

DISTRICT THREE SERVICE BULLETIN

FLORIDA GEORGIA NORTH CAROLINA SOUTH CAROLINA



Governor's Message

72nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Showcasing Talents, Growing Membership:
Unleashing Potential, Elevating Impact

Fill out your registration form and pack your bags and plan to have fun at the 72nd Annual Conference in Cherokee, North Carolina from April 24-26, 2025. Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort is making plans for our arrival. The theme this year is "**Elevate And Innovate**"- "Showcasing Talents, Growing Membership, Unleashing Potential, Elevating Impact". International President Linda Smith will join us in her role as International Representative and she will share the International Report. Our 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, Christy Bryant, of the Charlotte, NC, club and Julie Keiper, of the Waynesville, NC club.

Here is why you won't want to miss Conference this year. **Engaging Workshops:** Sharpen your skills. **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with like-minded individuals. **Elect new District Three Board and Foundation Trustees:** Be a part of the decision-making process. **Celebrate Success:** Celebrate the power of teamwork.

Directors Roberta Klusmeier of the Orlando-Winter Park, FL club, Anita Ashworth of the Monticello, FL club, and Scott Tice of the Ocala, FL club are busy planning a special First Timers session just for you. If you are a First Timer to Conference not only is your registration reduced by \$25.00, but you will learn what to expect at Conference, and how to get the most out of your experience and connect with the District Board.

Join us to gain valuable insights, learn new skills, and make meaningful connections and leave with lasting memories of fun and fellowship.

See you in Cherokee,

Dimple

Inside this issue

Governor's Message	1
2023-2025 Biennium Goals	2
Call To Conference	3
Why Should I Go?	4
Registration Form	5
Schedule at a Glance	6
Venue Information	7
International Representative	10
Conference Service Project	11
Delegates and Alternates	12
Electronic Voting	13
District Board Candidates	14
District Foundation Awards	16
District Foundation Auction	17
District Foundation Grants	18
District Foundation Candidates	19
Request for 25-50 Yr Members	20
Int'l Foundation Board Candidates	21
Int'l Foundation Grants & Funds	23
District Three Member Summary	24
District Three New Members	25
Club Service Projects & News	26



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

SERVING UP SERVICE!

- 3. MEMBERSHIP:** Net Gain of (4) or more new members during the biennium.

Governor’s Contact Information:

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

Email: altrusadimple@gmail.com

Cell: 904-964-6768





Call to Conference

By Christy Bryant and Julie Keiper

It's 2025! The Conference Planning Committee is actively engaged in completing all the necessary preparations for the 72nd District Conference on April 24-26, 2025 at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort in Cherokee, North Carolina. Registration is open through April 2, 2025. After that date, a late fee will be charged. Now's the time for clubs to elect their Delegates and Alternates for conference. You will need this information to complete the registration form. Please fill out the form completely and check off all of the boxes that apply to you. This helps us prepare your check-in packets, note any special dietary needs, add the proper ribbons for your name badges and place all delegates on the list for voting purposes.

We have planned engaging speakers and educational workshops with networking opportunities to share ideas, collaborate on projects with the Club Showcase "Show & Tell", and where you can form lasting relationships with fellow Altrusans. The District Service project will benefit those impacted by Hurricane Helene and we know you will not want to miss our unique take on a scavenger hunt for 'Fun Night'.

When you are ready for some 'R & R', the Resort features a full-service spa. On-site facilities include a fitness center and boutique shops. There is upscale dining as well as a food court with casual dining options. Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort is within a five-minute drive of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian and Oconaluftee Indian Village.

At the end of the conference, you will leave with a Club Innovation Toolkit targeted to 'Elevate and Innovate' your Altrusa experience in your local club.

This is one District Conference you will not want to miss!

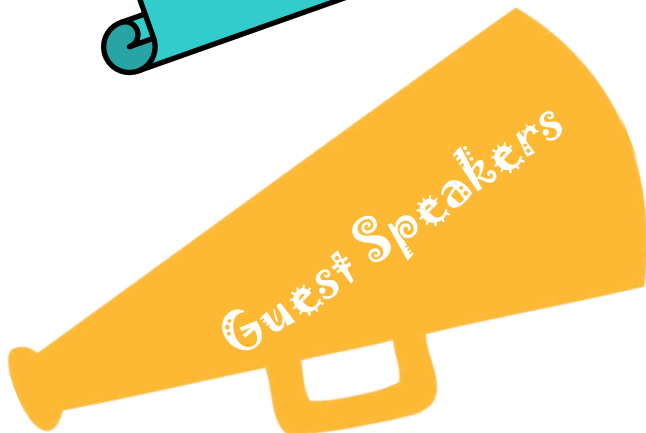
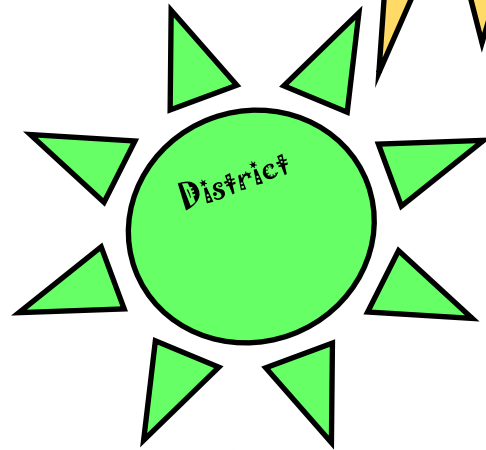
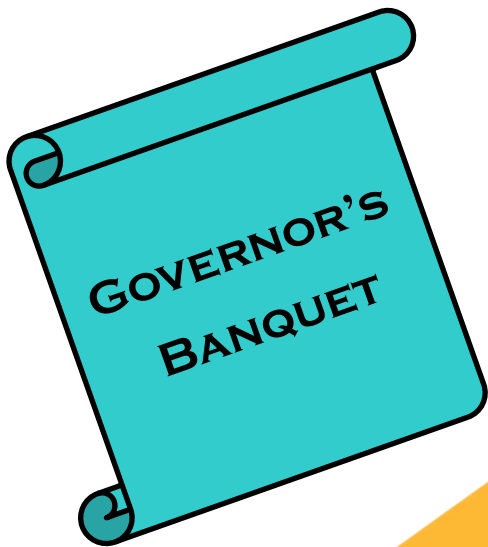
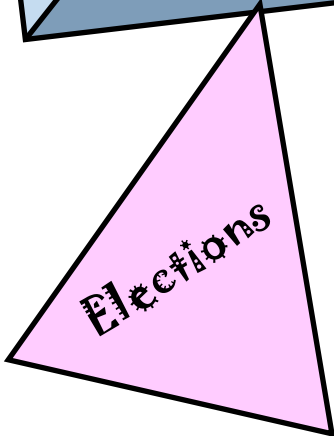


ELEVATE AND INNOVATE

Showcasing Talents, Growing Membership

Unleashing Potential, Elevating Impact

Just Why Should I Go to Conference?



Altrusa International, Inc. 72nd Annual District Three Conference April 24 - 26, 2025

Cherokee Casino Resort
777 Casino Dr, Cherokee, NC 28719

Conference Registration (One Member Per Form)



ELEVATE AND INNOVATE

Address: _____ E-mail: _____
 City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____
 Home Club: _____
 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 2, 2025. After that date, a \$20.00 late fee will be charged.
 Conference fees will be refunded if cancellation is received by April 2, 2025.

Full Conference Registration: <i>(Includes Friday Breakfast, Friday Lunch, Saturday Breakfast and Saturday Governor's Banquet (Attire: Cocktail))</i>	_____	\$215.00	_____
Friday Only Registration: <i>(Includes Breakfast, Lunch)</i>	_____	\$100.00	_____
Saturday Only Registration: <i>(Includes Breakfast and Governor's Banquet)</i>	_____	\$150.00	_____
Less First Timer Discount: <i>(Full registration only, check First Timer's Column Above)</i>	_____	(\$ 25.00)	_____
Late Registration Fee: <i>(For registrations received after April 2, 2025)</i>	_____	\$ 20.00	_____
<u>Subtotal Member Registration</u>			_____

Guest Tickets for Meals:	# of Guests		
Name: _____ Friday Breakfast	_____	@\$40.00	_____
Name: _____ Friday Lunch	_____	@\$45.00	_____
Name: _____ Saturday Breakfast	_____	@\$40.00	_____
Name: _____ Sat. Governor's Banquet	_____	@\$75.00	_____
<u>Subtotal Guest Registration</u>			_____
T-Shirts (Size: _____)	# _____	@\$15.00	_____
<u>Grand Total Registration</u>			_____

Make Checks to: Altrusa District Three Conference 2025 **Conference Hotel:** Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort
Mail to: Altrusa District Three Treasurer 777 Casino Drive
 c/o Scott Frieser Cherokee, NC 28719
 13212 Providence Green Ct \$189 + \$15 Resort Fee + taxes until April 2, 2024 (or block of rooms is filled)
 Charlotte, NC 28277 To make hotel reservations, hold down your "CTRL" key and click link

below:
 ScottFrieser.altrusa@gmail.com

[Book your group rate for Altrusa](#)
 Or Call: 1-828-497-7777

Ask for hotel code S04ALTR, Altrusa International District Three 2025 Group

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

Questions? Christy Bryant christybryant@windstream.net or Julie Keiper julie@techstrategics.com

Schedule at a Glance
2025 District Three Conference

Wednesday, April 23	
7:00 – 11:00 pm	Pre-Conference District Board Meeting/ Birch Boardroom
Thursday, April 24	
Pre-Conference District Board Meeting / Birch Boardroom	
Noon – 6:00 pm	Registration and Credentials * / Council Fire Ballroom Pre-Function
Noon- 5:00 pm	District Foundation Auction / Altrusa Store * / Beech
1:00 – 3:00 pm	District Foundation Board Meeting / Executive Suite TBA
3:30 – 4:30 pm	2025-2027 Committee Chair meeting / Executive Suite TBA
5:00 – 6:00 pm	First Timers Orientation / Ash
5:30 – 7:00 pm	Welcome Reception / Hospitality Suite 2101
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Opening Ceremony / Maple Ballroom
Friday, April 25	
8:00 – 9:30 am	Conference Opening Breakfast / Oak Ballroom
9:30 am – 5:00 pm	District Foundation Auction / Altrusa Store* /Beech
9:45 – 11:45 am	1 st All Conference Business Meeting / Maple Ballroom
Noon – 6:00 pm	Vendors / Council Fire Ballroom Pre-Function
Noon – 2:00 pm	Foundation Luncheon & Annual Meeting / Oak Ballroom
2:00 – 2:45 pm	Registration and Credentials * / Council Fire Ballroom Pre-Function
Work Shop Session I	
2:15 – 3:15 pm	MORE /Ash
2:15 – 3:15 pm	INFO/Hickory
2:15 – 3:15 pm	COMING/Locust
2:15 – 3:15 pm	SOON/Maple
Work Shop Session II	
3:30 – 4:30 pm	MORE/Ash
3:30 – 4:30 pm	INFO/Hickory
3:30 – 4:30 pm	COMING/Locust
3:30 – 4:30 pm	SOON/Maple
5:00 – 5:45 pm	Voting / Birch Boardroom

8:00 – 9:45 am	Breakfast and District Awards Ceremony / Oak Ballroom
10:00am – 12:15 pm	2 nd All Conference Business Meeting / Maple Ballroom
12:15 – 6:00 pm	Free Time
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Past Governor’s Luncheon / Ash Room
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Cocktail Reception for International Rep / Council Fire Ballroom Pre-Function
7:00 – 9:30 pm	Governor’s Banquet / Oak Ballroom
Sunday, April 27	
Post-Conference District Board Meeting / Birch Boardroom	
<i>The above schedule is subject to change.</i>	
*Registration and Credentials, Altrusa Store will be closed during meals and business meetings.	



**777 Casino Drive
Cherokee, NC 28719**

**RESERVE a ROOM - [Book your group rate for Altrusa](#) or Call: 1-828-497-7777
Ask for hotel code ALTR, Altrusa International District Three 2025 Group**





Call to Conference 2025



Finding Your Way

District Three is excited to host the annual conference at Harrah’s Casino Resort in Cherokee, North Carolina. Since the complex is so large, we wanted to give you a heads up on what is available and where we will be spending most of our time... that is if you aren’t at the casino!

Our meeting rooms and sleeping accommodations will be located in the Mountain Tower. On the map provided that is referred to as the *Resort Hotel*. The closest parking garage is at the northeast section of the property. There is no charge to self or valet park. You will enter on the first floor to check in, but need to go to the second floor to get to your room. It is a rather long walk to the Mountain Tower from the check in point, so you may want to have the hotel porter take your luggage to your room for you.

On the map provided you can see yellow rooms on the Resort Hotel Second Floor, the Council Fire Ballroom area, that is where all our meeting and meal events will take place.

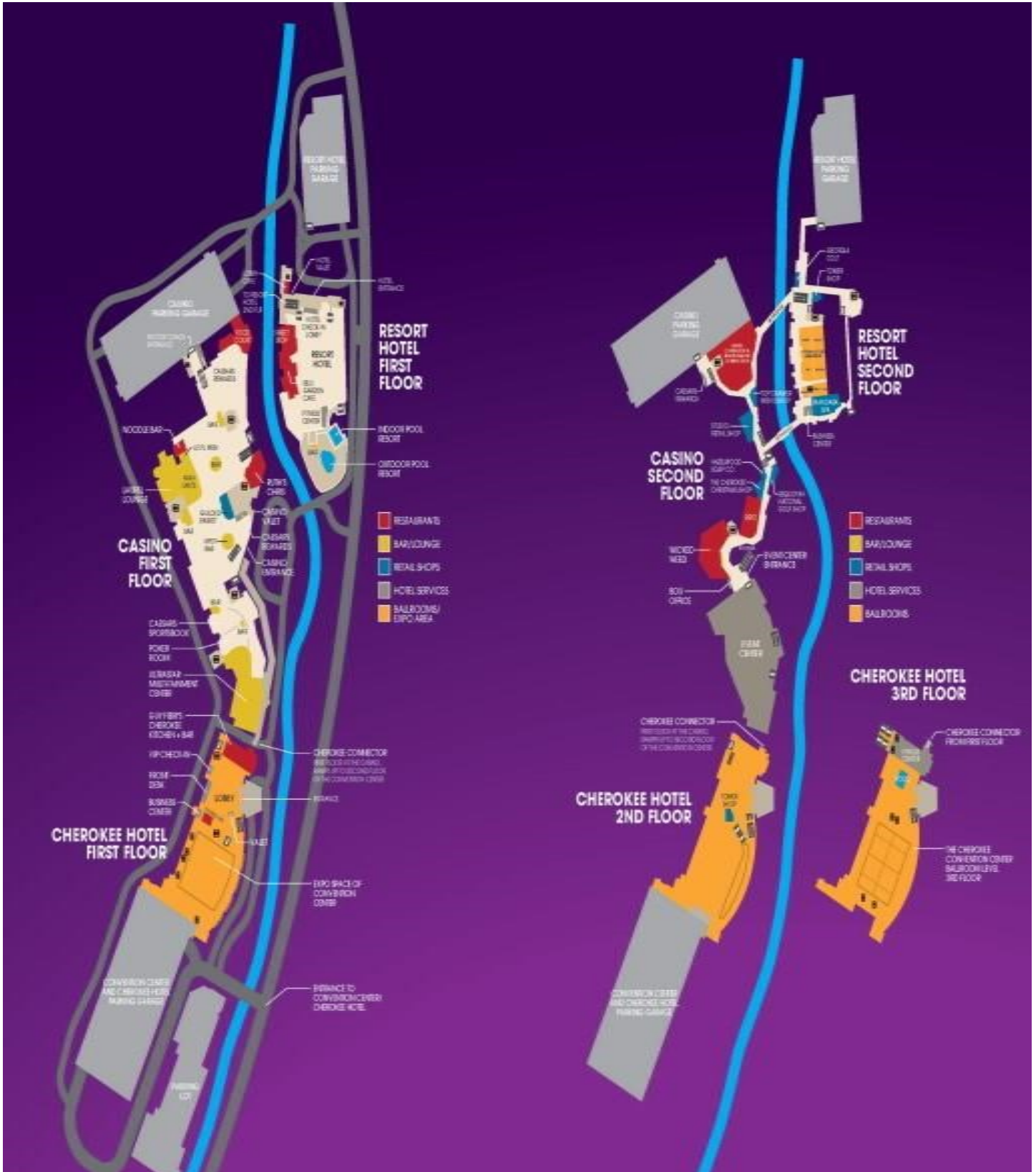
There are also many restaurants on site and there will be an opportunity on Friday night for dinner on your own. You may want to consider making a reservation ahead of time. Provided is a link to the hotel site <https://www.caesars.com/harrahs-cherokee/restaurants>

Here are some of the options:



Call to Conference 2025

Finding Your Way—Site Map





International Representative at Conference

By Linda Smith

Dear Altrusans,

The holidays and now behind us and my favorite season is approaching – District Conference Time!. I love that we gather every year at District Conferences to celebrate our accomplishments for the past year, see friends we haven't seen since the last Conference, and a chance to make new Altrusa friends.

I encourage each Altrusan to make an effort to attend a District Conference. The Districts all have great workshops on not only Altrusa topics, but many Districts also offer other topics as well. This is a chance for you to get new service project ideas, find out about other club fundraisers, and gather new ideas for membership recruitment and retention. Keynote speakers are always inspirational so do not skip out on those presentation. At District Conference you get the chance to see the broader scope of Altrusa.

Each District will have an Altrusa International Representative (either an officer or director) in attendance at their Conference. Take the time to visit with them. They are there to share not only share about Altrusa but also to meet you and share any concerns you may have with the International Board.

I send best wishes for an outstanding Conference.

Altrusans R.O.C.K. – Creative Opportunities, Create Kindness





Conference Service Project

By Dee Dugger



This year we are partnering with Mountain Projects, located in Western North Carolina. We will be hosting a 'Kitchen Shower'. Items collected at the conference will be donated to families severely impacted by the floods in September. Many of the families lost homes and will be relocating to a new home space. Hopefully, they will be in new homes by the time of our conference in April. We hope to fill 100 bags

I have created an Amazon wish list of some basic kitchen items. Mary Millar, of the Waynesville Club has graciously agreed to accept all the items. She and Lisa Ferguson will transport everything to Harrah's.

<https://tinyurl.com/D3serviceproject2025>

In addition, I have created an account with Dollar Tree. Amazon did not have baking pans and spatulas in bulk. Dollar Tree does not have a wish list but you can buy a case of an item and have it shipped. Please use this account as Mary's address has been preloaded. Please do not make any changes to the account info. Do not save your credit card info.

Dollartree.com

Username: altrusaofgainesville@gmail.com

Password: IConference2025

If you purchase from Dollar Tree, please let me know so I can track purchases. Suggested items from Dollar Tree below. Please do not purchase other items. They might be useful items but remember these families will probably have limited space. Be sure to check the item count on the case. Most items will be 24 count, except as noted.

Cooking Concepts Steel Cookie Pans 9 x 13
Cooking Concepts Tin Biscuit & Brownie Pan 11 x 7
Cooking Concepts Nylon Turner/Spatula, 14 in.
McCormick Silicone Spatulas, 9.625x2.375x0.375 in.
Cooking Concepts Nylon Slotted Turner Spatulas, 14.4-in.
Cooking Concepts White Plastic Mixing Spoons, 4-ct. Packs (case of 18)

In addition to the above items, each attending member is encouraged to bring a regional/local cookbook that will be added to the tote bag.

If shopping isn't your thing, you can make a cash donation that can be used toward the tote bags or to buy items not purchased. Checks can be made payable to Altrusa District Three, in the memo line indicate service project and send to

Altrusa District Three Treasurer
c/o Scott Frieser
13212 Providence Green Ct
Charlotte, NC 28277

Please contact me if you have any questions. Ladydragonfly54@gmail.com or by phone 352 281-8357



District Three Delegates and Alternates

By Kitty McIlhaney

As your club plans for participation in the 2025 District Three Conference it is important to elect your delegates and alternates who will represent your club at the business meetings.

A **delegate** is a person chosen by a club to represent its members at business meetings at the conference. The delegate is authorized to vote and make decisions on behalf of the club's members. If the delegate is unable to attend, an **alternate** is appointed to carry out the duties of the delegate, including voting and representing the club. The **Registration/Credentials Committee** is responsible for certifying the alternate to ensure they are authorized to act in place of the delegate. During the business meetings, delegates, including any authorized alternates, are typically seated in a designated area where they participate in discussions and votes on various topics affecting the organization. This setup ensures that each group or club has proper representation at meetings, even if the primary delegate is absent.

The number of delegates and alternates is based on your active membership and dues paid. Here's a breakdown of the key points:

1. Eligibility for Delegates and Alternates:

- A club with 15 or fewer active members, for whom dues have been paid to International and the District (where applicable), is entitled to **1 delegate and 1 alternate**.
- For every additional **15 members** (or portion thereof), the club is entitled to **1 additional delegate and 1 additional alternate**, up to a maximum of **5 delegates and 5 alternates**.

2. Notification Process:

- **District Treasurer Scott Frieser** will notify each club of the number of delegates and alternates they are entitled to, based on their membership count, **at least 60 days prior to the District Conference**.

3. Submission of Delegates and Alternates:

- The **Club President** is responsible for submitting the list of certified delegates and alternates to **District Secretary Amanda Seyfang**. aseyfang@gmail.com.
- This list must be submitted **by March 18, 2025**.
- **The form for submission** is being emailed to Club Presidents and is available on the District Three website.

This process ensures that clubs have sufficient time to organize and confirm their representatives for the conference.





Electronic Voting at Conferenced

By Susy Meier

Once again, Altrusa District Three will be using an electronic voting platform at the 2025 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.

The email you receive will reflect that it is from Altrusa International District Three. 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





Altrusa District Three Board Candidates

By Lida Coffman

The District Three Nominating Committee, consisting of Lida Coffman, chair, Prances Ferguson, Sara Freeborn, Emily Pazel and Glenda Williams, , present the following slate of candidates for election at the 2025 District Three Conference at Cherokee, NC.



I want to be **Governor Elect** because I would bring to the District Board of Directors the knowledge and skills I have gained working as a university administrator and leader in community organizations. I enjoy the challenges of administrative work. I like working with other people and am a good communicator and team leader. I want to help District Three continue to thrive.—*Nancy Shumaker*

I want to be a **Vice-Governor** because I would bring to the District Board of Directors a wealth of business knowledge, and a love & passion for serving my community. I was the first male member of the Charlotte Club, which I believe encouraged other male members to join. I would love to see more male members join Altrusa, serve on their local boards and eventually move on to leadership roles in support of the District and potentially International.—*Scott Frieser*



I want to be **District Treasurer** because I would bring to the District Board of Directors my love for serving Altrusa and others, my current and prior District Board experience along with my willingness to work with other board members to serve the clubs and members within District Three—*Scott Tice*





Altrusa District Three Board Candidates (Cont'd)

By Lida Coffman



I want to be a **District Three Director** because I would bring to the District Board of Directors a sense of humor, the ability to see the whole picture instead of just a portion of the puzzle, and help to think of ways to bring District Three into a more electronic-friendly environment while preserving our paper past.—*Dee Dugger*

I want to be a **District Three Director** because I would bring to the District Board of Directors...an eagerness to learn more about the Clubs within District Three and what makes them unique. Optimism of being able to assist District Three's for the future and the Clubs to achieve their goals.—*Randi Kahl*



I want to become a **District Three Director** because I will infuse the Board with renewed energy and fresh ideas. In addition to expressing my great love for Altrusa by District Board Service, I will foster cooperation between members and together we will accomplish great things.—*Rosemary Leake*



District Foundation Awards By Traci Jones, District Three Foundation Trustee

The District Three Foundation Board is pleased to announce the 2025 Awards. This year the Foundation Awards are:

Cassie S. Dollar Rehabilitative Services Award

Wilma B. Hogan Literacy Award

Lucille Spillers Alexander ASTRA Service Award

Richard Ward Ulrich Environmental Service Award

Vocational Services Award

The Foundation Awards grid is on the District Three website and the **deadline** to submit nominations is **January 31, 2025**.

Please email all submissions to: **districtthreefoundationawards@gmail.com**. We encourage all clubs to submit nominations- last year only seven clubs submitted applications. Let us hear about all the wonderful ways your Altrusa club is impacting our communities!





District Foundation Update and Silent Auction

By Joanne Brown

The District Three Foundation will be holding its annual silent auction fundraiser at our conference in April. All funds will directly support grants and awards given to clubs, but we need your generous support! Your club should be thinking about your donation...what basket, hand-crafted item, or interesting trinket 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**





District Foundation Grants



It's grant season once again. Does your club have a project that potentially meets the criteria for a **District Three Foundation Grant**? During the 2024 District Three Conference in Atlanta, three Florida clubs Lake City, Monticello and Lake County each received grant funds in the amount of \$500 to support projects in their communities. Do you have a new or on-going project that meets the District Three Foundation Grant's criteria? There is only one way to find out.

- Click on <https://districtthree.altrusa.org/district-foundation/>
- Scroll down the page to **Grant Programs**
- Select **Learn More** under the Foundation Grant Packet icon
- Carefully review the document
- Complete the cover page, application, budget and narrative details. Be sure to follow all the provided instructions.
- Email your completed document to district3foundationgrants@gmail.com no later than **January 31, 2025**. If you have any questions, please contact Yolander Hunter.

Winners will be announced at the Foundation Luncheon at the 2025, District Three Conference which occurs April 24-26, 2025, in Cherokee, North Carolina. Let us help you to **Elevate and Innovate** in your communities by submitting for a District Three Foundation Grant.

See you at Cherokee!





Candidates for District Three Foundation Trustee

By Mantha Young



Meet Christine Brewer, a native of Louisiana who now resides in North Florida. Currently retired, Christine enjoys traveling and dedicating her time to community service projects. She has served as Vice President on the board of directors of the Art League of North Florida, where she utilized her talents to manage the Gateway Art Gallery in Lake City, Florida. Since 2017, Christine has been an active member of Altrusa International of Lake City, where she serves on the board as the Service Chairperson, leading various initiatives to benefit the community. Additionally, she is a board member of Mi Esperanza – The Women of My Hope, a non-profit organization focused on educating, elevating, empowering, and employing women in Honduras. Christine is now running for the Altrusa **District Three Foundation Trustee**, as her commitment to service and strong leadership skills make her a valuable asset to the organization.

Constance Larsen, a member of Altrusa International, Inc. of Ocala, FL since 2004, served as Past President and holds the position of CPA/Corporate CFO at American Panel Corporation. She aims to become a **District Three Foundation Trustee** to enhance her involvement in Altrusa, offering organizational and financial expertise. Constance believes in active participation and has held various club offices. She is currently the Foundation Treasurer and Cluster Club Chair. Additionally, she is a choir member at Blessed Trinity Ocala Church and has served on the Public Education Foundation of Marion County and Marion County Children’s Alliance as Treasurer.



Shannon Schell is running for **District Three Foundation Treasurer**. Invited to join Altrusa in 1999, she quickly became active on the Board and various committees to learn the organization. She found her six years as Treasurer fulfilling, later serving as Vice President and two terms as President of Altrusa of Lake County, FL from 2012-2014. Shannon has also been a two-term District Three Finance Chair and completed six years as District Three Foundation Treasurer. Her experience includes serving as District Treasurer and Governor of District Three from 2021-2023. Currently, she is Club Treasurer and on the 2023-2025 International Leadership Committee. Shannon cherishes her family, including her son, daughter, and four grandchildren, and enjoys retirement in The Villages with her dog, Toby. She is eager to contribute her skills to the District Three Foundation.



25—50 Year Members

By Amanda Seyfang

Request for 25- and 50-Year Altrusa Members!

Each year at our District Three Conference, we celebrate Altrusans who have achieved 25 and 50 years of service. These members have dedicated years to making their communities better and, as a collective, the world.

Please help us ensure we don't miss any of your 25- and 50-year members. Please complete the Conference Reporting Form by including the following information:

- 1. Name
- 2. Years of Service
- 3. Club

Email the form to your District Three Secretary Amanda Seyfang at aseyfang@gmail.com. **Deadline to submit is March 18, 2025.**





International Foundation Board Candidates By Colleen Duris



At the 2025 International Convention in Quebec City, Quebec Canada this July, the District has the opportunity to submit a nominee for candidacy on the International Foundation Board. The qualifications for this nominee are as follows:

Altrusa International Foundation Bylaw Article III Section 3 b)

Qualifications for Nominees. Each candidate for Trustee must meet each of the following criteria:

(i) Active. Must be an Active member in good standing of an Altrusa Club, including Clubs-at- Large. Affiliate members of a District are not eligible. An Altrusan holding dual membership shall be deemed to be a member of the District in which her primary club is located.

(ii) Relevant Experience. Must have current or prior experience with a charitable organization, corporation, or foundation, serving in an elected, appointed, or staff position with policy making responsibility in one or more of the following areas: fundraising, finance, grant review and administration, marketing, and public relations;

(iii) Altrusa Experience. Must have served a full term as president or treasurer of an Altrusa Club or a full term as president/chair/treasurer of an Altrusa Local Club Foundation.

(iv) Independent of Association. During all or part of the term for Trustee for which she is standing for election, she must not serve as an Association officer; an Association board member; a chair or member of an Association standing or special committee or an Association special appointee. Service in such positions of the Association's Clubs or Districts shall not disqualify a candidate (except during her term as Governor of a District).

Immediate Past Governor Shannon Schell has been nominated and the voting body at Conference will have the opportunity to determine who the candidate from District Three will be. (cont'd)





International Foundation Board Candidates (Cont'd)

By Colleen Duris



Shannon Schell for International Foundation

**Altrusa International of Lake County, Florida
District Three**

I was invited to join Altrusa in 1999 and spent the first few years getting my “Altrusa Legs”. Almost immediately I was on the Board and joining different committees to learn the ropes. I found being Treasurer for 6 years very fulfilling, then it was on to Vice President, followed by two terms, 2012-2014, as President of Altrusa of Lake County, FL. I have been a two term District Three Finance Chair, 2011-2013 and 2015-2017, completed 6 years, 2012-2017 as the District Three Foundation Treasurer. Next, I served as District Treasurer 2017-2019. These positions have given me much insight into a wide range of the financial needs and duties of Altrusa at multiple levels. I then served on the International Membership Committee assigned to lead Group Tally in 2019-2021, while I was Governor-Elect, during which time I helped to update the International Districts Treasurers Guide and presented the Group Tally Workshop at the Reno Convention. I designed PowerPoints for both Presidents and Treasurers Presentations at the request of the International President to share with other districts. In 2021 I created and gathered funds for an ASTRA Grant Fund for our local District Three ASTRA Clubs to honor our outgoing Governor. Being Governor of District Three 2021-2023 was both humbling and enlightening, as well as highly rewarding and a complete honor. Currently I am serving as Club Treasurer and on the 2023-2025 International Leadership Committee. I would be honored to offer my skills to serve our International Foundation.

My formal degree is in Graphic Art and Design, starting my first business in 1975 and have been CEO in 6 corporations to date. I held a Real Estate License for more than 20 years, built, bought and sold a few companies in Florida. Managing these companies has taught me many financial, leadership and team building skills. Slowing down the work aspect of my life has freed more time for family, friends, golfing, community service and my passion for Altrusa.

Family will always be important to me. I am blessed with a son and a daughter who have given me 4 beautiful grandchildren between the ages of 4 and 15 keeping life fun and full of surprises. I am retired in The Villages, cruising in my golf cart with “Toby” my little 4-legged fur-baby and spending more time with my totally adorable grand kiddos.

Statement

Learning is a lifelong journey and my quest for knowledge is not yet over. A Degree is great but nothing can beat real world experience and seat of your pants life lessons. Being an Altrusan is a wonderful way of life, and I have found my “Tribe” within our ranks, so I am in it for life! Some of my best fortes would be organizational skills, leadership, business and money management, plain ole common sense and yes, I play well with others. These are lifelong talents I have been honing, my bowling skills are not too bad either, but my golf still needs a little work!





International Foundation Grants and Fundraiser

By Martin Houston



Your Altrusa International Foundation is working hard in 2024-2025.

The Foundation has awarded \$97,930 in grant funding to 34 Altrusa Clubs in the last cycle. Congratulations to District Three's own Monticello, FL, Starke, FL and Statesboro, GA clubs for the grant awards they received.

They have also given to three international healthcare organizations in Cycle One. Disaster relief was awarded to the Mountain Projects in Waynesville, NC, the Statesboro Food Bank in Statesboro, GA, and the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank in Rogers, AR.

Don't forget, Altrusa Clubs may still submit applications for International Foundation Project Grants by the deadline of **March 15, 2025**. 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.

There are several ways donate to the International Foundation, you can go to the website <https://foundation.altrusa.org/donate/> and learn more about designating your donations. And don't forget to renew your Club 21 membership

I hope to see everyone in Cherokee, NC 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. So be sure to look for me!



Efficiency

Patriotism

Service



Membership Report as of January 15, 2025



Scott Ericson

Club	Paid Members	Emeritus	Lifetime	Total Members
Florida				
1 Citrus County	16			16
2 Gainesville	48	7		55
3 Lake City	82	7		89
4 Lake County	24			24
5 Live Oak	30	1		31
6 Marianna	27			27
7 Monticello	24	2		26
8 Ocala	30	4		34
9 Orlando-Winter Park	36	1		37
10 St. Augustine	15			15
11 Starke	40	2	1	43
Total FL	372	24	1	397
Georgia				
1 Atlanta	5			5
2 North Georgia	38	3		41
3 Statesboro	46	4		50
Total GA	89	7	0	96
North Carolina				
1 Charlotte	20	2		22
2 Gastonia	10	1		11
3 Raleigh	15	1	1	17
4 Salisbury	8	1		9
5 Waynesville	18			18
Total NC	71	5	1	77
South Carolina				
1 Gaffney	1			1
2 Spartanburg	30	3		33
Total SC	31	3	0	34
Report Summary:				
Affiliate Virtual Club - Chartered	13			Active Members 576
Affiliate Members	1			Emeritus Members 42
Emeritus No Club Affiliation	3			Lifetime Members 2
				Affiliate Members 1
				Total Membership 621



New Members October 16, 2024—January 15, 2025

Scott Frieser

New Member	Sponsor	Joined
District Three Virtual Club		
Audrey Ramonn	Susy Meier	Nov
Lake City		
Valerie Myers	Rebecca Golden	Dec
Live Oak		
Leslie Nestic	Christy Tuckey	Jan
North Georgia		
Pam Evans	Julie Brennan	Dec
Salisbury		
Lisha Weaks	Stephanie Bruce	Oct
Spartanburg		
Janet Behnke	Carole Khoury	Jan



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

Altrusa International of Charlotte, NC

By Yolander Hunter

Altrusa International of Charlotte is very excited to have adopted the library space at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Charlotte (RMDHC). The house services as a haven for families that have children from infancy through age 21 hospitalized at either Novant's Hemby Children's Hospital or Atriums Levine Children's Hospital. There is no cost associated with staying in these facilities. Everything is donated. The club is working to soften the library area, with changes to the walls, adding rugs, pillows, throws, and seating along with books, games and puzzles. When visiting the space, the director advised that it's not used often because it's uninviting and very sterile. Our goal during this project is to make it a friendly, comfortable and well used area for both the children and their family members.

Our Astra club is also participating in the project and has already visited several times to participate in game night and to bake cookies for the residents. A club member has also donated an exercise bike for parents to work off stress while doing the laundry. We want to help make the facility a home away from home for the residents. Preparations are well underway. The design and materials have been selected. Some items have been purchased, and we are continuing to buy age-appropriate books for the library space.

We're very excited to have this new partnership and have been welcomed by the RMDHC with open arms!



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

Altrusa International of Gainesville FL

By Carolyn Harrell

Freddie Dobson, Altrusa's Formidable
and Energizer Bunny



Former District Governor
Happy 100th Birthday



What a December 16th birthday treat to celebrate with so many Altrusans, and then what a treat for Sara Freeborn and me to spend nearly three hours with Freddie as she reminisced about her years as District Governor.



The middle photo is from her installation as the “One-armed Gov.” She had broken her arm so she altered her dress with an expanded sleeve to accommodate her cast. Indeed, Freddie’s journey to becoming Governor was full of surprises.



First, she was surprised to even be chosen to join Altrusa among all the doctors, lawyers and other professionals but she loved the opportunity to serve the community beyond her usual acquaintances. She became an Altrusan (her words) in 1963, was club president in 1971-72 and hadn’t even been to a District Conference when she was asked to be a director. “I was elected probably because nobody knew me,” she said. But apparently it didn’t take long to see her talent as she soon became 2nd Vice Governor, 1st Vice Governor, Governor-elect, Governor, and Past Governor—12 years of leadership which she said always worried her as she thought she’d be embarrassed by not getting elected.



Freddie notes all this was in the era of typewriters, phones with cords and dials, mimeograph machines, personal meetings, and tons of workshops because there were so many rules to learn. Through all this, the District Board became like family because of all the time spent together even though Johnnie Walker, the Parliamentarian said Freddie “drove her crazy” and Myrtice Price said Freddie needed to be more dignified. Later when Freddie asked how she was doing at that, Myrtice quipped, “Honey, I gave up on you a long time ago.” Perhaps the photo on the left that Sara couldn’t resist offers a taste of fun-loving Freddie. But Freddie was surely just the right person for this job full of surprises: (Cont’d next page)

CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

Altrusa International of Gainesville FL (Cont'd)

By Carolyn Harrell



The first Conference under her leadership was in Myrtle Beach with that local club making the arrangements. However without notifying anyone, that club disbanded. Freddie had called to check on the hotel and discovered it had not been booked and was no longer available so she had to get permission from International to change the date. When her District Secretary suddenly resigned (it was too stressful on her cat!) friend and fellow club member, Norma Hoffman became her secretary. Then there was the hilarious missing plane ticket episode with Freddie and her roommate making a 3 am trip to the hotel desk in their PJs.

During that conference, the rule was that all board members had to be present before they could make an entrance and begin. Everyone was waiting there except the international representative from Ireland. She finally made it in Freddie's words, "running like the sheriff was behind her." There had been a major traffic problem and remember—no cell phones. During one conference a controversial topic caused the meetings to go on for so long that the banquet had to be cancelled. On one trip to Chicago headquarters as the plane was landing Freddie was so excited to see snow on the ground that she filled the whole plane with a joyful riot.

Admitting men was a topic at the International Convention during Freddie's term, and a group of District Three Altrusans found themselves discussing the subject at great length in a stairwell concerned that they could be sued for discrimination if this was not done. After much controversy and stairwell meeting "everyone survived," Freddie laughed. Another memory that made Freddie chuckle was that our club board meetings were held in a conference room in the insurance agency where she worked. Since she held the key she figured she was safe to stay in the club even if she was "as illegal as could be" since she didn't meet every requirement of the membership rules at the time.

We enjoyed looking through Freddie's immaculately kept scrapbooks of photos and documents and marveled at her memory of steel. When the idea arose to put together a History of District Three, Freddie and Norma Hoffman became the primary researchers on that project. They examined Myrtice Price's extensive files at her Savannah home and talked with other Governors as they pulled together the information needed.



From the first time Freddie was asked to be club secretary because "I just happened to be sitting there" through her illustrious career Freddie has shown us what it is to lead, serve, be a friend, and handle every challenge and surprise that came her way. Freddie very much wants to thank everyone (all the way from Salisbury and Raleigh) for the many cards and birthday well-wishes. And we all thank



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

Altrusa International of Lake County, FL

By Shannon Schell

“LAKE COUNTY’S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2024”

Altrusa of Lake County packed up and labeled 1,450 books to give away to Lake County residents at the Leesburg Police Departments National Night Out event October 1, 2024. This event is sponsored by various businesses and organizations including ours. It is an annual community-building campaign that helps promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Many hands made for light work, transporting and displaying all the books in our assigned tent area. Braving the elements as a flash storm brought buckets of rain down on us, we were undaunted. When the sky cleared, we continued setting up and prepared as the event got off to a late and a wet start. The crowd was a bit lighter than last year, but we managed to deliver a lot of great books into our community to both adults and children.



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

Altrusa International of Monticello, FL

By Linda Hamedani

Oh No not another Hurricane in Jefferson County, Florida!! After Hurricane Helene in September 2024, Altrusans of Monticello were extremely concerned about the community having enough food and supplies to survive for a few days. We took food and supplies to the FEMA and other agencies as well as the Second Harvest site where victims of the storm could come and get fresh food without waiting for local organizations to bring services. Our county and surrounding counties received severe damages to homes, cars and flooding during the storm. This was our "Make A Difference Day". Many of the patrons as well as Second Harvest expressed their appreciation for our prompt help for desperate citizens who had severe damages and hardship from the storm. We loaded the food section twice until the other organizations were able to get set up to help with food.



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

Altrusa International of North Georgia, GA

By Mary Kirley

For the past four seasons our club has brought joy and much needed items to dozens of homebound seniors in North Georgia. For this project we partnered with *The Place of Forsyth and Dawson Counties*, who regularly provide food and sundries to homebound seniors dependent on outside help to meet their weekly basic needs. We relied on *The Place* to find these seniors and deliver our seasonal gifts.

In March, these seniors received rattan totes with Easter and **spring**-themed items including chocolate bunnies, assorted paper products, and kitchen aides.

In July, shopping bags filled with **summer**, red, white, and blue household items, and chocolate were delivered to 42 men and women living nearby.

When **autumn** arrived, these same citizens asked for and received a bag filled with a dozen useful personal and household products and chocolate!

Popular with our members was our recent **winter** project which was to provide each senior with a beautifully decorated holiday wreath!

For this project 18 Altrusans came together for two three-hour wreath-making workshops. With all the materials that were provided and an abundance of camaraderie and creativity, 42 unique and individually crafted door decorations were made and later delivered to these seniors.

Accompanying each wreath was a handcrafted holiday card designed and made by Altrusans at an earlier club workshop.

Our thanks to the volunteers from *The Place* who delivered our baskets, bags, and wreaths, and to all who worked together to make a difference for these seniors, one season at a time.



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

Altrusa International of Ocala, FL

By Helen McDavid

It all started in 2021 when Meghan Magamoll, Executive Director of the Public Education Foundation of Marion County (PEFMC), expressed a need for a warm, welcoming space for teachers to relax, collaborate, and socialize—maybe a “book nook”. This went well with our work with PEFMC over the years where we supply books for the Tools 4 Teaching store. As a retired teacher, this project resonated with me. In 2023, we included it in our budget.



Walls were measured, primer was purchased, and a calming, relaxing shade of blue with a great name—Bravo Blue—was selected. But who would paint? When would we paint? The “workforce” became our newly resurrected Cluster Club, an evening meeting for members unable to attend regular daytime meetings. Armed with paintbrushes, rollers, drop cloths, tray liners, stir sticks, hand pails, extension poles, and the tallest ladder we



were permitted to use—the inexperienced painters began with the primer. The old, brown paneling would require a second coat of primer. Next came the blue paint which was purchased from Sherwin-Williams for half price. It also required two coats. Meghan and her team provided the painters with pizza or sandwiches, chips, water, and soda at each painting session. They were our sounding board and biggest supporters.



The next phase was to shop for furniture and procure donations. A comfy blue love seat, two floral chairs, and a vintage buffet were purchased. High top tables and stools, coffee makers, lamps and various decorative items were gathered. Mike Mills, owner of Symmetry Coffee, donated a beautiful coffee station. The PEFMC was awarded a grant and purchased books on resiliency.

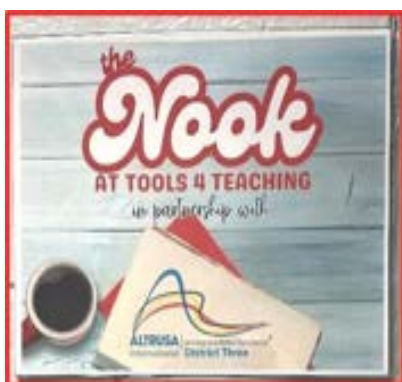
What would this special place be named? Meghan assembled a group of Golden Apple teachers to brainstorm and vote on a name. It was decided it would be called “The Nook”. The winning name was suggested by Carlie Schrimsher, Rookie Teacher of the Year for Marion County. She was awarded a \$50 gift certificate to Salon Bliss, another

donation. Golden Apple Teacher and Maplewood Elementary art teacher, Jamie Roche, provided an artistic touch for the use of the space. It was her concept to have students create a mural over the high-top tables.



We were invited to attend a soft opening of The Nook on November 21, 2024, and we were amazed at the finished room. Soft lighting, comfy seating, filled bookshelves, a beautiful rug, white sheers, and a grand coffee station have transformed this once, tired space into an inviting place for teachers to gather.

All are excited about the opportunity to have a space where the teachers can share, learn and grow together while relaxing. We are honored to be a part of the space.



CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

Altrusa International of Orlando-Winter Park, FL

By Yvette Pue

The Orlando-Winter Park (OWP) Altrusans had a busy holiday season, starting off with decorating the Orlando downtown AMTRAK Train Station in mid-November. Altrusans and family members put up and decorated a giant tree and hung wreathes and garlands throughout the station to help travelers get and stay in the holiday spirit.



Decorating the Orlando Downtown Amtrak Train Station



For several weeks from October through December, select members picked up donated items at various Dollar Tree stores in the Orlando area. The donations were coordinated through Operation Homefront, an organization supporting military members and their families. OWP Altrusans have partnered with Operation Homefront for several years and the holiday bag stuffing is always a highlight of our fall events.

Altrusans happily showing the 126 holiday gift bags stuffed full of goodies for Military Children.

On December 2nd, OWP Altrusans gathered at an Orlando National Guard facility with Operation Homefront and National Guard members, to assemble 120 gift bags for military children. The bags were distributed at a party the following weekend. More than 1500 items were used to assemble the bags. Additionally, more than 400 remaining items were delivered to Seminole County Tools4Schools

free store for teachers and another 400 items were delivered to Polk County Fundamentals for kids. OWP delivered 30 stuffed animals for the Children's Advocacy Center, 50 items for Birthday-In-A-Box party favors for United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Schools, and 20 larger items were donated to the DeBary Elementary School toy drive. The club also took advantage of the many helping hands gathered to stuff gift bags and also put together 16 Birthday in a Box packages for the UPC schools.

They also put together 80 snack bags of treats which were provided for distribution to *The Table*. *The Table* was established in 2019 by a small group of volunteers with the goal to provide a free community dinner once a week and meet people in the neighborhood. They offer a free, nutritious meal on Thursday evenings, along with live music, a short story about Jesus, lively discussion and encouragement. Everyone is welcome and the diversity in the room creates a unique, friendly and supportive community. Volunteers with *The Table* handed out the bags to attendees on December 19th.

OWP Altrusans also put together 40 gift bags full of a variety of personal items that were provided to the ladies of the STEPS program, a drug and alcohol recovery program. On December 8th at a luncheon hosted by the OWP Altrusans, the ladies received their gift bags as well as a smorgasboard lunch of pizza, salads, chips, drinks and dessert. The club also provided approximately 100 toys from them the Operation Homefront/Dollar Tree toy drive and the STEPS ladies were given the opportunity to "shop" for gifts for their children for Christmas.



Altrusans and ladies from the STEPS program at the annual Holiday Lunch hosted by Orlando -Winter Park.

The final activity of the holiday season saw OWP Altrusans supporting the Center for Independent Living organizations Silent Night event on December 18th. Using 650 items from the Operation Homefront/Dollar Tree toy drive, they had assembled 65 Christmas stockings which they handed out to attendees at the Silent Night event.

It was a busy few months of service and the opportunity to spread a bit of holiday cheer, which is after all, the best gift there is.

CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

Altrusa International of St. Augustine, FL

By Mimi Cooper

Imagine my surprise on the morning of November 30th when I opened an email addressed to Altrusa St Augustine, subject 'Donating Backpacks.' It had come through our website. It was a message from Kim Eikner who works for Marshall's here in St Augustine, wanting to know if we would like a donation of backpacks. Needless to say we contacted her and said yes. Well, did we get backpacks!! \$5,600.00 worth of them.

How did she find us? Marshall's was looking for someplace to donate the end of the season backpacks. Kim was googling backpacks, and our website came up. There she found our Sebastian Segui Backpack Project where we give the children serviced by the St Johns Homeless Coalition new backpacks on their birthdays. The backpacks contain new books, PJs, blankets, and stuffed animals. We have been doing this project for over 15 years. Marci Segui and her nephew, Zachary Segui, deliver the backpacks each month.

In addition to those used for the Homeless Coalition, we will also be using the backpacks in our Cake Friday program where we provide the guests at Port in the Storm with backpacks with gift cards and toiletries on their birthdays. Along with the backpacks, we bring a birthday cake, hence the name Cake Friday. Port in the Storm is a shelter here in St Augustine for homeless youth ages 18 - 24. The guests stay for 6 months or more while they learn the skills they need to live on their own.



This is Kim Eikner with one of five bins of backpacks we received.



Sarah Del Cid, Volunteer Co-Ordinator accepting the Port in the Storm gifts and cake.



Zachary Segui delivering backpacks to the Homeless Coalition.

CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS & NEWS

Altrusa International of Waynesville

By Pat Janke



Reading to the children...always SO much fun!



Altrusans ring the bell for Salvation Army!



We donated 100 blankets to Mountain Projects for their annual blanket drive; especially needed after Hurricane Helene!



Through Altrusa Int'l Foundation we were able to give a grant to Mountain Projects for hurricane relief



And finally, to end the year with a gathering for good food, fun games and "together time", our Christmas lunch at the home of Pat Janke