

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/>

2025-2027 District Eight

Governor – Sarah Akin

Club Liaison –

Jennifer McKeown

District Eight Website

<https://districteight.altrusa.org>

Altrusa International, Inc.

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Suite 410

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www.altrusa.org

Featured Picture

Newest Altrusan

Altrusa of HSV initiated Caprice Waller on July 2. Her sponsors are Elaine Williams (second from left) and Diane Shaw (not pictured). Diane McMillan, Pam Vernon and President Laurie Herman performed the initiation.



Serving with 

President's Message – Laurie Herman

Happy August to all Altrusans. I hope you are all staying cool this summer. Believe it or not, Fall will be here soon, and as all of us “old timers” know, this is the time when our work pace really picks up!

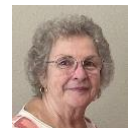
We will kick things off at Mountain Pine Elementary School with Birthday Books and Altrusans Read.

The Dictionary Project gets under way and dictionaries for third-graders at three surrounding school systems will be ordered and prepared for delivery. The Snack Fairy will be making more rounds, we will start collecting books for the Book Boxes at local shelters and the Cedar Mountain Boys & Girls Club, and we will begin preparing for Military Fishing Day and Altrusa's Game Day fundraiser in October. It's time to start getting involved! You don't have to be a member of the Service Committee to be involved in our projects.

We have many new members who will be experiencing our upcoming projects and events for the first time.

They need to have each project thoroughly explained so they will understand why each community service we perform has its own merits, and why they should get involved. When we ask for volunteers, we need to make sure that everyone knows what they are volunteering for and why it's so important.

We had a great July meeting! We started out by adding one more Altrusan! Welcome Caprice Waller – we are looking forward to serving with you in our community. We also heard about plans for the Christmas Party that will be Dec. 10 at the DeSoto Club. You'll hear more about it at the Aug. 6 Business Meeting. Also at the meeting, we will be approving bylaw updates and other documents so that we can update our Yearbook. We hope to have new year's books available in September. See you all at the August Business Meeting!



Laurie

August International Days: Youth Day on Aug. 12 and World Humanitarian Day on Aug. 9

By Kathy Jervis
Observed annually on
Aug. 12, International

Youth Day raises awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing young people and celebrates their role as essential partners in achieving sustainable development. International Youth Day 2026 recognizes that while young people's lives are shaped by different national and local realities, their aspirations are remarkably similar. Young people seek dignity, opportunity, meaningful participation, decent work, quality education, and a sustainable future. This year's theme is "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations." It places particular attention on young people around the world who experience challenges linked to poverty, climate change, geographic isolation, limited economic opportunities, and unequal access to digital technologies. At the same time these young people



continue to demonstrate resilience, leadership, and innovation in advancing development within their countries.

World Humanitarian Day

World Humanitarian Day 2026 falls on Aug. 9. This international observance honors humanitarian aid workers and commemorates the 2003 bombing of the UN headquarters in Bagdad, Iraq, where 22 personnel were killed.

The day recognizes the sacrifices made by aid workers who brave danger to provide life-saving assistance to communities affected by conflicts and disasters. The day also serves as a platform to raise awareness about global humanitarian needs and to advocate for the safety and security of aid personnel.

The theme for 2026 is "Strengthening Global Solidarity and Empowering Local Communities." The theme focuses on highlighting the significant rise in humanitarian and civilian attacks while asking why those who have violated the International Humanitarian Law have been allowed to continue with impunity.

Altrusa Business Meeting Summary for July 2 and Board of Directors Actions on July 28

The Business Meeting of Altrusa International of HSV was held July 2, with 25 members in attendance of a total active membership of 33 and one guest present.

ACCENT: Presented by Amanda Allen
UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Diane McMillon initiated our newest member, Caprice Waller. Elaine Williams and Diane Shaw will serve as her sponsors. Caprice will become a member of the Service Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:
Changes to Club Policies, Bylaws, and the Strategic Plan were worked on at the June Board meeting. Documents for review by the membership will follow in July for the August meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Laurie Herman
Laurie asked Patti Geiser to report on the Club's Christmas Party. It will be held in the backroom of the DeSoto Club on Thursday, Dec. 10, from 4 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Five dinner choices will be offered.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jackie Wilson
Jackie reported that the Loan Closet has only 5 dates left to be filled for this year.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Kim Young
Saturday, March 6, is tentatively

scheduled for the Spring Fling fundraiser and sponsor appreciation event. (That date has now been confirmed). Jubilation Jazz will be the entertainment and will be presenting a Big Band Radio Show. Let Kim Young know if you would like to be on the pre-planning committee. All members will be involved on March 6th.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Joan Plautz
Minutes of June 4, 2026, Business Meeting were approved and will be filed in the Club's digital archives on Google Drive.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kelli Langley
The Monthly Financials were sent out to all members. The Club's total account balance is \$10,698.17.

The Club Budget was presented for Membership approval. Total Budgeted New Income is \$7,265 and Total Budgeted Expenses are \$11,480. Projected Cash on Hand Bank and CD Balance on May 31, 2007, is \$5,041.71 Martha Smith made a motion to accept the Proposed Budget; it was seconded by Valerie Derryberry. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRST YEAR DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Pam Vernon
Pam thanked Kathy Jervis for all her work on the previous scrapbooks. The

new scrapbook will be a bit different as Pam plans on creating a digital book.

SECOND YEAR DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Chris Hanses

If you are having problems with the online directory, just try logging out and then logging back in. That usually solves the problem.

An email went out to all members of the Club which invited them to fill out all their service hours digitally. Chris thanked the anonymous person who sent it out, and all the many members who responded.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications: Amanda Allen
Photos of initiations and a Snack Fairy visit have been submitted to the Village Voice, but they have not been published yet. More will be submitted this week.

Service: Patti Geiser and Lynda Grasse

Public Service Day was a success with 540 cookies being delivered to the Post Office, the Fire Department, the Police Department, the POA, and Village SCAT. The Snack Fairy Project has been

Please see Summaries on Page 5

Committee Highlights

Finance

Diane Shaw, Chair

The Finance Committee did not meet in July, but a Game Day Committee will meet in early August. This is Altrusa's big Fall fundraiser that helps pay for the community service projects we do each year.

We encourage every member to help with selling tickets, and soliciting Silent Auction items. On Game Day, members will be preparing the luncheon meal, serving it and cleaning up afterward. Some members organize a table or two of friends, and sit down to play. We also will discuss continued participation in RADA, which has lots of new items.

Game Day save-the-date flyers are attached to the newsletter and copies will be available at the Business Meeting.

Membership

Diane McMillan, Chair

The Membership Committee has changed its monthly meetings to the third Monday at 10 a.m., at 21 Cifuentes Way.

The Committee and the Board approved Bonnie Crader's Recommendation for Membership. She will be initiated at the Aug. 6 Business Meeting.

Membership plans to hold an orientation workshop for new members at 3 p.m. before the Sept. 3 Business Meeting. The next Fifth Friday gathering is 3:30-5 p.m. Oct. 30 at the DeSoto Club. Please plan to attend.

Communications

Amanda Allen, Chair

Committee member and Webmaster Diane Bielanski is updating our Club Yearbook for 2026-27 and we hope to have it ready in September.

The Committee did not meet in July; next meeting is 3:30 p.m. Aug. 12 via Zoom.

Service

Patti Geiser, Lynda Grasse, Co-Chairs

The Service Committee met July 10 and reviewed all current and future projects. The Snack Fairy delivered treats to the Boys & Girls Club on July 14 and will make a second delivery later in the summer. (See Page 6) Preparations are under way for Birthday Books and Altrusans Read, which will begin in September.

More than 540 cookies were delivered on U.N. Public Service Day June 23. Cookie deliveries to the HSV Police Department, Fire Department, POA office, Post Office and Village SCAT were very much appreciated. More than 10 members participated in the deliveries, with many more baking and donating cookies.

After the Service Committee meeting, members stayed longer and sorted, counted, packaged and mailed 2,210 pill bottles to Matthew 25 Ministries in Ohio, completing the Pill Bottles Project for Spring. (See Page 5) The next meeting is 10 a.m. Aug. 14 at McGraw Realtors HSV. -Lynda Grasse

This Month's Accent by Amanda Allen

Last night I attended the Jubilation Jazz band's patriotic performance at Balboa Baptist Church. Kim Young and Joan Schoonover were there, and I spotted Mary Kramer and her husband Glenn in the distance. Kim and I had an ulterior motive, to see how the band was received. They are under consideration to be the entertainment at Altrusa's Spring Fling fundraiser and donor appreciation event. The performance was inspiring and uplifting, reminding everyone how fortunate we are to live in a country where we have so much freedom. When the 13 colonies united in 1776, it was to throw off an oppressive British King and Parliament that dictated how much colonists paid in taxes and passed laws without any input from the people who had to abide by those laws. In fact, the Declaration of Independence lists those grievances one by one. As we celebrate 250 years of a Republic "by and for the people," we have acknowledged that the Declaration of Independence and later the U.S. Constitution weren't perfect documents when they were written. For instance, the phrase "all men are created equal" didn't include women and didn't really cover "all men" – slaves weren't considered equal. As time went on, the Constitution has evolved and amendments have made it a document we are all proud of.

When Altrusa International was founded in 1917, women still weren't able to vote in elections. The 19th Amendment to the Constitution granted that right in 1920.

In 1917, women also weren't able to join service clubs such as Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary, and women who

owned businesses or worked in professions had fewer opportunities to network with their peers and clients. Most the all-male service clubs didn't open membership to women until the mid-1980s.

Altrusa was the first national organization for business and professional women, and we should take pride in that fact. Like the Constitution, Altrusa continues to evolve and the organization now welcomes male members, too. That also happened in the 1980s.

To learn more about the history of Altrusa International, you can read a booklet, "The Altrusa Tradition," that was first distributed in 1985 and is updated periodically, most recently in 2024. Log in to altrusa.org, and go to the Membership tab. The booklet is in the Membership Kit. As we all know, Altrusa's name derives from "Altruism" combined with "USA." It was founded on the Altrusa Ideals of Patriotism, Efficiency, and Service, which seems appropriate for this patriotic July 4th celebration.

Altrusa's Ideals lists principles all Altrusans should embrace. The opening section says:

"As an Altrusan I will be guided by these Principles of Conduct: Our Country is as great as we, its citizens, make it. Therefore, I pledge my loyalty to its ideals and to its endeavors for the welfare of mankind. I shall strive to practice true patriotism and to fulfill my civic obligations in my own community by interested participation in its activities."

We should all be proud to be Altrusans and to support our great country and the freedoms we enjoy.

In Our Prayers

Karen Brines
Melanie Pederson,
her granddaughter
and family
The Family of
Carole Thompson
Ginna Watson
Eyvonne Whipple
Jackie Wilson

August Birthdays

Valerie Derryberry	6
Eyvonne Whipple	10
Joan Schoonover	11
Velma Coolidge	22
Lynda Grasse	22
Melanie Pederson	22
Joan Plautz	24

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.

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. 12: Communications Committee, via Zoom, 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 9: World Humanitarian Day

Aug. 12: International Youth Day

Aug. 14: Service Committee, 10 a.m., McGraw Realtors HSV; all Club members invited.

Aug. 17: Membership Development Committee, 10 a.m., 21 Cifuentes Way.

Aug. 27: Finance Committee, 11 a.m., mForce Capital.

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

Aug 26: Loan Closet, 1-4 p.m. Volunteers Amanda Allen and Elaine Schroeder.

Sept. 3: New member orientation, hosted by Membership Committee, 3 p.m., McGraw Realtors.

Sept. 3: Business Meeting, McGraw Realtors HSV, 1060 DeSoto Blvd., hosted by Membership Committee. Social at 4 p.m., meeting program at 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 28: 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, 11 a.m., Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church.

Oct. 30: Fifth Friday Social, 3:30-5 p.m., the DeSoto Club.

Your Contribution to Altrusa International, No Matter How Small, Really Adds Up

This report in the June Impact newsletter of the Altrusa International Foundation shows in real numbers the impact each Altrusan and each Club has in funding the Foundation's projects worldwide.

"The generosity and commitment of Altrusans were on full display during the 2026 District Conference season.

"Through individual gifts, Club and District contributions, Lamplighter support, and Club 52 memberships, Altrusans raised an impressive \$144,208 for the International Foundation, an increase of \$37,750 over the \$106,458 raised during the 2025 District Conferences.

"This remarkable achievement represents a 35.5% increase in Conference fundraising and demonstrates the growing commitment of Altrusans to



advancing the International Foundation's mission around the world.

"Conference attendees also celebrated the generosity of our Lamplighters, recognizing both current Lamplighters and welcoming new Lamplighters who received their pins during Conference events.

"In addition, the number of Club 52 Charter Members continued to grow as Altrusans, Clubs, and Districts contributed membership fees during the Conferences, further strengthening the International Foundation's ability to support meaningful projects around the globe."

District Eight Is Organizing Three Workshops – Let's Make Plans for a Jonesboro Trip!

Get ready for a learning experience and a chance to meet other Altrusans in our district.

District Eight is planning three workshops in August and September.

Plan to attend if you can, and you'll learn about membership recruitment and retention, succession planning and perform a community service project. You'll also get to meet and network with other Altrusans.

Save these dates (more information will be coming soon):

Saturday, Aug. 15: Mexico, Mo.

Saturday, Sept. 12: Salina, KS

Saturday, Sept. 26: Jonesboro, AR



District News

Jonesboro, in Northeast Arkansas, is the closest location to Hot Springs Village, about a four-hour drive.

Usually, members who plan to attend will carpool together and spend the night in a shared hotel room or Air B&B.

A bonus for new Altrusans is you'll get to know Club members better and feel more connected to the group and its community service mission. Watch for more information soon.

-Amanda Allen

Serve Proudly With Altrusa And Report Those Hours

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.

Enough Bottles to Open a Pharmacy! More Than 6,000 and Counting

When Altrusa International of Hot Springs Village asked Villagers in 2025 to save their empty prescription pill bottles, remove the labels and clean them, the Club didn't know how many people would go to that trouble to donate their bottles. Hundreds did, and Club members collected them. The Club's Service Committee members recently sorted, packed and sent another shipment of 2,210 pill bottles to Matthew 25 Ministries. The first two shipments of bottles, to Matthew 25 and to Hope for Haiti, also contained about 2,000 bottles each. The bottles will be recycled to clinics for dispensing prescriptions so that patients can go home with a clean container of medicine instead of carrying pills in a pocket or envelope. A bonus for HSV residents is that those bottles won't end up in a landfill. Because of shipping costs, the Club is looking for a local partner for the bottles. Service Committee members who sorted pill bottles for shipping are (top photo, from left) Suzi Poulsen, co-chair Lynda Grasse, Joan Plautz, Elaine Williams, co-chair Patti Geiser and Kim Young. Beth Annen, Adrienne Cohen and Diane McMillan also took part.



Summaries

Continued from Page 2

modified to add the Cedar Mountain Boys & Girls Club.

Laurie Herman read the new project submission form for Altrusa Reads. Pam Vernon will oversee Altrusa Reads, which was originally combined with Birthday Books.

Service meetings will be held at McGraw Realty on the second Friday of the month at 10 a.m.

Membership: Diane McMillan

Bonnie Crader has one more event to participate in and then her Membership Recommendation form will be completed.

ALTRUSA FOUNDATION OF HSV:

Melanie Pederson was on vacation. Laurie Herman read the Foundation report. The Total Budgeted Income for 2026-2027 is \$52,525; Total Budgeted Expenses for 2026-2027 are \$58,435. Projected Cash on Hand and CD Balance as of June 1, 2027, is \$34,676.10

GRANTS: Melanie Pederson

Laurie Herman said Melanie would like to have volunteers to help write grants. She is currently a committee of one. Help and samples would be available to help volunteers learn how.

Board Actions

The Board of Directors met on July 27 and took the following actions:

- *Unanimously approved the Recommendation for Membership of Bonnie Crader.
- *Approved a memorial of \$25 to Altrusa International Foundation in memory of Emeritus Member Carole Thompson.
- *At the Aug. 6 Business Meeting, President Laurie Herman will call for nominations from the floor for a vacant position on the Board of Directors of the Altrusa International Foundation of HSV. Amanda Allen is currently a nominee. After a person is approved by Club members, the Foundation Board will fill the position of secretary at its next meeting.

*Unanimously approved changes made to the Club's Strategic Plan.

*Unanimously approved the Club's Leadership Succession Plan.

*Approved changes to the Club's Policies. The Club Checkbook and Payment Requests policies, which were previously discussed in June and May, have been added to the Club's policies as points 18 and 19.

*Unanimously approved changes to the Club Bylaws. The secretary was asked to send out the Bylaws to the membership as soon as possible. (The Bylaws were sent out by email on Monday, July 27.) This motion will be presented to membership at the Aug. 6 Business Meeting.

The Board also learned that the Membership Committee will hold an orientation meeting for new members at McGraw Realtors HSV at 3 p.m. Sept. 3, before the start of the scheduled Club Business Meeting.



Snack Fairy Brings Smiles to B&G Club

It's a fact: Kids love treats – even nutritious ones – and especially on a hot Summer day.

Altrusa of HSV's Snack Fairy helpers visited the Cedar Mountain Boys & Girls Club twice this Summer, July 14 and 28, and gifted snacks to the Club for its Summer program.

Clearly, the kids were happy to receive them!

This Fall, the Snack Fairy will be busier, with visits to area schools as well as the B&G Club.



Emeritus Member Carole Thompson Leaves A Lasting Legacy with Altrusa of HSV

Emeritus Member Carole Ann Thompson, 85, of Hot Springs Village, passed away peacefully on July 10, surrounded by her family. Carole was a leader in Altrusa of HSV and leaves behind a valuable legacy for the Club and for Altrusa International Foundation of HSV. She was instrumental in establishing the Foundation in 2012, soon after she became an Altrusan on June 6, 2011. Her Altrusa sponsors were Valerie Derryberry and Ouida Wolfe (now deceased). Carole later sponsored Altrusans Terry Bayes, Doris Harder and Elaine Schroeder. Carole was the Foundation Treasurer from 2013-2017, and the Club's Membership Committee Chair from 2017-2019.

Carole is survived by her husband of 64 years,

Jerry Dean Thompson; her son, Greg Dean Thompson; her daughter-in-law, Faye Thompson; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one brother and two sisters. A devoted Catholic, Carole lived her faith through service and was a dedicated member of the Ladies of the Sacred Heart at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. She also enjoyed her time spent with Altrusa of HSV and all of the friends she made supporting the organization. Her faith, kindness, and compassion were reflected in the way she cared for others throughout her life. Carole's legacy is one of unconditional love, compassion, generosity, and faith. She touched countless lives. With kindness, wisdom, and willingness to help others.



Audits of Club's and Foundation's Books Find All Financial Accounts Are in Order

The financial records of Altrusa International of Hot Springs Village, AR, Inc. were reviewed on June 2, 2026, as required by the Club's Bylaws. An examination of the financial records of Altrusa International Foundation of Hot Springs Village, Inc. also was conducted on June 2, 2026, as required by the International Foundation's Bylaws and Policies.

The financial audits were performed in an objective manner without prejudice and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The Club's General Operating Account and the Foundation Account were audited for the period June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026.

The bank statements, check registers, all deposit records and vouchers were reviewed for these timeframes. All filings with the IRS and Secretary of State are current.

Foundation Treasurer Dorothy Fager and Club Treasurer Kelli Langley performed their duties in an outstanding manner. We are pleased to report that we found the financial records to be in order and have issued final audit letters to the respective Presidents, Treasurers and Boards of Directors.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Diane Shaw, who assisted me with both audits.

-Joan Schoonover, Audit Committee Chair

Altrusa of Hot Springs Village



GAME DAY

SAVE THE DATE!



October 22, 2026 @ 11:00am

Christ of the Hills, UMC



Bring your favorite game and all of your friends
Enjoy a fantastic lunch and participate in the silent auction



For information contact, Diane Shaw 785-224-7419

Serving with 