

ACORN • A Cache of Recent News

August 2025

Co-President's Message



As summer comes to a close, it is time for us to think about our past activities and projects and plan for those in our future. Although we are a small group, we do make an important impact on those we serve. Through our various activities, we help to feed the hungry, clothe the needy, bring health care to the sick, enhance the landscape, improve the environment, provide service to the visually impaired, provide a scholarship to a community college student, and promote literacy in our community. And that is just a short list of all we do! Never underestimate the good that we do and its effects on others. You all deserve a pat on the back and a hearty "thank you."

Of course, we are reminded daily of other unmet needs in our community. With recent government program cuts, many more people in Raleigh will be in need of our generosity, whether it be volunteering our time or providing funding. I am confident that we will find other ways to assist our neighbors in their time of need.

Let us concentrate on continuing our efforts, seeking new members to join us, and coming up with new projects to implement. We truly make Raleigh a better place to live.

Dolores Hall

Co-Presidents:

Jane Gray
judgejanie49@gmail.com

Dolores Hall
doloresannhall@gmail.com

Vice President:
Donna Kelly

Co-Secretaries:
Jane Schwartz
Donna Kelly (newsletter)
donnak959@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Emily Johnson

Directors:
Natalie Stewart
Phyllis Thomas



Dolores, Phyllis, and Nancy feeding the hungry



Jane, Dolores, and Phyllis clothing the needy



Emily, Jane S., Barbara Ann (hidden), Jane G., Lida, and Rana promoting literacy

• CLUB NEWS •

A QUINTESSENTIAL EVENT IN QUEBEC CITY: THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION • • • • •
by Rana Van Name



Courtesy of Jane Gibson Photography

Convention Report from Belle Quebec

Dolores and I went to the Altrusa International Convention in Quebec at the end of July, and it really felt international. Puerto Rico sent a large contingent, the Quebec club—of course—was our host, and New Zealand sent three Altrusans! There were folks from all over the U.S., and we got a chance to talk to and share with Altrusa members from coast to coast.

Quebec City is beautiful, and we had time to walk into the old town each day. We also were inspired by stories from the winners of the various awards for service, literacy, the environment, and international relations. Friday fun night had a poutine bar with really good poutine, which is a classic Canadian dish consisting of French fries, cheese curds, and brown gravy. There was also a performance by the Filles de Roi, a re-enactment of stories from the women who were sent to New France in the 1600s by King Louis XIV to marry and settle the country. Dolores attended the workshop on Foundation Grants, and I attended the workshop on Communicating with the Community Online. We both attended the presentation on Early Mothers of Altrusa. We skipped the Saturday workshops to take a boat trip on the St Lawrence River.

There were 339 total registrations with 207 of those being voting members. The business meetings were typical. Saturday night saw the installation of Chris DeVlieger as this new biennium's international president. Our own past governor, Kitty McElhaney, was elected as president-elect, and past governor Shannon Schell was elected to the International Foundation Board of Trustees. Dolores and I both got lots of ideas and inspiration to bring home to Raleigh!



Tammy Hall and Dolores carrying a flag at the flag ceremony
 Courtesy of Jane Gibson Photography



Christy Bryant and Dolores attending a workshop about Foundation Grants
 Courtesy of Jane Gibson Photography



Dolores giving Shannon Schell her Club 21 donation
 Courtesy of Jane Gibson Photography



Kitty McElhaney, Dolores, and Rana attending the Early Mothers of Altrusa workshop
 Courtesy of Jane Gibson Photography



A view of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity
Photo by Dolores Hall



The interior of the Maison de la littérature
Photo by Rana Van Name



Château Frontenac as seen from the boat tour
 on the St. Lawrence River
Photo by Rana Van Name



A beautiful waterfall that we saw on the tour
Photo by Dolores Hall



A gate to old Quebec City with the
 Hilton in the background
Photo by Rana Van Name



The "Restaurant for Old Canadians"
Photo by Dolores Hall

MONTHLY MEETINGS ● ● ● ● ● ●

Altrusa of Raleigh holds its regular meetings the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Highland United Methodist Church Conference Room, unless announced otherwise. Minutes of recent meetings appear below.

Altrusa International, Inc. of Raleigh Minutes of Monthly Meeting, May 13, 2025

Members Participating: Rana Van Name, Phyllis Thomas, Barbara Ann Hughes, Jo Ann Williford, Emily Johnson, Jane Gray, Jane Schwartz, and Dolores Hall

The business meeting was called to order by Rana Van Name at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: April meeting was the annual birthday party at Rana's so no minutes were taken.

Treasurer's Report: Emily Johnson shared the April report via email. Report was approved as presented.

Membership Committee Report: No report

Finance Committee Report: The Belk Charity Sale is coming up soon on June 6–8. Members are needed to staff the desk on those days and Phyllis also distributed tickets to members to sell.

Community Service Committee Report: The quarterly Helen Wright Center dinner was successful. Rana and Dolores participated in the VIP meeting today. Regular volunteer events with Urban Ministries food pantry and Note in the Pocket were completed. The Altrusa website has additional service project ideas to consider.

Old Business: None

New Business: The District Three Conference was reviewed by those who attended. Jane Gray ran the Altrusa store and our club co-sponsored the Thursday evening hospitality reception with a \$500 contribution. The event was successful. A motion was made and approved to purchase 11 name badges from the Altrusa store at \$10.97 each and find someone to print member names on clear labels. Our club received the Cassie Dollar award with a cash prize of \$613. We also placed second for the environmental award and third place for the literacy service award. There was discussion about archiving the club's service award certificates. We will ask Donna Kelly to explore the best way to accomplish this.

New officers for the 2025–2026 year were installed as follows:

Co-Presidents: Dolores Hall and Jane Gray
Vice President: Donna Kelly
Secretary: Jane Schwartz
Treasurer: Emily Johnson
Directors: Phyllis Thomas and Natalie Stewart

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. followed by packing bags for the Sweeter Dreams project.

Altrusa International, Inc. of Raleigh Minutes of Monthly Meeting, June 10, 2025

Members Participating: Rana Van Name, Phyllis Thomas, Barbara Ann Hughes, Emily Johnson, Jane Gray, Jane Schwartz, and Dolores Hall

The business meeting was called to order by Dolores Hall at 6:35 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: May meeting minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Emily Johnson shared the May report via email. Emily recently contacted the District Foundation to get reimbursement for the scholarship in the amount of \$500. There is currently \$6,216.90 in the Foundation fund dedicated to specific purposes in honor of Anita White. There was discussion about these funds, tax deductible expenses and money flow. Report was approved as presented.

Membership Committee Report: Rana's friend Nancy Massell has attended Note in the Pocket and the most recent Helen Wright dinner. Hopefully she will join as a member.

Finance Committee Report: The Belk Charity Sale netted \$35 in tickets sold and \$24 in donations at the event. Members sold an additional \$70 in tickets.

Community Service Committee Report: The Note in the Pocket event on the first Thursday was completed. We could do a pop-up event for them if we can locate a venue. Possibly Highland United Methodist Church? In addition, Urban Ministries volunteer events were also completed. Jane Schwartz presented an upcoming fundraiser 5K race event that needs a few volunteers benefiting scoliosis awareness. Contact Jane if anyone is interested.

Old Business: None

New Business: Program ideas were presented as follows:

July	Assist with Highland United Methodist Church garden
August	Read and Feed, along with International Convention report by attendees
September	Welcome Raleigh (temporary help for refugees who arrive with nothing) and Teacher Baskets
October	Prairie Ridge Ecostation visit
November	No Woman No Girl Initiative
December	Jo Ann Williford talk, along with cookie exchange
January	Chair Dancing Lesson
February	Safe Haven for Cats
March	District Three Conference report and elect new officers
April	Annual Birthday Party
May	Installation of new officers
No date	Canned food drive
No date	Provide care packages police/firefighters to hand out to victims
No date	CPR and Narcan training for members, maybe in collaboration with Highland members

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Altrusa International, Inc. of Raleigh Minutes of Monthly Meeting, July 8, 2025

Members Participating: Phyllis Thomas, Barbara Ann Hughes, Emily Johnson, Jane Gray, Dolores Hall, Jane Schwartz, Natalie Stewart, and Jo Ann Williford

The business meeting was called to order by Jane Gray at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: June meeting minutes need to be updated with who is responsible for programs throughout the year. Otherwise, minutes are accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Emily Johnson reviewed the June financials. She noted the recent conference awards helped the budget. Report was approved as presented.

Membership Committee Report: No report.

Finance Committee Report: No report.

Community Service Committee Report: Dolores attended the VIP meeting today with 8 people in attendance. Their program was about movies and podcasts available to visually impaired persons. Note in the Pocket this month involved folding garments in preparation for a pop-up event. The Urban Ministries food pantry date is July 21. The next quarterly Helen Wright dinner will be Tuesday, August 5 and Note in the Pocket on August 8.

Old Business: None

New Business: Need to pursue getting a new banner and replacement cost is \$100+. Jane Gray received a request from a Highland Methodist member to assist a family in need. Several suggestions were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Members then participated in a very warm work session in the Highland garden.

ALTRUSANS TURNED GARDENERS ● ● ● ● ● ●

by Donna Kelly

After the July business meeting was held, those in attendance worked in Highland United Methodist Church's community garden: Phyllis Thomas, Barbara Ann Hughes, Emily Johnson, Jane Gray, Dolores Hall, Jane Schwartz, Natalie Stewart, and Jo Ann Williford. They picked green beans and helped prune the dead leaves around the garden.



Phyllis, Natalie, Emily, and Jo Ann are given instructions by HUMC member, Diane Corbin (Photo by Jane G.)



Dolores, Jane S., Jane G., Diane Corbin, Barbara Ann, and Phyllis are working in the garden (Photo by Natalie)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jane Schwartz
Dolores Hall
Donna Kelly
Frank Gray
Kay Wyche
Allyn Vogel

August 19
September 19
September 19
September 23
September 23
November 14

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

• CLUB CALENDAR •

AUGUST 18— Pack boxes at Urban Ministries Food Pantry (1:00–3:00 p.m.) Check email to confirm

AUGUST 19— Staff Open Door Clinic front desk (3:30–6:30 p.m.) (Donna Kelly)

AUGUST 26— Pack boxes at Urban Ministries Food Pantry (1:00–3:00 p.m.) Check email to confirm

SEPTEMBER 4— Sort clothing at Note in the Pocket (1:00–4:00 p.m.)

SEPTEMBER 9— VIP Meeting (10:00–12:15 p.m.); Club Meeting (6:00–8:00 p.m.)

SEPTEMBER 15— Pack boxes at Urban Ministries Food Pantry (1:00–3:00 p.m.) Check email to confirm

SEPTEMBER 16— Staff Open Door Clinic front desk (3:30–6:30 p.m.) (Donna Kelly)

SEPTEMBER 23— Pack boxes at Urban Ministries Food Pantry (1:00–3:00 p.m.) Check email to confirm

OCTOBER 2—Sort clothing at Note in the Pocket (1:00–4:00 p.m.)

OCTOBER 14— VIP Meeting (10:00–12:15 p.m.); Club Meeting (6:00–8:00 p.m.)

OCTOBER 15— Staff Open Door Clinic front desk (3:30–6:30 p.m.)

OCTOBER 20— Pack boxes at Urban Ministries Food Pantry (1:00–3:00 p.m.) Check email to confirm

OCTOBER 28—Pack boxes at Urban Ministries Food Pantry (1:00–3:00 p.m.) Check email to confirm

NOVEMBER 4— Provide and serve dinner for the Helen Wright Center (6:00–7:30 p.m.); Sign up with Rana via SignUp Genius

NOVEMBER 6— Sort clothing at Note in the Pocket (1:00–4:00 p.m.)

NOVEMBER 11— VIP Meeting (10:00–12:15 p.m.); Club Meeting (6:00–8:00 p.m.)

MEMBER PROFILE • • • • •

By Donna Kelly



I joined Altrusa in 1986 when the club met at the old YMCA on Oberlin Road in Raleigh. Jo Anne Brooks, a long-time member of the club, had invited me to speak about how to research family history. At the time I was working as an archivist at the State Archives and attending graduate school at N.C. State University to obtain my master's in public history. There were so many prestigious women who were members that I was very impressed. When invited to become a member, I accepted because I thought how cool it would be to get to know them since I would never have gotten to know them otherwise. Plus, I really liked the idea of helping my community as part of a group.

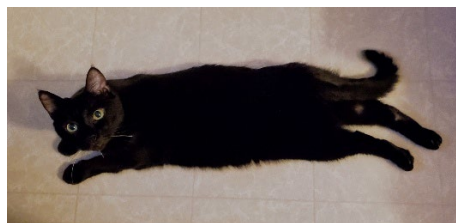
In 1984, I received my undergraduate degree in history from Wake Forest University. After receiving my master's degree in 1988, I decided to change careers, since I thoroughly loved my Historical Editing course. In 1996, I was fortunate to obtain a position as a historical editor with the Historical Publications Section in the N.C. Office of Archives and History. It was the perfect combination of dealing with actual archival documents and conducting research. Fast forward to 2001, when I became administrator of the section until 2014 when my position was eliminated due to state budget cuts. Thankfully, there was a place for me back at the State Archives, so I worked there as head of the Special Collections Section until 2020 when I retired.

Because I absolutely LOVE editing, I have done freelance work part-time. Some of my projects have included writing and publishing a family history, editing and indexing a history of the Hayes Barton area, transcribing eighteenth-century documents (1763 to 1779) for the John Dickinson Writings Project, copy editing and indexing the *North Carolina Historical Review*, editing two articles for the *Maryland Historical Magazine*, and copy editing two books for the University of Virginia Press. Recently I signed a contract to edit educational materials for the N.C. Museum of History in conjunction with the *It's Revolutionary!* initiative, commemorating America's 250th birthday.

When I am not working, I enjoy vacationing with my family, spending time at Emerald Isle, putting jigsaw puzzles together, reading historical novels, and playing with my two kitty cats—Midnight (20 years old) and Onyx (11 years old).



Midnight



Onyx



District Three News

What a buzz-worthy time we had at our District Three Conference in Cherokee, NC! It was a joy to gather with so many dedicated Altrusans and to celebrate the heart of our organization—service, leadership, and fellowship. . . .

As you enjoy the sunshine and slower pace of summer, may this quote inspire you: “The hum of bees is the voice of the garden.” – Elizabeth Lawrence. Thank you for all you do to make our District thrive. Let’s make this biennium buzz with purpose! . . .

In Service and Friendship,
Mantha Young
Governor

International News

From foundation.altrusa.org

Altrusa International Foundation

Since 1962, the Altrusa International Foundation has demonstrated a strong and enduring commitment to serve communities both here in the United States and abroad. We advance this commitment by supporting local Altrusans in their community efforts to provide for the care and enrichment of those most in need.

Each year, we award more than \$325,000 in grant funding to our Altrusa and ASTRA Clubs, as well as to international agencies, to support healthcare, educational, and economic development initiatives that truly impact thousands of children and under-resourced communities. Moreover, through our disaster relief aid program, we provide timely response and financial support to communities affected by natural disasters and other devastating crises.

We are a collective of more than 6,000 servant leaders who strive to serve their communities with their time, talent, and financial resources.

Although most of our club members are retired, this section of Altrusa's Ideals can still be applicable. It was taken from *The Altrusa Handbook*, 1929. The ideals were adopted in 1925, exactly 100 years ago. This is the final installment.

ALTRUSA'S IDEALS
PATRIOTISM SERVICE
EFFICIENCY

As an Altrusan I will be guided by these
Principles of Conduct

ALTRUSA and MYSELF;

Altrusa offers to the representative business and professional women of the community an opportunity to touch each others' lives and to be broadened by an interchange of interests, and by a sympathetic consideration of the viewpoint of others. Therefore I shall try to exemplify Altrusa's ideals of fellowship, of service to other business women, and of self-improvement. I shall demand of myself a wholesome balance of work and play; a broad and impersonal attitude of mind in my relationship to others and a true loyalty to womanhood.

As an Altrusan I shall endeavor to develop right attitudes toward work, toward people, toward life.