On behalf of District Three International, it is my pleasure to extend an invitation to the 64th Annual Conference, to be held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, May 4th through May 6th. This year’s theme is “100th Anniversary Celebration” and will be hosted by Altrusa International of Salisbury, North Carolina, under the direction of Conference Co-Chairs Nancy Mott and Cindy Nimmer. The Marriott Winston-Salem Hotel is the venue for this year’s conference and is located downtown Winston-Salem within walking distance of restaurants and city attractions.

Let me encourage all of you to attend this year’s special conference. Not only is it an opportunity to celebrate Altrusa’s birthday, but it’s a great opportunity to see old friends and make new friends from all over the District. If you are a first-timer to conference, not only is your registration reduced by $25, but there’s a special First-Timer’s event just for you on Thursday afternoon. You’ll learn what to expect at conference, how to get the most out of your experience, and you will also get to meet the District Board. Directors Jane Gray, Rhonda Moorefield and Kitty McElhaney will have some special challenges for you and you certainly would not want to miss that!

Your District Three Leaders are hard at work to help make this the best conference ever. The Conference will begin with an impressive Opening Ceremony that will include a Color Guard, a Flag Ceremony and an In Memoriam Ceremony, honoring those Altrusans we lost this past year. The Opening Breakfast will have an inspiring Keynote Speaker, the Foundation Luncheon will honor deserving clubs with awards and grants and the Awards Breakfast will be filled with awards and recognitions. You will see the leadership in action in the Business Meetings and there will even be an All Conference Workshop in the first business meeting. This is an election year so we’ll be voting for our new Board and Foundation officers Friday afternoon. And, who could forget Fun Night on Friday evening where we’ll have a great big birthday party with cake and games and dancing……….The grand finale to conference will be the Governor’s Banquet where you will see Governor-Elect Christy Bryant installed as Governor for the 2017-2019 Biennium along with her newly elected Board members.

We are honored this year to have as our International Representative Vice President Diane Eberhard. Diane is from District Eight and her home club is Altrusa International of Sikeston, Missouri. You’ll want to make Diane feel a big District Three welcome. There will be a Reception for her on Saturday evening just prior to the Governor’s banquet.

This is our Call to Conference issue of the DSB and you’ll want to read the whole issue. It will include “Schedule At A Glance”, registration and hotel information, a listing of workshops, the Conference Service Project information and a slate of the candidates that will be running for the District Board and District Foundation with their bios. I encourage Club Presidents to attend and send your allotted delegates so that you will have a voice in decisions made on behalf of the whole membership.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Winston-Salem for our “100th Anniversary Celebration” and always remember.......Together We Make A Difference.

Norma
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Call To Conference

Altrusa International 64th Annual District Three Conference

May 4-6, 2017

The Salisbury, North Carolina club is serving as host to the 2017 District Three Conference at the Marriott downtown hotel in Winston Salem, North Carolina. The hotel is smack dab in the center of Winston-Salem’s downtown area where you only have to walk a block or so from the hotel to find lots of fun attractions, great restaurants, and unique shops. We invite you to attend to celebrate our past 100 years since the Altrusa Institute was founded in 1917, celebrate our current district clubs chartered from 1928 to 2005, and celebrate what the future will hold for new clubs yet to be born.

To help us celebrate the past 100 years we want all attendees to wear a hat that depicts a particular time between 1917 and 2017. During Friday Fun Night we’ll have a Hat Parade and folks attending will judge the hats in three different prize categories: Best Historic, Best Handmade and Most Extravagant. Yes men, we want you to wear a hat too. So dig through your closets, borrow one, make your own hat but come to Conference with a hat on your head. You might even win a prize just for wearing your hat during conference.

Our conference celebration kicks off on Thursday, May 4 with a Welcome Reception in the Hospitality Room followed by the Opening Ceremony and the traditional parade of flags. This is such a beautiful part of the ceremony you won’t want to miss it.

Friday will be a full day with meals, meetings workshops, and voting. You’ll go home with lots of great ideas to share with your club members, and fond memories of meeting new folks and seeing old friends. Our celebration continues Friday evening when we’ll gather for a birthday celebration complete with games, music, dancing, prizes, and of course - birthday cake!

Then on Saturday it’s back to business again until early afternoon when you’ll have some free time. See the page on “Things to do in Winston-Salem” for ideas. The conference will wrap up Saturday night with a reception for our International Representative and International Vice President, Diane Eberhard, and an elegant evening for the Governor’s Banquet held in honor of Governor-Elect Christy Bryant.

Throughout the conference you’ll have opportunities to check out a variety of items for sale at the vendor tables, shop for Altrusa merchandise at the Altrusa store, and bid on merchandise at the District Three Foundation’s silent auction.

Our Service Project this year is the Village Rally. We hope you’ll enjoy hearing about this project during conference and participate by bringing school supplies or other items to help kids in need. See details about the project and items needed on the Service Project page.

Make your conference and hotel reservations now! Hotel details and a registration form appear within these pages, or you can find them online at the District Three website.

Looking forward to CELEBRATING our past, present and future with you!
2017 DISTRICT THREE CONFERENCE SERVICE PROJECT

THE VILLAGE RALLY

The Village is a community committee that consists of caring people that live in the targeted community and citizens of Rowan County. The Village meets with families who live in low income areas and allows them to assist with planning the Rally event. These families volunteer on the day of the event which helps them develop leadership skills and take a vested interest in their community. It also gives the community a say in what services they need.

The Village provides many resources and information to these families free of charge: tutoring, physicals, counseling, safety, cyber bullying, study habits, literacy, music, food, school uniforms, school supplies, college registration information, and college bound programs.

Since 2013, The Village hosted a free community event called The Village Rally. The Village Rally provides families with free school supplies, entertainment, food, activities, and access to other community services. Donated funds are used to purchase book bags, books, school supplies and additional supplies. The Rally provides families with these needed supplies and an opportunity to unite with their community.

During the Village Rally, each child receives free school supplies and fun activities that will focus on conflict resolution, anti-gang activities, and literacy. The goal is to assist parents with obtaining much needed supplies and access to community resources while emphasizing the importance of a strong and united community. The Village has provided services and community resource connections to over 400 families!

Altrusans can help with donations of the following items:

Gift cards for supplies - Walmart, Kmart or Target

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General items:</th>
<th>For the classroom:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book bags</td>
<td>Pens and # 2 Pencils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pencil sharpener</td>
<td>Pencil pouch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pocket Folders</td>
<td>Scissors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glue sticks</td>
<td>3 Ring Binders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crayons</td>
<td>Colored pencils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erasers- pencil top or block</td>
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<tr>
<td>Composition Notebook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loose Leaf notebook paper - college/wide ruled</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Clothing for School:                |                                        |
| All ages: Socks, Underwear          |                                        |
| Elementary age:                     |                                        |
| Plain polo shirts w/collar, no logo|                                        |
| Solid color turtle neck tops, long or short sleeved |                     |
| Khaki pants/shorts/skirts - navy blue, black or Khaki tan colors |                     |

The Village believes in the African Proverb “It takes a whole village to raise a child”.
### Schedule at a Glance

#### 2017 District Three Conference

**Wednesday, May 3**
- 7:00 – 11:00 pm  Pre-Conference District Board Meeting

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**Thursday, May 4**
- 8:00 am – 12 noon Pre-Conference Board Meeting
- 12 noon – 6:00 pm Registration & Credentials
- 12 noon – 5:00 pm Vendors/Foundation Auction/Altrusa Store
- 4:00 – 5:00 pm Flag Ceremony Rehearsal
- 5:00 – 6:00 pm First Timers Orientation
- 5:30 – 7:00 pm Welcome Reception
- 7:30 – 9:00 pm Opening Ceremony

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**Friday, May 5**
- 7:00 – 8:00 am Registration & Credential
- 8:00 - 9:30 am Conference Opening Breakfast
- 9:30 am – 5:00 pm Vendors/Foundation Auction/Altrusa Store
- 9:45 – 11:45 am 1st All Conference Business Meeting/Conference Hosting Workshop
- 12 noon- 2:00 pm Foundation Luncheon & Annual Meeting
- 2:00 -2:45 pm Registration and Credentials

**Workshop Session I**
- 2:15 – 3:30 pm Presidents Workshop
- 2:15 – 3:30 pm Treasurers Workshop
- 2:15 – 3:30 pm Celebrating our Past, Present & Future, Series #1 Workshop
- 2:15 – 3:30 pm Celebrating our Past, Present & Future, Series #2 Workshop

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**Workshop Session II**
- 3:45 pm – 5 pm Under Charter Club Workshop
- 3:45 – 5:00 pm Celebrating our Past, Present & Future, Series #3 Workshop
- 3:34 – 5:00 pm Celebrating our Past, Present & Future, Series #4 Workshop
- 5:00 – 5:45 pm Voting
- 6:00 – 10:00 pm Fun Night Birthday Party

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**Saturday, May 6**
- 7:00 – 8:00 am Registration & Credential
- 7:00 am – 1:00 pm Vendors/Foundation Auction/Altrusa Store
- 8:00 – 9:45 am Awards Breakfast
- 10 am – 12:15 pm 2nd All Conference Business Meeting
- 12:15 – 6:00 pm Free Time
- 12:30 pm – 2 pm Past Governor’s Luncheon
- 6:00 – 7:00 pm Cocktail Reception for International Rep
- 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm Governor’s Banquet (formal)

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**Sunday, May 7**
- 8:00 – 11:30 am Post-Conference District Board Meeting

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*The above schedule is subject to change.*

Registration, Vendors and Altrusa Store will be closed during meals and business meetings.

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Our Workshop presenters will be:
- Presidents - Frances Ferguson, North Georgia club.
- Treasurers – Cathie Schanz, District Treasurer and Tampa Bay club.
- Conference Presenters – Tammy Hall, Program Coordinator and Kitty McElhaney, Director, both of Lake City club.

Celebrating our Past, Present & Future series - will be hosted by various members of the Salisbury club and community.
Diane Eberhard
Vice President
Altrusa International, Inc.

Diane is currently serving as International Vice President and has also served on the International level as Vice Chair for the Communications Committee 2003-2005, Elections Committee Chair 2009, the Governors’ Council Vice-Chair 2011-2013 and Director 2013-2015. On the District level, she served as Second Vice-Governor (2004-2006), First Vice-Governor (2006-2008), Governor-Elect (2008-2011), and as Governor of District Eight (2011-2013). Diane provided service as District Webmaster during 2006-2008, the District Communications Chair from 1996-1998 and served as the District Long Range Strategic Planning Trainer. Diane was President of Altrusa International, Inc. of Sikeston, MO 1999-2000 and 2005-2006 as well as Director, Vice President and President-Elect.

Statement

Altrusa has been one of the strongest, most positive forces I have had in my life. The excitement that comes from members who have found that perfect bit of service they can do – that perfect marriage between service given and service received, that fills your servant’s heart, is like nothing else. It’s the best recruitment tool we have – being excited about service and telling everyone about it. Who doesn’t want to be part of something great? Altrusa has given me so much more than I could ever repay in leadership skills, travels – near and far and life-long friends.

I am committed to Altrusa, its continued strides toward unity, greater recognition and growth. Several years ago, Leanne Milligan, our current International President-Elect, included in her statement on Altrusa a quote from Leo Rosten, “I cannot believe that the purpose of life is to be happy. I think the purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, and to be compassionate. It is, above all to matter, to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all.” This statement is as powerful for me today as it was when I first read it; Altrusa is the perfect vehicle for all of us to make a difference in this world and to make our lives count; if we can do that by reaching out the hand of service to others, then it could not be more perfect.
Conference Keynote Speaker

Dicy McCullough is a retired music teacher who has found life after teaching through writing children’s books. She has been one of the featured authors at the Salisbury, NC Altrusa club’s annual Reading Festival for several years.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music Education from Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, NC, and a Master of Education Degree from University of North Carolina-Charlotte. In 2011 she was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Alumni at Gardner-Webb University.

Besides her book writing, Dicy has many other talents. She taught private piano lessons for thirty years, taught kindergarten for eleven years and music for nineteen years. She plays organ and piano at various churches in her community. She wrote a human interest column for the Salisbury Post for four years and occasionally writes articles for the newly published Salisbury Magazine. She is currently working on a middle-grade novel about two girls growing up in the sixties.

Between her writing time Dicy loves spending time with her four grandchildren, ages 1, 3, 4, & 6 and manages to stay grounded in taking care of her 96-year-old mother. She also loves taking time to share her books with children in preschools, schools, churches and organizations.

Dicy will soon have a seventh book to her “Tired of...” series and plans to include music in this book. Her books can be found at Amazon.com and http://www.dicymcculloughbooks.com. Also check out her blog at www.dicymcculloughbooks.com/blog
Slate of Candidates for District Office

GOVERNOR-ELECT NOMINEE—Kitty McElhaney

Altrusa International of Lake City, Florida
Nominated by: Sandy Furches, Past Governor

Kitty is retired Assistant Superintendent of Schools, FL Columbia County School District. For two consecutive years, she was a Leadership Development Trainer for aspiring leaders in the school district.

At the local level, she served as President of Lake City, FL Club in 2006-2007. She has served her club as Newsletter Editor, Parliamentarian and other positions.

At the district level, she has served (or is presently serving) in the following capacities:

ASTRA Chair: 2015-2017
District Three Director: 2016-2017 (Appointed to complete vacated office)
Election Committee: 2016 Conference
Co-Chair District Three Conference: 2011-2013
Co-Chair Club Revitalization Committee: 2011-2013
Credential Chair: 2013 Conference
District Three Nominating Committee Member: 2011
District Three Parliamentarian: 2009-2011

Kitty says: “In addition to my love for Altrusa, I want to be a District Three Officer because Altrusa and the friendships cultivated as an Altrusan have enriched my life. I would bring to the District Three Board of Directors organizational skills, leadership skills and the dedication to serve selflessly to promote the ideals and principles of Altrusa. I believe the Board serves as the coach and cheerleaders for all Altrusans in District Three.”

VICE-GOVERNOR NOMINEE—Cheryl Meyers

Altrusa International of Waynesville, NC
Nominated by Beverly Hardy, Past Governor

Cheryl is retired Administrative Assistant County Government (Economic Development Council) & Part time Chamber of Commerce Office Assistant. She has had 8 years’ experience training franchisers on direct marketing and 9 years’ experience training “Celebrate Recovery” Leaders.

At the local level, she served as President of Waynesville, NC Club in 2011-2012 and 2016-2017. She has also served as Secretary, Vice-President and Service Committee Chairman.

At the district level she has served in the following positions:

Nominating Committee - 2012-2013
Service Committee Chairman - 2013-2015
New Club Building Chairman - 2015-2017
Conference Co-Chairman - 2013

Cheryl says: “In addition to my love for Altrusa, I want to be a District Three Officer because I believe that Altrusa truly does builder leaders, friendships and provides needed services to the community. I would bring to the District Three Board organization, a sense of responsibility and a desire to improve the local clubs and district in any way possible. I enjoy the comradery at conferences and know that being a part of the District Three Board would allow me to get to know more Altrusans even better. I bring my experience, imagination and willingness to serve.”
Slate of Candidates for District Office

TREASURER NOMINEE—Shannon Schell
Altrusa International of Lake County, FL
Nominated by: Christy Bryant, Governor-Elect

Shannon is retired - self-employed.
At the local level, she has served 2 terms as President of Lake County, FL. She has served as club Treasurer. She is Chairman of Club Awards, Web site & Yearbook.
At the district level, she has served in the following positions:
2 Term District Three Finance Chairman
7 Years District Three Foundation Treasurer

Shannon says: “In addition to my love for Altrusa, I want to be a District Three Treasurer because I would bring to the District Three Board of Directors many years of Financial Expertise. My many years in business has provided me many professional contacts, CPA’s, Financial Advisors etc., from whom I have learned much and from whom I have much more to learn.”

DISTRICT THREE DIRECTOR NOMINEE—Carol Thomas
Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL
Nominated by Susan Slaman, President of Altrusa Intl. of Orlando-Winter Park, FL Club

Carol is a retired graphic designer with an AS Degree in Graphic Technology.
On the local level, she has served as President of Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL Club. She has also served as Vice-President, Director, Newsletter Editor, Chairman of Literacy Committee and on the Vocational Services Committee.

On the district level, she has served as Co-Chairman of a District Conference and Co-Committee Chairman of Service Projects SOS Project & Altrusa Cares.

Carol says: “In addition to my love for Altrusa, I want to be a District Three Officer because it is my wish to continue to serve District Three at a higher level. Having held two committee chair positions for District Three, I feel confident in advancing as a District Three Director and fulfill the goal of support to the Governor and the District Three Board with club building with enthusiasm and energy to the District.”

DISTRICT THREE DIRECTOR NOMINEE—DIMPLE J. OVERSTREET
Altrusa International of Starke, FL
Nominated by: Beverly Hardy, Past Governor

Dimple is the owner and operator of A&G Custom Gifts, Inc.
On the local level, she has served her club as President, Vice-President, Director, Program Committee Chairman & Membership Committee Chairman.
She is yet to serve on the district level.

Dimple says: “In addition to my love for Altrusa, I want to be a District Three Officer because I want to challenge myself by sharing with others my talents and skills. I would bring to the District Three Board of Directors my business/financial skills, my ability to problem solve and operate as a team player.”
Slate of Candidates for District Office

DISTRICT THREE DIRECTOR NOMINEE—NANCY MOTT

Altrusa International of Salisbury, NC
Nominated by Cindy Nimmer, President of Altrusa International of Salisbury, NC Club

Nancy is retired. Her education has included two years college, numerous vocational courses and forty years experience in administration.

On the local level, she has served as President of her club for two terms, as Treasurer for two terms and Secretary for five terms.

On the district level, she has served in the following positions:

- Co-Chair Communication Committee
- Registration and Treasurer for 2011 District Three Conference
- Co-Chair District Three 2017 Conference

International Foundation Liaison: Introduced a new program for Club 21 at 2016 District Conference

Nancy says: “In addition to my love for Altrusa, I want to be a District Three Officer because it will give me hands on at the District level which will also benefit my local club. I would bring to the District Three Board of Directors my ability and skill in coordinating. More effective communication will give us more time and energy to spend on our Altrusa tasks of bettering our communities.”

DISTRICT THREE DIRECTOR NOMINEE—Frances Ferguson

Altrusa International of North Georgia, Georgia
Nominated by Linda Robison, Past Governor

Frances is retired Administrative Assistant for an Insurance Agent.

At the local level, she is currently serving as President of North Georgia, GA Club. She has served as President, Treasurer & Director of Ocala, FL Club

At the district level, she has served as ASTRA Chairman.

Frances says: “In addition to my love for Altrusa, I want to be a District Three Officer because I feel I can bring my leadership and ideas to District Three and would bring to the District Three Board of Directors my skills and ideas of the past 40 years of experience in being an Altrusan. Serving as President, treasurer and on the board of my local clubs has given me knowledge and experience in helping other clubs with ideas and help in solving problems.”
Just a few of many things to do in the Winston-Salem area ...

The Arts and Museums - Walk the streets at Old Salem (or take the tour) and be sure to visit Winkler’s Bakery for fresh baked goodies, see a fine collection of American Art as you stroll through the Reynolda House, watch the children explore at the Children’s Museum, or learn about global cultures at the Museum of Anthropology.

Old Salem and Winkler’s Bakery http://www.oldsalem.org/
Children’s Museum of Winston-Salem http://www.childrensmuseumofws.org/
Museum of Anthropology at Wake Forest University http://moa.wfu.edu/visit/

Gardens - Enjoy historical gardens at Old Salem and Reynolda House, stroll the 15 gardens at Ciener; while you’re at Bethabara be sure to visit the Hortus Medicus, the country’s oldest known medical garden; enjoy the herb, friendship, fragrance and shade gardens at Tanglewood.

The gardens at Old Salem and Reynolda House (see site above)
Historic Bethabara Park http://www.cityofws.org/Departments/Recreation-Parks/Historic-Bethabara
Tanglewood Park http://www.forsyth.cc/parks/tanglewood/gardens.aspx

Golf Courses - Enjoy the Carolina blue skies on one of the local courses.

Meadowlands http://meadowlandsgolfclub.com/
Reynolds Park http://www.golfholes.com/nc/reynolds-park.htm
Tanglewood http://golf.tanglewoodpark.org/

Racing and other Sports

For you racing fans wander through two great museums, or watch the May 6, 100 lap modified race at Bowman Gray. The WS Dash doesn’t have a home game the week of the conference but check out their web site for many opportunities.

Richard Childress Racing Museum https://www.visitnc.com/listing/rcr-racing-museum-1
The Winston Cup Museum http://winstoncupmuseum.com/tour-the-museum
Winston-Salem Dash http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t580
Bowman Gray Racing http://www.bowmangrayracing.com/schedule.html

Shopping - Shop until you drop at the huge Hanes Mall or be adventurous and visit the specialty shops downtown or at Reynolda Village.

Hanes Mall http://www.shophanesmall.com/
The Downtown Arts District http://www.dadaws.org/calendar.html
Reynolda Village (see web site info above)

Wineries - There are over 100 wineries in North Carolina with a high concentration in the Piedmont area

Childress Vineyards www.childressvineyards.com
Shelton Vineyards www.sheltonwineyards.com
Raylen Vineyards www.raylenvineyards.com
Conference Registration

May 4-6, 2017
Marriott Hotel Winston-Salem, NC

Registration for the Altrusa International District Three conference can be done in just a few easy steps.

Download the Registration Form in this DSB and mail in with your conference fee, or Go to the District Website www.districtthree.altrusa.org.

Enter your information. Each attending member must have a separate registration form.

Full Registration: $ 195.00
First Timers receive a $25 discount

Mail your check for the conference fee amount to:
Altrusa International of Salisbury, NC
c/o Madeline Zieverink
200 Primrose Drive
Salisbury, North Carolina 28147

Make checks payable to: Altrusa International Inc. District Conference

The deadline for registration is April 12, 2017

If you have questions about registration or need help, please contact Madeline Zieverink at 704-637-0800, mzieverink@carolina.rr.com or Nancy Mott at 704-637-9561, njmott@att.net.
**Conference Registration**

Note: Each attending member must register on a separate form.

Please Print

Name: ___________________________________________ E-mail: ________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________ Home Club: ____________________________

City ___________________________ State: __________ Zip: ___________ Phone: _____________________

Dietary Needs: ___ Vegetarian   ___ Diabetic   ___ Gluten free    Other: ______________________________

Conference Booklet/Materials:   ___ Paper copy      ___ Electronic Version (please check one)

Please check all of the following that apply to you:

___ Member   ___ Club President   ___ International Officer
___ Delegate   ___ Incoming President  ___ International Rep
___ Alternate   ___ Past Governor   ___ Past International President
___ District Officer   ___ District Committee Chair   ___ First Timer
___ District Foundation Officer

**Conference Fees**

Please register by April 12, 2017. After that date, a $20.00 late fee will be charged.

Conference fees will be refunded if cancellation is received by April 12, 2017.

**Full Conference Registration:**

_Includes Friday Breakfast, Friday Lunch, Friday Fun Night, Saturday Breakfast, and Saturday Governor’s Banquet._

- Full Conference Registration: $195.00
- Friday Only Registration: (Includes Breakfast, Lunch, and Friday Fun Night) $125.00
- Saturday Only Registration: (Includes Breakfast and Governor’s Banquet) $130.00
- Less First Timer Discount (full registration only, check First Timer’s Column Above) $25.00
- Late Registration Fee: (For registrations received after April 12, 2017) $20.00

**Subtotal Member Registration** $195.00

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<tr>
<th># of Guests</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Friday Lunch</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday Fun Night</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Breakfast</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Governor’s Banquet</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
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</table>

**Grand Total Registration** $195.00

Make Checks to: Altrusa 2017 District Three Conference

Mail to: Altrusa International of Salisbury, NC

c/o Madeline Zieverink

200 Primrose Drive

Salisbury, NC 28147

Questions? Madeline Zieverink 704-637-0800 mzieverink@carolina.rr.com or Nancy Mott 704-637-9561 njmott@att.net
Conference Hotel Information

Book your room today for Altrusa 2017 District Three Conference

Winston-Salem Marriott
425 North Cherry Street
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101

Reserve your hotel room now for the District Three Conference! Our rate this year is just $129 per night. These rooms go fast so don’t hesitate to register. Cut-off date is April 12. Un-booked rooms will be released for sale to the general public after that date. Altrusa reservations will continue to be accepted until room block is sold. Once our block is full any available rooms will be at the prevailing hotel rates.

Conference will take place at the downtown Marriott which is off Business 40 in downtown Winston Salem, North Carolina and a short drive from the Greensboro, NC Piedmont Triad International Airport- GSO. The Hotel is surrounded by unique shopping, awesome restaurants, and many attractions. Since our conference will be held at a downtown hotel there will be a parking fee. There is valet parking as well as self-parking at the city owned parking deck attached to the hotel or several other options, check them out at the Hotel website. General Hotel information can be found at www.twincityquarter.com.

WAYS YOU CAN BOOK YOUR ROOM

Book direct to the Hotel at Book your group rate for Altrusa District Three
Call the Hotel direct – 1-800-320-0934 and be sure you ask for the Altrusa District Three Conference 2017 group rate.

See you at the Marriott for the celebration at our 2017 District Three Conference!
Invitation to Newcomers for the 2017 District Three Conference

Have you been a member of Altrusa for some time or are you a new member? Either way, there are exciting reasons to attend:

- To obtain a wider view of the Altrusa organization
- To build camaraderie with Altrusans, some you may know, others you will meet
- To get inspired by the plethora of activities Altrusans are active in throughout the District
- To get energized!
- To share your ideas with other Altrusans
- To grow your appreciation for Altrusa
- To enjoy fun events
- To attend workshops specifically for Altrusans
  
  *To celebrate Altrusa’s 100th Birthday!*

The Conference experience begins with the First Timers’ event on Thursday (5:00-6:00 pm) where you can expect to learn how to get the most out of the conference, meet new friends, and have some fun!

Bring a hat as we celebrate the “100th Anniversary Celebration” the District Three 2017 Conference!

We hope to see you May 4-6, 2017 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

First Timers to conference receive a $25 registration discount and get to attend the First Timers’ event.

We are looking forward to seeing you at conference!

Your District Three Directors:

Jane Gray: janegray@nc.rr.com
Kitty McElhaney: kemcelhaney@comcast.net
Rhonda Moorefield: rhondamoorefield@aol.com
Nominees for District Foundation Board

TRUSTEE NOMINEE—Julie Keiper
Altrusa International of Waynesville, North Carolina
Nominated by: Cheryl Meyers, New Club Building, Chair

Member since 2006. At the club level, served as President, Webmaster, Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Chair and is currently serving as Communications Committee Chair. At the District level, Julie was a district conference workshop presenter on non-profit fundraising. Julie is employed as the Director of Marketing for Haywood Regional Medical Center-Duke LifePoint. She has sales, marketing, Information Technology employment plus 20 years of operating her own consulting firm for marketing/branding/web design.

Julie says: In addition to my love for Altrusa, I want to be a District Three Foundation Trustee because I have a passion for supporting the organization’s success. I would bring to the District Three Foundation Board enthusiasm, boundless energy, innovation, high tech skills, marketing and PR expertise, social media skills and lots of professional connections.

TREASURER NOMINEE—Scott Tice
Altrusa International of Ocala, Florida
Nominated by: Christy Bryant, Governor-Elect

Member since 2007. At the club level, served as President, Chair of ASTRA and Fundraising Committees, member of Budget, Community Service and Membership Committees and is currently serving as club Treasurer. Scott has also served as Treasurer of his local Altrusa Club Foundation. At the District Level, Scott served as ASTRA, BRR, Conference and Elections Chair, and on the Registration committee. He served as Director for one year and is currently serving as Vice-Governor. Scott’s professional experience includes 18 years as a bookkeeper.

Scott says: In addition to my love for Altrusa, I want to be a District Three Foundation Treasurer because I want to become involved with the great work the Foundation does and use my experience to help the Foundation grow. I would bring to the District Three Foundation Board my accounting and volunteer experience with other non-profit organizations along with my desire to serve.
Why Should New Members Attend Our Conference

As a new member 11 years ago, one of the best experiences that I had was attending our Conference for the first time!

Not only was it an opportunity to meet new people, but the sharing of the experience with the members of my club was very exciting. Most importantly, and rewarding I established bonds with new friends and with Altrusa that would last a lifetime.

**Meeting New People**

This is one of the primary reasons people attend conferences. And who doesn’t like the opportunity to get to know other people who share a passion for the same organization?

**Learn**

There’s an incredible amount of sharing and learning that happens at our conference. Learning is the most obvious motivation for people who attend. And given the quality of our conferences, you’d be hard-pressed to find one where you could learn more. The most important session, in my opinion, for new members, is the First Timers Orientation. This workshop touches on many aspects of Altrusa and is a great introduction to our organization. It also usually includes a “Altrusa themed scavenger hunt” to help you meet members of other clubs and get answers to Altrusa related questions.

**Share**

When you attend a conference, you can learn, network and create content for your club. And that’s great. But to get the most value from the experience, you have to bring all that back and share it with your club. Having the extra responsibility of bringing something back to share encourages you to be present and engaged during conference.

**Recognition**

The awards ceremony is where clubs are recognized for the projects they have done. This is also a great learning tool. You will see and hear what other clubs are doing and generate ideas for your club’s future projects.

**Have Fun!**

I didn’t want to leave this out. Conferences are fun!!! Usually there is a “fun Night”. This is a great chance to meet other club members, relax and have fun! Conferences are held in different locations and there is usually “down time” to give you a chance to explore the area.

Conferences can be expensive. And some clubs have fundraisers to help cover the cost of attendance, but regardless of how it is funded, your attendance should be viewed as an “investment” in you and your club. Attending a conference gives you the opportunity to participate in workshops, mix and mingle, form new relations, and strengthen existing ones. Unique learning opportunities that you can’t find anywhere else. A conference helps you grow and challenge yourself, gain confidence and bring back fresh ideas to your club. It’s a great motivator!

Hope to see you at our next Conference!

May 4-6, 64th Annual District Three Conference in Winston Salem, NC

July 21-24, 55th International Convention in Nashville, TN
The parliamentary pointer this issue covers two topics. The topics are: how the conference is brought to order and the roles of delegates and alternates at conference.

How the Conference is Brought to Order

If you’ve attended conference before, you may have wondered why we adopt the Credentials Report, the Rules, and the Program every year? These steps are required and are defined in Robert’s Rules of Order. Because each conference has different delegates, it must “organize” itself before it can consider other business. It must officially form itself into a single voting body. This is done at the first business meeting. The opening ceremonies are not considered business. There are three steps to the official organization. They are:

1. Establish the membership by adopting the Credentials Report – who can vote.
2. Decide upon the rules by adopting the Conference Rules – this establishes how the conference’s business will be conducted.
3. Schedule the order the conference will consider business by adopting the Program or Agenda.

These three reports have to be considered separately and adopted in that order. Once they are adopted, the conference is officially organized or called to order.

Roles of Delegates and Alternates

The conference is officially called to order – what are the roles of the delegates and alternates?
1. The most important role is to show up! Please attend all the business meetings and conference events that you can. Coordinate your workshop attendance with other club members so your club can be in as many as possible.
2. Delegates vote on motions at the meetings and all elections as instructed. Alternates cannot vote – but all members have the right to ask questions following the adopted rules. Instructions about asking questions are given at the first business meeting.
3. Your club elected you to represent them and are counting on you to bring back all the conference information. Participate - take notes and pictures, post on Facebook, meet and talk with other Altrusans, share your ideas, learn something new.
4. Delegates and alternates are given ribbons for their name badges that identify them when they register at conference. Delegates have assigned seating in the front of the room at business meetings. If necessary, an alternate can take a delegate’s place by contacting someone on the Credentials Committee and following the proper procedure. This transfer cannot be reversed.

See you soon at Conference!
Cathie Schanz  
District Three Treasurer,  
districtthreetreasurer@gmail.com

### Altrusa International Inc.  
**District Three Membership Report**  
**As of December 31, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Total Paid Members as of 12/31/2016</th>
<th>Emeritus Members</th>
<th>Lifetime Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Florida</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citrus County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gainesville</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Live Oak</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marianna</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monticello</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocala</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orlando-Winter Park</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Augustine</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starke</td>
<td>52</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa Bay</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>North Georgia</td>
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<td>Statesboro</td>
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<td><strong>Total GA</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total NC</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Anderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaffney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spartanburg</td>
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<td><strong>Total SC</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Affiliate Members</strong></td>
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<td><strong>SUMMARY RECAP:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emeritus Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affiliate Members</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Membership</strong></td>
<td>743</td>
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</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Member</th>
<th>Sponsor(s)</th>
<th>Joined</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gainesville, FL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Reger</td>
<td>Bennye Alligood, Karen Wishart</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne White</td>
<td>Dee Dugger, Jean Reed</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lake City, FL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danette Luce</td>
<td>Jill Adams, Annie Winnett</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joy Coleman</td>
<td>Fay Bowling Warren</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonita Orr</td>
<td>Kitty McElhaney, Dorothy Spradley</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie Bailey Brooks</td>
<td>Sandy Furches, Argatha Gilmore</td>
<td>December</td>
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<td><strong>Lake County, FL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meg Black</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>North Georgia</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polly Williamson</td>
<td>Norma Teuton</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Davis</td>
<td>Nancy Simms</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orlando-Winter Park, FL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Randi Kahl</td>
<td>Yvette Pue, Elizabeth Sushinsky</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spartanburg, SC</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eileen Luciani</td>
<td>Jean Sydnor</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosemary Leake</td>
<td>Martha Clarke</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>St. Augustine, FL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Krainiak</td>
<td>Crystal Timmons</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As reported in the last update, using the membership counts as of the beginning of the conference year in June, seven (7 or 27%) of the twenty-six (26) district clubs had less than 20 members. Contact has been made with each club and in many cases, club visits have been completed. Some of the common challenges are related to recruiting and retaining younger members. All of the clubs are actively engaged in service projects in their communities and are continuing to make a difference in the lives of many. Most of the clubs have applied for and received Revitalization Grants, recently or in the past. It is amazing to see how the enthusiasm of just a few committed members can continue to keep a club engaged and striving to reach charter strength.

Here is how you can help! If your club has had some success with:
+ Marketing your club to the broader community;
+ New member drives;
+ Small, quick hit service projects that can be initiated and executed with minimal resources (people, time and funding); or
+ Partnership opportunities with other community service groups.

Please contact our Task Force. We are more than willing to take your ideas and turn them into ‘Shovel Ready’ initiatives or projects.

In addition, if there are others who may be interested in participating on the Task Force, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Under Charter Strength Clubs Task Force**
Christy Bryant, Governor-Elect, christybryant@windstream.net
Clara Marts, Club Revitalization Committee Chair
Karen Robinson
Carroll Myers
We are now in our second year of the biennium and I look forward to all clubs to sending in their articles in the “Altrusa Cares” Service Projects which began in June, 2016 to April, 2017.

I am taking this opportunity to request articles of your clubs accomplishments to meet the Altrusa Cares Service Projects. While submitting for awards to the Governor, please include a write up and any photos if available to me and I look forward to another dynamic power point presentation of the successes in the District Three. Submit your articles to my email address: carol.thomas1211@gmail.com

As a member of the Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL. I can report a holiday volunteer project with an amazing organization: Operation Homefront and the Toy Drive.

Members of the Altrusa Club were volunteers who drove to area Dollar Tree stores to pick up toys donated by customers over a two-month period. On a Saturday in November all collected toys were sorted and filled into stockings and delivered to an Army reserve center for distribution to military bases in Jacksonville by Operation Homefront’s Charlotte Merriam.

I am so excited to hear from each and every club on what a difference your clubs have made to our Military families in our District.

St. Augustine: Dec. 10 we met with this year’s Altrusa Cares veteran and his family at the Corazon Cinema in St Augustine, Altrusa Cares Chair Crystal Timmons, Com. Members Dee Lexandra and Marlene Piriz presented Service Veteran Javier Esperanza and his children with a basket and bag with gift cards and toys to brighten their Christmas.
AWARDS UPDATE

The Awards Breakfast at conference is always a wonderful way to acknowledge some of the worthwhile service and literacy projects carried out by our District Three clubs. It’s also a great time to recognize those clubs who have grown in membership the past year. The January 31st deadline has passed and the applications and now the judges have the task of picking the best of the best. Thank you to all the clubs who took the time to complete and submit award applications. I look forward to celebrating your successes with you soon!

INCORPORATION UPDATE

There remains one club in Florida that is unincorporated, but that will change soon. The Monticello club is submitting their completed paperwork this week in order to make it official. This means that upon completion, all District Three clubs will have completed incorporation. We all deserve a pat on the back for this major accomplishment. Thanks to all the clubs for their cooperation and participation.

Mid-Year Board Meeting Summary

The 2016 Mid-Year Board Meeting as held in Winston-Salem, NC December 9-10, 2016 at the Marriott Westshore. The meeting had been delayed from the normal Fall schedule due to Hurricane Matthew. The Treasurer’s financial reports were presented through November 30, 2015. The audit of the 2016 Conference was also presented and shows that after reviewing all the records the committee could validate all the records. The ending balance in the Conference account is $412.50.

The Board approved one Club Revitalization Grant application: Atlanta, GA.

Director Rhonda Moorefield is working on the club incorporations. Two clubs remain and are finalizing their incorporations with assistance from Director Moorefield and Immediate Past Governor Colleen Duris. The Board ratified Emeritus status for two District Three members.

The slate of officers for the 2017 – 2019 biennium was presented from the District Three Nominating Committee. The Board approved the presentation of the slate at the 2017 Conference in Winston-Salem.

Updates were given on the Annual Club Report, the Under-Charter Task Force and on awards for the 2016-2017 Club year. Secretary Susy Meier presented the 2016 Conference Report. The Board will review and final approval will be solicited at the 2017 Pre-Conference Board meeting so the report can be presented to the membership.

Program Coordinator Tammy Hall gave an update on the 2018 Conference location search. Information will be presented to the membership at the 2017 Conference.

The 2017 Conference Chairs (Nancy Mott and Cindy Nimmer) and the Board reviewed the 2017 Conference plans. Speakers and workshops were discussed. The full registration is set at $195.00. A walk-through of the hotel property was done after the meeting adjourned.
Fall 2016 Cycle—International Grants

Our congratulations to the two clubs in District Three who received a grant from the Altrusa International Foundation during the Fall 2016 cycle – St. Augustine and Tampa Bay.

The Foundation awarded a $1,000 Individual grant to the St. Augustine, FL club for a member of their club, Crystal Timmons. Crystal was part of the club’s Altrusa Cares project a few years ago. She later became a member of the club and has since taken the lead of their Altrusa Cares project. She and her husband work to develop opportunities for veterans and their families to live outside the military structure. Crystal is a life instructor and will use her grant for a permaculture design course. The course teaches the harmonious relationship between people and the earth, while advocating a healthy future for both. It teaches to employ the earth’s regenerative ecosystems without exploiting and depleting its natural resources. Crystal hopes to develop vegetarian menus and encourage holistic sustainable lifestyles for her clients.

The Tampa Bay club received a $2,000 grant for its Buddy Bench project. Buddy benches are placed on play grounds of Title I, charter and private schools. The bench prevents loneliness and foster’s friendships as well as helps prevent children from being bullied. They are built for children by children. The club partnered with The Boy Scots of America to build the benches, Home Depot donated the wood, club members did the sanding and provided food and beverage to workers, and then the kids loaded the Altrusan’s vehicles to make the bench deliveries to the schools. They now have 25 new schools who want a Buddy bench!

Thank you to both clubs for making a difference in our world. Your club too could be a grant recipient. The Altrusa International Foundation Spring grant cycle deadline for individual and projects is March 15. Grants range from $250 to $2,000. Go to the International website www.altrusa.com and click on the Foundation tab at the top for information and a grant application.
Dear District Three Altrusans,

Join us in supporting the service of Altrusa Clubs with the *ASK 4 100* Fundraising Challenge! The Altrusa International Foundation Board of Trustees and the Education, Development & Marketing Committee are excited to launch the challenge on social media in celebration of Altrusa International’s hundredth year.

Our goal is to raise $100,000 to be distributed from the International Foundation in grants that support the worldwide outreach of Altrusa Clubs in their communities. Altrusans perform acts of service and kindness (ASK) worldwide every day. The *ASK 4 100* Fundraising Challenge connects those acts of service and kindness to the communities served by Altrusans, their friends, and family members.

The *ASK 4 100* Fundraising Challenge allows for two ways to fundraise:

1. You can simply go to the International website to donate now

OR

2. Become part of our crowd funding website by signing up as an individual, or as a team. Fundraisers receive a personalized web link to share via email, Facebook, Twitter, or other social media their photos, stories and videos of acts of service and kindness. Be creative and use your web link to honor your birthday, a promotion, or simply in recognition of your great work.

To sign up, please go to [www.firstgiving.com/altrusafoundation](http://www.firstgiving.com/altrusafoundation) or contact Shawna Kaiser, Foundation Administrator, at the International Foundation office.

Top fundraisers will be acknowledged and results of the *ASK 4 100* Fundraising Challenge will be announced at the 2017 Nashville Centennial Convention.

Thank you for your continued support of the International Foundation and our Grants Programs.
International Foundation News

Huge Shout Out to Cathie Schanz for initiating the Altrusa District Three Foundation Fundraiser in conjunction with #Giving Tuesday! The money raised by this fundraiser is being matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Facebook waived all fees. Due to Cathie’s efforts, a total of $1,035 was raised - - Yea! Cathie Schanz you ROCK!! And all the people who gave so generously – We THANK YOU!! (The Foundation stands to gain again as much, once the funds are matched.)

Going Once, Going Twice and Gone to the Highest Bidder! Sound familiar? We certainly hope so! Your Foundation Board is working tirelessly to insure a fun and exciting luncheon for the 2017 Conference. AND we always appreciate the support that comes from the Altrusa members of District Three.

So, who is on first and who’s on third and what about home plate?! Just kidding! But these are the ones to call to get your questions answered:

Silent Auction Items: Trustee Gail Hackett is corresponding with the clubs on donations for our Silent/Live Auction for District Conference. We are always so humbled as to the wonderful response of the many giving hearts in Altrusa. This is how your Foundation is funded for the awards and grants presented each year at District Conference. Contact Gail at gailhackett52@gmail.com.

Awards and Grants: Forms can be downloaded at : http://districtthree.altrusa.org/DistrictThreeFoundation. The contact person is on each form, as well as specific information relating to each Grant and Award.

Scholarship: Joey Robison Scholarship Forms are to be submitted to: Linda Robison, 977 Morning Ride Drive, Columbus, NC 28722 or email to llrobison@windstream.net.

If you need help understanding the awards or where one of your projects would best fit – contact Vice-Chair Teresa Young at tyw88beach@yahoo.com or myself mantha@allthingsvisual.com We are more than happy to assist. Teresa is working with Trustees Karen Robinson, Gail Hackett and Michelle Smith on the Awards and Grants.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2017 District Conference!
Communicating with Facebook and Social Media

Social media encompasses a variety of internet or cell phone-based channels for sharing information. You have probably heard of the most popular networking tools like Facebook and Twitter as well as professional networking sites like LinkedIn. Sites like YouTube are used to post videos and apps like Instagram allow people to easily share photos. The whole point of social media is to connect people in a variety of different ways that is quick, timely and convenient.

Most of our District Three clubs have at least one social media account, with the majority of them having a Facebook page. Facebook is a wonderful way to both inform members of the club and members of the public about what we do. With Facebook, you can communicate to others about the great works you are doing with pictures, videos and text. You can include links to websites of organizations you partner with and about which you wish to provide more information. You can also create events for your fundraising or special service projects and invite people to the event. It is a marvelous way to raise awareness for what your club does and also find out who might be attending your events by sending an RSVP to the event.

What makes the "social" part of social media is the way in which you can share something once it is posted. Once someone posts an Altrusa event or news on their Facebook page, they can share it to their club Facebook page, and then also to the District Three Facebook page. Once it is shared, it shows up on the news feeds of anyone who is friends with the individual or anyone who has liked that page. In a matter of minutes, you can communicate great information about what is upcoming and relevant to your Altrusa activities.

One way to see social media in action is to observe how your local ASTRA club is using social media to both promote their activities and monitor how many people might be participating in a meeting or event. Social media is the coin of the realm for the younger generations, and the sooner we learn to use it, the better off we will be in both recruiting and retaining young Altrusans. It is one more way for us to get our message out on all the great things Altrusa is doing.

The District Three Facebook page is a great way to share what you have posted with the entire district. Simply share your club Facebook post to the District page and all those in the district will see your club’s achievements. Always encourage your club members to “like” our District Facebook page so they will receive updates whenever anyone posts to the Facebook page.

What makes social media such a powerful communication tool should not be taken lightly. Whatever is posted on social media is, at least for most considerations, forever available to many audiences. Thoughtful prudence should be used in any communication in that whatever is communicated conveys the reputation and integrity of Altrusa and its club members. The fact that social media is so convenient and instantaneous should not be discounted, and Altrusans should be exceptionally deliberative in their use of this media tool.

While it may seem intimidating at first, I encourage all clubs to make the most of all that social media has to offer. Know that your investment in this new method of communication is not wasted effort. If you have any questions or worries, I hope you will contact me as a resource. I am always available to help in whatever way I can.
Save the Date for **2018** District Conference

May 3-5, 2018

Hosted in the Sunshine State

Mark your calendar to join us at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, Florida
Altrusa of Citrus County

This year, Citrus County Altrusa members participated in a variety of different projects in our community. Some members collected and sorted food collected for the local foodbank during the annual Make A Difference food drive. Other members donated and compiled toiletry supplies and other necessities for the homeless in our county. Below is a picture of some of the toiletry items and tarps collected for compilation.

Citrus County Blessings

How can a child learn when they are hungry or worried about when they will be able to eat again? Over 67% of the children in Citrus County Florida, participate in the government assisted meal program every day. This is great for weekdays. However, what do these same children eat on the weekends? Since Citrus is a rural community, it is difficult for many parents to take advantage of other food programs offered in urban areas.

Several years ago, the County Foodbank started “Blessings in a Backpack” to provide backpacks with food that children could take home on Friday and use throughout the weekend. No refrigeration or cooking required. The backpacks might be filled with peanut butter and jelly, easy to open pasta meals or meats, snack crackers, pudding/fruit cups and juice boxes. Now, known as Citrus County Blessings, the program has expanded and feeds over 1,250 children every weekend throughout the school year.

For $125, we are able to feed one child, every weekend for a year. Thanks to a grant from Altrusa International, our Citrus chapter was able to provide funding to help purchase needed food supplies. In addition, the Citrus County chapter volunteers weekly to help pack backpacks for distribution. Throughout the year, we sponsor mini fundraisers to help provide additional support to the children. In October, Traci Phillips, our fundraising chairperson, rolled out our “Skip Lunch, Fight Hunger” program to raise money for hunger awareness and we used our website and Facebook to help spread the message. At our November meeting, we will sponsor the annual PNB & Jelly food drive.

Here are pictures of Altrusa members and their children, filling backpacks. Also, pics of last year’s PNB & Jelly food drive.
Altrusa of Lake County

Altrusa fall garden at Happy House creates opportunities for Children

Master gardeners of Altrusa International of Lake City add new life to the outdoor environment at Happy House Child Care Center, which serves as an outdoor classroom, educating children and the community about the importance of gardening. The garden has been used to educate early learning children of Happy House to increase the sustainability of the garden, increase food production and share fresh produce with others.

Thanks to a partnership with Altrusa International of Lake City initiated by Altrusan Wanda Toner and Happy House Executive Director Sheryll Walker their goal continues to thrive. This experience provides opportunities for children to learn though gardening and engages their natural curiosity.

LaShone Surrency, Altrusa President, said “it's been a fantastic partnership; and one that we hold very dear to our hearts. Research shows that cognitive development derives from sensory experiences of gardening. As children explore and learn, we are able to enhance their developmental skills now; and for later years.”

Altrusa of St. Augustine, FL

Altrusa International of St Augustine met it's club challenge! We wanted to celebrate Altrusa International ’s Centennial by collecting and donating " 1000 Books for 100 Years of Service" and coordinated this effort with Literacy Day! We were fortunate in that our projects coincided with the Lincolnville Heritage festival which celebrated 150 years of Black History in this community. In total we donated 1188 books, these books will be used to promote literacy for VPK families who are being serviced through the Early Childhood Services Department of the St Johns County Schools. We founded a great partnership with Mary Ann Holanchock , St Johns School Board Coordinator. She and her staff were helpful and encouraging to us in meeting our goal. During the week we loaded and complied car loads of books for the Early Childhood Services Lending Library and gave away more books from our booth during the weekend celebrations at Lincolnville Festival.

Books came from many parts of Florida, Michigan, New York and California, many family members and friends responded and contributed to our personal Face book requests: Pleading for Reading. Altrusa International of St Augustin e is so proud of our efforts. We made many new friends, held a raffle and promoted literacy all while enjoying camaraderie and the festive atmosphere.
Doin’ It in Unity Soup Bowl

Altrusa International of St. Augustine in an effort to give a little comfort and warmth to the residents who were displaced by Hurricane Matthew decided to have a soup kitchen, “Doin’ It In Unity Soup Bowl”. We knew that relief agencies would be heading out soon and that many would still be struggling in a couple of weeks. Although the city had many areas, which were flooded, two areas of the city of St Augustine were identified as having received the worst of the devastation. Lincolnville and Davis Shores on Anastasia Island. Our membership quickly joined hands with area friends and several in the business community.

The first event took place in Lincolnville. We began there because Nyk Smith, one of our members has a certified kitchen in the area and agreed to support the efforts from her shop. The menu consisted of two soups, bread, dessert, and coffee. We served a little under 100 residents on Monday, November 7, 2016. The pot and a half of soup, which remained that evening was quickly transported to the local homeless shelter, the St Francis House who has lost its kitchen due to the flood. It generally houses an estimated 38 residents and delivers meals to others in need throughout St Johns County.

Recently we received notification from Governor Norma Teuton, District Three, that we were approved for a significant disaster relief award from the Altrusa International Foundation. With their help we were able to offer food and relaxation to Davis Shores before the Christmas Holidays.

We thank everyone who wrote, called, and prayed for our community and our well-being. We will always be appreciative for all the generosity sent our way.
We have arrived! It is now 2017 and only a few more months and it will be time to celebrate our 100th Birthday. We would love to share in our next Altrusa Chronicle some of the activities that clubs are planning for April 11th as we celebrate Founders Day. Please send a brief summary of your planned activities to centennial@altrusa.org.nz

The Centennial committee are also busy planning for our 100th Birthday party which is being held at Convention in Nashville in July. Hope you are planning to come and join in with the fun and festivities as we dance the night away. Have you planned what you are going to wear for our “Dancing through the Decades” party?

Unfortunately we have had a poor response from clubs re demand for the Centennial Merchandise. This will mean several planned items will not be produced. We will also now concentrate our sales at District Conferences in April/May as it looks like this will be the most effective way to distribute products where we have enough demand. A big thank you to those clubs who took the time to complete our merchandise survey. We will make sure your members do not miss out on product.

We hope everyone is working away on their service hours. To date we have 2332 members registered for the challenge. You still have until 31 May to get your hours completed. We will have a very short time line for collecting the names of those that successfully completed the challenge and we cannot extend any deadlines.

Remember if you have any questions regarding our centennial celebrations please email centennial@altrusa.org

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BOOK YOUR ROOM FOR THE 55TH ALTRUSA CONVENTION

Hotel reservations for the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee can be made online through our group booking site, https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/ events/start.action?id=1611162566&key=2E9562E3 available through June 23rd. To help you enjoy all that Nashville has to offer, group room rates are available from Sunday, July 16th through Thursday, July 27th. Convention registration will be available in January 2017.