

C MPASS

International President's Message

Well as the biennium draws to a close, I find myself writing my last message for the Compass. Being President over the past two years has been quite a ride. Over this time, I have had the privilege of visiting with many Altrusans at District Conferences and other events. One thing we share is our dedication to service as well as our love of fun. We have achieved a lot over the past few years as we have worked to build a stronger Altrusa but despite this our number one challenge remains increasing our membership numbers. We are very good at recruiting new members but where I believe our challenge lies is with retaining the members that we have. In order to do this we have to focus on meeting the needs of our members. This may be through offering multiple ways for members to make a difference in their community through hands on service projects and fundraisers but also by offering opportunities to develop leadership skills and make new friends. Key to retention is also being kind to each other. All too often we lose members who feel unsupported and unwanted and so it is up to each one of us to ensure every member of our organization feels valued. We need to practice tolerance in everything we do and understand that we don't all think alike and that this is okay. It is our desire to reach out and make a difference in our community that unites us. So please lets each do that little bit that we can to welcome new members to Altrusa and then continue to make sure that each and every member continues to feel needed and welcomed.



Leanne Milligan
International President 2017-2019



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What's new at International?

- Go to the Convention tab for registration and reservations - [Click Here](#)
- New member orientation PowerPoint presentation template available on the Membership page. Remember to edit the text and add images.
- You can find a downloadable logo on the Communications page. Remember, clubs are no longer required to pay royalties for using a third party vendor to create branded items.
- Can't find what you need on the website? Use the search bar on the upper right corner of the page. Type in the document, person, or key word you are looking for to see what is available on the site.
- **Late registrations for Convention are from June 15 - 30. After that there will be NO LATE REGISTRATIONS accepted and NO ON-SITE TICKETS sold.**
- The most recent issue of the International Altrusan, with details on the upcoming convention is available on the Communications page of the website.
- You can also find the latest Compass and several back issues.
- **The Club Annual Report is due June 15, 2019. - [Click Here](#)**

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.

SHARE - LIKE - INVITE

Susy Meier, International Communications Committee Chair

Does your club have an upcoming event? Publicize it through Facebook! Your page administrator can create the event. Once an event is created, you can share it to your own timeline, so that all of your friends can see it. Sharing is also possible to a friend's timeline, sharing to a group you belong to, or you can send it as a private message. For example, if you belong to a group interested in local literacy issues, you can share a related Altrusa event to that group. (This may depend on the group settings.)



You can also invite your friends directly through the event on your Club page. If you "like" the event, that will appear on your friends' newsfeeds, giving your event further publicity. The goal is to expand the reach of the event so that more people know about it, learn about Altrusa and potentially become interested in becoming Altrusans. It is said that 35 million people look at Facebook events every day.

Need more information on how to do this? Visit the Altrusa International Communications page on our website and see the "Social Media Tips" under the Marketing Toolkit. You'll find step by step instructions on sharing the events there. The same steps can be followed for sharing posts from your page.

It really is that simple, to **SHARE, LIKE** and **INVITE!**

Use these buttons at the bottom of your Facebook posts.



Like



Share

Important Dates

- June 6** World Environment Day
- June 23** UN Public Service Day
- July 17** Start of Convention
- July 30** International Day of Friendship
- August 12** International Youth Day
- September 8** International Literacy Day

Member Satisfaction Survey: Results which Focus on Issues that Matter to You

Chris DeVlieger, International Director

Wow - 1,092 response came in back in late 2018 from a Member Satisfaction Survey. Thank you for this great response! It took us a little while to review all the responses, summarize, and prioritize what we learned from the survey.

This year was the second time in several years that members had a chance to weigh on a Member Satisfaction Survey, and the results were clear. The highest priorities to our members involved our website and technology; marketing our clubs and organization; leadership development and succession planning; reducing red tape or bureaucracy; and communication.



Website & Technology – We transitioned our site to Word Press and Go Daddy to provide a stable platform and a new look for our website was created. A search engine was established making it easier to locate things. Pages were added for the International Foundation and ASTRA. More work is to be done on the District web pages and promoting the search engine.

Marketing – We realize this is a key area, and we are working hard on new marketing materials, including the creation of a national PSA (public service announcement) by the Marketing Task Force. The PSA and all other materials will be made available to you as soon as possible on the website.

Leadership Development/Succession Planning – Although service and volunteerism is on the front of everyone's mind, we must continue to develop members to become leaders at the Club, District or International levels. It is interesting to note that the majority of survey respondents were 61 -70 years of age and have held leadership roles. It is imperative to develop members to take on new tasks and projects or leadership roles. In addition, several Task Forces revised and/or created new training materials (District Treasurer, District Secretary and Club Presidents). These materials will be available soon and shared further at the 2019 International Convention in Reno, Nevada. Come to Reno this July and learn about other leadership and membership initiatives such as the introduction of a new mentoring program and corporate clubs.

Reducing Red Tape or Bureaucracy – In addition to several items we are working on, one item to make life easier was the removal of royalty payments. At the February 2019 International Board meeting it was decided to remove the requirement for members, clubs and districts to pay royalties to use the Altrusa logo. The high spec logos are now available on the website.

Communication - We are committed to helping members better understand the changes which have occurred and will occur within our organization as stated above. We worked hard to reach out to members as much as possible this biennium through three quarterly publications. We strive to continuously improve our communication to members. One item not previously mentioned involves the amount of energy put into District Conferences and International Conventions. We would love to increase the attendance and engagement for these events. The work of the Member Engagement Task Force and another recent survey will help provide insight into this area.

We value your feedback which demonstrates your openness to change and to empower all us to make progress on these efforts. It is important we stay focused on the vital work we do within our communities and be the positive difference in the world.

Days for Girls Service Project District Three 2019 Conference

Judy Perkin, District Three Coordinator, Days for Girls

Thanks to all Clubs and members who brought contributions for the Days for Girls Service Project at our District Three Conference in Augusta, Georgia. Altrusa of Starke, Inc. made Days for Girls basket centerpieces for the Foundation luncheon. We collected enough supplies to have boxes for the Altrusa Charlotte, NC team and Clubs that work with nearby Days for Girls teams/chapters – Atlanta, Tampa/St. Pete, Orlando Winter Park, Lake City, St. Augustine, Gainesville, and Starke. Lake City, St. Augustine, Gainesville, and Starke all support the Alachua Chapter of Days for Girls based in Gainesville, Florida.

Also, thanks to all who packed and transported supplies back to their local areas after conference. We also received monetary contributions at the Conference. Please know this money is appreciated and will go to local Days for Girls groups and the national office for Days for Girls. District Three has been awesome in its enthusiasm for and work on this important Altrusa International Service Project. I am pleased to serve another year as the District Coordinator for Days for Girls.



Every Girl. Everywhere. Period

Donate Now!

To donate online click the Donate Now! button to follow the link. Then click the Donate Now button on the Days for Girls page. Enter your team name (Altrusa Club/District) if applicable. Then select an amount and enter your payment details.

OR

Make your check payable to Days for Girls. In the memo line, please write Altrusa International, Inc. **Mail to:** Days for Girls, 102 Ohio Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

Generating Fresh Ideas

Jenette Borrell, International Leadership & Development Committee

There are many innovative methods for generating new ideas, whether it be for a new club project, to refresh a long standing project, to run a membership drive, to publicize a fundraiser..... or for making sure that everyone gets to share their ideas.

Here's a slightly different take on a brainstorming session which is particularly inclusive of those who don't find it easy to speak up in group situations



Brain Writing

A simple solution for producing lots of ideas in a short time. This is particularly useful to break the ice, or when there is an 'excess' or 'lack of' participation in a planning session. It can work with a large group, or they can break up into smaller groups, working in a circle.

Firstly, define the rules of the game -

- Judgment should be postponed
- Be fluid
- Listen to everyone

Make sure the creative focus of the session is very clear by writing it on a board or giving every participant a paper copy, and explain the process of the session clearly -

Invite everyone to write an idea on the card. - Add a touch of fun by suggesting the first idea be 'provocative' and way out there, a crazy idea. But just the first idea written, although participants are always to be encouraged to think outside the square

Ask everyone to write in short sentences and to be spontaneous

The cards are then passed around the circle to the person on one side and received from the person on the other

Each person reads the idea/s written and adds another, either building on from a previous idea or giving a completely new idea.

Continue this process until each person receives their own card back

Allow a little time for questions, hand out a card to everyone in the group..... It's time to start the process.....

And as LEADER observe what is happening -

If someone is blocked suggest they pass the card on

If you see the same ideas appearing on many of the cards have the cards 'relaunched' in a different direction

If it is a large group and you sense everyone getting tired and loosing steam stop the process even if the round is not completed

Debrief - by finding some new ideas or insights which have emerged and having time for discussion

Make the selection of ideas easier by asking some to give the 2 'best' ideas from their card at the end of the process. Be mindful that the discussion and selection of ideas could be continued at another time - don't waste the energy and inspiration created by the session.

And finally, collect all the cards and take the time to read and digest the ideas written - you never know what might spark a whole new idea!

ASTRA

April Smith, International ASTRA Chair

ASTRA 2019 Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to all our high school scholarship winners this year and good luck as they move on to continue their educations at the next level.

\$2000 Awards:

Anne Dobson Ball
Spartanburg Day School ASTRA
Altrusa Int'l of Spartanburg, SC, District Three

Ruby Fincham-Wells
Waitaki Girls' High ASTRA Club
Altrusa Int'l of Damaru, NZ,
District Fifteen

\$500 Awards:

Mirelys Román Pagán
ASTRA of Vocacional Manuel Méndez Liciago
Altrusa Int'l of San Sebastián, PR, District Fourteen

Autumn Sunderland
ASTRA of Coldwater High School
Altrusa Int'l of Branch County, District Five



ASTRA 2020 Scholarships for College ASTRA Club Members

We are excited that the International Foundation has added four-\$1000 scholarships to the 2019-21 budget for college ASTRA members to help with expenses to continue their education. If your Altrusa Club sponsors a college level ASTRA Club the information will be available in January 2020.

ASTRA Service Awards

Congratulations to all the District ASTRA Service Award winners. The District winners should have been submitted to the International office by now to be included in the judging for the International winner that will be announced at Convention in July.

ASTRA Club Annual Report

This year's report was emailed as a Survey Monkey and due June 15th. This replaced the End of Year Activity report. We are confident that this format will help us to update our ASTRA information and provide us with some important data to better serve our ASTRA Clubs. If your ASTRA Club did not submit an annual report, please let the International office know so we can collect the information and add it to our files.

ASTRA Club Graduates

Congratulations to all our high school and college ASTRA Club graduates. We wish them good luck on their future education, plans and career opportunities. Our goal is to maintain contact with these graduates as they move on to a college, encourage them to become an Altrusa member, or join our ASTRA Alumni Group. If you need more information on the Alumni Group, please email us at ASTRA@altrusa.org for more information.

Graduation Cords – If you haven't provided your high school and college graduates with our Altrusa Service Honor cords you may still have time. Please let the International office know how many cords you need and where to send them. Be sure to specify color preference of either burgundy/silver or teal.

Altrusa International Website – ASTRA Page

As you read this newsletter, I am optimistic that the ASTRA page of the International website is up and available for all our Altrusa members to access. It will have updated and revised information and tools to help our current ASTRA Chairs and Advisors as well as information on starting a new ASTRA Club.

And finally, I want to let you know what a great honor and privilege it has been to serve as the International ASTRA Chair. I couldn't have asked for a better or more dedicated committee. I am so proud of the goals we set and were able to accomplish this past two years and confident that the new committee will continue to complete, refine and add more goals to make our ASTRA programs even better. In the Spirit of Altrusa & ASTRA



So much to do in Reno!
[Partners Tours](#)

Attracting Younger Members

Ingrid Chistianson, International Membership Committee

I keep hearing from clubs, “How do I get new and younger members into my club?”. One thing that I have noticed about millennials is that they need to feel valued to thrive. They won’t come right out and say it, but they are thinking, “What’s in it for me?” “If I’m volunteering my time I need to feel good about it”. The biggest thing we need to do is listen. Listen to what ideas these new potential members may have and give them a chance to try out a new idea. You never know, it could end up being your next big fundraiser or membership drive. There are a lot of great ideas out there and if we keep in the mindset that “This is the way we always do it” then we can’t grow as an International organization.



Time is another factor, most younger members work full time, have a family or both but whatever time they can offer we will take. The more branches you have in your fire the stronger your fire will burn and continue to burn.

Younger members are also looking for networking and professional growth. We all have those more “seasoned” members that are a plethora of knowledge, have them talk at one of your meetings. They may have ideas or pointers for the younger members just starting out in a career. You’ll probably learn things that you’ve never known about a member that you’ve been in the club with for years. If we don’t pass our knowledge on it will be lost.

As Eleanor Roosevelt, a fellow Altrusan, once said, “In all our contacts it is probably the sense of being really needed and wanted which gives us the greatest satisfaction and creates the most lasting bond.”

2019 International Convention

Book your stay at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino for Altrusa’s 2019 International Convention. The Convention will be held July 17 – 20. Please check out our recently updated schedule at a glance to see all the exciting things that are going on. Space is limited, make your reservation today.

[Book Your Stay and Register](#)



Chula Vista Club Member and Previous Southwestern College ASTRA Member Wins 2018 California Journalism Award and is Recognized as a 2019 Finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in Journalism

By April Smith with Excerpts from Columnist Diane Bell, San Diego Tribune

Bianca Quilantan, member of the Altrusa Club of Chula Vista, who attended Southwestern College, where she served as President of the ASTRA Volunteer Club, then transferred to California State University Chico has added the 2018 California Journalism Award for Print Division as well as Pulitzer Prize Finalist to her short work resumé at the age of 23. She was on the tiny staff of reporters, editors and photographers at the Chico Enterprise-Record who covered the Camp Fire in Paradise, California last November. It was her first salaried journalism job. The Chico newspaper, in collaboration with the Bay Area News Group, was named one of two finalists in the Pulitzer's Breaking News Reporting category for 2019. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette won the award for its synagogue massacre coverage.



Along with her news reporting, Bianca's Dec. 18 story, "I want my mom back: Camp Fire survivor recounts final moments with mother," was the closing piece in Chico's 10-part entry package. After several interviews, she wrote her article while at the college campus library studying for final exams. Bianca learned about Christina Taft by sifting through post-fire GoFundMe appeals for help. Christina, also a Chico State student, needed a place to stay, food and financial aid. Her mother had been her sole support.

"**Christina Taft** fled Paradise with tens of thousands of others who managed to escape the path of deadliest and most destructive fire in California's history. Her mother, **Victoria Taft**, stayed. It was the last time they would see each other. ..." Bianca explained how Christina tried to talk her mother into fleeing but, because no official evacuation alert had come, her mother refused. Finally, Christina left, only to later learn the inferno devoured their duplex less than two hours later. When she returned to the ashes, she found yellow caution tape marking the spot her mother's body was found in what used to be the living room.

When describing her reaction to being a Pulitzer finalist, Bianca called it bittersweet. "The first feeling I had wasn't full of happiness. I cried a lot. I was very glad to be a Pulitzer finalist, but it took me back through the entire story package ... and all those people who lost their lives." It was the last story she wrote for the Chico Enterprise-Record. She quit to take her first full-time journalism job in Washington, D.C., as a web producer for Politico. Her career goals are to continue to tell stories about ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances and to continue telling stories that need to be told." Oh, and, yes, a Pulitzer Prize is still on her to-do list.

Bianca's mom is Iracsema Quilantan, a long time Altrusa member of the Chula Vista Club. You may also remember Bianca from the 2014 District Eleven Conference in San Diego where Bianca, a senior in high school at the time sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem at the Opening Session.

Here is a link if you would like to read Bianca's original story:

<https://www.dailydemocrat.com/2018/12/18/i-want-my-mom-back-camp-fire-survivor-recounts-final-moments-with-mother/>

Side-note: Altrusa International Foundation sent a \$4000 Grant to assist victims of the Camp Fire Disaster this past year.

2019 - 2021 Proposed Slate for International Board



For President Elect
Kathy Folley
District Nine



For Vice President
Denice Gilb
District Eleven



For Vice President
Linda Smith
District Eight



For Treasurer
Christine DeVlieger
District Six



For Director
Jenette Borrell
District Fifteen



For Director
Karyn Evans
District Five



For Director
Maureen McGough
District Two



For Director
Norma Teuton
District Three

Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. *News*

2019 Reno International Convention

Please note:

- * four of the six foundation nominees will be elected to serve on the 2019-2021 Board of Trustees
- * bring your medallions from conference and join us in Reaching Out to Light the Way!
- * Luci lights and medallions will be available to purchase at convention
- * we look forward to seeing the wonderful items you bring for the foundation silent auction!

Reaching Out to Light the Way in 2019

Thank you for your generous support of the Disaster Relief Fund!

Join us today in providing lights to Puerto Rico, Ghana, and Mali by sending a gift marked *Reaching Out to Light the Way* to the Altrusa International Foundation.

Please contact Shawna Kaiser to order Luci lights or medallions.

(312) 427-4410 | foundation@altrusa.org

Grants Program and Club 21 Program

Congratulations, Altrusa Clubs and children's camps awarded grants in cycle two!

We are excited to announce a new camp is supported through the Club 21 Program!

Please [click here](#) to learn more about the Sherwood Forest Camp of St. Louis, Missouri.

Login to Altrusa.org to view the complete awards listing.





Convention registration is now open: [CLICK HERE](#)

International Board Members

Leanne Milligan
International President

Beverly Hardy
President Elect

Kathy Folley
Vice President

Judy Stubbs
Treasurer

Silvia Silverman
Immediate Past President

Chris DeVlieger
International Director

Denice Gilb
International Director

Kathy Jackson
International Director

Linda Smith
International Director

Tanika Wilson
Executive Director

Patricia A. Woodward, JD
Legal Advisor

Colleen M. Duris, PRP-R
Parliamentarian

Sandra Miller
Foundation Representative

Foundation Board Members

Sandi Miller
Foundation Chair

Dr. Ida J. Hill, Ed. D.
Immediate Past Foundation
Chair

Debby Weber
Vice & Finance Chair

Eula Tatman
Immediate Past Finance Chair
and Education,
Development & Marketing
Co-Chair

Dr. Linda C. Nusbaum
Grants Chair

Susan A. Carpenter
Finance Committee Trustee

Sherral L. Nelson
Grants Co-Chair

Linda L. Robison
Education, Development &
Marketing Chair

Anna H. Settle Community
Leadership Award Chair

Martha Hardwick
Hofmeister
Legal Advisor

Shawna Kaiser
Secretary
Foundation Administrator

Beverly Hardy
Association Representative