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Dear fellow Altrusans,

Greetings and welcome to a new year! The last few years have been difficult for us all, but we have survived and for that I am thankful. I am also thankful for all you are doing in your communities in the name of Altrusa.

Speaking of serving our communities, your International Service Committee has been working hard to set up the biennium Literacy Challenge. I hope all clubs will consider taking the challenge of 500 books or 500 community service hours over the biennium. This is something we can all participate in and be proud of because the simple gift of a book to a child who has never had one can help eradicate illiteracy and give these children a chance to succeed in life. Remember my vision is for all clubs to develop a strong literacy project and I am anxious to hear about your signature projects and your future plans. Go to the International website and look under the Service tab for more information.

There are many resources available to you through the International website and the International office. Are you utilizing them? The information is there for your use so please make the most of them. If other resources are needed it is important you let us know. Your suggestions are always welcome and appreciated.

Now is the time of the year when clubs will be electing new leadership for the upcoming term. If you are asked to accept a new role in your club, please consider saying yes. Taking on a new role in leadership can be very rewarding. It doesn't have to be difficult but does take a commitment on your part and by doing so you will be making the most of your membership. Remember you will only get out of your membership what you are willing to put in.

Remember **United We Can** achieve much!



Kathy Folley
International President
Altrusa International, Inc.

Primary and Non-Primary Membership, huh?

Christy Bryant, International Membership Development Committee

christybryant@windstream.com

Do you have questions about 'Primary' and 'Non-Primary' memberships? In March 2021, the International Board approved policy updates regarding 'Primary' and 'Non-Primary' memberships, along with membership requirements for chartering a new club based on recommendations from the 2019-2021 International Membership Development Committee. To help clarify the impact of the policy updates, let's start with the basics. The club to which an active member pays International and District dues is considered their 'Primary' membership. If in the past, an active or life member was also a 'dual member' of another club or 'multiple' clubs, that is now considered a 'Non-Primary' membership.

The goal of the policy changes is to enhance membership in Altrusa by:

- Providing individual members with expanded membership opportunities outside of their primary club and/or district. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, many Altrusans were introduced to and became comfortable with technologies such as ZOOM. This allows more opportunities for members to actively engage with other clubs in a virtual environment.
- Providing opportunities for ground-level support to other clubs and assisting with revitalization in the areas of membership development, new club building, marketing, social media, etc. by leveraging the skills and expertise of members with known leadership experience at the Club and/or District level (i.e., more hands and feet!).
- Expanding the eligibility of membership in a non-primary Club(s), land-based (traditional) or virtual.
- Providing a more flexible composition of the 15 members required to charter a Club (i.e., primary and non-primary).

Some Policy points to highlight:

- An Active member will have only 1 primary membership and may have multiple non-primary memberships.
- A first-time non-primary membership application must be completed and submitted by the non-primary club to International and the District within 45 days to ensure tracking in Group Tally.
- Link to application: [Non-Primary-Club-Membership-Application-Form1.pdf](#) (altrusa.org)
- Non-primary memberships must be re-confirmed during the annual renewal period.
- Non-primary memberships are not counted in determining delegates for District Conference, or International Convention nor can non-primary members be a delegate from a non-primary Club to District Conference or International Convention.
- An active member, who has membership in a non-primary Club(s), is only entitled to 1 vote at International Convention or at District Conference of the primary membership.
- Non-primary members are responsible for paying Club dues and assessments in all clubs.
- Non-primary memberships are not limited to the District of the member's primary Club and can span to one or more Districts.
- A non-primary member may hold office in a non-primary Club(s) in which they are a member.
- A non-primary member can only run for District office in the District where they hold a primary membership.
- A non-primary member retains all rights and duties of membership in the primary Club and District.
- Non-primary members are counted in determining club charter strength; a club in formation must have at least eight (8) primary members of the 15 required to charter a new club.

Details of the specific policies can be found in sections 10F, 10G, and 10I of the Official Policies (link: [Microsoft Word - Altrusa Official Policies July 2021.docx](#)).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the International Membership Development Committee, Judy Porter, Chair (membership@altrusa.org) and Sylvia E Juarbe Rivera, Vice-Chair (sylviajuarbe@yahoo.com).

Navigating the Web...

- Important websites to know!
 - www.altrusa.org (click Member Login in the upper right)
 - login.altrusa.org (go directly to the members area)
 - www.altrusastore.com (purchase Altrusa branded items including pins and banners)
 - www.altrusaservice.org (browse and share your club's service projects)
- Give us some feedback and share your thoughts on improving Altrusa with the [Suggestion Box](#).
- If you have forgotten your password to the site please send an e-mail to Altrusa@altrusa.org or call the International Office for assistance.

Group Tally Minute

Having trouble logging in to Group Tally? Forgot your password?

- Click on the "Set Password/Forgot Password" link on the login page.
- Enter your email address. (It must match the one we have on file)
- Wait a few minutes for your email from Group Tally.
- Once you receive it, click on the link. (If the link isn't highlighted, copy and paste it into your browser)
- When the page loads enter your new password and you're in!

Important Dates

February 4 World Cancer Day
February 20 World Day of Social Justice
March 1 Zero Discrimination Day
March 22 World Water Day
April 7 World Health Day

Growing ASTRA and Our Future Altrusans

Lorraine Brewer, International ASTRA Committee Chair

Scott Tice, International ASTRA Committee

The young adults in our midst today are the future leaders of our world, our local communities, and our Altrusa organization. In this rapidly changing world, it is vital to encourage our ASTRA alumni and other young adults to join us in service as Altrusans. Their innovative ideas, energy, and passion will enhance our service as we work side by side with them to make our world a safer, more compassionate place for all. As we partner with and mentor our ASTRA members, we will build relationships that connect them to Altrusa in ways that will make easier that important transition to becoming Altrusans as young adults.



One of your Altrusa International ASTRA Committee's goals is to improve communication between ASTRA members and Altrusa Clubs, Districts, and Altrusa International. Please share your ideas on how to make this communication more effective. Let's continue to discuss creative ways to encourage collaboration and growth as we mentor our ASTRA members and partner with them in service. Let's share ideas on how we might overcome the key obstacles that can prevent excellent communication and a successful ASTRA to Altrusa transition.

What can you do to effectively make these connections?

- Please communicate with your District's liaison to our committee.
- Check out all the helpful information on our website.
- Share the ASTRA Newsletter, the ASTRAGRAM, with ASTRA members in your community.
- Survey all ASTRA alumni (ages 18 and older) annually and share that information with your District ASTRA Chair.
- Invite ASTRA alumni you know to your Altrusa Club meetings and events.
- Provide for personal and professional relationships through mentoring for ASTRA members and ASTRA alumni.
- As you partner Altrusa members with ASTRA members in mentoring relationships embrace the opportunity to learn from our ASTRA members. They are experts on new methods of effective online communication, for example.
- Implement cross-collaboration between younger ASTRA members, more mature ASTRA members, and Altrusans on service projects.
- Build rapport as you include ASTRA members in your plans for District-wide projects and conferences.
- Know that the understanding, enthusiasm, and commitment to service you share can be inspirational.

We are eager to help you grow ASTRA during this new biennium and to encourage that ASTRA and Altrusa communication and transition!

Lorraine Brewer
Scott Tice

lobrewer@uark.edu and
scottaltrusa@gmail.com

Is Our Website Meeting Your Needs?

Amanda Purdy, International Communications Committee

The last couple of years Altrusans have had to change how we meet, how we recruit new members, how we volunteer, and how our clubs can obtain information and utilize International resources. Reference material for all the above can be found in the member area of our International website. Have you used our website lately?

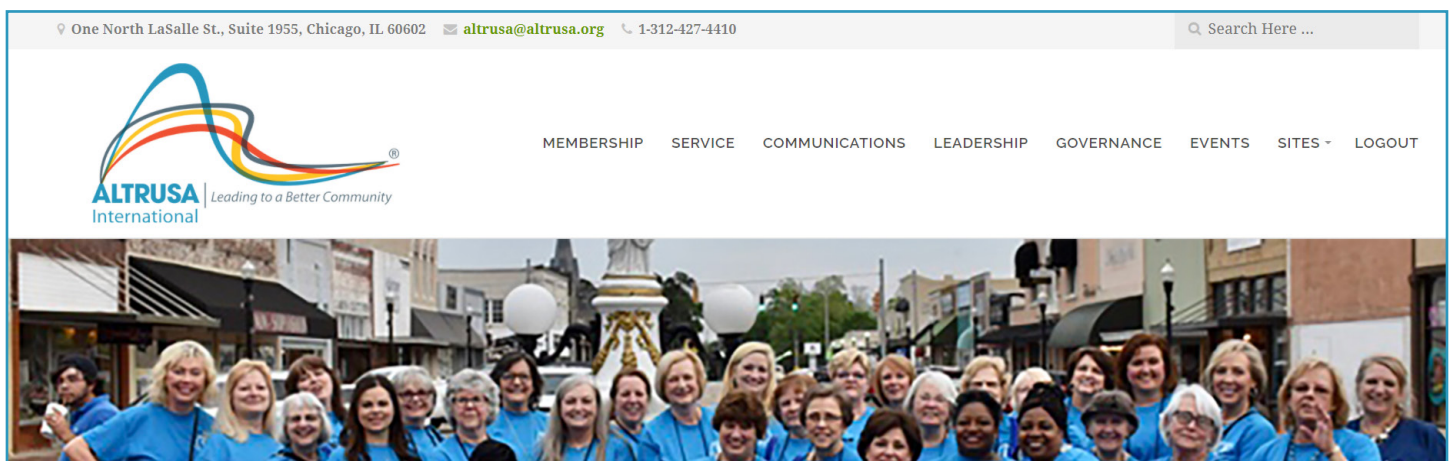


A few years ago, our access to the Member Area of our website went from individual accounts to a general login. For our newest Altrusans the username is **altrusan**, and the password is **MamieLethaNina1917**. For those that are not intimidated by the website, you can find a wealth of information from the color codes for our Altrusa Logo, to Club brochure templates to International Foundation Grant forms. For those that are intimidated please reach out to us and let us know what it is about the site that intimidates you.

Once you log into the member area please note that there is a suggestion box. Please make sure that you utilize this if you have questions or suggestions on how the site could possibly better assist you. There are 7 site pages that branch from our Member Area. These are Membership, Service, Communications, Leadership, Governance, Events, and Sites. Each sub site has a list of what content can be found on that page. This should help in general page navigation.

Aside from our Member Area we host an abundant amount of information about Altrusa's history, our Districts and Clubs, our International Board, our International Foundation, and ASTRA. I realize this may be a bit overwhelming, and even I feel lost at times; so we'd like to hear from you! Does our website meet your needs? Do you use it? Do you not? Share with us what your pain points are as well as what you feel works best for you. We want to make things better and more user friendly so that more Altrusans are willing to utilize our resources. Please send any suggestions or comments regarding our website to:

Altrusa@Altrusa.org.



Making Literacy Your Focus

Ashley Mason, Service Program Development Committee, Vice Chair

Altrusa has been working to improve the lives of others through literacy since 1977. That is 45 years of impact around the world! In this biennium, we will revitalize literacy programs throughout the organization. Along with President Kathy Folley, the Service Committee has developed a literacy challenge – One Book at a Time. Our goal is to donate at least one million books and/or one million hours of literacy-based volunteer hours during the 2021-2023 biennium.



It's no secret that reading can have a positive and long-lasting impact on our lives. Studies show that reading, for adults and children, is shown to strengthen the brain, increase a person's ability to empathize, build vocabulary, and reduce stress and depression. Reading is a prerequisite for employment, personal growth, and continued democracy. Funding reading programs in schools and communities can be costly and labor-intensive. The cost of materials, trained individuals, and location add up quickly. Schools spend between \$1800 and \$3400 per child each year on reading remediation. This does not account for the money needed to help adults struggling with literacy. More than 43 million adults in the U.S. alone cannot read, write, or do basic math above a third-grade level. Less than 10% of those adults are receiving literacy services. Studies have shown that the number of individuals who read for at least 30 minutes each day outside of school or work is declining. This leads to a decrease in skills like public speaking, conversation, basic math, and creativity.

So, how can Altrusans help? What more can we do to make a difference? Good question! There are countless ways. Clubs can prioritize literacy within their community. Ideas are always available on the Altrusa Service Database. I encourage you to look through projects done by other Clubs. Then reach out! Contact other Altrusans who have done literacy-based projects and see how you can make it work in your community.

Maybe your Club wants to set up a program to be volunteer tutors. Organizations like Seeds of Literacy and the International Literacy Association are always looking for volunteers. Seeds of Literacy, specifically, need virtual tutors. This means Altrusans could volunteer to tutor individuals around the world without having to leave the comfort of their own homes. The website www.goabroad.com provides many options for individuals who want to travel and assist with literacy-building worldwide. Room to Read is an organization that focuses on literacy and gender equality in education. They boost reading among young children, but they also provide the support necessary for girls to complete their education and build skills for their future. A simple web search provided millions of articles and websites about literacy volunteer opportunities and organizations – AARP Foundation Experience Corps, Reading Partners, The Oasis Institute, Jumpstart, MENTOR, School on Wheels, Read to a Child, Reading is Fundamental, HIPPIY, and so many more.

Is your Club more apt to collect and donate books? Excellent! Donate to schools, pre-schools, and daycares. Consider pairing with your local library, churches, Children, Youth and Families Department, museums, prisons, armed forces, and doctors' offices. Take any opportunity you can to put a book in someone's hand. Make sure you involve your community! Host a book drive. www.readingpartners.org has an excellent step-by-step guide to help individuals or organizations host a drive. They even include flyer templates for you to use in advertising.

Maybe your Club already has a literacy-based project, or you might be tight on funds. Book drives don't have to cost your Club a dime. Revamp your project! Give it new life and pizzazz. Consider creating an Amazon Wish List with books and reading materials that individuals can buy and send to your Club for donation. Simply advertise with the link to the list. The Association of American Publishers, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and Better World Books both work with publishing companies to provide books to individuals, organizations, and communities in need. Grants are also available through several organizations, such as Altrusa International, Dollar General, and Snapdragon Book Foundation.

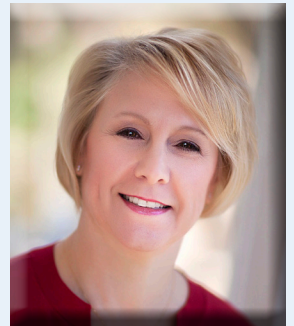
The possibilities are endless. These projects can be as in-depth or as low maintenance as needed. The impact, however, will be monumental. Let's turn a new page in literacy learning and rewrite the future of millions of individuals... one book at a time.

Everyone Has A Voice

Linda Moore, Leadership Development & Training Committee, Chair

Leadership... we all know what it is, what it looks like, and sometimes how it feels. Leadership is the ability to lead others to do what is good for the organization; it looks like confidence and pride and it can sometimes feel overwhelming. But only if you let it!

There are strong traits that most leaders have. They are... Confidence, Competence, Delegating, Sharing your Vision, Integrity, Motivating/ Encouraging and Supporting Others! This last trait is most important. How a leader supports others says a lot about that leader. It shows they have confidence in others and are willing to step back and let them be heard.



A good leader understands that it takes a team to accomplish a goal. A team to do the work and a team of ideas to set the pace and get the work done efficiently. This team must be heard, it must be flexible and each member of this team needs to have a voice. Whether you are meeting in person, virtually, or communicating through other means, every person should have a voice. A leader must realize that if they don't listen to the voices of their members, they will not have their support or their "buy-in" to accomplish their goals.

Where would a successful athletic team be if the Head Coach did not listen to their assistant coaches? Where would the CEOs of the most successful companies be if they did not listen their management teams? The answer is... they would not be where they are today. They are successful only because the head coach and the CEO listened to their "teams" and allowed them to have a voice in the building of their organization.

A Club President is only as strong as their board, committee chairs, and members. A District Governor is only as successful as the board, program team, and clubs. And the International President is successful due to the staff, board, and program team, along with the many clubs and members that have been allowed to have a voice. Altrusa is a builder... of Leaders! Everyone has a voice, and everyone can be heard. All you have to do... is talk.

Just What are Grounds Passes?

Kathy Schrein, Chair

Altrusa Representative to the United Nation's

Department of Global Communications, Civil Society Unit/NGO

Since March 2020, Altrusa International's access to the United Nations and its Department of Global Communications (DGC-NGO/Civil Society Unit) has been stopped due to Covid-19. However, beginning in late February 2022, the DGC will resume its process of issuing Grounds Passes for the UNHQ complex in NYC. In order to maintain a safe level of occupancy, only three (3) rather than 6 Grounds Passes will be issued per NGO organization.



Just what are Altrusa representative's Grounds Passes? The DGC provides all associated NGO organizations with Grounds Passes so that the designated representatives (Kathy Schrein, Megan Holleran and Faye Snodgress) can attend UN meetings. These passes are normally issued yearly-after January 31, usually after an OK of the formal DGC annual review of Altrusa International. This is the ONLY purpose of these passes. Wrongful use of the UN Grounds Passes, the UN name/emblem/flag constitutes a serious breach in the association's agreement with DGC!

Let's consider several of the rules your Altrusa reps. to the UN's DGC must abide by-

1. UN Grounds Passes cannot be used outside the UN for any reason, not for a hotel discount nor personal TSA ID, nor for any special privileges, for example.
2. Altrusa's DGC (Civil Society) reps. with Grounds Passes are NOT official UN representatives nor delegates...sorry, no immunities here!
3. UN Grounds Passes issued in NYC cannot be used in other duty stations, such as Geneva or Vienna.
4. Altrusa reps. must sign a DGC/Civil Society Unit agreement each year; this is a legal document that if violated, can lead to serious legal ramifications. These can occur with misuse of the Grounds Pass, misuse of the UN name/flag/emblem in organization publications, websites, or any business cards.
5. On Altrusa International's website, this phrase can only be used-" Organization associated with the United Nations' Department of Global Communications" as well as in all Altrusa publications.

Altrusa's NGO reps. have no desk nor office. Our area for on-site visits is located in the DGC/Civil Society Resource Center, 801 UN Plaza, 2nd. Floor, NYC, NY.

Altrusa shares the United Nation's global messages bringing them directly into our local communities via leadership and service. Altrusa's UN mission is one of interaction and thus sharing information actively through service at the local level! UN's Grounds Passes assist YOUR Altrusa DGC reps. A way to update these global messages, sharing with YOUR members.

Note-UN's Covid restrictions will be continuously reviewed and adjusted as needed, depending on how the current health situation evolves.

District Nine Altrusans are Rising and Shining

with 44 new Altrusans, plus growth in ASTRA BUILDING TOO. 31 Altrusa clubs and 8 active ASTRA clubs with 2 new ASTRA clubs in formation.

District Nine ASTRA development is Rising Strong under the leadership of Past Governor Sylvia Zamora utilizing zoom training workshops for ASTRA leaders (next one is set for January 23rd as an informal sharing session for current ASTRA Advisors and interested clubs who want to learn more about ASTRA). District Nine ASTRA Committee continues to assist the International ASTRA committee via the ASTRA Alumni Survey and using the results to identify and recognize District Nine ASTRA members who have transitioned to active Altrusans. These Altrusans are highlighted in our District newsletter in a section titled "ASTRA-to-Altrusan Spotlight."



Leading the rise in numbers with an additional Fall Event created excitement when Dr. Patricia Sulak (Patsy), Christine DeVlieger, International Vice President for Altrusa International, Inc., and Judy Porter, Membership Program Chair for Altrusa International, Inc., in this biennium, discussed aspects of leadership for personal wellbeing, team building, and positive thinking in the midst of challenging times. This meeting kicked off the "Lead to Read, Read to Lead" projects for the district.



Service is the "lead to read" portion of the district project and the purpose is to encourage clubs to create service projects with an emphasis on all types of literacy issues that may be unique to their communities.

Highlights of this aspect of the "lead to read" include:

- Altrusa International of Anderson County: built a Christmas tree of books then donated the books to a local non-profit
- Altrusa International of Montgomery County: donated over 363 pounds of food to a local food bank recognizing you can't learn on an empty stomach
- Altrusa of North San Antonio: distributed over 665 books in October to neighborhood libraries in San Antonio and Corpus Christi

As of 12/8/2021, District Nine Altrusans donated over 5000 books in their communities.



Reading to lead focuses on support for leadership development for every District Nine Altrusan and we started with a "book club." LaVone is a Past Governor for District Nine and inspired many of us to read *START WITH WHY* by Simon Sinek and ask the simple questions of "Why Altrusa" and "Why literacy." This component of building leadership skills serves Altrusans in their personal development as well as providing support and inspiration. Patsy Sulak will lead the discussion for the next group on the book *THE ART OF POSSIBILITIES* by Rosamund Stone Zander and Benjamin Zander at noon (CST) on February 2, 2022.

Membership development surrounds all aspects of the driving initiatives of District Nine with an emphasis of giving support to clubs to develop in a changed environment. We soared into 2022 with over two years of development of membership programs invested in moving the mindset for Altrusans into a new environment of service and commitment.

This article is a highlight of some of what is happening in District Nine for an inclusive, flexible, and efficient approach to *BEING ALTRUSAN* and *RIISING and SHINING IN DISTRICT NINE*.

District Fourteen stands in solidarity with the People of Haiti after the earthquake in August 2021.



Donation of Luci lights to affected families in Humacao. Puerto Rico

Autumn workshops – October 3-10-17/2021



Area I



Area II



Area III

**District Fourteen campaigns for Peace in Puerto Rico.
Involving the government and the general public in an effort
to spread the Altrusa image all over the Island.**



**The theme of the campaigns was
“Sowing seeds of peace”**



**Altrusa starts literacy campaign
“One book at a time”**



**Astra clubs work hand in hand with
Altrusa for their communities “Operation
Christmas Child”**





Don't forget...

The Grants Program and Club 21 Program applications are due **March 15** to foundation@altrusa.org. Do not mail applications to the office. You will receive confirmation via email when the application is received.

The **Grants Program** provides assistance to individuals and Altrusa Clubs carrying out independent programs of community service. Grants range from \$250 to \$4,000 and are designated for literacy, community service, graduate school assistance, and vocational assistance projects sponsored by Altrusa Clubs.

[Click here for Grants Program guidelines and application](#)

The **Club 21 Program** was established in 1997 to lead into the 21st century by supporting children with HIV/AIDS. The camps supported today provide a wide array of services to children, and their families, affected by disease and disability.

[Click here for Club 21 Program guidelines and application](#)



Members of the Québec Canada Club preparing book gifts for children's Christmas baskets. Project grant: *Reaching Out to Women's Needs of La Maison Zoe-Blais*

DISASTER RELIEF AID

Disaster Relief Aid enables Altrusa to respond immediately to the trauma of natural disasters with swift, direct aid anywhere in the world. There are three facets to the Disaster Relief Program that enable the Foundation to respond to disasters through requests initiated by a District Governor. Disaster Relief funds provide an opportunity for Altrusa Clubs worldwide to address the unmet needs of a community following a disaster. The Foundation Chair is able to give up to \$2,500 immediately upon request. Requests greater than \$2,500 will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for approval.

[Click here for Disaster Relief Aid guidelines and application](#)

Thank you for your support of the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc.



Give a tax-deductible gift by texting *AltrusaFdn* to 41-444