

STILL GOING STRONG

40 YEARS

1977-2017



# THE COMMUNICATOR

## FALL 2018

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Ocala

[www.districtthree.altrusa.org/ocala/](http://www.districtthree.altrusa.org/ocala/)

District Three

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International

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Wow, I can't believe that the summer is over and the beginning of fall started September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Now we need cooler weather so that we can feel and say Fall is in the Air!!

So much has happened since June. All our committee chairs and members have been hard at work and several projects are underway. It truly amazes me that a club with only 36 members can accomplish so much and touch so many people. Altrusa is leading the way to a better community and each of you play a key role.

Why is Literacy so important? Helping someone to read and write effectively or acquire the basic math skills so many of us take for granted, improves the future of everyone in our community. Literacy is critical to economic development as well as individual and community well-being. Effective literacy skills open the doors to more educational and employment opportunities. Persons with adequate literacy skills maintain better health. They are also better able to communicate with their children's teachers and to help their children with school work. A Literate community is a dynamic community.

In closing, please remember to tell those you meet about Altrusa and all the wonderful things our club does for our community. And remember you, our members, are the reason why Altrusa of Ocala is so successful. Thank you for all you do. I am so honored to be a part of it!

***No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world.***

*Robin Williams*

*Maria Kusmierz*

### CALENDAR

2018

**OCT**

4 NOON—BOARD MEETING—CENTERSTATE BANK  
11 NOON—BUSINESS/PROGRAM—MESA DE NOTTE  
16 5:30—CLUSTER—DIANE'S HOME

**NOV**

1 NOON—BOARD MEETING—CENTERSTATE BANK  
8 NOON—BUSINESS/PROGRAM—MESA DE NOTTE  
13 5:30—CLUSTER—DIANE'S HOME

**DEC**

6 NOON—BOARD MEETING—CENTERSTATE BANK  
13 NOON—BUSINESS/PROGRAM—MESA DE NOTTE

### SAVE THE DATES!

**Trivia Night Fundraiser—March 9, 2019**  
**International Conference—July 17-20, 2019**  
**District Three Conference—May 2-4, 2019**

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## ALTRUSAN OF THE YEAR



*Angie Dansby announced our 2017-2018 Altrusan of the Year*

***Diane Barrineau***

***Congratulations! Congratulations! Congratulations! Congratulations!***

## SCHOLARSHIP

# Congratulations!



**Vocational scholarship recipients Erin Rasnick and Sidney Smith attended our July program meeting. Erin was awarded the Thelma Parker Scholarship. She attended CF and received an associate's degree in elementary education and will be attending UF studying elementary education. Sidney was awarded the Juanita Cunningham Scholarship; she graduated from the Vanguard High School IB program and will be attending Flagler College studying education.**

**guard High School IB program and will be attending Flagler College studying education.**

**The other scholarship recipients were: Luz Mata, from Belleview High School who will be attending UF and wants to be a pediatric surgeon. Cordell Moats, from North Marion High School, will be attending Valdosta State and studying history and law. Biana Valle-Lopez, from Vanguard High School, will be attending USF and studying to be an OB/GYN.**



"Books are the plane,  
and the train, and the  
road. They are the  
destination, and the  
journey. They are  
home."

by Quindlen

## Community Service

TJ Bright



The first afternoon of our “Feeding Interfaith Families” project was successful and rewarding. On Thursday, August 30, we provided and served dinner for 29 women and children. Thank you to Angie Dansby, Elaine Goodelle, Nancy Jones, Maria Kusmierz, Mary Cay Landt, Scott Tice, and Cluster for providing and/or serving. Although Nancy’s chicken and rice was the favorite, the salad, bread, cupcakes,

and a variety of drinks was greatly appreciated by the residents. Every child received a *National Explorer Magazine*, as well. Our next afternoon is Tuesday, October 30. Please consider participating.

We received our Salvation Army Bears and Stockings at our September business meeting. Dressed bears and filled stockings are due at our November business meeting.



“Thank you” to Colleen Duris for applying for an Altrusa International Foundation grant to help with funding our Born Learning Project.



“Thank you” to Donna Carroll for a recent donation of over 60 books for Tools 4 Teaching.

## Track It Forward

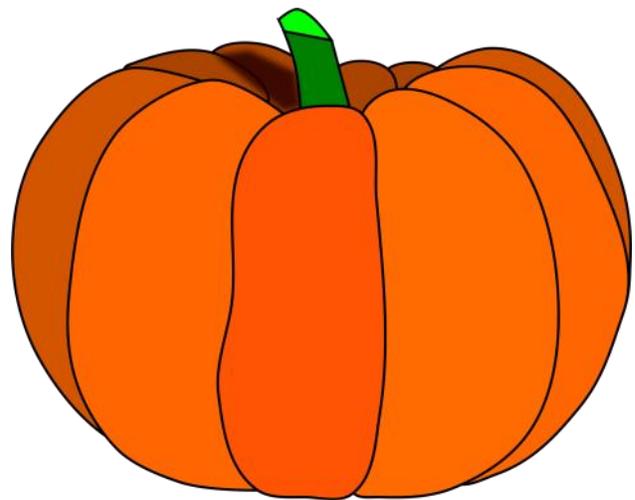
Angie Dansby

Each year our outgoing president, as one of their final duties, has a report due to International that summarizes our local club year. The report captures volunteer hours, fundraising dollars, the use of a strategic plan, members who served at district and international levels, total membership and communication tools used just to name a few. The most time consuming part of preparing this report is calculating community service hours. Sending out emails to nearly 40 members, gathering and computing their hours and doing your best calculation when not everyone responds can be a bit time consuming. Thanks to Colleen we have an amazing and easy to use tool to track volunteer hours. This tool is called “Track-It-Forward”. At the end of the Altrusa year, Colleen can hand the outgoing President a report that gives a breakdown of the total Altrusa volunteer hours and non-Altrusa hours, hereby making this part of the reporting process quick and easy. I am happy to report that as part of all of the amazing things we did as a club in 2017-2018, with volunteer hours being a part of the equation, Altrusa International of Ocala, Inc. was recognized by International as a Distinguished Altrusa Club. Thank you for all of your hard work and please help Maria by using the Track-It-Forward ([www.trackitforward.com](http://www.trackitforward.com)).

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### *Altrusa International Calendar of Events*

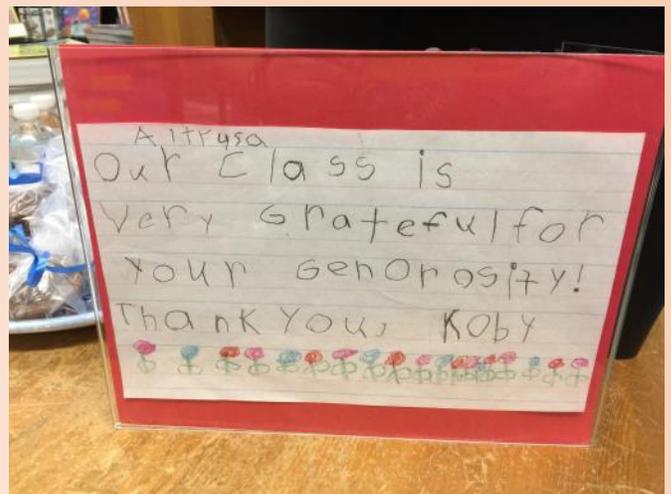
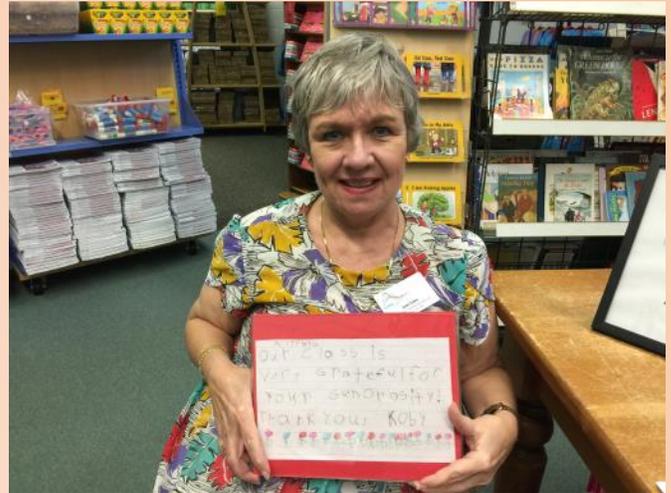
- ◆ World Day of Social Justice—February 20
- ◆ International Women’s Day—March 8
- ◆ Add An Altrusan Month—April 1-30
- ◆ World Health Day—April 7
- ◆ International Day of Families—May 15
- ◆ International Youth Day—August 12
- ◆ International Literacy Day—September 8
- ◆ International Day of Peace—September 21
- ◆ World Food Day—October 16
- ◆ United Nations Day—October 24
- ◆ Make A Difference Day—4th Saturday in October
- ◆ International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women— November 25
- ◆ Human Rights Day—December 10



# Literacy

Joan Coke

On August 15, the Literacy Committee presented a check for \$700 to Tools 4 Teaching at the Public Education Foundation of Marion County. T4T will use this money to keep the shelves well stocked with supplies for the teachers .



In September, we rolled out an improved literacy grant application to support classrooms and schools, improve student subject comprehension and the ability to apply the lessons learned. Teachers or principals may request up to \$1,000 for their classroom, grade or school-wide project. Funded applications will be awarded in October.



One of our next projects will be funding a library and computer area in the new facility at the Ocala Ritz Reserve. We met with Volunteers of America (Florida Chapter) to explore the needs and possibilities. Once floor plans are received, we can begin work on space planning.

## CARE

- Betty Cluster is recovering from a badly sprained ankle.
- Michelle Smith continues to have physical issues from her fall.
- Gloria's daughter is having optical problems.

Nancy Jones



Please keep all of them in your prayers.

## Eyeglasses to See

Our first application of the school year was received on August 24th and since then we have received a steady flow of requests. So far, we have processed eight applications ranging in age from eight to sixteen. Dr. Matthew Lentsch assumed Dr. Clarke's practice and is working with us. We allow 90 days for the certificate to be filled.



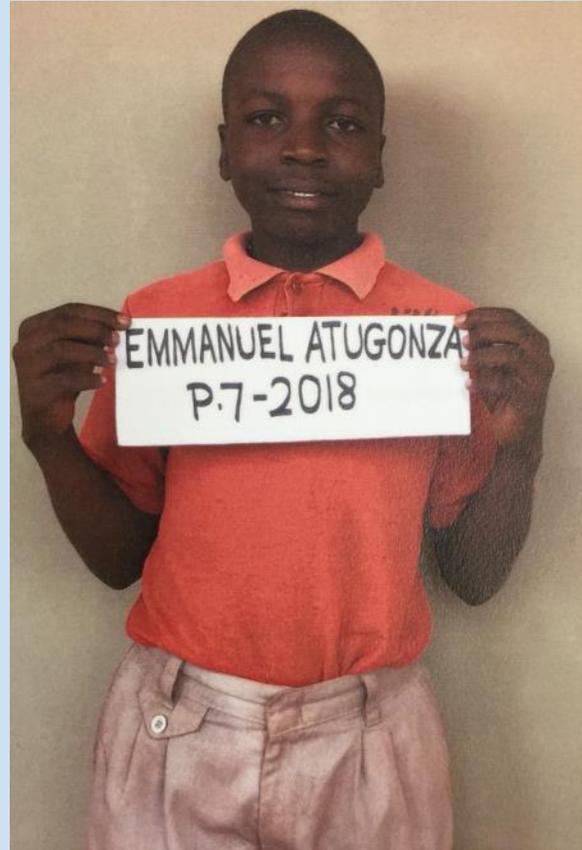
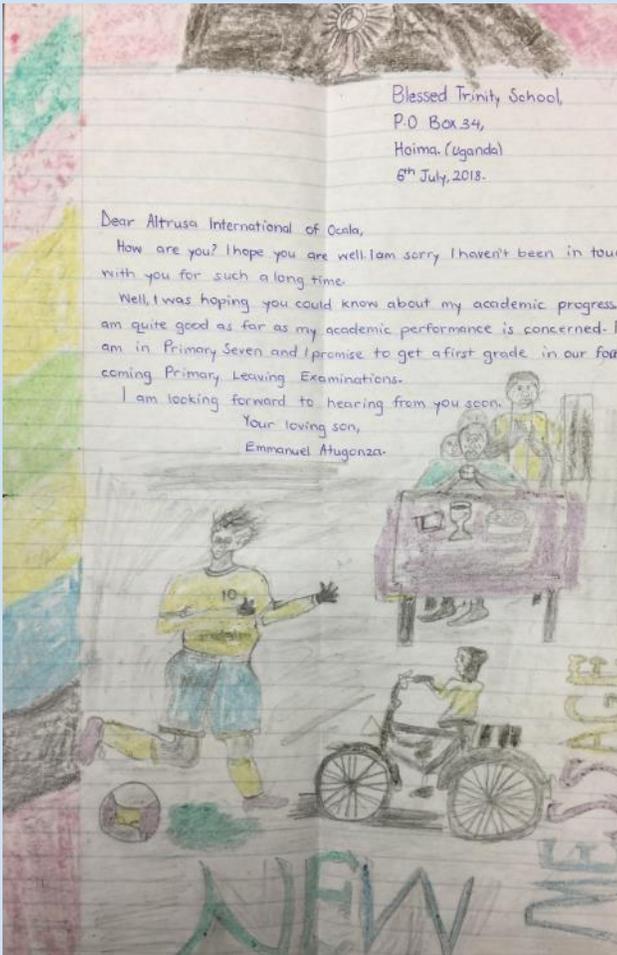
## Juanita's Shelf

Juanita's Shelf is up and running. We ordered some new books for the opening of school and TJ Bright stocked the shelves and the teachers emptied them. We ordered more books and TJ is currently stocking the shelves weekly. The Literacy committee has requested a report of which schools are using "the shelf." We hope to be able to better assist the "struggling" schools.

The Juanita P. Cunningham Bookshelf project earned first place in the District Three Foundation Literacy Award, 2018.



A heartfelt thank you from Uganda!



February 7, 2018

Dear Altrusa,

THANK YOU for your contribution to the Tools 4 Teaching store which helps teachers and students have the supplies we need to teach and learn. I am very appreciative of all the supplies I am able to get to help me teach my students. Thank you for your generous contribution to the store to help me have what I need to teach the students, and for the students to have what they need to learn.

Sincerely,

Halzigh Mrs. Winkler

Mrs. Winkler's

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade class

Marion Oaks Elementary

Isabella Laia

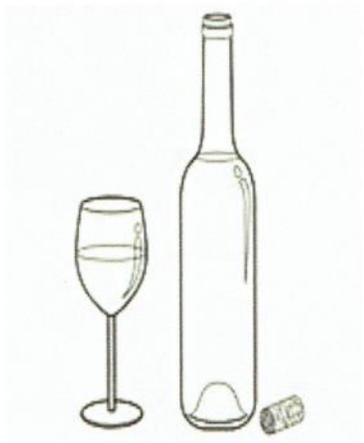
Destiny

Antonio Layla  
Ryen

Chris

Kayli

Miranda Barrineau



*Wine*

## *Bottling Social*

Date & Time: October 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:00PM to 6:00PM

Where: The Corkscrew, 16 SW Broadway Street, 34471

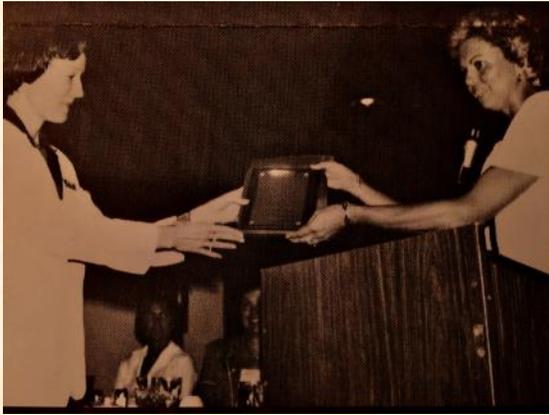
RSVP to: Miranda Barrineau (352) 615-9470

Deadline for RSVP: September 13<sup>th</sup>

**Bottling Social:** Our club will be bottling our Altrusa Wine created by the membership committee! We encourage all members to participate and bring a potential member to the bottling. We will have tapas style appetizers!



# REFLECTIONS



Our very first Altrusan of the Year award is being presented to Janet Behnke by Frances Ferguson for 1980-1981. The award was formerly known as the Outstanding Woman of the Year award and was in recognition of service to Altrusa and community service. Janet was the first woman president of the Marion County Bar Association in 1980 and the first woman president of the Ocala-Marion County Chamber of Commerce in 1981.

## Highlights from our Governor

### *District Three Virtual Club is On the Move!*

- ◇ We need your help to get the word out about this exciting opportunity to charter our first District Virtual club. Please encourage club members who may know of other friends, co-workers or family members within our four state area (FL, GA, NC, and SC) or former Altrusans who may be interested in Altrusa's mission, to share the communication and the contact email address of any potential prospects. We have names of a few interested individuals, but we need more. Send any information to Jane Gray, New Club Building — Chair at [judgejanie49@gmail.com](mailto:judgejanie49@gmail.com), and Governor Christy.
- ◇ I'm very impressed and very proud of all the things our clubs are doing and of the great impact they are making in our communities. Also, the work on the Days For Girls service project within many of our clubs has really taken off (Way-to-Go!). As club presidents and leaders overseeing and/or directing these efforts, "Thank You"! This is a volunteer organization and we rely on members to willingly give of their precious time, talent and treasure.
- ◇ With a focus on recruiting and retaining members, NOW is a good time to review your club's current practices. We should ask ourselves if there are any club practices that may unintentionally be barriers to recruiting and retaining club members. Two of Altrusa's brand drivers are 'Flexibility' and 'Inclusion'. Are club activities planned with these brand drivers in mind? Are there current activities that exist or new ones that can be instituted to demonstrate to new and/or current members that they 'Matter'? Sometimes, just one simple change, like moving the meeting date to a weekend or scheduling a conference call versus a face-to-face meeting, can make the difference between whether a member can 'participate' or not. As leaders, sometimes we may need to challenge the status quo to help set the future direction of where our club needs to go. There is a great presentation deck on the International website that I encourage all club boards and committee members to review 'Leading at Every Stage of Altrusa Life'.
- ◇ *Congratulations* to the following clubs receiving Distinguished Club recognition for the 2017-2018 club year. The leaders and members of each club are commended for achieving this designation—Keep up the great work of Altrusa! Charlotte, NC; Gainesville, FL; Lake City, FL; Lake County, FL; Ocala, FL



2019 District Three Conference, May 3-5, 2019 at the Augusta Marriot Convention Center, Augusta, GA

2019 International Convention, July 17–20, 2019 at the Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, Nevada

Make A Reservation: <https://book.passkey.com/event/49718199/owner/16854/home>

## Altrusa International Website & Social Media Updates

International has issued guidelines for content for our website and purposes of social media. Basically, our website should publicize and promote Altrusa to prospective members in a specific location. This includes:

- ◆ clearly stating the scope and purpose of the Altrusa Club
- ◆ Providing meeting information and contact information
- ◆ Links to Club social media accounts
- ◆ Club newsletters (limited to one)
- ◆ Highlighting significant projects
- ◆ Recognizing the service of current Club Board members

The purpose of the Club social media is to share ongoing information about activities of our Altrusa club with the wider community. This includes:

- ◆ Celebrating completed projects
- ◆ Inviting community to participate in upcoming events
- ◆ Sharing local news stories that feature Altrusa
- ◆ Recognizing significant dates
- ◆ Promoting membership milestones e.g. Installation, Long Service Pins
- ◆ Paying tribute to Altrusans who have passed away e.g. In Memoriam

Social media allows us to push information towards our followers. Through social media, people see Altrusa content serendipitously. The information travels through networks of friends, and you have a far greater organic reach. By contrast, a website relies on a person making a particular effort to visit that website.

Social media is transient, like events. A post is relevant for a period of time and then, though it can be found on a page timeline, it's quite easy to spot when an event has passed. The club website page is more suited to reference information or general promotion. We will continue to include the scholarship applications on the website.

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### Reminders

- FOOD 4 KIDS food items
- Keep tracking your volunteer hours at [www.trackitforward.com](http://www.trackitforward.com)
- Needs for our Veterans
- Amazon Smile
- 1 Box = 1 Free Book (ends September 30th)
- Wine Bottling Social, 10/13 @ The Corkscrew, 3-6 pm



# 2019 International Convention July 17-20



- Pricing
- Hotel Information
- Schedule-at-a-Glance
- Optional Events

**Get ready to Reach Out in Reno!**

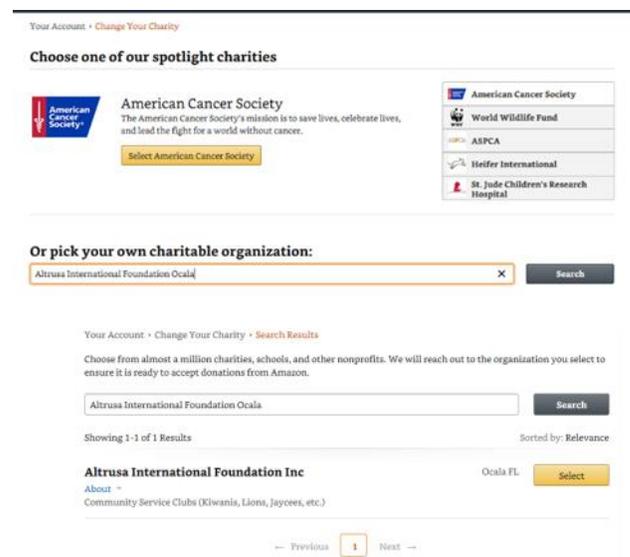
# AMAZON SMILE



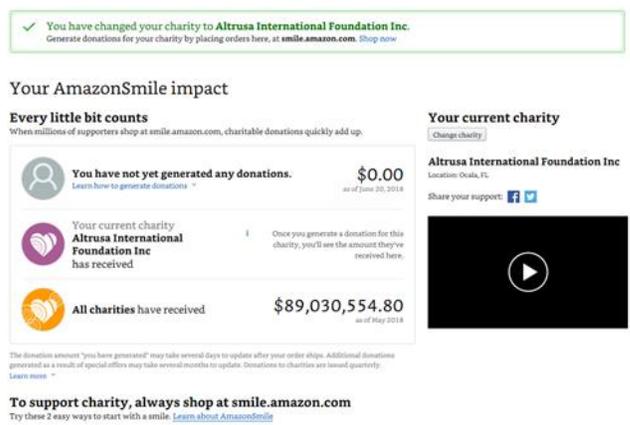
Are you an Amazon shopper? If so, please visit smile.amazon.com and sign up to support our club with your purchases! It doesn't cost you anything to sign up and our club will receive .05% percent of each purchase. This isn't just limited to club members, so please encourage your family, friends and co-workers to sign up and support our club, too!

Once you log into your account on smile.amazon.com simply type in "Altrusa International Foundation Ocala, FL" in the search box and click on the search button.

After clicking on the search button the results of your search will appear on the screen:



Click the select button and then you will get the screen showing you have successfully selected Altrusa International Foundation.



Then, just make sure you are always shopping through the Amazon Smile website and each purchase will help support our club!

**Scott Tice**

**1 BOX = 1 FREE**  
**SCHOLASTIC**  
**BOOK**

**CHOOSE FROM OVER 80**  
 FULL-LENGTH SCHOLASTIC TITLES  
 FROM BEGINNING READERS TO TEENS

If you purchase certain Kelloggs, Keebler, Cheez-it or Pringles products between now and September 30th and upload your receipt, you will receive one credit for each qualifying item. Each credit can be redeemed for one Scholastic book. There are 80 Scholastic books to choose from. The site states the product has to have the "1 Box = 1 Free Book" designation on the packaging. Each person that registers can receive up to 10 free books. Go to [feedingreading.com](http://feedingreading.com) to register.

**10 members x 10 books = 100 FREE books!**

It's as easy as buy the product, take a picture of your receipt, and get credit to redeem for a book!



June 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019

**Officers**

**Committee Chairs**

President.....	Maria Kusmierz	ASTRA.....	Angie Dansby
President Elect.....	Colleen Duris	Budget.....	Cindy Athey
VicePresident.....	Miranda Barrineau	Care.....	Nancy Jones
Director.....	Debbie Catabia	Cluster.....	Susan Keith
Director.....	Sue Dean	Community Service.....	TJ Bright
Director.....	Mary Cay Landt	Foundation.....	Barbara Little
Secretary.....	Frances Ferguson	Fundraiser.....	Debbie Catabia
Treasurer.....	Scott Tice	Literacy.....	Joan Coke
		Newsletter/Web.....	Helen McDavid
		Program.....	Colleen Duris
		Scholarship.....	Susan Keith
		Membership.....	Miranda Barrineau