

Altrusa International District Eleven Governor April's Notable News

December 2023



Holiday Giving & Kindness with that Altrusa Smile

I am always so impressed with our District Clubs, especially during this time of year. Many of our clubs hold large holiday fundraising events, collect and help distribute food to those in need, present families with Christmas gifts, provide shelters and kids with needed items, including new pajamas, robes and slippers, and a variety of other worthy projects. Even as everyone is focusing on their own family and friends you can always count on an Altrusan to remember and make the extra effort to include someone needing a little extra kindness each year.

The giving and kindness was also very evident as Altrusans joined others for the largest national day of community service in the United States, "Make a Difference Day" at the end of October. I am so proud to share in this newsletter all the wonderful photos and events that our clubs participated in this year.

As you enjoy the holiday season and prepare for a new year I just want to express my best wishes to all of you and our families. I hope this time of year is filled with love, joy, and kindness and the new year brings you happiness and prosperity.

Thank you all for all you do in your communities and your commitments to Altrusa and your support of me as the District Governor and our District Leadership, including the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and Club Presidents.

"You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late."

District Board News

Recently the District Director Cindy Mansfield submitted her resignation from the District Board. She felt that this position was not a good fit for her at this time. One of her responsibilities on the board was as the International Foundation Liaison. We are in the process of making sure that the board follows the proper procedures for this situation. This will be discussed and a decision made at the January board meeting. Until further notice, Koni Shaff, our 2nd Vice Governor has agreed to take over the International Foundation Liaison duties. So if you need help or information regarding the Foundation please contact Koni.

The District Board continues to keep busy with district business and has been reviewing the District Policies and making changes as needed for updates and clarification. We are also working on plans and preparations for the District Conference next May.



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Dates to Remember

- DSB Articles Due — Feb. 1, 2024
- Int'l Foundation Grant Request deadline — March 15, 2024

District Leadership Contact Information

Last page of this newsletter.



Message from International President, Linda Smith



Altrusans R.O.C.K!

I am so excited about all the great things happening in Altrusa! Every day when I check Facebook, I am amazed by all of the great service projects our clubs are doing. Membership recruitment is going strong, and I also love seeing all of the new members photos on Facebook.

At the end of September we are very close to what we had in membership in September 2022. With the hard work you all are doing, I am confident we will see an increase in membership during this Altrusa year. Altrusa International District Three Virtual Club had a virtual charter ceremony in September. Altrusa International of Coachella Valley (District Eleven) had their charter ceremony in October. Altrusa International of Southern CA Virtual Club also in District Eleven will have a virtual charter ceremony on December 9. Several other clubs have already held preliminary meetings for other new clubs.

I hope you all read the new Compass when it was sent out on October 28. There is a wealth of information in this newsletter. Our committees are working hard and have provided great information.

Our International Board meeting was held on October 28. The board approved changes to the Mamie L. Bass Service Award, the Letha H. Brown Literacy Award and the Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award. Please use the new versions when submitting your club's awards entries for the 2024 conferences.

Don't forget to enter your Acts of Kindness as well as your book donations/service awards on the entry forms on the Service page of the Altrusa International website. I would suggest assigning someone in your club to do this once a month so you don't forget to add the information. Also, please add service projects to the database.

I wish all of you and your families a wonderful holiday season.

Keep R.O.C.K.ing!

Linda K. Smith

President, Altrusa International, Inc.



ALTRUSANS ROCK -
Realize Opportunity, Create Kindness.
Commit one act of intentional
Kindness each week of the biennium.

District Eleven Website Update

We finally have a domain for the new District website. It is districeleven.altrusa.org

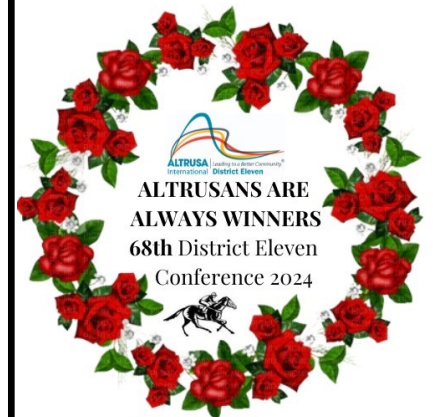
It is still a work in progress and we will be adding more information and resource links.

We will also have a workshop at the Conference to provide more information.

Help Needed

As we continue to work on our new website we are looking for a member of the District with knowledge in websites to help us develop it and monitor it. If you have any club members who might be interested in serving the District as our Webmaster please let me or Danielle, 1st Vice Governor, know.

SAVE THE DATE
District Conference
May 2-4, 2024



Altrusa International Foundation

Congratulations to all the recent Foundation Cycle One Grant Winners throughout International. Our District Eleven winners included:

Altrusa of Anaheim, Ca Altrusa of Reno/Sparks, NV
Altrusa of Santa Maria, CA Altrusa of The West Valley, AZ
New Club Charter Grant — Altrusa of Coachella Valley

International Foundation Grant Cycle Two applications are due March 1, 2024. If you need help with this please contact 2nd Vice Governor, Koni Shaff.

Days For Girls

Altrusa International Clubs continue to support and work with the Days for Girls organization. We are involved in so many ways, including donating, sponsoring and participating in the teams that do the work. The service requires buying supplies, sewing, packing, shipping and we even have Altrusa members who have travelled to the countries that are being served and help with the training. Since March of 2018 Altrusa has donated over \$72,285. As an International Organization we have "Made a Difference" in so many young women's lives.

"Kindness is being someone who makes everyone feel like a somebody"

Important Things to Remember

Note: Contact information for District Board and Committee Chairs mentioned in items below can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

- ◆ **Club Newsletters** — please remember to send them to Governor April so that she can share them with the district board, committee chairs, and club presidents. We all enjoy reading them. District Communications Co-chair Kathy Girard is available if any of the clubs need help putting a newsletter together or improving the newsletter you have.
- ◆ **District Facebook Page** — Be sure to like us and follow us at Altrusa International of District Eleven. If you would like to include a post from your club, send it to Gail Swain, District Communications Co-chair to post.
- ◆ **Long Range Strategic Plan** — Please remember to email a copy of your club's strategic plan to Governor April and Governor Elect Hillary Sloan if you haven't already done so. If you need help please contact Governor Elect Hillary or Leadership Chair, Shauna Stokes.
- ◆ **DSB — District Service Bulletin** club brags, events and announcements. Please send me photos and information so your club can be recognized in our next DSB. You all do amazing things in your communities, please share them with us. Due date for the February edition is February 1, 2024.
- ◆ **Group Tally** — Be sure you have updated the information for your club and members on the International website. Remind your members to notify you of any contact information changes.

*Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away like bells and lights and tinsel,
in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do yourself...*

-Norman Wesley Broods

ALTRUSA ACRONYMS and other Common ACRONYMS

An acronym is an abbreviation compiled of the first letter of each word.

AI	Altrusa International
ASAP	As soon as possible
ASTRA	Ability Service Training Responsibility Achievement
BOD	Board of Directors
BR	Bounce Rate
BRR	Bylaws, Resolutions and Recommendations
BS	Balance Sheet
CTC	Call to Conference CTA Call to Action
DFG	Days for Girls
DM	Direct Message
DSB	District Service Bulletin
EIN	Employer Identification Number
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
GA	Google Analytics
GE	Governor Elect
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organization
IFF	Information, Fun and Friendship Days
IM	Instant Message
IPG	Immediate Past Governor
IPP	Immediate Past President
LMK	Let me Know
LRSP	Long Range Strategic Plan
MADD	Make a Difference Day
NFP	Not-for-Profit
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPO	Non-Profit Organization
P&L	Profit and Loss
PG	Past Governor
PP	Past President

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District Clubs “Make a Difference Day” October 2023

Altrusa of Indian Wells Valley, CA

Read to the Ponies in the Park & Take Home a Book to Read



Altrusa of The West Valley, AZ

Pajama Party benefiting kids from Shelter Without Walls

We purchased PJs with the kids favorite characters and also gave them books, Highlights, and a stuffed animal.



Altrusa of San Luis Obispo County, CA

Halloween Crafts at Oceano Library



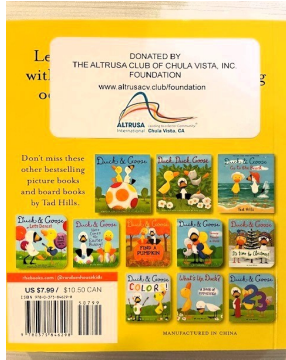
ALTRUSA ACRONYMS and other Common ACRONYMS (cont'd)

- PIP** Past International President
- POC** Point of Contact
- PR** Public Relations
- ROI** Return on investment
- RROR** Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised
- SEO** Search Engine Optimization
- SM** Social Media
- SMM** Social Media Marketing
- SMART** Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound
- SWOT** Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
- TED** Tell, Explain, Describe
- UN** United Nations
- VOC** Vocational
- YTD** Year to Date
- 501(c)(3)** IRS designation for Public serving nonprofit organizations in US
- 501(c)(4)** IRS designation for Advocacy organizations in US
- IRS 990** IRS form used for annual reporting by nonprofit organizations in US

Altrusa of Chula Vista, CA

Pre-school Books Donated to Child Development Associates (CDA)

A number of club members participated in this year's Kellogg's Feeding Reading program, purchasing select



Kellogg's products and getting free books on a one-for-one basis, up to ten. The books members selected were pre-school books from Penguin Random House. Our Service Committee recommended this project which was supported by our club. We chose to give our 95 pre-school books to Child Development Associates (CDA), which provides affordable and reliable child care services to eligible families throughout the region, and is one of the largest employers in Chula Vista. Members put Altrusa book plates in each book at our November 15 meeting.



Altrusa of Coachella Valley, CA

Charter Ceremony

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, Altrusa International of Coachella Valley held their Charter Ceremony and celebrated at the Courtyard by Marriott in Palm Desert, CA.

Hillary Sloan, Melinda Aguirre and Gail Swain attended representing District Eleven. Jan Riggins, Theresa Heldt and Joyce Richardson were in attendance representing the sponsoring club, Altrusa San Diego North County Coastal, and presenting the club with their new tote bags.



World Kindness Day

At our November 8th regular meeting, members assembled treat bags to hand out on World Kindness Day - November 13, 2023 at our local pharmacies to show our appreciation to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.



May you be proud of the work you do,
the person you are
and the difference you make!

We hope you enjoy these sweet treats.
They are a small token of appreciation
and we hope they brighten your day!



Habitat for Humanity Service Project



We partnered with Habitat for Humanity of the Coachella Valley to provide books and bookshelves to two families who received new homes in Desert Hot Springs. We welcomed these families into their new homes with books of interest picked out just for them to enjoy in their family rooms.





Altrusa of The Central Coast, CA

Make a Difference Day is a day dedicated to making a difference wherever you can. There is no prescribed way that you can or should make a difference. Rather, the day encourages you and those around you to do whatever you can to make a difference in the lives of others.

Our change makers, **Leticia Kossuth and Kim Tito**, volunteered to help with Veterans Stand Down on October 28 from 10-4pm. They rallied the members to collect and sort the items. Funds were budgeted for this event and we raised the money through our Festival of Trees held in December. All members participated with the fundraising. Our local Stand Down was a one-day event during which VA staff asks other organizations to donate food, clothing and health screenings to homeless and at-risk Veterans. In addition, Veterans also receive referrals for health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment, mental health counseling and other essential services. These ladies gave out much needed items to the vets that visited their booth. VA had over 600 homeless veterans attend the event and over 800 volunteers. Thank you, Leticia and Kim for volunteering your time to this wonderful event.



Altrusa of San Diego, CA

We provided three activities for members so that everyone to be able to participate.

1. At our October Business Meeting, members donated socks to the Altrusa of Southern California Virtual Club. Their "Socktober" drive is to benefit homeless and foster students in National City and Chula Vista, grades TK - 6th. 304 pairs of socks were collected!!!
2. San Diego is a military town and a non-profit called "Operation Dress Code" held a clothing drive to benefit our female veterans who will soon be joining the civilian work force. Gently used professional clothing was also collected at our October Business Meeting. The generosity of our members filled Pat Zoller's car! A sorting day found Pat, Sandy, and Sylvia doing behind the scenes work. Then Kathy and Diana worked the event on Sunday, November 5th. It was such a rewarding experience to help these women choose entire outfits free of charge. The emotions were felt on both sides.
3. On Saturday, November 18th, 16 club and family members volunteered at the Jacob & Cushman's San Diego Food Bank. 2,870 pounds of food were packed into 240 boxes. Additionally, several pallets of apples were bagged. All these items will be distributed throughout San Diego County during the week of Thanksgiving.



DISTRICT ELEVEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

DISTRICT BOARD

Governor	April Smith	San Luis Obispo Co	aprilaltrusa@gmail.com
Governor-elect	Hillary Sloan	Chula Vista	hillarysloan74@yahoo.com
First Vice Governor	Danielle Robello	Chula Vista	drobello.altrusa@gmail.com
Second Vice Governor Foundation Liaison	Koni Shaff	San Luis Obispo Co	konster.monster@comcast.net
Director			
Treasurer	Andrea Shallcross	Eastern Sierra	andrea@shallcrossassociates.com
Secretary	Sandy Pfefferkorn	San Diego	Pfeffy50@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Carol Latham	Anaheim	lathamaltrusa@yahoo.com
Imm. Past Governor Team Liaison	Melinda Aguirre	Central Coast	melinda.aguirre84@yahoo.com

DISTRICT COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ASTRA	Melinda Aguirre	Central Coast	melinda.aguirre84@yahoo.com
Communications	Kathy Girard Gail Swain	San Diego Eastern Sierra	kathy.girard3@gmail.com gailrmswain@gmail.com
Service	Margee Neer	Eastern Sierra	1neerhope@gmail.com
Membership	Beverly Mueller	San Buenaventura	bevmjewel@gmail.com
District Service Bulletin/DSB	April Smith	San Luis Obispo Co.	aprilaltrusa@gmail.com
New Club Building	Michelle Bell	Coachella Valley	Bellmichelle4089@gmail.com
Leadership	Shauna Stokes	Chula Vista	Sstokes55@mac.com
Literacy	Glenda Hogg	Chula Vista	grbh@cox.net
Webmaster	TBD		

CLUB LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Imm. Past Governor – Melinda Aguirre	Coachella Valley, Monterey, Reno/Sparks, Eastern Sierra
Governor Elect – Hillary Sloan	Glendale, Long Beach, Oxnard, San Buenaventura
1 st Vice Governor – Danielle Robello	Central Coast, Golden Valley, Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo County
2 nd Vice Governor – Koni Shaff	Indian Wells Valley, Southern California (Virtual), Tucson, West Valley
Director – Cindy Mansfield	Anaheim, Chula Vista, San Diego, San Diego North County Coastal