



WINTER 2024

DISTRICT THREE SERVICE BULLETIN

FLORIDA GEORGIA NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA



Governor's Message

71st ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Make plans to attend the 71st Annual Conference in Atlanta, Ga from April 25 – 27, 2024. Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel and Conference Center is waiting for our arrival. The theme this year is “**Simply Stellar**” shining through service. The Leadership Team of Altrusa International District Three, Inc., and I extend an invitation to each member. Our Leadership Team has been working with our Conference Co-Chairs, Dee Dugger, of the Gainesville, FL club and Mary Kirley of the North Georgia, GA club. Immediate Past International President Kathy Folley will join us in her role as the International Representative and she will share the International Report.



If you are a first-timer to conference, not only is your registration reduced by \$25, but also there is a special First-Timer's session, organized just for you by Directors Roberta Klusmeier, Scott Tice, and Anita Ashworth on Thursday afternoon. You will learn what to expect at conference, how to get the most out of your experience and connect with the District Board. You will certainly not want to

miss this event. Our Opening Ceremony on Thursday with a Color Guard, Flag Ceremony and In Memoriam honoring those Altrusan we have lost this past year is always an inspiring, solemn and reflective event.

You will not want to miss visiting with Dr. Kantrice R. Rose, PhD, Executive Director of Altrusa International Foundation. Dr. Rose and Martin Houston, International Foundational Liaison will be sharing some news about the International Foundation.

If you attended the International Convention, you know the name Kent Julian. He is a speaker, writer, and consultant on what he calls “DREAM-TO DO” culture. We are very pleased to have him as one of our speakers.

Fill out your registration form and pack your bags and plan to have fun while you are learning new things to take back to your club. We're “Serving Up Service.”

See you in Atlanta,

Dimple

Inside this issue

Governor's Message	1
2023-2025 Biennium Goals	2
District Three Nominating Com	3
District Three Foundation Trustees	5
Request for 25-50 Yr Members	6
Membership Update	7
Call to Conference	9
Conference Registration Form	10
Schedule at a Glance	11
Key Note Speaker	14
Conference Service Project	15
Electronic Voting at Conference	16
Int'l Representative	17
Int'l Foundation Fundraiser	18
Silent Auction	19
ASTRA News	20
Virtual Club	21
Club Service Projects & News	22



2023—2025 BIENNIUM GOALS



Our Mission is to “Provide Community Service, Develop Leadership, Foster International Understanding, and Encourage Fellowship.” So, let our mission provide direction for our journey. Setting our course and GOALS will help ensure that Altrusa continues to make a difference in the lives of our members and the lives of those in our communities.

- 1. LEADERSHIP:** Submit a Club Strategic Plan to the District Governor.
- 2. SERVICE:** Submit at least (2) articles to the DSB for publication
- 3. MEMBERSHIP:** Net Gain of (4) or more new members during the biennium.

SERVING UP SERVICE!

Governor's Contact Information:

Dimple Overstreet
436 S. Water St.
Starke, FL 32091

Email: altrusadimple@gmail.com

Cell: 904-964-6768





District Three Nominating Committee Candidates



Candidates for District Three Nominating Committee



Lida Coffman

Altrusa International of Raleigh, NC

I joined the Altrusa Orlando club in 2006 and served as their President from 2008 – 2010. I was the District Service Bulletin Editor from 2011 – 2013, a District Three Director from 2013 – 2015, and the District Three Parliamentarian from 2015 – 2017. My husband retired in 2017 and I stepped away from Altrusa while we explored other places to live. We moved to the Raleigh area in 2020 and I joined the Altrusa Raleigh club in 2022. I'm currently serving as the Vice President for that club. It's good to be back with Altrusa.

Frances Ferguson

Altrusa International of Ocala, FL

I have been an Altrusan since 1977. I've served two separate terms each as President and treasurer, and one as Secretary. I am currently serving as Vice President. I have also Served on the District Board as a Director and on the Conference Committee.



Sara Freeborn

Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL

I have been an Altrusan for 16 years. I thought I was going to be a good "worker bee", but Altrusa has a way of changing old notions about yourself. My first step into leadership was as co-chair of our major fundraising event. Then I served on our Board of Directors over a period of years, from director to 1st Vice President to 2 terms as President. I've been attending District Conferences for several years and served as BRR Committee Chair during the last biennium. As Silvia Silverman says so well, I joined for the service and stayed for the friendships.



Emily Pazel

Altrusa International of Lake City, FL

I have been a member of Altrusa International since 2018. I am currently the Club President of the District Three Virtual Club, a District Three Virtual Club Charter Member and the Virtual Club's Communication Committee Co-Chair.



Glenda Williams

Altrusa International of Live Oak, FL

I have been in Altrusa of Live Oak, FL since 1997 and have served as President two separate two-year terms and have also served in all other positions on the Executive Board. Currently I have been serving as Membership Chair for a number of years.



Mantha Young
Governor-Elect

District Three Foundation Trustees



Join Us in Shaping the Future of Altrusa District Three Foundation!

Dear Altrusa Members

I hope this message finds you well and filled with enthusiasm for the opportunities that lie ahead in 2024. As we prepare for the Altrusa District Three Conference in Atlanta, GA, in April 2024, I am excited about the opportunity to once again bring to your attention the need for new Board members for the Altrusa District Three Foundation.

The Altrusa District Three Foundation Board, founded in 1991, is the charitable 501(c)3 arm of the District Three Board. Our core mission revolves around supporting District Clubs in their tireless efforts to serve our communities. By safeguarding Partnership Accounts within District Three, we offer a crucial advantage - tax-exempt privileges for donations processed through the Foundation. This benefit extends to clubs that do not have their own Foundation, enhancing their capacity to make a meaningful impact through charitable contributions.

During the upcoming District Conference, we will be electing candidates for three Trustee positions, and we are eager to welcome dedicated individuals who share our passion for service.

Eligibility Criteria

:

1. A minimum of two (2) years as a member of Altrusa International, Inc. and previous service as club president, club foundation chair, or club/foundation treasurer.

OR

2. A minimum of five (5) years as a member of Altrusa International, Inc. and prior experience on a 501(c)3 Foundation Board outside of Altrusa.

Our Trustees typically serve two years, with the possibility of up to three consecutive terms, ensuring long-term commitment to our cause.

To begin the nomination process, please visit the Altrusa District Three Foundation page on our website using the following link: Altrusa District Three Foundation Nomination Form (<https://districtthree.altrusa.org/district-foundation/>). The nominee, whether it's a Club President, District Officer, or Past Governor, should complete the form and submit it by January 30, 2024.

Our dedicated nomination committee, comprised of Mary Kane, Yvette Pue, and myself, Mantha Young, is readily available to address any inquiries or provide assistance as needed. Please feel free to reach out to us with your questions.

Let's unite to make a profound impact on our community and continue the outstanding work of the Altrusa District Three Foundation. Your participation is invaluable in shaping our shared future.



Mantha Young
Governor-Elect

District Three Foundation Trustee Nominations



Dr. Joanne M. Brown

Altrusa International of Monticello, FL



With over 48 years of experience in food safety, animal disease, public health, and emergency preparedness. She spent over 26 years in the Army Veterinary Corps, and in 1999, she joined the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and retired as Deputy Commissioner for Food Safety in 2011. She joined Altrusa in 2013 and has been an active participant in all phases of her club, serving as program chair for 5 years and as president from 2016-17. She served as District Three Director from 2019-21. Joanne and her husband live in Monticello, FL, with 16 animals. Their daughter is a major in the Army stationed in Colorado. She is a First United Methodist Church member and cares for its two largest members—the camels Jeremiah and Amazing Grace.

Tracy Jones

Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park FL



With over 34 years of service as a civilian employee in the U.S. Department of Defense, including roles in the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy, Traci Jones holds a deep passion for Altrusa and community service. Seeking to be a District Three Foundation Trustee, Traci aims to elevate her service to Altrusa and the community. Leveraging her background in engineering, program management, and executive leadership, she brings a rich skill set to the Foundation Board of Trustees, encompassing leadership, organization, and communication skills. Traci is the Past President of Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL (2020-2022). Retired with Honors in February 2108 after serving over 34 years as a civilian employee in the U.S. Department of Defense, including the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy.

Penny Penn

Altrusa International of North Georgia, GA



As a North Georgia Altrusa club member since 2006, Penny has served as Vice President, President, and Co-President. She has also served on and chaired various committees. Her experience at the district level includes service for one year as a Director and BRR Chair. Penny is excited at the prospect of working with other Altrusans to support clubs' projects to enhance and improve the lives of others. "I believe I bring organizational skills and an ability to work with others. I know I will work hard and enthusiastically," Penny states.



Amanda Seyfang
Secretary

Request for 25-50 Year Members



Each year at our District Three Conference, we celebrate Altrusans who have achieved 25 or 50 years of service.

Please help us ensure we don't miss any of your 25- and 50-year members.

Include the following information:

Name

Years of Service

Club

Email this information to District Three Secretary, aseyfang@gmail.com.

Deadline to submit it March 15, 2024.





Membership Report as of January 15, 2024



Scott Freiser
Treasurer

Club	Paid Members	Emeritus	Lifetime	Total Members
Florida				
1 Citrus County	20			20
2 Gainesville	49	6		55
3 Lake City	83	7		90
4 Lake County	20			20
5 Live Oak	26	1		27
6 Marianna	23	1		24
7 Monticello	24	1		25
8 Ocala	27	4		31
9 Orlando-Winter Park	36	1		37
10 St. Augustine	16			16
11 Starke	41	2		43
12 Tampa Bay	9	2		11
Total FL	374	25	0	399
Georgia				
1 Atlanta	6			6
2 North Georgia	38	2		40
3 Statesboro	44	3		47
Total GA	88	5	0	93
North Carolina				
1 Caldwell County	1	1		2
2 Charlotte	20	3		23
3 Gastonia	11	1		12
4 Raleigh	15	1	1	17
5 Salisbury	10			10
6 Waynesville	15			15
Total NC	72	6	1	79
South Carolina				
1 Gaffney	10			10
2 Spartanburg	25	4		29
Total SC	35	4	0	39
Report Summary:				
Affiliate Virtual Club - Chartered	8			Active Members 577
Affiliate Members	2			Emeritus Members 41
Emeritus No Club Affiliation	1			Lifetime Members 1
				Affiliate Members 2
				Total Membership 621



New Members October 16, 2023—January 15, 2024



Scott Freiser

New Member	Sponsor	Joined
<u>Gastonia</u>		
Linda Ellington	Connie Elzey/Pam Smith	January
Andrea Grenier	Mary Browne/Judith Towner	January
Kem Watts	Angie Flake	January
<u>Lake City</u>		
Hope Jernigan	Kitty McElhaney	January
Brittany Robert	Karen Green/Holly Cowen	January
<u>Lake County</u>		
Cheri English	Anita Valdez	November
<u>Live Oak</u>		
Marti Matthews	Sandy Hannaka/Susan Strang	January
<u>North Georgia</u>		
Joanie Anderton	Julie Ford	December
Kathy Gibson	Becky Hitch	December
Barbara King	Becky Hitch	December
Susan Skibicki	Mary Kirley	December
Gloria Szokoly	Missy Lehigh/Julie Ford	December
<u>Orlando-Winter Park</u>		
Patricia Johnson	Linda Bond	December
<u>Spartanburg</u>		
Cynthia Johnson	Diane Howard	January





Dee Dugger
Co-Chair
2024
District t
Conference

Call to Conference 2024



Mary Kirley
Co-Chair
2024
District t
Conference

Plans are afoot for a stellar event to be held at The Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel and Convention Center on April 25-27, 2024 – The 71st Annual Altrusa District Three Conference!

Once the home of the Cherokee and Creek Indians, farmers, hunters, traders, warriors, and Elton John, **Buckhead** is now the land of mansions and malls, high-rise skylines, museums and 15 streets that include the name “Peachtree.” It is where you will find the Atlanta History Center and Swan House, Governor’s Mansion, and Atlanta’s largest park, Chastain Memorial Park. And it is the place Altrusan stars will be shining.... beginning with the Thursday evening Welcome Reception at the Bucket Shop Café, steps away from the hotel, and ending with an out-of-this-world Governor’s Banquet on Saturday evening.

At this Conference we are especially pleased to be able to shine a light on two leaders in their fields, both of whom call Atlanta their home: Kantrice R. Rose, PhD, Executive Director of Altrusa International Foundation, and Kent Julian, speaker, writer, and consultant on what he calls “DREAM-to-DO” culture.

You spoke, we listened...One of the comments from the survey last year was that members wanted more time to socialize. Our Friday fun night will be geared around an evening of fun and fellowship. We have replaced our Intergalactic ball with an evening of fun and games. Stay tuned for more details.

This is a conference you will not want to miss, filled with informative meetings and workshops and the always-present opportunity to interact with our sisters and brothers from around our District.

If you are interested in helping at conference (expeditors, voting assistants, registration, etc.) please contact Colleen Duris at cmdaltrusa@gmail.com





Altrusa International, Inc.

71st Annual District Three Conference

April 25 - 27, 2024

Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel and Conference Center

3405 Lenox Road, Atlanta, GA 30326



Conference Registration (One Member Per 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:

<input type="checkbox"/> Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Club President	<input type="checkbox"/> International Officer
<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/> Incoming President	<input type="checkbox"/> International Rep
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/> Past Governor	<input type="checkbox"/> Past International President
<input type="checkbox"/> District Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> District Committee Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> First Timer
<input type="checkbox"/> District Foundation Officer		

Conference Fees

Please register by April 3, 2024. After that date, a \$20.00 late fee will be charged.

Conference fees will be refunded if cancellation is received by April 3, 2024.

Full Conference Registration:

*(Includes Friday Breakfast, Friday Lunch,
Saturday Breakfast and Saturday Governor's Banquet.)*

Friday Only Registration: *(Includes Breakfast, Lunch)*

Saturday Only Registration: *(Includes Breakfast and Governor's Banquet)*

Less First Timer Discount: *(Full registration only, check First Timer's Column Above)*

Late Registration Fee: *(For registrations received after April 3, 2024)*

	_____	\$215.00	_____
	_____	\$100.00	_____
	_____	\$150.00	_____
	_____	(\$ 25.00)	_____
	_____	\$ 20.00	_____
	<u>Subtotal Member Registration</u>		_____

Guest Tickets for Meals:

Name: _____	_____	# of Guests		
Name: _____	Friday Breakfast	_____	@\$40.00	_____
Name: _____	Friday Lunch	_____	@\$45.00	_____
Name: _____	Saturday Breakfast	_____	@\$40.00	_____
Name: _____	Sat. Governor's Banquet	_____	@\$75.00	_____

Subtotal Guest Registration

T-Shirts (Size: _____) # _____ @\$15.00 _____

Grand Total Registration

Make Checks to: Altrusa District Three Conference 2024

Mail to: Altrusa District Three Treasurer

c/o Scott Frieser

13212 Providence Green Ct

Charlotte, NC 28277

ScottFrieser.altrusa@gmail.com

Conference Hotel: Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel & Conf Center

3405 Lenox Road

Atlanta, GA 30326

\$139 until April 3, 2024 (or block of rooms is filled)

To make hotel reservations, hold down your "CTRL" key and click link below:

[Book your group rate for Altrusa](#)

Or Call: 1-888-236-2427

Ask for mini-hotel code ALT, Altrusa International District Three 2024 Group

District Three Website: [District Three Conference Information](#)

Questions? Mary Kirley kirleymary@gmail.com or Dee Dugger ladydragonfly54@gmail.com

Schedule at a Glance

2024 District Three Conference

Wednesday, April 24

7:00 – 11:00 pm

Pre-Conference District Board Meeting/ Atlanta Boardroom

Thursday, April 25

8:00 am – Noon

Pre-Conference District Board Meeting / Atlanta Boardroom

Noon – 6:00 pm

Registration and Credentials * / Buckhead Pre-Function

Noon- 5:00 pm

District Foundation Auction / Altrusa Store * / Augusta

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Flag Ceremony Rehearsal / Buckhead Ballroom B

5:00 – 6:00 pm

First Timers Orientation / Savannah

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Welcome Reception / Bucket Shop Cafe

7:30 – 9:00 pm

Opening Ceremony / Buckhead Ballroom B

Friday, April 26

7:00 – 7:55 am

Registration and Credentials * / Buckhead Pre-Function

8:00 – 9:30 am

Conference Opening Breakfast / Buckhead Ballroom A

9:30 am – 5:00 pm

District Foundation Auction / Altrusa Store* / Augusta

9:45 – 11:45 am

1st All Conference Business Meeting / Buckhead Ballroom B

Noon – 6:00 pm

Vendors / Buckhead Pre-Function

Noon – 2:00 pm

Foundation Luncheon & Annual Meeting / Buckhead Ballroom A

2:00 – 2:45 pm

Registration and Credentials * / Buckhead Pre-Function

Work Shop Session I

2:15 – 3:15 pm

MORE /Marietta

2:15 – 3:15 pm

INFO /Dahlonaga

2:15 – 3:15 pm

COMING /Oglethorpe

2:15 – 3:15 pm

SOON /Savannah

Work Shop Session II

3:30 – 4:30 pm

MORE /Marietta

3:30 – 4:30 pm

INFO /Dahlonaga

3:30 – 4:30 pm

COMING /Oglethorpe

3:30 – 4:30 pm

SOON /Savannah

5:00 – 5:45 pm

Voting / Atlanta Boardroom

8:00 – 10:00

Friday Fun Night/Buckhead Ballroom A

Saturday, April 27

7:00 am – 7:55 am

Registration and Credentials * / Buckhead Pre-Function

7:00 am – 1:00 pm

District Foundation Auction* / Altrusa Store * / Augusta

8:00 – 9:45 am

Breakfast and District Awards Ceremony / Buckhead Ballroom A

10:00am – 12:15 pm

2nd All Conference Business Meeting / Buckhead Ballroom B

12:15 – 6:00 pm

Free Time

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Past Governor's Luncheon / Atlanta Boardroom

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Cocktail Reception for International Rep / Buckhead Pre-Function

7:00 – 9:30 pm

Governor's Banquet / Buckhead Ballroom A

Sunday, April 28

8:00 – 11:30am

Post-Conference District Board Meeting / Atlanta Boardroom

The above schedule is subject to change.

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

Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel & Conference Center

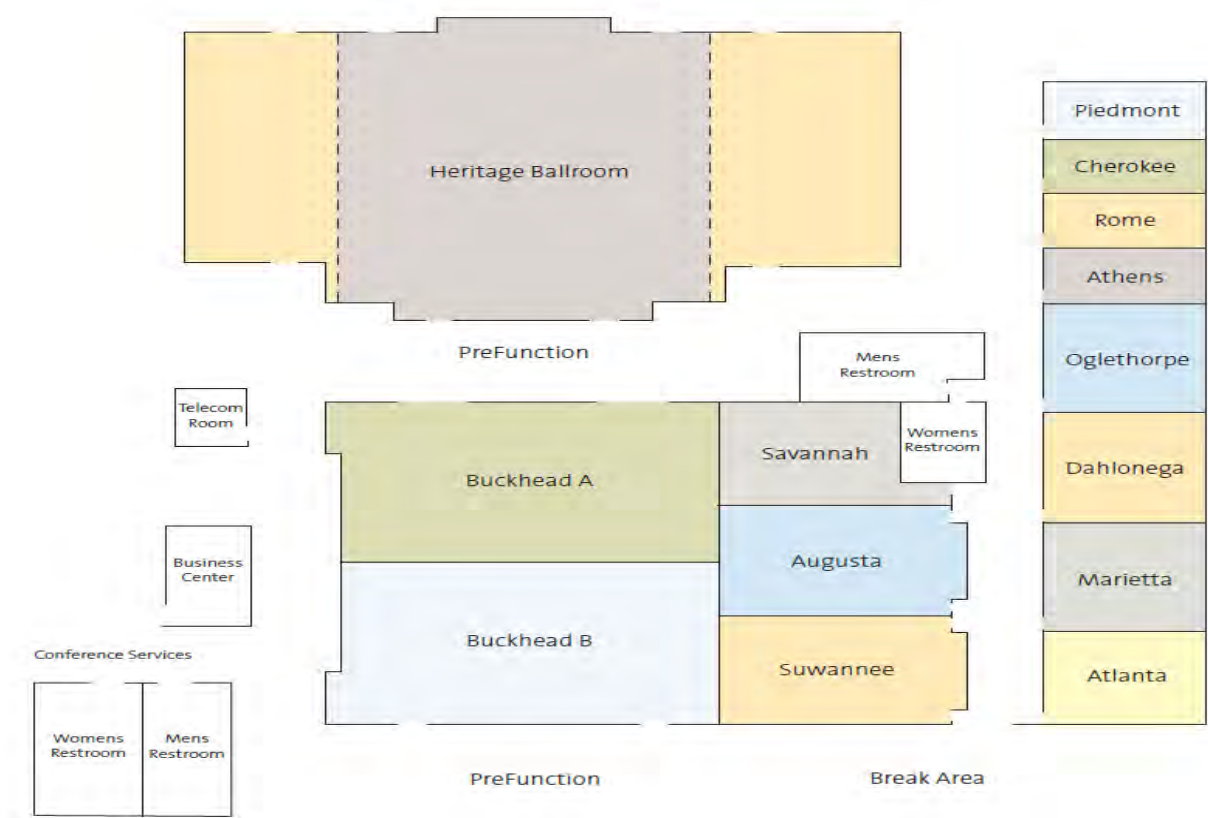
3405 Lenox Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30326



MARTA STATION – TWO BLOCKS FROM HOTEL



CONFERENCE AREA ROOM LAYOUT





Call to Conference 2024



Kent Julian is a lot of things... family man, champion swim coach, **CSP*** professional speaker, fish taco lover, and proud bald guy. Yet, this hasn't always been the case. Kent started out as an at-risk child with severe learning challenges and SAT scores so low that he had to take Development Studies just to get into college—on probation.

From these humble beginnings, Kent went on to become the Executive Director of a national youth association in order to help teenagers just like him. Then, after 20 years in non-profit work, he did something crazy... he launched two successful businesses.

Along the way, Kent realized that the successes he experienced were never "his successes." Each accomplishment came about because of the teams he was privileged to lead. Whether working with millennial students, coaching championship swim teams, or leading his own businesses, success was the result of committed, engaged teams.

Now, with his expertise in leadership and employee engagement, he is privileged to speak, write, and consult leaders and teams all over the country on what it takes to create what he calls "DREAM-to-DO" culture.

You can find his work online in places like Entrepreneur.com, Success.com, GoodMenProject.com and more. To find out more, visit KentJulian.com.

* **CSP** stands for *Certified Speaking Professional* with the National Speakers Association (NSA). It is the highest designation a speaker can earn with the NSA. Less than 800 professional speakers worldwide have earned this award, which demonstrates just how rare it is in the speaking business.

Contact: info@kentjulian.com

Website: KentJulian.com





Dee Dugger
Co-Chair
2024
District t
Conference

Call to Conference 2024



Mary Kirley
Co-Chair
2024
District t
Conference



Conference 2024 Service Project

This year we will be partnering with AdventureBags.org for our conference service project. Adventure Bags is located in Winder, Georgia and serves children throughout their surrounding counties. We have selected the 5-7 year old age group as our recipient group.

What Makes A Simple Bookbag An Adventure Bag?

After all, a child's smile does not come in one size fits all right?

The concept is simple; it is a backpack filled with overnight essentials and comfort items to assist the child in crisis and their caretaker during the initial 24-48 hours of displacement.

Our goal through these Adventure Bags is to :

- Provide them with something to call their own.
- Offer a sense of security and comfort.

Remind them someone, somewhere is thinking about them.

Read their entire story on their website Adventurebags.org. The Adventure Bags team has put together an extensive, diverse shopping list. Here is the link for the Amazon wish list.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3B28TCS3740DO?ref=wl_share

Looking forward to seeing you at conference.

Dee
Conference co-chair



Susy Meier
Program Coordinator

Electronic Voting at Conference



After two successful years, Altrusa District Three will once again be using an electronic voting platform at the 2024 District Three Conference. The platform is called Election Runner and it allows for secure, custom voting and easy tabulation. Each eligible voter (District Three Board Member, Past Governors, and Club Delegates) will be assigned a voter ID by the system, which will be sent via email with the link for voting. This conference, the election is for your District Three Nominating Committee.

Prior to the Conference, we will ask Governor Dimple Overstreet to send out an email providing you with the email address that the email ballot notification will come from. Voting will only be allowed once per voter ID and will be limited to the same time frame as elections have been given in the past. The committee will not be able to see who a voter voted for – only that they have already voted or not voted. We will be able to swap out Delegates and Alternates in the system should the need arise.

You will be able to use a PC, Mac, tablet, or mobile phone to vote. If you are eligible to vote and do not have an appropriate device, your Elections Committee will have a device in the Elections Room to assist.

After the votes are tabulated, the report made to the membership, and the body votes to “destroy the ballots,” the Election Runner platform will allow us to delete the results of the actions. As with paper ballot elections, the committee will announce the total number of votes cast and those that received the greatest number of votes.

If you have any questions prior to the Conference regarding the election process, please let me know @ susymeier@gmail.com





Call to Conference 2024



District Three 2024 Conference International Representative



Kathy Folley
Altrusa International Immediate Past President

Altrusa International, Inc of Temple, Texas
District Nine

Kathy currently serves as Altrusa International Immediate Past President. She became an Altrusan in 1993 and served as Club President from 1999-2000. In 2000, she joined the District Nine Board of Directors, subsequently serving as Director, New Club Building Chair, Service Committee Chair, Long Range Strategic Planning Committee Chair, Second Vice Governor, First Vice Governor/Program Coordinator, Governor-Elect, and Governor during the 2009-2011 Biennium. On the International level, she served on the 2007-2009 Long Range Strategic Planning Committee, as Vice Chair of the 2011-2013 Service Committee, as 2015-2017 International Board Director, 2017-2019 International Vice President, 2019-21 International President Elect, and was elected International President at the 2021 Convention in Charlotte, NC.

Kathy retired in 2012 after 26 years with Wilsonart, Inc. She and her husband, Bud, have two daughters, five grandchildren, a great grandson and live in Temple, Texas. Kathy says her husband's passion is golf and watching his Texas A&M Aggies play football; her passion is Altrusa.





Martin Houston
Int'l Foundation
Liaison

Int'l Foundation Grants & Fundraiser



Your Altrusa International Foundation continues to work hard in 2023-2024. The Foundation awarded \$86,413 in grant funding to 37 Altrusa Clubs in the last cycle. Congratulations to District Three's own Monticello, Florida club for their "Altrusans Flying High in Monticello FL" grant award. You can read more about what the International Foundation has been doing in the latest copy of [The Impact](#), the Foundation's newsletter.

Don't forget, Altrusa Clubs may still submit applications for International Foundation Project Grants by the deadline of **March 15, 2024**. The clubs may request between \$250.00 and \$4,000.00. The total list of criteria and other guidelines is on the International Foundation website, <https://foundation.altrusa.org/grants-awards/>. Follow-up information is required if the grant is given, and that form is also available through the website.

To donate to the International Foundation, you can text AltrusaFdn to 41-444 or go to the website <https://foundation.altrusa.org/donate/>. If you text, you'll receive back a link via text to enter your information, donation amount, and you can indicate a program or a person the donation is in honor of. Any donations made via the website or text do count towards your Lamplighter status. Club 21 renewals can be made the same way as other donations. Don't forget, the International Foundation's mailing address changed last year: 1400 E. Touhy Avenue, Suite 410, Des Plaines, IL 60018.

I hope I will see everyone in Atlanta, Georgia in April for the District Three Conference. I will be selling tickets for the 50-50 Raffle to raise funds from our District for the International Foundation.





Joanne Brown
District Foundation
Chair

Foundation Update & Silent Auction



Place your bids here!! The District Three Foundation will be holding its annual silent auction fundraiser at our conference in April. Monies raised will help fund the grants and awards given to clubs! It cannot be successful, however, without your generous support. This will be our major fundraiser this year since there is no dessert dash. We need clubs to begin thinking about your donation...what basket, hand-crafted item, or interesting trinket do you think will fetch a good price?! We look forward to a fun bidding competition and thank you for your generous support in the past!

Wanted!
**SILENT
AUCTION
ITEMS**



Kitty McElhaney
ASTRA Chair

ASTRA News



Expansion of ASTRA in District Three is coming to fruition. The Lake City, Florida Club is sponsoring a second ASTRA Club. The Richardson Sixth Grade Academy (RSGA) has been in formation since September. Club Liaison Suzanne Norris has worked closely with the school sponsor, Narvette Kelly. The charter ceremony was held on January 18, 2024, with six Lake City Altrusans in attendance along with Governor Dimple Overstreet. Twenty-five students became ASTRA members at RSGA! The officers are in place and the club is ready to move forward in service to their community.

ASTRA service projects can receive financial resources via the following :

ASTRA Clubs are eligible for Altrusa International Foundation Grants to fund their community service projects requesting up to \$4000 for up to one service grant per year. Information can be located at:

www.foundation.altrusa.org

ASTRA Clubs chartered September 1, 2019 or later may receive a one-time grant up to \$2,000 to begin service in their communities. The grant recipient is obligated to use the grant award for the intended purpose and must file a report within one year after the grant is awarded. Applications must be received within one year of the charter date.

The District Three "KM ASTRA Grant Fund" was created in 2021 in honor of Governor Kitty McElhaney to provide District Three ASTRA Clubs a source of funding for service projects. All District Three ASTRA Clubs are eligible to complete an application requesting up to \$150 annually until all funds are depleted. The form can be located at <https://districtthree.altrusa.org/about/forms/>

For more information about ASTRA please contact Kitty McElhaney District Three ASTRA Committee Chair at kittyaltrusa@gmail.com



ASTRA Members with Patti Summerlin, ASTRA School Co-Sponsor, RSGA Principal, Lisa Lee, Narvette Kelly, ASTRA School Co-Sponsor



Left to right: School Co-Sponsor, Narvette Kelly, Secretary, Graceyn Christie; Vice-President, Caroline Snowden, Treasurer, Zuri Paulk, President, Amelia Dupree and Altrusa Lake City Liaison, Suzanne Norris.



ASTRA Members with Lake City Altrusans: Barbara Doonan, Lorrie Wheeler, Lisa Lizotte, District Three Governor Dimple Overstreet, Kitty McElhaney, Suzanne Norris, Durelle Bailey and Karen Green.



Emily Pazel
District Three
Virtual Club President

As we enter a new year filled with great blessings, embracing the spirit of gratitude and renewed determination to bring about positive change in our communities and beyond is what we strive to make happen.

This past November, the Virtual Club participated in Giving Tuesday, a global, virtual event that takes place the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. To participate in this event, our club held a Giving Tuesday Open Forum meeting, allowing each member to talk about the non-profits and charity organizations near and dear to their hearts. After the open forum was held and pitches were made, each club member was ready to participate in Giving Tuesday.

After all the anonymous donations were tallied together, our Virtual Club donated a total of \$4,700, distributed among over 20 different non-profit and charity organizations worldwide.

As we reflect on our Giving Tuesday success, we see more than just the funds we've gathered – we see the awareness and growth that we can support in diverse areas across the world that reflect each of our member's compassionate spirit.

In addition to our Giving Tuesday triumph, our Virtual Club celebrated the season with an annual virtual holiday party that was open for all members and guests to attend and led by our Membership Development Co-Chairs. Festivities included Altrusa-themed trivia that sparked joy and friendly competition, as well as an engaging icebreaker that allowed us to connect and learn more about one another in a spirited and fun-filled atmosphere. We were thrilled to have International President Linda Smith and District Three Board members Amanda Seyfang and Nancy Shumaker join in the holiday event – one of the benefits of being a 'virtual' club.

With such a vibrant end to the year, we eagerly anticipate the new opportunities and experiences that await us, ready to embrace the potential that the new year holds for our club and beyond.

If you have a question about the District Three Virtual Club or know someone interested in joining us, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at emilypazel@gmail.com.





CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

By Carolyn Harrell, Altrusa International of Gainesville, FL

To look at our newsletters from November, December and January one might think we're just a bunch of "party girls." However, every party is for a purpose and so many gifts were distributed over the holidays. Choosing just one photo from the array was nearly impossible, but here is just one picture that could speak a thousand words from some of Gainesville Altrusa's recent activities and events.



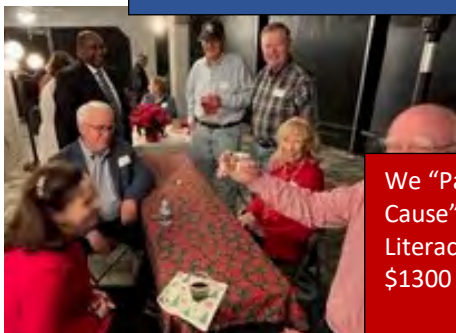
Several birthday bashes celebrated our anchor project, Altrusa House. Wish you could see all the party attendees, but one picture...



Our Vocational garage sale mavens raised nearly \$1300 for Altrusa House and Santa Fe College scholarships, but their partying came after clean-up.



We partnered with the Woman's Club (and Santa) for the Festival of Trees gala raising funds for Altrusa House and fostering good will in our community.



We "Partied for a Good Cause" to support Literacy raising nearly \$1300 by having fun.



Our holiday luncheon met at Justine's for a wonderful time and to celebrate raising \$2,089 for Ukraine from raffles and Fran's matching funds.



And we welcomed new members, Bea and Vilma!





CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

By Sandy Thompson, Altrusa International of Lake City, FL

This year for Make A Difference Day, we participated in our local Growers and Makers Market in Downtown Lake City. We had seven Altrusans volunteer to help distribute books. With a few of our Altrusans wearing colorful costumes, we were quickly able to catch the eye of every child (and Parent) that was attending the market. We started with 70 books and after distributing 61 books, we were left with only nine books! What an awesome project to get 61 books into the hands of children in Columbia County! Along with the the distribution of books, several Altrusans joined the children, under a shaded tree to read them the books and even some children read us a book! The event ran from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. The impact we were able to make during this year's Make A Difference Day will have a lasting benefit in our community and encourage the youth of Columbia County to "Fall into Reading"!

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF LAKE CITY
PRESENTS:
MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY
Fall into Reading
FREE BOOK

Come share the love of reading and literature

- Free Book Ages 1-12
- Relax and Read Along with Altrusa





CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

By Sandy Thompson, Altrusa International of Lake City, FL

Altrusa Kids - Engaging in Literacy Through the Visual Arts is an after-school program in Columbia County, Florida, that supports the literacy needs of underprivileged students while providing the opportunity to experience various areas of art education. Students participated in writing activities, which included lyrics, narratives, stories, tall tales, creating poetry, haikus, cinquains, lanterns, and concrete poetry. Student lessons focused on reading comprehension & interpretation skills while enlarging their vocabulary. Each class was equally weighted with literary skills and the visual arts processes. Students were immersed in culturally rich & diverse artists & authors.



The project targets 24 at-risk students from local elementary schools where students scored below 60% on the Statewide Reading Assessment. Upon this assessment, Altrusa International of Lake City, Florida, partnered with the Art League of North Central Florida (dba Gateway Art Gallery) to offer an after-school program with a comprehensive arts and literacy program available to underprivileged children with low reading and writing skills.

The after-school sessions were conducted once a month at the Gateway Art Gallery. When students arrived, they were provided a snack, and read a book about the Artist being discussed in that day's session. The children were then presented with vocabulary words related to the Artist's subject matter and encouraged to compile poetry, stories, etc., using the newly learned vocabulary. They were then provided visuals (video, still pictures, etc) of the selected artists' work while listening to motivational instrumental music to encourage their

imagination of the artwork. The sessions ended with the children expressing themselves in the art style of the Artist being presented to the class.

The year-long project concluded with the Art Show, held in November, where the students' artwork was framed and displayed on the art gallery walls for their parents, Altrusans, and the community to enjoy. The kids were presented with the artist books to take home.

Altrusa International of Lake City, Florida was able to offer 99 service hours with a total of 78 Altrusan participants. With Altrusa's commitment to this program, we spend a total of 16.5 hours exposing the students of Columbia County to art and literature.





CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

By Linda Hamedani, Altrusa International of Monticello, FL

During the month of November, 2023, Monticello, Florida Altrusans joined with the local Rotary Club to display banners with pictures of local Veterans. Jefferson County has more than 1,200 veterans in the small county of 14,000 population. Our own beautiful Joanne Brown, Altrusa member known as Colonel Brown, was one of the first banners to be displayed. We sponsored nine relatives of our local club members. A grandson of one of our members wrote and told us how proud he was to see his deceased grandfather's picture on one of the banners. It was an unforgettable memory for him. Veterans families receive the banner at the end of November to keep or display another year in front of the stores and courthouse.

Our MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY was in November. We gathered fresh vegetables and fruit for a "fill the fridge" day in the FEMA office. We were pleased to provide fresh food to the victims of Hurricane Idalia which passed through our area and left profound damage to many homes and businesses. We plan to restock the location with food for as long as the victims are in need and come to the FEMA office. Our second project for MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY was to give away gift cards for food, gasoline, clothes for a job interview or other needs for four battered women in the county. We are able to do this project discreetly through the local Coordinator for Abused and Battered Women.

DOWNTOWN MONTICELLO BOOK GIVE-AWAY takes place each year for Halloween and Christmas festivals. The Literacy Committee gives away Halloween books and candy in front of one the downtown stores in October and at the parade and festival for Christmas in December. . We usually give away 400 to 450 books during the events. Some of the books are donated by members of Altrusa and some are purchased through fundraisers and grant funding from Altrusa International Foundation. We also donate books for the Accelerated Reading program to classroom teachers at the local schools for use in the classrooms. We are thanked by both children and parents for these literacy donations.





CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

By Connie Larsen Altrusa International of Ocala, FL

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF OCALA REVIVES ITS CLUSTER CLUB

Ocala's "Cluster Club" was started many years ago, as a committee of Altrusa International of Ocala, to address the needs of individuals who wanted to participate in Altrusa, but who were unable to attend our, then, twice a month lunch meetings. The Cluster Club met once a month, in the evening, and consisted both of members who were unable to attend the daytime meetings and "regular" members who wanted to participate beyond our regular meetings.

The Cluster Club met at various venues over the years, including a local restaurant and a member's home, and meetings typically included sharing a meal or snack along with an Altrusa meeting. Cluster Club members would choose a project or projects where they felt they could offer the Club assistance. Projects over the years included reviewing scholarship applications and working on specific tasks for our spring fundraiser.

Cluster Club meetings continued until early 2020, and then were "paused" when COVID changed our world. Our regular meetings became Zoom meetings, and Cluster Club members were more easily able to participate in our regular meetings. When we resumed in-person meetings, we opted not to resume Cluster Club meetings, as most of the members who had been attending the evening meetings were able to join us at lunch time.

In mid-2023, we had several people who were interested in joining Altrusa, but unable to join us at our regular, now once a month, lunch meetings. This was a perfect time to reinstate our Cluster Club! We held our first meeting on November 16, 2023, chaired by member Connie Larsen, with several other members in attendance. Our meetings are held in a community room at a local nursing home, allowing one of our Emeritus members to join us from time to time, as her schedule permits. Our first meeting brought three prospective members, two of whom submitted membership applications on the spot. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024. We are looking forward to getting into the swing of things, working with our new members through the membership process, and providing service to the Club and community!





CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

By Yvette Pue, Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL

The holiday season is always a busy time with friends and family celebrating and exchanging gifts. But not everyone has the festive holiday experience so many of our Altrusans are blessed to enjoy. Throughout the months of November and December, the Orlando-Winter Park club kept busy helping ensure the delivery of a bit of holiday cheer to individuals who might not otherwise have any during the season. In mid November the club always decorates the downtown Orlando Amtrak Station, adding a bit of holiday festivities to countless individuals as they battle the holiday crowds getting home to family.

On November 29th, several club members gathered with their "Writing Buddies" from the Writers Promise program. Altrusans exchange hand written letters throughout the school year with their 4th grade writing buddy from the Monarch learning Academy. Altrusa provides gift bags for the children as individual members also bring a special gift for their writing buddy. The Orlando-Winter Park club also supports the program annually with funds for purchasing stamps, stationery and envelopes for the program.

Throughout October and November, several club members travel to local Dollar Tree stores to gather donated toys, games and stuffed animals. On November 30th, 2023, club members met at an Orlando Reserve Armory and in conjunction with Operation Homefront, stuffed more than 120 stockings for military families. The club also was able to donate left over toys to several other organizations to include the Center for Independent Living. The club provided 30 holiday bags of toys to CIL while sponsoring a craft at the CILs "Silent Night" event, we predominately deaf or hearing impaired families got to meet Santa Clause, make holiday crafts, enjoy Altrusa donated cookies and treat and receive the bags of toys provided courtesy of Altrusa and Operation Homefront.



Members getting ready to stuff those stockings!



Serving lunch to the ladies from the STEPS program

Early December saw the club hosting a holiday luncheon for ladies who were a part of the Specialized Treatment, Education and Prevention Services (STEPS) program. STEPS is a private, not-for-profit organizations that offers comprehensive substance abuse education and treatment services to women, men and their children regardless of race, religion or national origin with priority given to pregnant injecting drug abusers, pregnant substance abusers and injecting drug abusers. The Orlando-Winter Park has been supporting STEPS with this holiday event for more than 30 years. The club provides an opportunity for close to 30 ladies to get away from their live in facility to enjoy a fun holiday luncheon, receive gift bags full of holiday goodies as well as basic self-care necessities. For the past three years, due to the generosity of local Dollar Tree Shoppers and with the support of Operation Homefront, we were able to offer the ladies the opportunities to "shop" for Christmas gifts for their children to have when they were allowed to come visit. The club members both serve the ladies their lunch as well as sit and "fellowship" with them throughout the event. They

are also invited to help decorate the tree in the facility used for the luncheon as well as get their pictures taken in front of the tree with friends they made in the program. The pictures were then developed and copies provided to all of the ladies. This event is personally rewarding to the Altrusa ladies as the smiles and words of appreciation from the STEPS participants confirmed they had a wonderful bit of holiday fun during their treatment program. It's always fun to receive gifts during the holidays from friends and family but the opportunity to spread holiday cheer to others is the best gift of all.



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

By Mimi Cooper, Altrusa International of St. Augustine, FL

Monday Funday with Santa

Monday, December 18, really was a true Funday for the St Johns County Public School's families who are supported by Early Childhood Services. Santa visited with the 80 plus children who were all given free books from Altrusa and wonderful treats from the Staff. The books had been donated by Lisa Libraries. The families all received a delicious take home meal provided by Early Childhood Services. Santa was Altrusa member Chris Martin's husband Phil. This was his first time as Santa and he was fabulous.



Upon arrival, this was the Welcome for the families. The Early Childhood Staff and Altrusa ready the take-home chicken dinners for the families.



Santa, Mrs. Claus, Santa's Elf, and young guest



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

By Sara Long, Altrusa International of Starke, FL

I was so excited to share the idea of this project with my club. In my teens and early twenties, mission work was a large part of my life and still very dear to me. Clean water. So often we don't think about its importance or accessibility, but for many it is not something readily available. Altrusa Club of Starke had the honor of partnering with Servants Hearts Ministries in Guatemala to provide 8 water filter kits to help provide families with clean drinking water. Here are some images from the delivery of those systems.





CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

By Pamela Lavender, Altrusa International of Statesboro, GA

Make A Difference Day Project October 2023

The Altrusa Club of Statesboro, GA partnered with the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority to bring "Scare on the Square" to the Statesboro community on Saturday, October 14th from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. This free event was perfect for the whole family and included a Candyland game, costume contest, hayride, trunk-or-treat and food vendors. Our club members were there to help make the day even more spooktacular by registering participants for the costume contest, giving away books and handing out candy. We were thrilled to announce that one of our very own, Ilene Dailey, was a judge for the costume contest! We all had a hauntingly good time at Scare on the Square!





CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

By Pamela Lavender, Altrusa International of Statesboro, GA

Altrusa of Statesboro Promotes Literacy

Statesboro Altrusa had a successful quarter of literacy events, including a Book Bingo night on November 9th that was enjoyed by members and guests. The event raised funds for literacy projects through a silent auction and book sales.

In addition, the club partnered with Books-A-Million for a book drive that resulted in \$7,000 in book donations for the Ruth MacKinnon Literacy project. Toys for Tots also donated hundreds of books in support of the project.

Members also participated in hands-on projects, such as donating clothing and personal care items to Teal House, which supports victims of sexual assault, and donating school and educational supplies in support of the Bulloch County Schools Parent Engagement Team. The club is proud of their efforts to promote literacy in the community and looks forward to continuing their work in the future.



Members attending Book Bingo Event



Donations from Partnership with Books-a-Million



Items collected to support Bulloch County Schools



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

By Linda Arnold, Altrusa International of Waynesville, NC

We have been busy this last quarter. We continue to work with Haywood Christian Ministry (HCM) filling boxes of produce for food insecure families. Manna brings a truckload of food every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We were required to attend a training video and were tested on what we learned. Families can come to HCM once a week. They receive a box of produce, box of frozen meat, eggs, box of bread and cakes, cookies, box of canned goods. Food also is donated by local grocery stores. In 2023 over 1.3 million pounds of food were donated in our county. HCM has adequate frozen and refrigerated storage. Nothing is wasted. If some of the produce is past its prime, it is collected to be given to a farmer for his livestock.

Several years ago Rotary began collecting blankets for our citizens without adequate heat. Since then they have made an appeal to other civic organizations and banks to join in. Altrusa is a part of this effort. This year our club of 15 members donated 64 blankets. The blankets were delivered to Mountain Projects on November 17. Many of us searched for the best deal and best quality.

It is an annual occurrence for Altrusa to ring the bell for the Salvation Army. We select a day, set up a schedule and ring the bell all day at our local Belk store. Two of us ring for one hour periods. We found people to be very generous this year.



Joy, Barbara and President Linda packing produce at HCM.



Lisa and President Linda deliver 64 blankets to Mountain Projects



Kim, Lisa and Julie just part of the members ringing the bell for the Salvation Army