more than three candidates. No cumulative voting is permitted. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be the committee chairman.

Eligible Clubs did not have a representative serving on the immediately preceding Nominating Committee.

Please send this form to Governor Lorraine Brewer by April 1: [lobrewer@uark.edu](mailto:lobrewer@uark.edu) | 2505 E. Golden Oaks Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72703

## NOMINEE FOR ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Service as an Altrusan in your club, including offices held:

Roles Assumed at the district level:

Contact Information: Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

The nominee must have served as an Altrusa club president to be eligible. Our District Eight Nominee will be elected at the 2024 District Eight Conference. The Altrusa International Nominating Committee will be elected at the 2025 International Convention.

Please send this form to Governor Lorraine Brewer by April 1: [lobrewer@uark.edu](mailto:lobrewer@uark.edu) | 2505 E. Golden Oaks Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72703

## CARES, CONCERNS & CONGRATULATIONS

We offer words of **Care and Condolences** to the following Altrusans:

**Altrusa International of Lawrence, KS**, on the loss of one of their members, **Kristin Scott**, on January 20, 2024  
**Tama Davidson** of Altrusa International of Salina, KS, and her family on the loss of her 9-year-old grandson, Nolan Davidson, on December 8, 2023, due to injuries from a serious car wreck. The following statement is from Tama and Bob Davidson.

*"Thank you all for your support, prayers, cards, texts, and everything you have done for our family. We could not imagine this ever happening, but it did and the outpouring of support, prayers, and love from District Eight Altrusan's has been overwhelming. You made a difference as we felt the support of worship during the time in the hospital and afterward.*

*Please continue to pray as we navigate recovery and the future without Nolan."*

**Altrusa International of Sedalia, MO**, on the loss of their Emeritus member **Frances A. Summers**, age 99, on December 21, 2023.

**Altrusa International of Lawrence, KS**, on the loss of their Emeritus member **Sidney Roedel**, age 88, on January 12, 2023.

**Altrusa International of Sedalia, MO**, on the loss of their past president, Carolyn Sue Foster, 80, on January 22, 2024.

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We offer **Congratulations** to:

**Altrusa International of Stillwater, OK** (Backpack Buddies), **Greater Kansas City** (Ronald McDonald House Charities Grab N' Go Bags), and **Jonesboro, AR** (A Library of My Own) on receiving grants awarded by Altrusa International Foundation during cycle one of 2023-2024.

**Valerie Derryberry of Altrusa International of Hot Springs Village** and her husband welcomed three new grandsons, ages 13, 12, and 7, to their family when her son, Scot Kimball, and his wife, Bree, adopted them on December 20, 2023.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### KEEP THAT DISTRICT EIGHT NEWS COMING! *Mary Mann*

Many thanks to everyone who takes the time to submit news for each *District Eight Service Bulletin* and for your patience with me as I acclimate to this task. I especially appreciate the guidance from Governor Lorraine and Diane Bielanski, district communications chair.



For those who submit articles, it would be a great time saver if you could offer your information using the following guidelines:

1. Following the Altrusa stylebook, we use the font "**Franklin Gothic Book**" for the newsletter; please use this font so we do not have to convert from random different fonts for insertion.
2. Please use 11 text size, single space between lines, and put only one space between sentences.
3. **Send your articles as MS Word files** – no PDF files. Photos should be attached to the email instead of embedded in it.

Submit your club news to Diane Bielanski at [dianebielanski@gmail.com](mailto:dianebielanski@gmail.com) by the deadlines below. All other information should be emailed to me (it doesn't hurt to copy Governor Lorraine) by the deadline: [newcenturymary@gmail.com](mailto:newcenturymary@gmail.com). See you in the news!

### 2024 DSB Deadlines

May 2024-Deadline is **May 10** | August 2024 is **Aug 10** | November 2024-Deadline is **Nov 10**

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February is **Kindness** Month, so keep track of those **Acts of Kindness** this month and report them to International and Governor Lorraine to be eligible for the **Governor's Kindness Prize**. **March 4 is the deadline** to report to Governor Lorraine.

- Feb 12 Presidents' Council Meeting, 7:30 pm on Zoom
- Feb 15 Cutoff for Membership Numbers to determine conference delegates allowed per club
- Feb 29 New Member Networking Event, 7:30 pm on Zoom
- Mar 1 Deadline for ASTRA Service Award submissions
- Mar 7 District Board Meeting, 7:30 pm on Zoom
- Mar 15 Grant applications for Round 2 Altrusa International Foundation  
ASTRA Scholarship Applications are due
- Mar 23 Early Bird Conference Registration deadline  
District Awards submission deadline
- Apr 1 Delegate Reports due  
Reservation for Marketplace Booth due  
Memorial Service Forms are due  
Nominations for Nominating Committees are due
- Apr 25-27 District Eight Conference, Salina, KS
- Jun 1 Club Annual Reports due to International

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

There will be a **New Member Networking event via ZOOM this winter**, so please watch out for your invitation if you became an Altrusan in this biennium. We want to celebrate you and provide a way for you to meet each other and ask questions you may have as you learn more about Altrusa and our service together.

Here are our new members since the last DSB was published:

Club	New Member	Sponsor
Lawrence, KS	Nancy Brandt	Sally Brandt
Hutchinson, KS	Karen Burgess	Peggy Hughes
Sikeston, MO	Desiree Warford	Gabbie Hodgkiss
Hot Springs Village, AR	Gail Dann	Lynda Grasse & Doris Michaelson
Fayetteville, AR	Kristi Button	Mary Mann & Lorraine Brewer



### DAYS FOR GIRLS UPDATE, *Vickie Kilgore*

This time of year is a wonderful time to reflect on the things we're most grateful for. This last year, Days for Girls (DfG) achieved an exciting milestone. Together, they reached 3000+ women and girls in 145 countries! Your contributions help ensure that periods no longer hold women and girls back from pursuing their dreams. As you celebrate the possibilities of new beginnings for 2024, may you feel inspired by the difference you're making as a DfG supporter. To donate, go to [daysforgirls.org](https://daysforgirls.org) and click the "GIVE" tab. Remember to leave a comment that you are with Altrusa International. Thank You!



## District Eight Club News

Thank you to our district clubs for sharing information about service projects, fundraisers, and club social events for this section. Please remember to mark your calendars and submit your club news for the next edition to [dianebielanski@gmail.com](mailto:dianebielanski@gmail.com) by **May 10**, and use the phrase 'Club News' in your subject line. Please also send your club's cares, condolences, and congratulations to [vickiekilgore@hughes.net](mailto:vickiekilgore@hughes.net).

### Altrusa International of Bentonville/Bella Vista, Arkansas, [Donates to the Local Gravette Library](#)



On Wed., Nov. 15, a check for \$457.16. was presented to Gravette Library for their E-magazine subscription. After the check presentation, the group went to the Sulphur Springs Library to see the exciting new changes and then to Leroy's Diner for lunch. Pictured below are Karen McAuley, Terri McClure, Sue Bentel, Karen Robbins, Gay Kiker and Pat Schrad

### Altrusa International of Emporia, Kansas [Awards Scholarships](#)

The Emporia membership presented scholarship checks to two students at their January meeting. Annie Vo is a first-generation college student majoring in Biology with a concentration in healthcare, a minor in Chemistry, and a minor in Sociology at Emporia State University. Annie was recognized as a Kansas Honors Scholar in high school. The second recipient was Sydney Douglas, a pre-nursing major at Emporia State University. Sydney achieved a 4.0 GPA throughout high school and has maintained it through college. Sarah Tidwell, President, Annie Vo, Sydney Douglas, and Bev Martin, our longest-serving Altrusa club member, are Pictured.



### Altrusa International of Fayetteville, Arkansas, [Supports Education in Kenya and Tanzania](#)

One of Altrusa International of Fayetteville, AR's hands-on projects truly involved its club theme, "Art of Service." Altrusan Melody Taylor spends most of her time in Kenya and Tanzania, volunteering in several rural schools and being a missionary. During her presentation to the club, Melody mentioned that none of the students had books. She copies the pages and colors them to be posted on the walls. The "Art" of service had members coloring the pages for her. We also donated two sets of alphabet books for her to take back with her when she returned to Africa. She sent pictures of the artwork on the wall and the students reading books.





## Altrusa International of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, Gathers Comfort Kit Supplies, Creates Bookmarks



**Above:** The Club always has social time before its monthly business meetings, and usually, that time is lively. In January, we had two mini-projects going on. Altrusans arrived laden with items to stock our Comfort Kits containing blankets, T-shirts and sweatpants, underwear, socks and slippers, toiletries, and a comforting note. The kits are distributed regularly to area hospitals for sexual assault victims, whose clothing is taken by police as evidence.



**HSV** Altrusan Mary Jane Weiss arrived with supplies to make bookmarks for our newest community project, *Birthday Books*. Many hands made the bookmarks in no time. Students at Mountain Pine Elementary School will get to pick their very own book for their birthday gift from a selection of books approved by the school; many of these students live in households where money to buy books is not an option. In February, Altrusa of HSV will begin reading to classrooms once a month at the end of the school day.

## Altrusa International of Jonesboro, Arkansas, Celebrates Holidays with a Book Distribution & Party



**Left:** Altrusa International of Jonesboro celebrated the holidays with a book distribution party for second-grade students at Leadership Magnet School. The school receives books four times yearly through the club's A Library of My project, funded by grants from the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. and Craighead County Community Foundation Giving Tree Fund.



**Right:** Altrusa members celebrated the holiday season with a Christmas party at member Barbara Clark's home. Members played games, exchanged gifts, and collected bedding and books for the local non-profit Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

## Altrusa International of Mexico, Missouri, Held Three Events in December and January

**Photo Below, Left:** On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the ASTRA members, along with some of the Altrusa club, helped out the Salvation Army by bell ringing. It always puts us in the Christmas spirit.

**Photo Below, Middle:** On December 14<sup>th</sup>, the club had its Annual Christmas Party. Each year, we collect items for a needy organization. This year, it was for the Central Missouri Community Action.

**Photo Below, Right:** On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Mexico club held a Bunco fundraiser. We had a great turnout, and everyone had fun.



## Altrusa International of Moberly, Missouri, Celebrated the 2023 Holidays



2023 marked the 39<sup>th</sup> year that Moberly's Altrusa Club has presented Christmas in the Park to the Moberly community, surrounding communities, and the state of Missouri. Christmas in the Park is a drive-through Christmas Lights display in Moberly's Rothwell Park, co-sponsored by Altrusa and the Moberly Parks and Recreation Department. Christmas in the Park contains about 300 displays, including animated displays, covering approximately a half mile within the park. These lights were on display from November 26-December 23. This year, over 4,000 cars visited the displays. This Altrusa project is supported entirely by free-will donations and businesses. Altrusa members worked at the Collection House every night from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., dedicating over 100 hours. Altrusans greeted each vehicle at the Collection House and accepted the free-will offering. A 21

Altrusa member committee handles the planning, management, and fundraising for Christmas in the Park. The city's Park & Rec Department provides the labor to set up and maintain the displays. There are other ways for the community to be involved with our project. The community can place an ornament on the Memorial trees to honor a loved one, an Angel Tree to honor babies who have passed on, and a recognition board displaying business and individual monetary contributions.



Our club also provided a Santa House in Rothwell Park, which coincides with Christmas in the Park. This is the only Santa House for the community to attend. It was open from December 13-December 16. Twelve Altrusan members worked the house for three hours each night. Our Moberly Astra Club assisted by providing six girls who worked alongside our members. Three hundred sixty-six children visited Santa (left), and 350 books (right) donated by that were freely given to the children who saw Santa. On the last night, participants were treated to Hot Chocolate and homemade cookies. One Altrusa member baked 200 cookies! Our Volunteer Santas were given Walmart gift cards for serving as Santa.

Altrusans assisted with 'Ringing the Bells' for the Salvation Army in front of Walmart in Moberly. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, our club had 16 members work varying shifts, totaling 9 hours for the day.

Our annual 'Cookie Fest' fundraiser exceeded our expectations this year. Each Altrusa member baked eight dozen cookies or candies and donated them for the fest. This fundraiser coincides with the City of Moberly's Christmas festivities and parade, held a block from where our club sells cookies. The club had a net income of \$3938 this year! Following the sale, 18 containers of cookies were donated to the Children's Division for their annual Christmas party in 2023.





## Altrusa International of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, [Makes and Supplies Items for the Needy](#)



Altrusa International of Poplar Bluff had a busy December as we participated in our annual Service Project of Santa Land, making tie quilts for needy residents and supplying hats, gloves, and scarves to Foster Adopt for children. We are looking forward to a busy 2024 and a good growth year. [Left](#): Poplar Bluff Altrusans delivering hats, gloves, and scarves to Foster Adopt Connections for children.

## Altrusa International of Rogers, Arkansas, [Distributes Dental Hygiene Bags to Pre-K Students](#)

Below are members of the Rogers Club filling bags with toothpaste, toothbrush, floss, and a *Tooth Fairy* book. Each year, we go to the Rogers Pre-K centers, distribute these bags, and do a dental screening for Pre-K students with parental permission. One of our members is a dentist, and she and some of her hygienists do a quick check of their teeth to let parents know if there might be a need to see a dentist.



## Altrusa International of Salina, Kansas, [Hosts Literacy Project](#)



Literacy remains a major focus for our clubs, and our recent projects concentrated on getting books into kiddos' hands. Our annual *Books A Million* book collection took place from mid-November to mid-December. The customers at *Books A Million* donated more than 600 books to Altrusa, which were then sorted and delivered to numerous agencies in Salina. We hosted an Altrusa table during a family night at Heusner Elementary and handed out books. During the city's Parade of Lights, we partnered with Kansas Wesleyan University and handed out books along the parade route. We look forward to seeing many of you in Salina in April for the District Eight Conference!

**Altrusa International of Sedalia, Missouri, Holds a Christmas Party**



Wonderful food! Karen read *The Night Before Christmas*. We shared our favorite Christmas memories and had a Christmas Gift Exchange. Numbers were drawn to pick a gift and then show it to the group. A gift could be “taken” three times. If it is “pinched,” you must take another gift. After the party, members put the gifts together for our Senior Lady and Senior Gentleman.



**Altrusa International of Sikeston, Missouri Shared Holiday Cheer with Adult Day Care Center**



Altrusans from the Sikeston club prepared gifts and refreshments for a special Christmas party for Columbia Center - Adult Day Care participants, one of their community partners.

**Altrusa International of Springdale, Arkansas, Makes Holiday Donations**



\$200 was given to Tree House Pantry to purchase hygiene products for students. Pictured are staff: Tisa, Stephanie, Mandie, and Janet.

A \$200 gift card to the movies was given to Jen Smith for the Compassion House Angel Tree. Instead of physical gifts, they wanted to gift the girls an experience.



\$500 was given to Robin Fairchild Elmdale Baptist Church for the Samaritan Center’s Program to shelter the homeless during bad weather.



\$100 was given to the LFP to provide OTC medication and food for needy kids and the homeless.





## Altrusa International of Greater Kansas City, Missouri, Wraps Gifts for Veterans Community Project

On Monday, December 11, 2023, nine members of Altrusa International of Greater Kansas City, Inc. and eight friends gathered at the Veterans Community Project (VCP) to wrap gifts for the residents of the Tiny Houses Village located in Kansas City, MO. VCP operates this village and has 49 homes for individuals and families of formerly homeless veterans of all branches of military service, as well as for other families serviced by VCP's Outreach Center. VCP provides comprehensive wrap-around social services. The concept has been so successful it is being replicated across the country. Villages are now open in St. Louis, MO, and Longmont, CO, with others coming soon to Sioux City, IA, and Oklahoma City, OK. Altrusans and friends also volunteer every Tuesday morning at the VCP food bank.



## Altrusa International of Lawrence, Kansas, Gathered Toys for Tots



The Lawrence Club had a fun Christmas get-together in December. Pictured are the over 60 toys members Jan Bulgren, Chris Day, Lori Michel, Elois Allan, and Karen Wycoff donated to our local Toys for Tots organization. We also played Bingo with white elephant prizes for the winners.

## Altrusa International of Stillwater, Oklahoma, Plays Santa

We have also been baking to raise money for our Backpack Buddies Service Project. Each month, we can partner with Nancy's Boutique to hold a bake sale, which brings in \$500 to \$600. We have some awesome bakers! Thanks to the Altrusa International Foundation for a grant. We are well on our way to raising the funds to give away 1000 backpacks and bags of snacks this summer.



## Altrusa International of Hutchinson, Kansas, Hosts Meal for Circles of Hope



Circles of Hope centers on low-income families often lacking financial advantages and a circle of social assets to guide them. It engages our community to equip families to permanently leave poverty through empowering relationships that build resources and address community-wide barriers. Its mission is to end poverty through empowering relationships and to work together as a community to remove the obstacles that keep people trapped in poverty.



**Left:** New member Karen Burgess (center) was initiated at the January meeting by the club's 50-year veteran member, Joan Arnold, and her sponsor, Peggy Hughes.



### **Altrusa International of Little Rock, Arkansas, Brings Christmas to the Needy**

Altrusans and prospective Altrusans helped the residents of The Gaines House celebrate the season, some attending the Christmas party for the ladies and guests. Altrusa provided a large selection of gifts for the residents to choose from. A soon-to-be Altrusan provided individual gourmet popcorn for each resident. Families, friends of the residents, Board members, and Santa Claus made merry with a great spread of catfish, chicken wings, fruit, chips, and various sweet treats. Several Altrusans also volunteered to help serve Christmas Eve lunch provided by the Matthew 25 group from Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. The included turkey and dressing, ham, green beans, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, and several different pies for dessert.

### **Altrusa International of St. Louis, Missouri, Renovates Library**

The St. Louis club was busy with service projects over the holidays. The club is proud to have renovated a library in the transitional living home at the Core Collective at St. Vincent, revamping and refreshing the space and the books. The club looks forward to continuing the partnership by providing new books of interest to the children. The club also unwrapped gifts at Good Shepherd Children and Family Services—this is an important task because all gifts must be unwrapped to be properly sorted and distributed to the residents and children in foster care. Laura Toledo took on the role of President of the club after the sudden passing of Mary Hoffman, and Susan Carpenter was elected Vice President.

### **Altrusa International of Dexter, Missouri, Plans Fundraiser**

Our club is planning a fundraiser, which is having a pampered chef party. All members invite 10 to 15 guests. We will have demonstrations, and food will be served. The money we raise goes to the two charities we have been helping for at least 12 years: "Laundry Baskets Full of Love" and UCAN. We did this last April and May, put it together in just a few days, and raised \$1500 for each charity. This year, we hope to triple that. We still help and support various needed funds for Dexter's services required. We give a scholarship to a worthy senior at graduation. We are looking into having a membership drive shortly. In May, we will be initiating a new member. So that is exciting. We are a small club, but we support our town, and more people are learning about our Altrusa club.

### **Altrusa International of Chickasha, Oklahoma, Donates Earnings to The Soup Kitchen**

January weather kept the Chickasha Club from our regularly scheduled meetings, but things just kept happening. We were able to distribute \$7000 to The Soup Kitchen as part of the funds from the 2023 Hall of Trees earnings and hope to have CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) attend our meeting in February to receive their funding. We plan to participate in the Friends of the Library Chocolate Festival fundraiser on February 13<sup>th</sup>, as we are one of the "founding organizations" and have participated every year since it started. Several members are also assisting with forming a club in Elgin, Oklahoma, approximately 40 minutes south down the interstate from Chickasha. Getting a larger enough group together may take a couple more meetings, but we're not giving up! Next will be our club's informational meeting night for prospective members on February 20<sup>th</sup>!

### **Altrusa International of Washington County, Arkansas, Collects Donations for Bedding**

In January, the Washington County Club met Keith Harris from Sleep in Heavenly Peace, learning about his initiative to provide beds for children without them. Starting in a garage in 2012 to build a bunk bed for a needy family, the project has expanded significantly. By the 2023 holidays, over 100 beds were delivered in Northwest Arkansas, with a backlog of 300+. Volunteers handle tasks from lumber preparation to on-site bed assembly. Contributions include bedding donations, purchasing through Walmart or Amazon, or cash donations, with each bed costing around \$250. With fewer than 20 volunteers on build and delivery days, the project's impact grows, fueled by social media. Washington County Altrusans aim to donate bedding, with specific links for contributions.

<https://www.walmart.com/registry/ER/9f762977-934c-4482-b6a8-9016d28970c6>

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1NR9F80D0WZQ0?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1NR9F80D0WZQ0?ref=wl_share)

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## 2023-2025 DISTRICT EIGHT BOARD LIAISONS

Club	Liaison	Board Position
Bentonville/Bella Vista	Sarah Akin	Governor-Elect
Chickasha	Lorraine Brewer	Governor
Dexter	Christy Clift	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Governor
Emporia	Lorraine Brewer	Governor
Fayetteville	Vickie Kilgore	Director
Fort Smith	Vickie Kilgore	Director
Greater Kansas City	Sarah Akin	Governor-Elect
Hot Springs Village	Laura Wijkowski	Director
Hutchinson	Lorraine Brewer	Governor
Jonesboro	Christy Clift	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Governor
Lawrence	Lorraine Brewer	Governor
Little Rock	Lorraine Brewer	Governor
Mexico	Sarah Akin	Governor-Elect
Moberly	Sarah Akin	Governor-Elect
Poplar Bluff	Christy Clift	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Governor
Rogers	Laura Wijkowski	Director
Salina	Lorraine Brewer	Governor
Sedalia	Sarah Akin	Governor-Elect
Sikeston	Christie Clift	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Governor
Springdale	Lorraine Brewer	Governor
St. Louis	Vickie Kilgore	Director
Stillwater	Laura Wijkowski	Director
Washington County	Lorraine Brewer	Governor