

KEY CONTACTS:

Club Officers 2026-2027
President Laurie Herman
1st Vice Pres. Kim Young
2nd Vice Pres. Jackie Wilson
Secretary Joan Plautz
Treasurer Kelli Langley
2nd Year Director Chris Hanses
1st Year Director Pam Vernon
Immed. Past President -
Melanie Pederson
BRR Chair Diane Bielanski
Parliamentarian Jackie Wilson

Contact:

Club email

altrusahsv@gmail.com

Altrusa HSV Website

[https://districteight.altrusa.org/
hot-springs-village/](https://districteight.altrusa.org/hot-springs-village/)

2025-2027 District Eight

Governor – Sarah Akin

Club Liaison –

Jennifer McKeown

District Eight Website

<https://districteight.altrusa.org>

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Featured Picture

Newest Altrusan

Altrusa of HSV initiated
Kayla Nobles on June 4.
Her sponsors are Kim
Young (left) and Amanda
Allen. Kayla will serve on
the Finance Committee.



Serving with 

President's Message – Laurie Herman

When speaking about life, Elizabeth Taylor once said, "It's all about hope, kindness, and a connection with one another" – the kinds of things we as Altrusans build on with each other and our surrounding community. Let's never lose sight of what is important! June brought us another new Altrusan – Welcome Kayla! She has been spreading her Altrusa wings by attending the HSV Chamber of Commerce's "Partner Up" luncheon with our new Vice President, Kim Young. Thank you ladies for getting out there and keeping Altrusa on everyone's mind!

Members worked at Belk Charity Days to help to financially support our Service Projects. We raised \$1,330 over the three days. We can't do all our projects unless we have the funds, so please keep that in mind when the next fundraiser comes around.

We also spread cheer and cookies by taking part in UN Public Service Day on June 23. Cookies were baked, boxed and successfully delivered to the U.S. Post Office employees, SCAT's

volunteer drivers and schedulers, the POA staff, our HSV Fire and Police Departments – and even the guys working at the front gate!

That's a lot of cookies – but well worth the effort for the smiles we received as we handed out the boxes.

Our committees have been meeting to get this year's priorities in motion. Please read the entire newsletter, there are new chairs and meeting date changes to note.

Our Board has also been working on getting our administrative obligations met. I think we are headed for another great year!

July is usually a quieter month in our Altrusa calendar for service projects, so enjoy your "time off" before the pace picks up again in August and accelerates in the months to come.

See you at the Business Meeting on July 2 and have a wonderful July! Stay Cool, Stay Safe, and Stay in touch with each other!

Laurie

June International Days: World Population Day on July 11 and Day of Friendship on July 30

By Kathy Jervis

World Population Day is an annual event observed on July 11. This day seeks to raise awareness of global population issues. It was established by the United Nations Development Programme in 1989 and inspired by the public interest in Five Billion Day on July 11, 1987, the approximate date on which the world's population reached 5 billion people.

The world's population increases by about 100 million every 14 months. The global population passed 8 billion on Nov. 15, 2022; current world population is approximately 8.3 billion. World Population Day aims to increase awareness on issues such as the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health and human rights.

Two ways to get involved: Support charities that work on reproductive health, women's rights, or environmental sustainability by donating or volunteering. Educate yourself by learning more about population trends and their impact and discussing these topics with family and friends.

Day of Friendship

The official, globally recognized date for the International Day of Friendship is July 30. This date was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2011 to promote peace and build bridges between cultures.

Is Friendship Day July 30 or the first Sunday in August? Both dates are celebrated.

Many countries, including the United States, celebrate National Friendship Day on the first Sunday in August. This holiday has older, commercial roots in the U.S., originally promoted by the greeting card industry.

Ways to celebrate include:

- *Calling or writing a friend you haven't seen in a while.
- *Hosting a dinner or other gatherings with friends from diverse backgrounds.
- *Participating in or supporting local programs that bring people of different generations or demographics together.

Altrusa Business Meeting Summary for June 4 and Board Meeting Summary for June 22

The Business Meeting of Altrusa of HSV was held June 4, with 22 members in attendance (of a total active membership of 33), and four guests, Tammie Greenshields, Susan Hovendick (friends who had come together), Melissa Sorell (a friend of Patti Geiser) and Bonnie Crader (recommended by Emeritus Member Jeannine Williamson).

ACCENT: Presented by Patti Geiser. Patti read a poem about our accomplishments this past year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- *Installed remainder of 2026-27 Board members, Pam Vernon as First Year Director and Kim Young as First Vice-President; Foundation Vice President Joanna Horton was not present and will be installed at a future date.
- *Irene Keith initiated our newest member, Kayla Nobles. Kim Young and Amanda Allen are her sponsors. Kayla will serve as a member of the Finance Committee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Laurie Herman

- *Relyance Bank has requested clarification regarding the authorized signatories on the Club checking account. Therefore, we are clarifying that the elected office of Vice President will be removed as an authorized signatory; the elected offices of President, Treasurer, and Secretary will remain authorized signatories on the account. Vice President Jackie Wilson and outgoing Secretary Amanda Allen will be

removed from the account. This will also include the Club's CD. Amanda Allen and Jackie Wilson will be removed as authorized signatories and incoming Secretary Joan Plautz will be added as a signatory for the year June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027. Current President Laurie Herman and Treasurer Kelli Langley will remain authorized signatories on the account and the CD for the year June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027.

- *Altrusan Gail Dann has resigned from the Club. It is hoped that she will return in the future.
- *On June 24, Kim Young and our new member Kayla Nobles will attend the Chamber's Partner Up meeting.
- *Christmas Party: The committee to arrange the Christmas party will consist of the chairs of each committee.
- *Updated Bylaws: The Board will be reviewing Club Bylaws and Policies at their June meeting. They will bring their recommendations to the members.
- *Ginna Watson, who is a past president, is currently in Hospice Care.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Kim Young

Kim reported that our Spring Fling is tentatively set for March 6 at the Coronado Center. If you have any suggestions for a theme, contact Kim. She also is looking for volunteers for the Spring Fling Committee.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Joan Plautz

Minutes of May 7, 2026, Business Meeting were approved and will be filed in the Club's digital archives on Google Drive.

Portions of four thank you notes were read. We received these from: Dr. Tina Ennis, National Park College Scholarship Co-Chair, and from the three recipients of our scholarships, Serenity Lopez, Shannassy Ross and Jose Ramirez Jr.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kelli Langley

The Club's cash account balance as of 5/31/2026 is \$3,653.42, and the 5-month CD balance is \$5,603.29; total account balance is \$9,255.71.

Joan Schoonover, Audit Committee Chair, and Diane Shaw audited the Club and Foundation accounts for June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026. Everything was in order.

FIRST YEAR DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Pam Vernon

Scrapbook: A new format is being developed using our pictures displayed digitally. Pam also is in charge of speakers; if you have any suggestions please contact her.

SECOND YEAR DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Chris Hanses

If your Online Directory is not working, Chris recommended logging out and then logging back in.

See Meeting Summaries, Page 6

Committee Highlights

Grants

Melanie Pederson, Chair

The Altrusa International Foundation of Hot Springs Village, Inc. works closely with the Service and Grants Committees to fund projects that promote literacy and educational success for children in our community. This year, the Grants Committee is pursuing funding to support literacy initiatives, including books, educational materials, nutritious snacks, school supplies, and scholarships. Grant proposals are being submitted to organizations and foundations aligned with our commitment to education, food security, literacy, and community support. We appreciate the dedication of our members who seek out opportunities and develop projects to expand Altrusa's impact. Together, we are helping ensure every child in our community has the necessary resources needed to learn and thrive.

Membership

Diane McMillan, Chair

Watch for new faces! We are happy to welcome our newest member Kayla Nobles, and we are also looking forward to initiating two additional members this summer. Caprice Waller will be initiated at the July meeting; her sponsors are Diane Shaw and Elaine Williams. Try not to miss an opportunity to tell someone about Altrusa! Plans are being made for the next Fifth Friday Social 3:30-5 p.m. Oct. 30 at the DeSoto Club. Invite a friend! The next committee meeting is 10 a.m. July 23, at Diane McMillan's home.

Communications

Amanda Allen, Chair

The Committee has a new member – Welcome Pam Vernon, who will be the Club's Scrapbook creator and help us with learning Canva. We are determining how to use the Canva software to revise and update our current Club Yearbook for 2026-27. In today's Dogwood Blossom, you'll see evidence of how busy the Committee has been, even in the "Dog Days of Summer." The Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. July 8 via Zoom.

Service

Patti Geiser, Lynda Grasse, Co-Chairs

The Service Committee met June 12 and reviewed all 2026-2027 projects and assigned chairs to each project. The Pill Bottle Project will be placed on hold after the remaining clean, unlabeled bottles are mailed to Matthew 25 Ministries in Ohio. The Committee voted to have the Snack Fairy visit the Cedar Mountain Boys & Girls Club, and \$200 was allocated for summer snacks. For UN Public Service Day, we delivered cookies to the Police and Fire Departments, Post Office, POA, and Gate employees, and to SCAT volunteers. Club members received a schedule for packaging and delivery so all could participate. New project ideas were briefly discussed. Committee members will submit proposal forms for consideration. The Committee's next meeting is 10 a.m. Friday, July 10, at McGraw Realtors HSV.

Finance

Diane Shaw, Chair

The Club raised \$1,330 at Belk Days June 5-7 to support our community service projects. (Photo on Page 6.) The Finance Committee will meet at 11 a.m. July 23 at mForce Capital.

This Month's Accent by Patti Geiser (With assistance from AI)

A Few Lines of Verse Celebrating Altrusa of HSV's Service Projects and the Year Ahead

As we gather here this afternoon,
In friendship, hope and cheer,
We welcome in a brand-new start
To our Altrusa Club's new year.

A year to lift our voices,
A year to lend a hand,
A year to keep on building
Strong hearts across our land.

Today we greet our leaders,
A board prepared to guide,
And welcome one new member,
Now standing at our side.

We celebrate our service

And projects we hold dear:
Birthday Books and Altrusans Read
That brought young minds such cheer.

Dictionaries gifted proudly
To third-graders far and near
And the 4.0 dream we nurture,
A highlight every year.

We've carried books to shelters near,
To Potter's Clay with heartfelt cheer;
To the Shalom Center, Hope Movement and
the Boys & Girls Club, too
Bringing care and comfort in all that we do.

And now our Service Committee
Has given a joyful "Yes!"

So cookie making can begin
For those who serve us best.

For postal clerks and firefighters
For police and POA staff with pride
On UN Public Service Day, June 23,
Our gratitude will ride.

Here's to every Altrusan,
To every heart that gives,
To every act of kindness
That reminds us how to live.

Together we'll keep dreaming
And we'll see it through,
For service is our calling
And Altrusa is what we do.

In Our Prayers

Diane Bielanski
Karen Brines
Carole Thompson
Evyonne Whipple
Ginna Watson
Jackie Wilson

July Birthdays

Jackie Wilson July 22



Upcoming Events

Below are the upcoming events for this month. Please reference the link to the [Altrusa HSV Calendar](#) for any real-time updates that may occur during the month.

July 1: Jubilation Jazz band concert, 6 p.m., Balboa Baptist Church Outreach Center, freewill offering. Members might wish to attend as this band is under consideration for entertainment at the annual Spring Fling donor appreciation dinner and fundraiser.

July 2: Business Meeting, McGraw Realtors HSV, 1060 DeSoto Blvd., hosted by Communications Committee. Social at 4 p.m., meeting at 4:45 p.m.

July 4: Celebrate and honor the founding of the United States 250 years ago.

July 8: Communications Committee, via Zoom, 3:30 p.m.

July 10: Service Committee, 10 a.m., McGraw Realtors HSV; all Club members invited.

July 11: World Population Day

July 22: Loan Closet, 1-4 p.m. Volunteers Adrienne Cohen and Dorothy Fager.

July 23: Membership Development Committee, 10 a.m., home of Diane McMillan.

July 23: Finance Committee, 11 a.m., mForce Capital.

July 28: Board meeting, 11 a.m., McGraw Realtors HSV.

July 29: Loan Closet, 1-4 p.m. Volunteers Elaine Williams and Caprice Waller.

July 30: International Day of Friendship.

Aug. 6: Business Meeting, McGraw Realtors HSV, 1060 DeSoto Blvd., hosted by Finance Committee. Social at 4 p.m., meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Aug. 24: Board meeting, 11 a.m., McGraw Realtors HSV.

Plan Ahead

Oct. 8: Military Fishing Day was postponed until Oct. 8 because of the Lake Balboa water level.

Oct. 22: Altrusa's annual Game Day fundraiser, Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church.

Altrusa International May Soon Be Granted Consultative Status at the United Nations

Altrusa International is now pursuing Consultative Status at the UN!

It means that a non-governmental organization (NGO) has been formally recognized by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to participate in its work. This is a consultative relationship, not a formal negotiating or voting role in intergovernmental UN processes.

What It Entails

When an NGO is granted consultative status, it gains:

- *Access to UN premises and grounds passes for its representatives

- *Right to attend public meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies

- *Ability to circulate written statements and make oral



interventions during sessions

- *Opportunities to organize side events and network with other NGOs and UN officials.

- *Formal participation in UN deliberations on matters within ECOSOC's mandate, such as economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian issues

How It's Granted

Consultative status is recommended by the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs (composed of 19 Member States) and approved by ECOSOC ecosoc.un.org.

The process involves meeting eligibility criteria.

Key Limitations

- *No formal voting rights in UN inter-governmental bodies.

- *Access is to public meetings; NGOs cannot negotiate UN policy directly.

- *Some countries may restrict status for NGOs working on "sensitive" issues.

In short, consultative status is a formal UN recognition that allows NGOs to engage meaningfully in UN discussions, share expertise, and influence policy debates within ECOSOC's framework, while maintaining a consultive

rather than a decision-making role.

Why is Altrusa doing this?

It means that Altrusa can share real community experiences at a global level. It provides visibility to the work of all of our Clubs. It does not change what we do, it strengthens it. The work we do will be recognized beyond our local community. Your service becomes a part of a larger purpose! In short with the ability to share what we do internationally, could help a community solve a problem anywhere in the world.

-Laurie Herman

New Altrusa Year: It's Time to Make A Fresh Start

Reporting your Altrusa service hours is important to help our organization maintain its 501(c)3 status. Please keep your hours current this year by reporting monthly to Chris Hanses, chanses60@gmail.com

Also, please continue to report hours by the categories listed and defined in your Yearbook – Altrusa Service, Member Service and Community Service. This will help current and future Club Presidents as they compile their year-end reports.

Thank You to the People Who Make Living in Hot Spring Village Wonderful Every Single Day

Altrusa celebrated UN Public Service Day on June 23 by delivering cookies and thanking employees of the Post Office, Police Department (including Canine Officer Nala), Fire Department, POA, SCAT volunteers and the HSV Gate workers.

If you're wondering how the cookies were received, here's a hint: The cookies produced lots of smiles from employees and from the Altrusa delivery teams, and a pledge from some supervisors to mark June 23, 2027, on their calendars for a repeat cookie delivery.

Sixteen members and friends of Altrusa baked 545 cookies, enough to fill 19 boxes with 30 cookies each. They were boxed and ready for delivery the day before.

Members were up early delivering the boxes of homemade cookies to each of the locations on Tuesday morning. The Post Office, Fire Department and Police Department received four boxes, including a bag of treats for Nala; POA employees also received four boxes, plus another box delivered to the POA call center at the Balboa Club; SCAT volunteers

received one box, and we delivered a box to split between the employees who staff HSV's East and West Gates.

The UN designated June 23 as Public Service Day, which is celebrated worldwide. The event is to recognize the value and virtue of public service to our communities as well as the work and contributions of public servants. It recognizes the value of public service in creating a better world for everyone.

Patti Geiser headed up the project, and the bakers were Amanda Allen, Beth Annen, Bonnie Crader, Dorothy Fager, Patti Geiser, Lynda Grasse, Laurie Herman, Kathy Jervis, Mary Kramer, Kelli Langley, Doris Michaelson, Joan Plautz, Melissa Sorrell, Pam Vernon, Jackie Wilson and Kim Young.

Boxes were packed by Beth Annen, Patti Geiser, Kathy Jervis, Mary Kramer and Jackie Wilson, and deliveries were made by Patti Geiser, Laurie Herman, Kathy Jervis, Irene Keith, Mary Kramer, Diane McMillan, Kayla Nobles, Pam Vernon, Jackie Wilson and Kim Young.

-Laurie Herman



Altrusans delivered smiles and cookies June 23 to (clockwise from the top) the HSV Police Department, the POA Call Center, POA employees, all four Fire Department stations, the U.S. Post Office and the Village SCAT office for volunteer drivers and schedulers, and to HSV gate workers (not pictured). Cookie packers met June 22 to put a variety of cookies in 19 boxes for delivery, and, of course, package a bag of doggie treats for Canine Officer Nala.



Altrusans at Play and at Work: Altrusans, spouses and friends organized a group outing to the Arkansas Travelers game in Little Rock for a fun afternoon watching America's favorite pastime. At right, Finance Chair Diane Shaw (above with Laurie Herman and Valerie Derryberry) organized teams of Altrusans to staff the Belk Charity Days event in Hot Springs, and it was work that wasn't really work. The Belk coupons practically sold themselves and the Club collected \$5 for each coupon, for a total of \$1,330 over three days to support our many community service projects.

Meeting Summaries

(continued from Page 4)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Service: Patti Geiser and Lynda Grasse Public Service Day will be on June 23. Please sign up to bake cookies and help deliver them.

Finance: Diane Shaw

Braided Bread Sale will be organized by Patti Geiser and Kayla Nobles.

Communications: Amanda Allen

A photo of the new board will be submitted to the Village Voice. The picture of our nursing scholarship students will be resubmitted as it appears to have been lost.

Adrienne Cohen will be writing an article for the HSV Life magazine about Altrusa's history and our Club's role in our community.

Grants: Diane Shaw announced that a \$1,600 grant, for Birthday Books and Altrusans Read, was awarded to our Club from the Altrusa International Foundation.

ALTRUSA FOUNDATION OF HSV: Melanie Pederson was on vacation. Diane Shaw presented the report Melanie had sent earlier to the membership.

Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met June 22 and took several **ACTIONS:**

*President Laurie Herman reported that when the Club does fundraising or service projects and the public attends we must notify International to be

covered under International's general liability umbrella that extends to all clubs. We need to call or email ahead to the office when the event will be held and what it is. This step could save us a lot of issues should anyone be hurt at an event we are sponsoring.

*The Club has been asked to host a District Eight Mini-Conference Aug. 8. We would need to find space, provide lunch and suggest places to stay. Laurie Herman will get more information.

*First Vice President Kim Young reported that the Spring Fling is tentatively set for March 6, and the entertainment under consideration is "Jubilation Jazz" an eighteen-member band. Once the venue is confirmed the committee will begin to meet to start organizing the event.

*Treasurer Kelli Langley presented the 2026-27 Club budget. **ACTION:** Approved proposed budget, subject to Membership approval. Our Club CD will mature prior to our next Board Meeting; it will be rolled over to a new CD at that time.

*A Foundation secretary is needed, and Amanda Allen will be nominated to complete the one-year term.

*Chris Hanses will add emergency phone numbers to the online directory for members who want to add them.

*Amanda Allen will write out step-by-step directions on how to file committee minutes on Google Drive. She will send

this out to all members and help anyone still having problems.

***ACTION:** The Snack Fairy Project was approved as an enhanced proposal, to supply snacks to Jessieville School quarterly and to the Girls and Boys Club once a month, starting in July. The Foundation plans to budget \$2,000 for all Snack Fairy snacks.

*Pill bottles will now be sent to Matthew 25 Ministries. Patti will amend the Service Committee's budget for postage to show \$500 to send the pill bottles.

*The Board reviewed the strategic plan and Club Bylaws and Policies and made minor adjustments. **ACTION:** The Board recommended a Bylaw change (to be presented to membership for approval) to change Article XI, Officers Section 2 Tenure to read as follows: Each officer shall be elected to a two (2) year term. No Officer shall hold the same office for more than two (2) consecutive terms. The rest of that section remains the same.

Where's My Dogwood Blossom?

It's Aug. 1 and the Club's newsletter is not in your email account. What gives? Your editor had to travel to a convention in Reno when she should have been finishing the newsletter. We should fire her right now! After a red-eye flight July 30, she'll get the news in your mailbox as soon as she's able to function again.