

DISTRICT EIGHT SERVICE BULLETIN

Biennial Theme: *Leaping Into Service!*

Vol 66, Issue 4 February 2025

I am privileged and excited to extend this
personal invitation to you for our 69th
Annual District Eight Conference
April 25-April 27

Leaping Into Service!

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE,
Lorraine Brewer



Please plan to join us in Olathe, Kansas, at the beautiful Embassy Suites Kansas City/Olathe hotel from Friday evening, April 25, through our Sunday Celebration of Service Luncheon on April 27.

Our conference theme is *Game On, Altrusa!* The Greater Kansas City Altrusa Club and friends in our Missouri Altrusa Clubs

have been preparing an amazing conference for us. Please prepare now for a road trip to the greater Kansas City area to join us! What could be better than an April road trip with Altrusa friends? A weekend away can be so renewing, and time spent with Altrusa friends is always exceptionally inspiring and fun!

You now have the information for our conference in your possession! Please bring a copy of this DSB on your device to our gathering, as it will give you a quick reference as we "get our game on" and experience this district conference together. **To avoid late fees, register for our conference by March 23.** 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 again, 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 serve even more effectively as we complete our current Altrusa year and begin a new biennium.

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*. Information on all the awards is in this DSB and our District Eight Google Drive.

Surely, someone in your club would enjoy using their creative gifts to

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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 **Literacy 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. We had such fun with this last year, and I can't wait to see what you design this year!

Then there's that other creative gift to consider. If you enjoy singing, please join the **Altrusa Conference Singers**, who will help us celebrate during the Opening Ceremony. We rehearse briefly after the Welcome to Conference Reception. Let me know your intent so I can send you information beforehand.

Be sure to pack your **Altrusa Club banner** and select someone from your club to join in the parade of banners, which will celebrate each of our clubs and their years of service. We encourage your **First Timers** to conference to join the parade with you and be recognized during that opening ceremony.

We Altrusans love to shop and support each other while doing so! 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, 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. We will have Book Lovers bags and baskets for sale, too.

Please read this **"Call to Conference"** to learn more about our conference schedule. Here are a few highlights!

- If you arrive early, you can get your game on with other Altrusans during the pre-conference activities planned for you.
- The *Welcome to Conference Reception* will be a fun way to greet each other again as we begin our conference with an evening of music, fun mingling, desserts, and drinks. It's casual, so just come as you are after your travels.
- We will be honored this spring to have our Altrusa International Treasurer, Bettina Schempf, from Corvallis, Oregon, as our distinguished International Representative for the conference. What a privilege that is for us! You'll want to meet her and get to know her.
- 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 during this biennium!
- We will enjoy an amazing keynote speaker at our *Literacy and Leadership Luncheon* on Saturday. You are encouraged to invite guests to join us and share your club's Literacy Centerpiece.
- There will be a fun photo opportunity and reception before the Installation Banquet, followed by hospitality in the Governor's Suite to end our Saturday evening.
- Sunday morning will feature great workshops and our memorial service, culminating in a Celebration of Service Luncheon to close our conference. You won't want to miss a moment of our conference, and you'll have much to share when you return home.

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 Olathe!**

ALTRUSANS ROCK - CREATE OPPORTUNITIES, CREATE KINDNESS

Linda Smith, International President



The holidays are now behind us, and my favorite season is approaching – District Conference Time! I love that we gather yearly at district conferences to celebrate our accomplishments for the past year, see friends we haven't seen since the last conference, and have a chance to make new Altrusa friends.

I encourage each Altrusan to attend a district conference. The districts have great workshops on Altrusa topics, and many also offer other issues. 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. At the district conference, you can see Altrusa's broader scope.

Each district will have an Altrusa International Representative (either an officer or director) at their conference. Take the time to visit with them. They are there to tell you about Altrusa, meet you, and discuss any concerns you may have with the International Board. I send best wishes for an outstanding Conference.

Olathe, Kansas | April 25-27, 2025



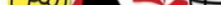
As the current President of the Greater Kansas City Club, I invite you to join us in Olathe, Kansas (part of the Greater KC metroplex) at the Embassy Suites from April 25 to 27, 2025, as we host the 2025 District Eight Conference. This year's conference boasts of a shortened and streamlined schedule, but if you plan your arrival for Thursday evening, there are many establishments you can visit for a meal, shopping, etc. Conference activities begin on Friday afternoon, and there will be a welcome night where you'll see gaming areas set up around the hotel for you to enjoy, or you can sit and listen to the music and have a little nosh or libation. Conference check-in and registration materials will be available for pickup on Friday and Saturday. Welcome to Kansas City and prepare to "GAME ON!"




We hope you are all as excited as we are to host you as we connect with new and long-time Altrusa friends at the 69th Annual District Eight 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 about Altrusa. In addition to fun and fellowship, the Conference provides time for collaboration and personal revitalization.



- Altrusa Pin
- Club Banner
- Club Display-**reserve your table with Regina Irwin** at irwin6225@gmail.com
- Silent Auction Items (to benefit the International Foundation) conniestoker@gmail.com
- Service Project Items (see article in this issue)
- Cash, Credit Card, Checkbook for Altrusa supplies, silent auction, and Club 21

 As always, the Altrusa Store will be open, where you can purchase Altrusa pins and supplies from Doc Morgan. We will also have silent auction items donated, with the proceeds donated to the International Foundation. If your club wants a sales table at the Altrusa Marketplace (at the same location as the Silent Auction items and Altrusa Store), please complete your **Reservation Form** as soon as possible and return it as directed.

Home Club: Altrusa International of Corvallis, Oregon, District Twelve



Her professional career includes financial management, project management, and general management positions in for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. Since 2013, she has been the executive director of a large nonprofit organization serving the community with early childhood, child abuse prevention, mental health, and pediatric occupational therapy services.

After completing a business degree in English, French, and German in Frankfurt, Paris, and London, her working career

started in Berlin, Germany. It took her to Wellington and Auckland in New Zealand from 1993 to 2006 before moving to Corvallis, Oregon, with her husband Jeff in August 2006. Bettina also volunteers as a court-appointed special advocate for foster children and is the treasurer of her local Toastmasters Club. She enjoys cycling, hiking with her husband locally and internationally, and playing with her golden retriever, Cadence. She can frequently be found with a good book or puzzle, especially when the weather is inclement outside.

KEYNOTE LUNCHEON SPEAKER WILL SHARE WIT & WISDOM

Dan Meers has been the mascot of the Kansas City Chiefs, KC Wolf, for over 30 years! In 2006, he was selected as the first NFL mascot to be inducted into the Mascot Hall of Fame.

Dan travels throughout the United States and the world, entertaining thousands of people in and out of costume. He has performed in over 40 states and 12 different countries. He is in high demand as a mascot and a humorous and motivational speaker to audiences of all ages. His enthusiasm, optimism, and love for life are contagious and make Dan an inspiration to all those he meets. Whether young or old, executive or blue-collar, his audiences walk away with a smile and a renewed spirit to live life to the fullest. Whether you're a Kansas City Chiefs fan or not, you'll enjoy Dan Meers as he shares his unique wit and wisdom about life.



Golf – Game On!

Reservations are due by April 1

Welcome to the Altrusa Conference and a game of golf. Terry Hart has arranged a golf outing for Friday, April 25. After golf, the players may enjoy dinner as the restaurant on site is fabulous. He plans to arrange tee times at Lady Sykes, a city course in Overland Park, KS. It's just a quick 15-minute drive from the Conference Hotel. For pricing and course information, please use the link below.

For additional information or to make the golfer's reservation, please contact Terry.Hart1957@gmail.com by April 1. Terry's cell number is 913.888.4148. <https://golfop.com/golf-facilities/sykes-lady/>

2025 DISTRICT EIGHT CONFERENCE SERVICE PROJECT—KIDS AND BOOKS!

Jane Hart, International Foundation Chair

The Greater Kansas City Altrusa Club has supported The Upper Room in many ways over the last 20 years. It will be no surprise to Altrusans that kids nationwide consistently read below age level and often lose their reading ability over the summer.

The Upper Room operates a seven-week summer academic program for kids aged five to 14 at 13 different sites in the inner city of Kansas City. We provide each scholar with at least one age-appropriate, diverse book to take home. The teachers always ask permission to hold the books in their classrooms until the end of the program to create more of a library for their classrooms.

We ask that members bring one or more books (preferably new but also very gently used) to be used in the Upper Room's Summer Academic Program. A recommended list of titles by age range is included below. Alternatively, a member or club can send a check, payable to Altrusa International of Greater Kansas City Foundation, Inc., or Venmo, as a donation to the club. The proceeds will be used to purchase books. During our limited time at the conference, the hands-on work will be to add labels to the inside covers and colored stickers indicating reading levels on the outside of the books. Greater Kansas City will provide the labels. See more information on The Upper Room's Summer Academic program and the Venmo account by clicking on these QR codes:



UPPER ROOM



GKC VENMO



2025 District Eight Conference Service Project Recommended Books to Donate

K – 2

Pete the Cat series
The I Can Read series
Step into the Reading Series
Ready to Read series
Princess Truly series
Flat Stanley series
Star Friends series
Yasmin series

3-5

Dogman series
Diary of a Wimpy Kid series
Captain Underpants series
Dork Diaries series
J D and the Great Barber Battle series
Jada Jones series
Junie B. Jones series
Elray Jakes series
Zoey and Sassafras series
Big Nate series
Keena Ford and the Secret
Journal books
Honest June series

Bailey, a Magical School for Girls series
Unicorn Academy series
Amari and The Despicable Wonders
Invincible Girls Club
The Questioners Chapter Books series
Clubhouse Mysteries series
Judy Moody series
The Bad Guy series

Middle School

A Comb of Wishes – Lisa Stringfellow
Amari & the Despicable Wonders-
BB Alston
Be Real, Macy Weaver-Lakita Wilson
Bee Fearless Dream like a Kid-
Mikaila Ulmer
Believe -Julie Mathison
Best at It - Maulik Pancholy
Boundless - Chaunte Lowe
Boy 2.0 – Tracey Baptiste
Chester Keene Cracks the Code—
Kekla Magoon
Free Throws, Friendships, and Other
Things
Fouled Up – Jenn Bishop
From the Desk of Zoe Washinton-Janae
Marks
Gabby Garcia's Ultimate Playbook –
Iva Marie Palmer
Hands - Torrey Maldonado
Invisible - Christina Diaz Gonzalez
J.D. and the Great Barber Battle - J.
Dillard
Miles Morales Suspended - Jason
Reynolds
Millicent Min Girl Genius – Lisa Yee
Not Your All-American Girl – Madelyn
Roseburg and Wendy Wan-Long
Shang
Onkyeka and the Academy of
the Sun-Tol Okagwu
Operation Sisterhood - Olugbemisola
Rhuday-Perkovich
Pizza My Heart – Rhiannon Richardson
Secret Library - Kekla Magoon
Serena Says – Tanita S Davis
Slay - Brittney Morris
Squad Goals – Erika Kendrick
The Academy – T.Z. Layton
The Buzzer Beater- Lane Walker
The Key House - Mike Curtis
The Parker Inheritance – Varian
Johnson

Secret Library - Kekla Magoon
Serena Says – Tanita S Davis
Slay - Brittney Morris
Squad Goals – Erika Kendrick
The Academy – T.Z. Layton
The Buzzer Beater- Lane Walker
The Key House - Mike Curtis
The Parer Inheritance – Varian
Johnson
The Rhythm of Time - Questlove with
S.A. Cosby
The Season of Styx Malone - Kekla
Magoon
The Stars Beneath Our Feet – David
Barclay Moore
The Storm Blitz – Lane Walker
Tight– Torrey Maldonado
Tumble - Celia C. Perez
Twins – Varian Johnson
The Rhythm of Time - Questlove with
S.A. Cosby

The Stars Beneath Our Feet – David
Barclay Moore
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Magoon

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT EIGHT ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 Tentative Schedule



Friday, April 25

10:00 – noon	Conference Room	District Eight Board Meeting
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Off-site and porch	Pre-Conference activities
2:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Pre-function Space	Registration/Credentials
	Salon F	Set up for Marketplace/Silent Auction/Store/Club displays
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Off-site	Dinner – Past Governors, District Board, Leadership Teams, Conference Co-Chairs
		Young Adult Mixer
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Embassy Cafe	Welcome to Conference Reception
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Pre-function Space	Rehearsal for Opening Ceremony (Flags, Choir)
9:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Salon DE	Set up for Marketplace/Silent Auction/Store/Club displays
9:00 – 11:00 p.m.	Salon F	

Saturday, April 26

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Pre-function Space	Registration/Credentials Open
8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Salon C	First Timers' Event
8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Conference Room	Conversation with Governor and Presidents
8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Salon F	Silent Auction and Marketplace Open
9:00 – 10:45 a.m.	Salon DE	Opening Ceremony and First Business Session
10:45 – 11:30 a.m.	Salon DE	Candidates' Forum
11:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Salons DE/F	Break for Silent Auction and Marketplace; Centerpieces set up
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Salon DE	Literacy and Leadership Luncheon
1:30 – 2:15 p.m.	Salon C	Break for Voting and Speaker Photo-op
2:15 – 3:30 p.m.	Salon DE	Second Business Session
3:30 – 4:15 p.m.	Salon DE and Salon C	Concurrent Workshops
4:15 – 5:00 p.m.	Salon F	Conference Service Project
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Salon F	Silent Auction and Marketplace
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Pre-function Space	Reception and Photos
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Salon DE	Installation Banquet
9:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Governor's Suite	Governor's Reception

Sunday, April 27

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Restaurant Reception	Past Governors' Breakfast
8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Salon DE	Conversation Café with Leadership Teams
	Conference Room	Pick up Silent Auction items and Club displays
9:00 – 9:45 a.m.	Salon DE	All Conference Workshop
9:45 – 10:30 a.m.	Break	Checkout during this break
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Salon DE	Celebration of Life Memorial service
11:00 – 11:45 a.m.	Salon DE	All Conference Workshop
11:45 – Noon	Break	
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Salon DE	Celebration of Service Lunch; Closing Ceremony
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Conference Room	Post Conference Board Meeting

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Each year at our district conference, we learn with each other and return to our clubs, taking valuable information to our local Altrusans. Our conference offers workshops on Saturday and Sunday, encouraging participants to leave with useful insights for their clubs. These topics, explored at our April conference, through monthly ZOOM meetings with club presidents and quarterly leadership team meetings, aim to be helpful for you and your Altrusans.

Saturday Workshops are two concurrent opportunities that afternoon:

Embracing Change Leadership: Learning From Our Legacy and Leaving Our Comfort Zones

Grow your club's willingness to embrace the energy of change, by taking a **leap into a long lens look** at your club's health, growth, engagement, leadership succession, and legacy of service. This workshop will help you develop a plan that will inspire members to leave that comfort zone and risk a growth mindset.

OR

One World: Collaborating in International Service

Develop your ability to **dive into the deeper waters of International Service** through collaborative efforts. Our International Projects Task Force and experienced Altrusans will help you explore the potential for developing a service that will impact others worldwide.

Sunday Workshops are both All-Conference Workshops:

No One Is Born a Leader: Becoming an Effective Leader

As leaders, let's build confidence as we **plunge into potential leadership opportunities**. We'll share areas for personal growth in effective leadership and ideas for encouraging emerging leaders in our clubs and district.

Team Building with Bettina Schempf: Uniting for Stronger Service

Let's learn how to build stronger, more united teams of Altrusans, enabling us to enlarge those ripples of hope through our growth in service and taking bolder strokes as we **swim through succession planning and mentoring**.

HISTORICAL ALTRUSA CHARM NECKLACE TO BE AUCTIONED

Betty Ruth Jackson, a distinguished architect, civil engineer, and Past Governor of District Eight (1992-1994), was an Altrusan for 28 years. She was the first woman civil engineer at Oklahoma University and the first female president of the American Consulting Engineers Council. Her notable projects include Will Rogers World Airport and many military and civilian airports nationwide. She passed away at the age of 96 in 2023. To honor her legacy, an Altrusa charm necklace she created will be auctioned at the District Conference, with proceeds supporting women's education in engineering at Oklahoma University.

A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR SOMEONE IN YOUR ALTRUSA CLUB!

Our district has an opportunity for an Altrusan to be nominated for the Altrusa International Foundation Board. They will be chosen at our District Conference in April, and the election will be held at the Altrusa International Convention in July 2025.

Our foundation board liaison, Jane Hart, can provide helpful information for you or your club's potential nominee. Jane says the board's biggest need is someone with a strong finance background, which means bookkeeping, use of QuickBooks, and auditing experience. Another needed bit of expertise is for someone with investment experience. It is a working board, not just one with honorary positions.

From International Foundation: In planning for the future, the Foundation Board has changed the eligibility requirement and identified specific skills needed to continue the momentum. Eligible nominees will have served their local Altrusa Club or Local Club Foundation as treasurer and president/chair. We also ask for your help in identifying and nominating individuals for the Foundation Board with expertise in finance, fundraising, grant review and administration, marketing, or public relations. We especially need individuals with a finance background as Trustees as that expertise will be retiring from the Board.

Board meetings are conducted via Zoom, and records, meeting information, etc., are kept and transmitted electronically, so individuals should be computer literate. As always, we are seeking Altrusans with a heart for service. In addition, we have extended the deadline to submit your nomination to give you additional time to identify and recruit individuals with these skills. We have moved the date for nominations to be forwarded to after the District Conferences of the Convention year. Therefore, nominations are due by May 31, 2025, in the current biennium. **Please talk this over in your club and send Governor Lorraine the name(s) of anyone interested in the possibility of service in this important role.**

Altrusa International, Inc
69th Annual District Eight Conference

Friday, April 25, Saturday, April 26
& Sunday, April 27, 2025

Embassy Suites Kansas City/Olathe



REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____
Address _____
Club Name _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Past Governor ☐
International Rep ☐
ASTRA Member ☐
First Timer ☐
Guest ☐

NO Refund after **APRIL 13, 2025**

Early Registration Discount by **March 23, 2025**

NO Partial Conference Registrations in 2025

Dietary Needs: Diabetic _____ Vegetarian _____ Other _____

<u>2025 Conference</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u># NEEDED</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Early Full Registration by Mar 23	\$200.00	_____	_____
Early First Timer Registration by Mar 23	\$180.00	_____	_____
Late Registration (after 3/23/2025)	\$240.00	_____	_____
<u>Extra Meal tickets for guests</u>			
Saturday Literacy Luncheon	\$50.00	_____	_____
Governor's Banquet	\$60.00	_____	_____
Sunday Celebration Luncheon	\$40.00	_____	_____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED _____

Checks Payable to: **Altrusa District Eight**

Mail to: **Connie Stoker, 6339 Serenade Dr., Lawrence, KS 66049** 314-225-6101

Embassy Suites Olathe 10401 S Ridgeview Rd, Olathe, KS66051

Reservation Desk: **913-353-9280** (Group Code ALT) HotelLink: [Embassy Reservations](#)

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

2025 Conference Registration & order Guest meal(s) by Credit Card:

Use the link below to use a Credit Card to pay for Conference Registration and Guest Meals.

Pay Online: [Credit Card Registration Link](#)

(Convenience fee charge - approx. 4%)

2025 Conference Hotel Information:

Friday, April 25, Saturday, April 26 and check out on Sunday, April 27, 2025

Embassy Suites Kansas City/Olathe

Room Rate is \$184.00/night

Hotel Address and Reservation link:

Embassy Suites Olathe 10401 S Ridgeview Rd, Olathe, KS 66051

Reservation Desk: 913-353-9280 (Altrusa Group Code ALT)

Hotel Link: [Embassy Reservations](#)

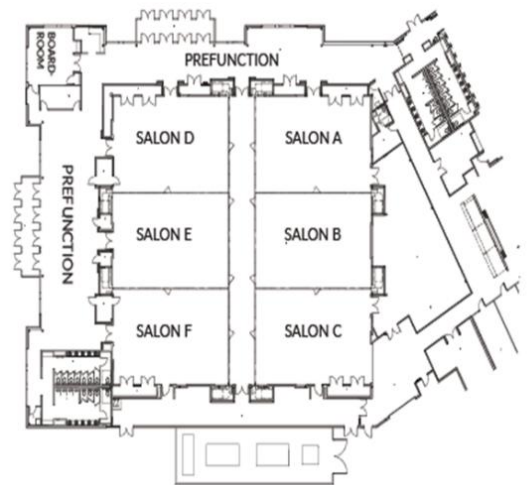
- The hotel is conveniently located off K-10 at the Ridgeview Road exit. Go right off the exit ramp and turn left at 105th Street.
- The hotel room rate includes breakfast and complimentary evening reception.
- The hotel has free parking and free Wi-Fi.
- Rooms are suite style with another bed in living area.

Some rules to follow so District Eight doesn't get fined.

1. Only hotel food provided by the hotel is permitted in the meeting rooms.
3. Please be mindful that several members are highly allergic to dogs.
Please do not bring the animals into the Convention Center.

Questions? Contact Lorraine Brewer at 479-466-7610 | lobrewer@uark.edu

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL LAYOUT



INFORMATION FOR CONFERENCE AWARDS SUBMISSIONS

Altrusa International Awards: *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/2024/02/Mamie-L-Bass-Award-Criteria-Revision-Feb-2024.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/2024/10/Dr-Nina-Fay-Calhoun-Award-Criteria-Revision-2-2024-2.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/2024/02/Letha-H-Brown-Award-Criteria-Revision-2-2024.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 community fundraising projects to support their service projects and encourage local club members to participate actively in fundraising projects.
- The **Rising Star Award** is awarded to an Altrusan who has been an active local club leader and has attended the District Conference. They should have demonstrated leadership as Altrusans and made a difference for 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. The yearbook can be traditional, paper-based, share its information solely electronically, or use a hybrid approach.
- **Club Display:** Each Altrusa and ASTRA Club can set up a tabletop display for the conference. It may include but is not limited to sharing your projects, awards, public recognition, Altrusa Yearbook, brochures, social media posts, and newsletters of the current Altrusa Year. The display board should be tabletop size and free-standing. Items and innovative expressions of your club's efforts and recognition may be used in your display. Have creative fun with it! Please reserve your spot with Regina Irwin at irwin6225@gmail.com and refer to the NEW criteria approved this year.
- 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!

Click on the link below for applications for each award:

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

CONFERENCE AWARD JUDGING

All conference award submissions must 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 our District ASTRA Chair

Laura Marquardt

sugart1975@gmail.com

827 Homestead Dr

Moberly, MO 65270

If mailing award submission, include 3 copies to Laura

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

Michele Nightingale

bluemnm13@gmail.com

50 Detroit Drive

South Hutchinson, KS 67505

Debbie Schmidt

dlschmid59@gmail.com

4716 W 26th St

Lawrence, KS 66047

If mailing award submissions for either of these awards, include 3 copies of each

Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award entries go to Past Governor Penny Daugherty and International Projects Taskforce Member Connie Brown

Penny Daugherty
pdaugherty415@gmail.com
3551 Lynnwood Drive
Mexico, MO 65265

Connie Brown
cbrown0719@aol.com
90 Pimlico Dr.
Bella Vista, AR 72715
If mailing award submission, include 3 copies to Penny and Connie

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

Penny Storms
pensto53@gmail.com
16263 Sheffield Road
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Patie Fielding
littlepate.fielding19@gmail.com
22 Glenmoor Place
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

Debbie Holesko
debbie.holesko@gmail.com
6705 NW 134th St
Oklahoma City, OK 73142
If mailing award submission, mail 1 copy to each judge

Marilynn J. Bell Humanitarian Award entries should be sent to Past Governor Rebecca Wood

Rebecca Wood
rmwood0@yahoo.com
3801 NE Oakbrooke Ave
Bentonville, AR 72712
If mailing award submission, include 3 copies to Becky

Rising Star Award entries should be sent to our District Membership Co-Chair, Tama Davidson

Tama Davidson
tsbdavidson@yahoo.com
2621 Linda Lane
Salina, KS 67401
If mailing award submission, include 3 copies to Tama

Billie Jean Ward Fundraising Award entries should be sent to District Eight Director and Treasurer-Elect Vickie Kilgore

Vickie Kilgore
vickiekilgore@hughes.net
5425 SW County Line Road
Trimble, MO 64492
If mailing award submission, include 3 copies to Vickie

The Communications Award entries should be sent to our Communications Committee Members:

Diane Bielanski, District Webmaster and Co-Chair
dianebielanski@gmail.com
57 Alteza Drive
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

Julia Kohanek, Communications Committee Member
jkohanek@uark.edu
6020 Clay Avenue
Springdale, AR 72762
If mailing award submission, mail 1 copy to each judge

The Club Yearbook Award entries should be sent to our Communications Committee Members:

Sarah Akin, Governor-Elect and Co-Chair
Saraga1178@aol.com
201 Hunters Ridge
Jonesboro, AR 72404

Mary Mann, DSB Editor
newcenturymary@gmail.com
2333 Hummingbird Lane
Fayetteville, AR 72703
If mailing award submission, mail 1 copy to each judge

2025 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:

Regina Irwin, irwin6225@gmail.com, 7800 West 123rd St., Unit 205, Overland Park, KS 66213

The deadline for booth reservations is April 1

2025 CONFERENCE MEMORIAL SERVICE FORM

Please provide the following information for any member of your club who has died since the 2024 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** to:

Past Governor Becky Wood at rmwood0@yahoo.com and Governor Lorraine Brewer at lobrewer@uark.edu

2025 FOUNDATION SILENT AUCTION RESERVATION

We will hold a Silent Auction at the District Eight Conference to raise funds for the Altrusa International Foundation. Your donations and generosity will allow more Altrusa Clubs to receive an International Foundation Grant to support their projects, scholarships for ASTRA graduates, Disaster Relief, and other services to our clubs and communities. Thank you for your support!

Your Name: _____

Club _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Description of Donation(s):

Approximate Value of Item(s): \$ _____

Please send your response by **APRIL 1** to Connie Stoker, conniestoker@gmail.com, 6339 Serenade Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049

SHARING THE JOY OF ALTRUSA AWARD

We all know the joy of serving and growing personally as we share with other Altrusans and leap into service together. Let's spread the joy! This new Governor's award will go to **clubs that have tried something new to share the "Joy of Altrusa" with prospective Altrusans**. It's time to innovate and to act!

There are lots of ideas at <https://login.altrusa.org/membership/> and in recent newsletters, too. It's ½ year dues time, so it's a great time to initiate new Altrusans. We even want to give you money through our "Revitalization Fund," so send me that application so we can help you with \$100 to fund a new event or recruiting idea.

Your Altrusa Club: _____

Description of your club's innovative efforts for "Sharing the Joy of Altrusa":

If this was a retention effort, please describe the potential impact:

The approximate number of potential Altrusans reached through this effort: _____

*Please return this simple entry form for the award or send your responses in an email to Governor Lorraine by **April 1**.
lobrewer@uark.edu*

District Nominating Committee Presentation of the Slate of Board Officers

2025-2027 District Eight Board

District Governor: Sarah Akin of Altrusa International of Jonesboro, AR

District Treasurer: Vickie Kilgore of Greater Kansas City, MO

District Secretary: Appointed by the incoming Governor

District Parliamentarian: Appointed by the incoming Governor

Immediate Past Governor: Lorraine Brewer of Altrusa International of Fayetteville, AR

The District Nominating Committee hereby places the following names into nomination for District Eight Board Positions:

District Governor-Elect: Christy Clift of Altrusa International of Chickasha, OK

District Vice-Governor: Jennifer McKeown of Altrusa International Fayetteville, AR

District Directors: (vote for two)

Melanie Pederson of Altrusa International of Hot Springs Village, AR

Debbie Schmidt of Altrusa International of Lawrence, KS

Cassie Poole of Altrusa International of Chickasha, OK

This Committee certifies, based on the recommendations submitted for each candidate, that the above meet the necessary qualifications per District Eight Bylaws to hold their designated positions.

District Eight Nominating Committee: Peggy Hughes, Chair, Past Governor, Altrusa International of Hutchinson KS, Inc.; Debbie Holesko, Past Governor, Altrusa International of Stillwater OK, Inc.; Janet Pierce, District Membership Committee, Altrusa International of Sedalia, MO, Inc; Mary Mann, District DSB Editor, Altrusa International of Fayetteville, AR, Inc.

WHO GETS TO VOTE?

District Eight Secretary Jennifer McKeown will notify each club of the number of delegates and alternates your club is allowed to vote at the District Conference.

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 2-12-25 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. We will vote electronically again on Saturday at the conference.

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT OFFICE!

DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT, CHRISTY CLIFT Altrusa International of Chickasha, Oklahoma



Dr. Christy Clift returned to her hometown of Chickasha in 1999 to practice optometry and actively contribute to the community. She joined the school board to help revitalize the district, improve test scores, and enhance student experiences. As president of the Grady County Historical Society, she helped the museum earn regional recognition. At Chickasha Community Theatre, she developed a sustainable business plan and led the renovation of the historic Washita Theater.

An Altrusa International of Chickasha member since 2010, Christy quickly stepped into leadership, serving as Service Chair, Foundation President, Club President, and Membership Chair. She spearheaded major initiatives, including the Hall of Trees fundraiser, school library adoption, and the Summer Stay Sharp Project to support early literacy. Now in district leadership, she remains dedicated to strengthening Altrusa by recruiting younger members and leveraging technology to expand its impact—all while staying actively involved in her home club.



DISTRICT VICE-GOVERNOR, JENNIFER MCKEOWN Altrusa International of Fayetteville, Arkansas

Jennifer McKeown joined Altrusa International of Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 2014 and has been Treasurer, President-Elect, and President. She serves as President of the Altrusa International of Fayetteville Foundation and Secretary of the District Eight Board, previously serving as Director and Treasurer.

Originally from Flippin, Arkansas, Jennifer attended the University of Arkansas for undergraduate and law school and chose to stay in Fayetteville. She is an attorney and commercial title agent at City Title & Closing. Jennifer and her husband, Nick, have two children, Piper (10) and Hugh (6). She enjoys family time, baking, reading, and gardening.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR CANDIDATE MELANIE PEDERSON Altrusa International of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas



Melanie Pederson is a dedicated community leader and retired project and change manager who now devotes her time to nonprofit work. An active volunteer, she serves on multiple boards and leads initiatives supporting literacy, community welfare, and charitable fundraising. She is deeply involved with Altrusa, Rotary, Make-A-Wish, and the HSV Community Foundation, earning numerous service awards, including HSV *Citizen of the Year*.

Her leadership in Altrusa led to a District Board nomination, reflecting her impact and dedication. As president of her club from 2023 to 2025, she also contributes to the Service, Membership Development, Finance, and Communications committees. She aims to serve as HSV Foundation President from 2025 to 2026.

Inspired by her first Altrusa conference in 2023, Melanie remains committed to local and district efforts, guided by her motto: "Let's do what it takes to get it done!" She values faith, family, travel, and her role as "Nana" to five grandchildren.



DISTRICT DIRECTOR CANDIDATE CASSIE POOLE

Altrusa International of Chickasha, Oklahoma

Founding Member of Altrusa International of Southwest Oklahoma

Cassie Poole is a dedicated leader and past President of Altrusa International of Chickasha. A founding member of Altrusa International of Southwest Oklahoma, she stepped down after two years as president to restructure Chickasha Altrusa's largest fundraiser and mentor new leadership. She also created and leads the Tactiturn Silent Book Club, a literacy-focused event that attracts potential members and has raised local awareness for Altrusa.

As Marketing Director for the Chickasha Chamber of Commerce, Cassie is deeply involved in the community. She serves as President of the Grady County Historical Society, sits on multiple boards, and helped establish Chickasha Young Professionals.

Recognized for her leadership, Cassie has received several awards, including the *30 Under 30 Award* and *Oklahoma Hometown Hero*. Passionate about strengthening Altrusa, fundraising, and leadership development, she is eager to bring her experience and dedication to the role of Altrusa District Director.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR CANDIDATE DEBBIE SCHMIDT

Altrusa International of Lawrence, Kansas

Debbie Schmidt has been an active Altrusa member since 1995, serving twice as president of the Lawrence club and currently as Ways and Means chair. She also co-chairs Service for Governor Lorraine's Leadership Team, collaborating with Michele Nightingale of the Salina Club to provide service ideas through workshops and DSB articles.

Recently retired, Debbie enjoys time with her husband, Dan, and their two daughters, Samantha and Amanda. She is also a proud grandmother to Nate, 23, and Kate. She supports and inspires service initiatives across clubs and is dedicated to Altrusa's mission.



OTHER DISTRICT NEWS

UTILIZE AN INTERNATIONAL PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN YOUR CLUB

Connie Brown, International Taskforce Chair

The International Service Task Force has recently shared ways your club or International Service Committee can help internationals with the Celebrate Our World project. In this article, we're turning the tables to remind you of some of the many ways in which an international project or partnership can strengthen your club:



- Interacting with international students or families demonstrates your community involvement, understanding, and caring. Often, even though these residents contribute significantly to the local economy or a university community, their presence is sometimes overlooked. Be the organization that highlights and celebrates them!
- Raising your club's understanding of international affairs without taking a political stance, serving members, and showing other leaders in the community that you have a broader understanding of your region and the world. Reading respected newspapers, periodicals, or websites or joining civic or education-based discussion groups can raise your club's international awareness "bar."
- Serving and meeting others different from you deepens your individual and club appreciation of our world's precious diversity and universal value. Many, including Altrusan and former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, would say that the world is often changed, one hug, handshake, or day at a time.

If you have any questions or need help with ideas, please contact: Connie Brown (Bentonville/Bella Vista) at cbrown0719@aol.com; Kay Quinn (Salina) at kquinn80@icloud.com; Teresa Bevis (Fayetteville) at bev587@aol.com; or Sue Paden (Mexico) at sepaden2016@gmail.com.

DAYS FOR GIRLS UPDATE, Vickie Kilgore



I want to share the total 2024 Altrusa donations to Days for Girls. Drum roll, please.
\$12,588.90!!

Thank you to everyone who met the \$10 per Altrusan challenge in 2024. Here are comments from Katy Jones, Global Programs Director, Days for Girls International:

"Incredible work! Please genuinely thank all the amazing Altrusans who make DfG work possible. Together, we create a world where periods are never a problem."

If you didn't have an opportunity to donate, it's never too late. Go to daysforgirls.org and donate now.



YOU ARE INVITED!

A Winter New Member Networking Event for District Eight Altrusans

DATE: February 22 at 10:00 a.m. | LOCATION: In your home via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4914433412?omn=89789376866>

Meeting ID: 491 443 3412

WHAT TO BRING:

A hot drink of your choice to savor during our conversation.

PURPOSE:

We want to welcome you, answer your questions about Altrusa, and allow you to connect!

YOUR HOST:

Altrusa International District Eight Governor, Lorraine Brewer

CARES, CONCERNS & CONGRATULATIONS

We offer **Congratulations** to:

- **Barbara Smith of Altrusa International of Rogers, AR**, recognized for her 20 years of service to the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Northwest Arkansas.
- **District Eight** on receiving a grant of \$2,400 from Altrusa International Foundation to use towards our new District Eight project, "Comfort for Children in Crisis."
- **Altrusa Clubs - Greater Kansas City, MO; Hot Springs Village, AR; Mexico, MO; Salina, KS; and Stillwater, OK**, which also received grants.

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

- **Jackie Wilson of Altrusa International of Hot Springs Village, AR**, as she recovers from surgical removal of a cancerous tumor from her bladder.
- **Regina Irwin of Altrusa International of Greater Kansas City, MO**, and **Past Governor Brenda Smith of Altrusa International of Salina, KS**, as they continue their treatments and recovery from cancer.
- **Prayers to all our past governors and our current governor, Lorraine Brewer of Altrusa International of Fayetteville, AR**, that they may have a **Happy and Safe New Year** and can celebrate with us at our District Eight conference in April 2025.

We offer words of **Condolence** to the following Altrusans:

- The Stillwater Altrusa Club keeps **Karen Morris**, our member, in our hearts. Her mother passed away on January 2, 2025.
- **Maxine Russell of Altrusa International of Stillwater, OK**, on the passing of her husband Louis on December 1, 2024, after 66 years of marriage.

CONGRATULATIONS DISTRICT EIGHT!

Our District Eight district-wide and five District Eight Club projects have been awarded Altrusa International Foundation Grants! How very exciting, and congratulations, everyone.

District Eight | Comfort for Children in Crisis

Our new District Eight **Comfort for Children in Crisis** Collaborative Project is now a grant recipient from our Altrusa International Foundation!

This project's target population is children in crisis events served by first responders in Altrusa club communities. The project has three objectives for implementation: 1) Clubs will build collaborative relationships with community organizations to donate comfort items for children; 2) Altrusans will purchase/collect and distribute items to responders; and 3) Responders will provide the items to children during crisis events. **This project benefits responders and children as accessible comfort items and comforted children ease family members' concerns, allowing responders to manage traumatic events more effectively.**

With the help of an Altrusa International Foundation grant, we will supplement your donations with an additional \$100 for your part in our district-wide service project, *Comfort for Children in Crisis*. Thank you for submitting the research to Governor Lorraine with local first responders. That information helped strengthen our application for this funding as a district. This project allows clubs to adapt the project to their specific community's needs. Each club can continue to assess the extent of their first responder's need for children's comfort items. We have until October 2025 to complete the project, and updates will be shared through the Presidents' Council meetings, DSBs, and at the conference. **Please contact Governor Lorraine if your club needs more ideas or information.**

If your club determines that a book might be a comfort item for older children, the project could also become a new literacy effort. Altrusans with teaching experience can help by recommending suitable books, sources for books, and age-appropriate items to distribute. You are encouraged to consult local children's hospital staff, social workers, EMS personnel, firefighters, and police department personnel to gather other suggestions for items to purchase and/or collect.

Typical items to be shared include a book, coloring book, pencils/crayons, a blanket, a soft toy, sensory toys, sticker books, small mazes, toy cars, duffel bags, and healthy treats. Your club might add other items requested by your first responders, such as items for children on the autism spectrum.

While a primary result is the support of children and first responders, this coordinated effort provides additional benefits, including the ability to strengthen our clubs' development of new collaborative projects and the potential for increased media coverage of our service as Altrusans. **This project easily delivers a service to each community's need, but in slightly individualized ways with District Eight support that encourages your creativity and collaboration with other Altrusans and with your community entities.**

Congratulations to other District Eight clubs that also received International Foundation grants, including:

Greater Kansas City, MO

Hot Springs Village, AR

Mexico, MO

Salina, KS

Stillwater, OK

Building Literacy by Building Home Libraries

4.0 GPA Student Recognition Luncheon and Scholarship Program

Books and Bears for Children in Crisis

Blessing Bag for Salina Shares

Backpack Buddies

DATES TO REMEMBER

KEEP THAT DISTRICT EIGHT NEWS COMING! *Mary Mann*

I want to thank all District Eight members who have made my job easy these past two years. This will be my final DSB as your editor. Many thanks to everyone who submitted news for each *District Eight Service Bulletin* and your patience as I acclimated to this task. I especially appreciate the guidance from Governor Lorraine and Diane Bielanski, district communications co-chair.



I may be handing the reins of the DSB over to someone else, but the deadlines and criteria for submission will stay the same. 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, use a 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.

2025 DSB Deadlines

May 2025-Deadline is **May 10** | August 2025 is **Aug 10** | November 2025-Deadline is **Nov 10**

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February is **Kindness** Month, so please continue to track those Acts of Kindness this month and report them on the International website for Altrusa International President Linda’s challenge.

Then, report February's number of acts of kindness to Governor Lorraine to be eligible for the **Governor's Kindness Prize**. **March 4 is the deadline** to report those acts of kindness to Governor Lorraine for the Governor’s district award.

Feb 11	U.N. International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Mar 21	U.N. Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Feb 15	District Eight Leadership Forum, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom	Mar 22	U.N. World Water Day
Feb 15	Cutoff for Membership Numbers to determine conference delegates allowed per club	Mar 23	Early Bird Conference Registration deadline ; District Awards submission deadline ;
Feb 17	Presidents' Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom	Apr 1	Delegate Reports due ; Sharing the Joy of Altrusa Award Form due ; Reservation for Marketplace Booth due ; Memorial Service Forms are due ; Reservation for Club Display Space due ; Silent Auction Item(s) Information due ; Reservation for Literacy Luncheon Centerpiece due
Feb 20	U.N. World Day of Social Justice	Apr 7	U.N. World Health Day
Feb 22	New Member Networking Event, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom	Apr 25-27	District Eight Conference, Olathe, KS
Mar 1	Deadline for ASTRA Service Award submissions	Jun 15	Club Annual Reports due to International
Mar 4	Deadline to submit Acts of Kindness record for February to Governor Lorraine		
Mar 8	U.N. International Women’s Day		
Mar 15	Grant applications due for Round 2 Altrusa International Foundation; ASTRA Scholarship Applications are due		

By the way, did you know that there are other fun days to celebrate? For example, March 20 is the UN’s *International Day of Happiness*, and March 21 is *World Poetry Day*. Oh yes, there is an *International Jazz Day* (April 30) and a *World Tuna Day* (May 2). Where’s the chocolate day, right? There are many more possibilities for your club to celebrate, so I invite you to look at <https://www.un.org/en/observances/list-days-weeks>.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A MID-WINTER LEADERSHIP FORUM

Let’s join together on a Saturday morning this winter. All Altrusans are invited to share through ZOOM for a

“Leaping into Leadership Forum”
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon | Saturday, February 15, 2025

As the new year begins, let’s do some leaping together. Let’s be energized with hope, grow our clubs, nurture our members, and expand our potential to generate those ripples of hope. Let’s try something new and instill the courage in our members to commit to the next adventure in service and leadership boldly. As we do that, leaping with boldness, we will strengthen our clubs and leave an inspiring legacy of service and leadership for future Altrusans.

The purpose of our winter leadership forum is to build strategies for:

- developing and implementing a marketing plan that helps engage community members and potential Altrusans,
- recruiting new Altrusans and retaining all our Altrusans,
- intentionally mentoring and encouraging emerging leaders while developing succession plans for our clubs and district.

We’ll also have a breakout time when you can discuss effective foundation boards, strategic planning, or ASTRA clubs. Please SAVE THE DATE, encourage all your members to participate, plan to grab a hot drink, and join us for the conversation!

We have an amazing team of District Eight and Altrusa International leaders to guide our discussions, and your insights and questions will help make this a great event.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4914433412?omn=83085204212>

Meeting ID: 491 443 3412

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please welcome these new Altrusans in District Eight!
We are thankful that you are joining us in service.

Club	New Member	Sponsor
Bentonville/Bella Vista, AR	Marlene Olafson	Linda Krysl
	Roxane Hipwell	Gay Kiker
Hot Springs Village, AR	Jackie Bolster	Melanie Pederson and Adrienne Cohen
	Kelli Langley	Martha Smither and Valerie Derryberry
Lawrence, KS	Dana White	Karen Wycoff
Poplar Bluff	Kathy Sneed	Corretta Bishop
Salina, KS	Leslie Bishop	Amanda Otto
Salina, KS	Sheila Kjellberg	Marcia Demuth
Salina, KS	Maureen Olson	Jennie Graham
Salina, KS	Kirsten Zoller	Kelly Mobray
Springdale, AR	Jennifer Beavers	Susan Verser
Washington County, AR	Donna Cox	Penny Storms
	Loretta Sowman	Jessica Huddleston

Southwest Oklahoma Altrusa Club Update & Call for Community Contacts

The Southwest Oklahoma Altrusans convened on Feb 3 to establish their meeting schedule for the year and start planning a spring fundraiser. This meeting marked a pivotal moment as the organization drafted plans for community service initiatives and strategies for growing its new club.

Club President Kyletta Ray said, "We are excited about the potential projects and partnerships that will emerge and are eager to make a positive impact in our community."

In this spirit, we encourage you to share any contacts you may have in the Southwest Oklahoma area who would be interested in joining the efforts of these Altrusans in serving the community. Your support and connections are invaluable as they seek to build a strong network of dedicated individuals committed to making a difference. You may send contact information to kyletta.ray@hilliary.com or pensto53@gmail.com

They are looking forward to collaborations and making meaningful contributions to the community.

YOUR DISTRICT EIGHT BOARD MEMBERS

Governor	Lorraine Brewer	lobrewer@uark.edu
Governor-Elect	Sarah Akin	Saraha1178@aol.com
Vice Governor	Christy Clift	drchristyclift@gmail.com
Secretary	Jennifer McKeown	jenncmckeown@gmail.com
Treasurer	Connie Stoker	conniestoker@gmail.com
Director	Laura Wijkowski	laura.wijkowski@outlook.com
Director, Treasurer-Elect	Vickie Kilgore	Vickiekilgore@hughes.net
Immediate Past Governor	Penny Storms	pensto53@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Brenda Smith	brsmith53@cox.net

LEADERSHIP TEAM APPOINTEES

District Secretary	Jennifer McKeown	Fayetteville	jenncmckeown@gmail.com	870-404-7558
BRR/Parliamentarian	Brenda Smith	Salina	brsmith53@cox.net	785-822-5794
DSB Editor:	Mary Mann	Fayetteville	newcenturymary@gmail.com	479-790-4005
Foundation Liaison:	Jane Hart	Greater Kansas City	jane@janehart.me	816-668-4049
ASTRA:	Laura Marquardt	Moberly	sugart1975@gmail.com	605-214-2191
LRSP:	Linda Burton	Lawrence	linda.deen.burton@gmail.com	785-760-4197
	Joan Schoonover	Hot Springs Village	joan_hoover@sbcglobal.net	501-545-5468
Leadership Development:	Karen Wycoff	Lawrence	kewycoff13@gmail.com	785-979-2826
	Peggy Hughes	Hutchinson	peggy@hughes2k.com	620-727-5655
Svc Program Development:	Michele Nightingale	Salina	bluemnm@cox.net	620-388-6049
	Debbie Schmidt	Lawrence	dlschmid59@gmail.com	785-766-3539
Membership Development:	Tama Davidson	Salina	tsbdavidson@yahoo.com	785-493-1151
	Janet Pierce	Sedalia	janetdave@hotmail.com	660-826-2690
Communications:	Sarah Akin	Jonesboro	saraha1178@aol.com	870-219-8804
	Diane Bielanski	Hot Springs Village	dianebielanski@gmail.com	630-880-3688
New Club Development:	Penny Storms	Washington County	pensto53@gmail.com	479-263-4026
	Penny Daugherty	Mexico	penny@radiogetsresults.net	573-253-0423
Webmaster:	Diane Bielanski	Hot Springs Village	dianebielanski@gmail.com	630-880-3688
Literacy Taskforce:	Karen Morris	Stillwater	karentmorris33@gmail.com	918-557-2711
	Mary Rix	Greater Kansas City	maryrix6@gmail.com	913-575-7300
	Barbara Britt	Sikeston	mbritt5@yahoo.com	816-826-8832
Young Adult Taskforce:	Charlcee Small	Fayetteville	charlceecay@gmail.com	918-822-7589
	Jenn Vinson	Washington County	jlvinson.03@gmail.com	479-856-9500
	Ashton Wilson	Springdale	ashtonwilson0999@gmail.com	479-422-6610
	Katlyn Baker	Washington County	katlynbaker25@gmail.com	479-301-5306
	Kristi Button	Fayetteville	khbcece@gmail.com	479.601.2264
International Project Taskforce:	Connie Brown	Bentonville/Bella Vista	cbrown0719@aol.com	501-960-8661
	Kay Quinn	Salina	kquinn80@icloud.com	
			kay.quinn@kwu.edu	785-416-0759
	Teresa Bevis	Fayetteville	bev587@aol.com	479-263-8805
	Susan Paden	Mexico	sepaden2016@gmail.com	573-581-0110

FINANCIAL REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Connie Stoker

This is a reminder to club treasurers and membership committees that new members joining between Dec 1, 2024, and Mar 31, 2025, need pay only one-half-year dues. Please remember that your District Eight and International leadership depend on the records in Group Tally for member contact, officer information, and tracking membership numbers. Be sure to review your club information periodically to ensure accuracy. I'm always happy to help answer questions and help you navigate the system!



You will notice that the District Eight Board has realigned the bank accounts to take advantage of higher interest rates. The 2025 conference hotel requires a \$10,000 advance payment, which the registration income will offset. **The 2025 District Eight Proposed Operations Budget can be found on the following page.**

ALTRUSA DISTRICT EIGHT BALANCE SHEET as of Dec 31, 2024		
Assets		
Bank of America Checking Account Balance		\$ 3,957.52
Bank of America Business Advantage Savings (Closed 11/14/2024)		-
BoA CD (APY 3.51%) (Opened 11/14/2024) (maturity 11/14/2025)		\$ 11,000.00
Flexible CD Interest		\$ 31.55
Bank of America 7-month CD (APY 3.98%) (maturity 6/14/2025)		\$ 20,000.00
CD Interest		\$ 65.42
District Eight Asset Values 12/31/2024		\$ 35,054.49

OPERATIONS BUDGET (Proposed) First Year of Biennium 2025-2026	
INCOME	PROPOSED
<u>OPERATING Income</u>	
District Eight: Dues Current members	9,530.00
Conference Fees - District Eight Clubs	720.00
Bank Interest	-
<i>Subtotal - OPERATING Income</i>	10,250.00
<u>CONFERENCE SUPPORT Income</u>	
Conf Support Income - 50/50 Raffle	500.00
Conf Support Income - Literacy Lunch Book Auction	700.00
Interest Income - Certificate of Deposit	550.00
Misc Income (Donation, etc.)	-
<i>Subtotal - CONFERENCE SUPPORT Income</i>	1,750.00
Checkbook Carry-Over	6,200.00
TOTAL Operations INCOME	\$ 18,200.00
EXPENSES	PROPOSED
<u>OPERATING Expenses</u>	
Incorporation Expense (Missouri Secretary of State)	15.00
Surety Bond on Treasurer (E&O Insurance)	100.00
Governor Elect Training (Pay in 1st Yr Biennium-Training in 2nd Yr Biennium)	850.00
Governor's Pin (2nd yr of Biennium)	-
Mid-Year Board Meeting	3,500.00
International Convention (1st Yr Biennium)	3,500.00
Zoom Software License Fee	160.00
Electronic Transaction Fees	20.00
Printing/Copies	50.00
Office Supplies	50.00
Postage	75.00
<i>Subtotal - OPERATING Expenses</i>	8,320.00
<u>CLUB SUPPORT Expenses</u>	
Club Visits by Board Members	3,000.00
Regional/Leadership Workshops (venue rental)	300.00
New Club - Charter Expenses	450.00
New Club - Board Support	150.00
Club Revitalization	1,000.00
ASTRA - Revitalization Current Clubs	250.00
ASTRA - New Club Building & Board Support	400.00
<i>Subtotal - CLUB Support Expenses</i>	5,550.00
<u>CONFERENCE SUPPORT Expenses</u>	
District Eight Conference PrePayments (2026)	1,000.00
Board Travel & Hotel Expenses for Conference	2,500.00
Newest Member at Conference Registration Fee Reimbursement	180.00
Honorarium International Representative	50.00
Conference Awards 2024 (6 @ \$100)	600.00
RegFox Registration Fees/Square Fees	-
<i>Subtotal - CONFERENCE Support Expenses</i>	4,330.00
<u>CONFERENCE SUPPORT Expenses - Store Income & Expenses</u>	
2025 Conference Store - Inventory Expenses (Doc Morgan Invoices)	-
2024 Conference Store - Income (Sales)	-
<i>Subtotal - Conference Store</i>	-
Total Operations Expenses	18,200.00
Net Operations INCOME (LOSS)	-

District Eight Club News

Thank you to our district clubs for sharing information about service projects, fundraisers, and club social events for this section. Remember to mark your calendars and submit your club news for the next edition to altrusa.d8@gmail.com **no later than May 10**, and use the phrase 'Club News' in your subject line. Please send your club's care, condolences, and congratulations to correttabishop@gmail.com, due by **May 10**.

Altrusa International of Bentonville/Bella Vista, Arkansas Practices Mentorship, Qualifies for Int'l Project

At Altrusa, we always talk about the importance of mentorship. We have the perfect example, Elizabeth Weathers. Elizabeth, from **Altrusa of Fayetteville, Arkansas**, helped to mentor our club twenty-five years ago when we were formed. Karen Robbins was our first president. Elizabeth has continued to mentor and help our club for over twenty-five years! That's what amazing mentorship looks like! We're so grateful for Altrusa of Fayetteville and Elizabeth's continued support!! We would not have succeeded without the help of Elizabeth and many more from the Fayetteville Club – strong allies and friends.



International Literacy Day was founded by the United Nations in 1966 to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights. This year's theme is "Promoting multilingual education: Literacy for mutual understanding and peace." We celebrated by placing bilingual books at the control tower of "Li'l Library" at Lake Bentonville Park, where many children like to play on the playground and watch the nearby planes at the Bentonville Airport. This project qualifies for District Eight Governor's "Celebrate Our World" International Service Project and District Eight Literacy Committee Challenge. *Foreign language books were distributed!*

Altrusa International of Chickasha, Oklahoma, Sends Its Greetings Along with a Club Update

Happy New Year from Altrusa International of Chickasha! We're thrilled to share the successes of our recent events as we reflect on the past year. Our annual Hall of Trees fundraiser was a record-breaking event, raising an incredible \$20,000 to support local non-profits in Chickasha. On December 14th, we hosted a festive paint party, which brought holiday cheer and raised \$300 for our club. To top it off, we welcomed three new members during our Christmas party, growing our team and strengthening our service mission. Here's to a fantastic year filled with even more opportunities to make a difference!

Altrusa International of Dexter, Missouri, Received Jolting News During Their Christmas Party

On December 15, everyone came to Kathy White's home for the club's annual Christmas party. They had a great dinner and a silent auction to raise money for a family that lost everything, raising about \$287 that night. But then they received a phone call that was so upsetting. Betty McClintock, one of their special members, passed away. She had been an Altrusan for many years. Betty was a delightful lady – a teacher and a great artist who the Dexter Club will miss. Kathy was her hairdresser for 30 years, having also done Kathy's mom's hair. That said, the Club is now looking forward to the new year that is getting ready to start!

Altrusa International of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Celebrated Christmas in a Cabin

Fort Smith celebrated Christmas with a catered lunch at our District Girl Scout facility in the city. The facility is called Kelley Cabin. It is great for a meeting, plus as a paying member, there is no cost to us, and we're supporting growing girls. It holds approximately 50 people. It has a full kitchen, and the ground keeper lit the fireplace for us. We spent time visiting and exchanging presents with a dirty Santa game. We were having so much fun that we forgot to take any photos!



Altrusa International of Emporia, Kansas **Finishes 2024 Service Projects, Celebrates with Gift Exchange**

The club finished 2024 by donating to Days for Girls International, awarding a higher education scholarship, and donating supplies to local nursing homes for activities.

We also celebrated Christmas with a gift exchange party (see photo left).

In January, club members began revising the strategic plan by discussing an analysis of our club's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The work will continue at upcoming meetings, with the goal of completing a three-year plan by May.

Altrusa International of Fayetteville, Arkansas, **Holds Sweet Swap to Raise Funds for African School**

Altrusa International of Fayetteville, AR/ members enjoy membership events with our future Altrusans. We met for fellowship, food, and fun for our holiday celebration. Our Sweet Swap raised \$360 to feed 200 rescued children attending an African school. This will provide fruits, sheep, cooking oil, maize flour, cabbage, and reading books. Members also donated puzzles and games for the children. Pictured are three of our future Altrusans decorating cookies and some of the sweets that were swapped.



NOTE: Our meeting location, Mermaids, has closed. If you plan to visit, email altrusafayettevillear@gmail.com for the current location. We still meet on the second Thursday at 11:30 a.m. and the fourth Thursday at 6:30 p.m.



Altrusa International of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, **Raises Funds through Retailer's Charity Event**

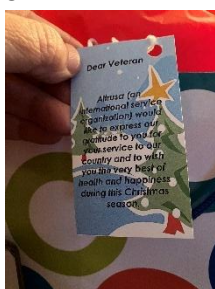
In Spring and Fall each year, Altrusa of Hot Springs Village and other nonprofit groups can participate in Belk's Charity Sales at its Hot Springs store. Altrusans worked in two-hour shifts over four days to sell \$5 discount coupons at Belk's entrance; customers got \$5 off when they made a purchase, and Altrusa of HSV got \$5 for each coupon sold. Immediate Past President Valerie Derryberry (right) has coordinated the effort for the past few years, and this year, 18 of the Club's Altrusans (including Patti Geiser (left) and Irene Keith) participated. The Club made a whopping \$1,577 to support our community service projects.

Altrusa International Greater Kansas City, Missouri, Makes Gift Bags for Veterans in Transition House

Altrusans, Sue Hart, Mary Rix, Teresa Foss, Pat Brown, Shannon Johnson, Lisa Orth, Jane Hart, and Jenny Troutman gathered the afternoon of Sunday, December 15, 2024, at Jenny's home to create Christmas gift bags for veterans in the TR house at the KC Veteran's Administration Hospital. Altrusa of Greater Kansas City members raised money for this project through a popcorn sales fundraiser and some donations.

The Transition House is for veterans who have had alcohol/drug issues or who have been incarcerated and have been homeless and without a job. These veterans live at the TR house and work at the VA in selected jobs with extra support and guidance, as well as receiving extra mental health services as needed. The goal is to help them become able to live on their own again and work a full-time job.

This is the first time the TR House vets have been included in the Volunteer Christmas program. After consulting with the psychologist and the manager of the TR program, Altrusans went shopping for items that these veterans needed. Winter hats and gloves, special notepads to take on job interviews, male manicure kits, ChapStick, chocolate, a Walmart gift card, and a few other surprises were put in a bag for each veteran in the program. These bags – plus a full precooked holiday meal, including turkeys, sides, and desserts (requested by the veterans) – were delivered to the TR house the morning of December 24th by some of the Greater Kansas City club members. This made Christmas brighter for these special veterans.



Altrusa International of Hutchinson, Kansas Kicks off New Year with Meeting Speaker, Fills College Pantry

January Meeting Garners Future Service Projects



Mary Clark, Volunteer Coordinator **Hospice & HomeCare Reno County**, was the guest speaker for Hutch Altrusa's January meeting. Mary spoke about their focus on local Veterans and how to honor and recognize them. She explained that this Hospice receives 25% of the local Vets in the community and that 85% of those do not receive services from VA. Service project suggestions included sewing projects such as making pillowcases or patriotic scrapbooks & wreaths for their rooms.

Hutch Community Food Insecurity

In order to combat community food insecurity, the Hutch Altrusa members collected food donations for the **Hutchinson Community College's student Food Bank Pantry**. Nationally, nearly 60% of college students experience some sort of food insecurity and it's a proven statistic that food insecurity can directly impact a student's academic performance and their ability to complete their degrees.



Altrusa International of Jonesboro, Arkansas, Supported Literacy and Spread Holiday Cheer

Altrusa International of Jonesboro, AR, donated new books during the holiday season to help second-grade students at Leadership Magnet School build "A Library of Their Own." Second graders receive new books from Altrusa four times a year, ensuring they have access to reading materials throughout the year.

Altrusa members also gave back to those in need:

- Delivered Christmas cards to residents in local nursing homes.
- Donated hats, gloves, scarves, and more to the Family Crisis Center
- Provided blankets, books, and pillows to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization dedicated to building beds for children in our community.



Altrusa International of Lawrence, Kansas, Plans a Food Drive and Unique Membership Revitalization Event

Our club is planning a food drive in late January for Just Foods, a local nonprofit whose goal is to bridge the gap from food insecurity to ensuring that people in our community are fed healthy food without barriers.

Diana Carlin, Professor Emerita of Communication and former Associate Provost at St Louis University (and also a Kansas University graduate!), is scheduled as a Special Feature for our members at our January meeting. She will discuss her book *Remember the First Ladies: The Legacies of America's History-Making Women*. (it should be fun!)

We are planning a "membership revitalization" event for February called "Altrusa Friends & Guests." It's still in the works, but the planned format has appetizers & wine (instead of our usual sit-down dinner), a slide show about our club, and maybe table set-ups of the various committees with what they do. Members have been asked to consider bringing a friend or two – who knows? Perhaps we'll get a couple of new members. At the very least, it will be a fun event for our members to enjoy, which has been one of our Presidential goals.

Altrusa International of Little Rock, Arkansas, Makes Christmas a Bit Brighter for the Homeless

Little Rock provided Christmas presents for the residents at Gaines House. We will also work with Gaines House at the next Sandra Wilson Cherry Award dinner, which will be held this fall. Follow Gaines House on Facebook and their website for more information on who the recipient will be and the event date.

The Gaines House is a non-profit transitional living residence for homeless women, 18 or older, who have a mental, physical, or behavioral health disability. Gaines House provides a 24-hour supervised environment while they prepare for independent living. For more information, click this link: <https://www.thegaineshouse.org/>

Altrusa International of Mexico, Missouri Holds Salad Auction, Sleepover, Christmas Party



Left: Altrusa International of Mexico, Missouri hosted its annual salad auction in November. Our club distributed grants totaling \$4,400 to local agencies. The auction raised over \$6,600 for next year's grants. ASTRA members served as "Vanna's."

Right: A Stuffy Sleepover was held in December at the Mexico-Audrain County Library. Children were read to and given books and treats. Their stuffies stayed the night and had a fun time exploring the library. ASTRA members helped in this fun new



Below: Our Annual Christmas Party was in December at The Carlson House in Mexico. Members enjoyed a wonderful meal and entertainment by high school Choir. Members donated over \$560 in gift cards that were distributed between the Mexico Senior Center and the Children's Division. In attendance we had our two remaining active charter members – Mary Spencer and Donna Peak



Altrusa International of Moberly, Missouri, Holds a Laundry Event for Make a Difference Day



We had another great 'Make A Difference Day Laundry Day'! Thanks to everyone who helped to make this another great event. We raised \$700 in funds, 36 baskets, laundry pods, dryer sheets, t-shirts, and snacks. We had about 30 Altrusa members participate in this year's event! We served 63 families and had numerous people provide positive feedback. They were

very thankful and told us how much help this event gave them. We have the remaining money for another laundry day event at the Towers/Case Building in **January 2025**. We look forward to serving our community in this manner!



Altrusa International of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, Remained Busy in December

The Club kept its busy schedule through December. We were pleased to host Governor-Elect Sarah Akin at our November meeting. Our annual scholarship was presented to the Three Rivers Endowment Fund. Santa Land kept us busy on December 3rd, distributing books at the Poplar Bluff Parks yearly event. Our craft fair, which we hosted on December 7th, was successful. Many booths participated, and chili sandwiches and desserts were sold. We also attended with the Daughters of the Revolutionary War in putting wreaths on the graves of veterans. We delivered our tie quilts to several Poplar Bluff nursing and assisted living facilities. We had an enjoyable Christmas Party on December 14th, at which time we also initiated a new member, Kathy Sneed,



Annie and Governor-Elect Sarah Akin



Altrusans present a tie blanket to a nursing facility resident.



Santa Land - several books were distributed.



Wreaths Across America Project

Altrusa International of Rogers, Arkansas, Presents Check to Local Food Bank

In late November, our club was honored to present a \$2500 check to the NWA Food Bank to benefit Feed Rogers. This represents funds secured through a disaster relief grant from Altrusa International to assist with the impact of the Memorial Day tornadoes on Feed Rogers.



Kent Eikenberry, President/CEO of the NWA Food Bank; Lauren McGrath, Manager of Feed Rogers; and Suzan Walters, club president.



Altrusans Barb Smith and Debra Lewis also attended.

Altrusa International of Salina, Kansas, **Grows its Membership and Assists Local Organizations**



Our club is growing. Four new members were initiated at our December meeting. We continue to be busy with service projects. We have made our first donation to USD 305 – Salina Schools for our newest project – The Period Project. Realizing the extent of menstrual insecurity in our schools, we have partnered with USD 305 to provide cosmetic bags, pads, and tampons for our needy female

students. Generous donations from Salina Regional Health Center Service Auxiliary, Trinity United Methodist Women, Thrivent, and Dillons made this first delivery a reality. We also sorted our annual book with donations from Books-A-Million, with items distributed to local charities and schools. We gave away books at Heusner Elementary and assisted Salina Shares and the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank with holiday projects.



Altrusa International of Sedalia, Missouri, **Distributes Blankets to Nursing Homes, Awards Scholarship**



Jennifer Owen, third from left, received her \$500 scholarship. Altrusans Karen, Jeanean and Janet awarded the check. Sedalia Altrusa awarded two more \$500 scholarships to SFCC students.

Altrusa collected 48 soft lap blankets for three different nursing homes in Sedalia. Pictured are Altrusans Nancy, Jeanean, left, and Kay, right. Third from left is Jennifer from Fairview Nursing Home in Sedalia.





Altrusa International of Sikeston, Missouri, **Made Holidays**

Merry and Bright for Columbus Adult Day Care

This Christmas Connections project is an award-winning service project in competition with other clubs in our four-state district. Altrusans from the Sikeston club hosted a party for participants with festive decorations, assorted party refreshments, and gift bags full of goodies. Entertainment included Christmas music, story reading, and magic drawing by Altrusa members.

Altrusa International of Southwest Oklahoma **Sends Greetings to Other District Eight Clubs**

The Southwest Oklahoma Club extends warm New Year wishes to the other Clubs of District Eight. As the newest Club in District Eight, we look forward to developing new programs in our community that showcase the excellence of the "Great Eight"!

Altrusa International of Springdale, Arkansas, **Donates to Those Less Fortunate, Sells Poinsettias**



Altrusa of Springdale gives a \$500 check to Lori Proud for Springdale Meals on Wheels. Lori organizes activities for members of the Springdale Senior Center.



Members Diane & Krisha of Altrusa of Springdale donate \$400 to The Compassion House. This organization provides a healthy, safe, nurturing environment for teenage girls that are pregnant.



Altrusa of Springdale Members, Jo Ann, Stephanie, Susan, and Reanetta sorting and delivering 230 poinsettias that were sold during the winter fundraiser. Our most successful to date.



Altrusa International of Stillwater, Oklahoma, **Promotes Literacy to Local Youth**

Judy German read Christmas stories and gave books to Morrison Elementary's Pre-K students in December.

Altrusa International of St. Louis, Missouri, Provides Holiday Joy to Its Community



Photo Left: Angie Schmid and Kathy Surratt-States shop for the teens of Hawthorn Children's Psychiatric Hospital. **Photo Right:** Christmas tree at the Club member holiday gathering at Angie's home, where they held an ornament exchange.

The St. Louis Club celebrated the holidays with service projects and a special holiday gathering. The Club shopped for Christmas gifts for teens living at the Hawthorn Children's Psychiatric Hospital, including a fleece, T-shirt, hat and glove set, and snacks for each resident. The Club also spent an afternoon unwrapping and sorting presents for children receiving services from Good Shepherd Children and Family Services, a long-time charitable partner of the Club. Finally, the Club gathered for a celebratory December meeting, sharing festive food, and exchanging Christmas ornaments.



Altrusa International of Washington County, Arkansas Bags of Thankfulness to Law Enforcement Officers

Altrusa of Washington County prepared and delivered 121 "Thank You Bags" filled with candies and a special message to law enforcement officers in the county, visiting their offices in four communities and the County Sheriff's Office to express gratitude for their service.

"We are so grateful for the service and protection of these public servants in our communities. This was a great way to honor them in the holiday season when they spent lots of time away from their families and loved ones, said Becky Wood, Club President."

Photo Below Left: Presentation to Washington County Sheriff Jay Cantrell and his staff.

Photo Below Center: Presentation to the Lincoln Police Department

Photo Below Right: Presentation to the West Fork Police Department



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 st 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 st 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 st Vice Governor
Rogers	Laura Wijkowski	Director
Salina	Lorraine Brewer	Governor
Sedalia	Sarah Akin	Governor-Elect
Sikeston	Christy Clift	1 st Vice Governor
Southwest Oklahoma	Lorraine Brewer	Governor
Springdale	Lorraine Brewer	Governor
St. Louis	Vickie Kilgore	Director
Stillwater	Laura Wijkowski	Director
Washington County	Lorraine Brewer	Governor