



DISTRICT SERVICE BULLETIN

“Call to Conference” February 2026

DISTRICT ELEVEN

CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA, NEVADA, HAWAII
& BAJA CALIFORNIA MEXICO



“Call to Conference”

Governor’s Message



It is with great excitement that I invite you to attend the Altrusa District Eleven 70th Conference, to be held April 30–May 2, 2026, in Avondale, Arizona, at the Hilton Garden Inn.

This milestone conference will bring us together to celebrate 70 years of District Conferences. The conference weekend will be filled with meaningful opportunities to learn, connect, and grow as Altrusans.

We are planning engaging workshops focused on leadership, onboarding, and service, designed to inspire both new and seasoned members. These sessions will strengthen our clubs and empower us to continue making a difference in our communities, especially through our shared commitment to literacy.

Saturday night banquet will feature a wonderful event full of fellowship and fun, setting the tone for a memorable weekend. We will also take time to honor our clubs and members during awards and recognition, celebrating the incredible impact of your dedication and service.

Most importantly, this conference will be a time for friendship, collaboration, and connection—a chance to share ideas, laugh together, and renew our passion for Altrusa’s mission. Together, we will reflect on how we can continue making a difference in our communities while building strong bonds that unite us.

I look forward to seeing you in Avondale as we come together to learn, serve, and celebrate all that makes Altrusa extraordinary.



MEMBERSHIP

Each year, the Membership Chair—currently Shuana Stokes—asks Club Presidents to submit the names of members who are celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, or more years of membership during the current calendar year.

There has been some confusion about how membership anniversaries are calculated. Several years ago, the District Board determined that tracking the exact month each member joined was unnecessarily complicated. As a result, anniversaries are now based solely on the calendar year (January–December).

For example, a member who joined in July 2021 will be recognized as a five-year member at this year’s conference. This same calendar-year method will also be used to calculate Club Anniversaries.

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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2026

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

12 - 1 pm	Board Lunch
1 - 5 pm	District Board Meeting
3 - 7 pm	Registration & Credentials
5 - 5:45 pm	Expediter's Orientation
6 - 8 pm	Meet & Greet

FRIDAY, MAY 1

8 - 11:15 am	Registration & Delegate Check-in Foundation/Hospitality Room Set-up
8:30 - 9:30 am	Walkthrough with leads
10:15 - 11 am	Presidents Workshop First Timers Orientation
11:15 - 11:30 am	Flag and Banner Procession Line-up
11:30 - 1:30 pm	Opening Ceremonies – Awards Luncheon
1:45 - 2:45 pm	Silent Auction Room Registration & Credentials
3 - 4:30 pm	Service & Literacy Workshop
5 - 6 pm	Marketplace

SATURDAY, MAY 2

6:30 - 7 am	Fun & Fitness for the Foundation
7:30 - 8:30 am	Past Governors' Breakfast Registration & Credentials
8:15 - 8:30 am	Delegate/Alternate Instructions
8:45 - 10:45 am	Opening Business Session
11 - 11:45 am	Communications Workshop
12 - 1:45 pm	Foundation Luncheon
2:15 - 3:15 pm	Workshop – Leadership/Membership
3:30 - 4:15 pm	Closing Business Session
5:30 - 6:15 pm	Club Photos & Reception
6:15 - 6:30 pm	Banquet Procession Line-up
6:30 - 8:30 pm	Governor's Banquet
8:30 - 9:30 pm	Governor's Reception

SUNDAY, MAY 3

9 - 10 am	District Board & District Chairs Meeting
10:15 - 1 pm	District Board Meeting

CONFERENCE CHECKLIST REMEMBER TO BRING

- ~ Membership & other pins
- ~ Club banner
- ~ Check book & cash
- ~ Club displays
- ~ Marketplace merchandise
- ~ Int'l Foundation donations
- ~ Service project donations
- ~ Saturday banquet costume



REGISTER TODAY!

WELCOME FROM THE LOCAL AREA CLUBS

Welcome to the 2026 Altrusa International District Eleven Conference!



Dawn Mortellaro

President of the West Valley Club

Tucson and the West Valley Clubs are very excited to host the District Eleven Conference in Avondale, Arizona, this year. We welcome everyone to the Desert in Bloom! We genuinely hope that you enjoy your stay here and that the information presented will help you continue to grow in service as we serve our communities.

Welcome and enjoy the Conference!



Elda Lopez

President of the Tucson Club

Welcome to all Altrusans able to attend this year's District Eleven Conference in sunny Avondale, Arizona. Our Tucson Club is proud to co-sponsor this conference with our West Valley Altrusan friends. The theme, *Desert Blooms: Growing Through Service*, is very appropriate for this year. Frequent winter rains in our area will enable our hardy desert plants to blossom profusely this spring. Like our desert flora, which display brilliant colors after a wet winter, so too do we blossom with every service project or event. Doing good for others also does us a world of good. We continue to be that positive spark in our communities, leading to a better, happier, and more literate world!



International Board Members

Christine DeVlieger, International President

Kitty McElhaney, President Elect

Penny Daugherty, Vice President

Lisa Boyd, Treasurer

Linda K. Smith, Immediate Past President

Tammy Boyd, Director

Ingrid Christianson, Director

Jennifer Gatlin, Director

Debbie McBee, Director

Ex-Officio Member

David Mena, Executive Director

Foundation Representative

LaVone Arthur

International Board Consultants

Pat Woodward, JD Legal Advisor

Colleen Duris, PRP Parliamentarian

Brenda Smith, BRR Chair

1400 E. Touhy Ave. Suite 410
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Telephone: 312-427-4410

Email: altrusa@altrusa.org

Website: www.altrusa.org

Dear Altrusans,
What an exciting moment for your District — and what a joy to welcome you to your 2026 District Conference. Gatherings like this are the heartbeat of Altrusa. They remind us why we serve, why we lead, and why this organization continues to make a meaningful difference in communities around the world.

Conference weekends have a special energy. They give us space to learn from one another, exchange ideas that spark new possibilities, and strengthen the friendships that make our work so rewarding. They also give us a chance to celebrate what you’ve accomplished and to focus on the important business that keeps your District moving forward. Most of all, they give us time to simply enjoy being together as Altrusans.

Your District Board, host club(s), and Conference Committee have poured tremendous effort into creating an experience that is both inspiring and practical. You can look forward to thoughtful speakers, workshops that expand your skills, and plenty of opportunities to connect with fellow members who share your passion for service.

I encourage you to spend time with your Altrusa International Representative during the weekend. She is here not only to share updates from the international level, but also to listen — to your ideas, your questions, and your hopes for the future of your clubs. We value your voice, and we want to support the work you’re doing to strengthen your communities for generations to come.

On behalf of the International Board, I hope this weekend leaves you renewed, energized, and ready to carry the spirit of Altrusa back to your club. Travel safely, enjoy every moment, and share what inspired you when you return home. Together, we continue this biennium with purpose and heart under the theme Love, Literacy & Legacy.

With Altrusa Love,

Christine “Chris” DeVlieger
International President
Altrusa International, Inc.

ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE



Christine DeVliieger
International President

I have been a member of Altrusa International of DeKalb County, Inc., since January 2003. I have served on numerous committees and held various offices in my club, including Club President (2007-2009 and 2020-2022). I served on the District Six Board from 2005 – 2017, including as District Six Governor from 2015 – 2017. At the International level, I was involved in several committees before serving as International Director (2017-2019), International Treasurer (2019-2021), International Vice President (2021-2023), and International President-Elect (2023-2025). I am currently serving as International President for this biennium. I am proud to support the Altrusa International Foundation and am a Hofmeister Lamplighter.

With over 36 years of experience in human resources management, I possess extensive knowledge of leadership, team building, change management, as well as personal and professional development, which I enjoy sharing with others. I frequently utilize my expertise in human resources, leadership, and system/process development. I also presented on a wide variety of topics for schools and non-profit organizations, including all levels within the Altrusa International organization throughout the years.

For the past 14 years, I have served as a Volunteer Coordinator for one of the nation's largest Feed My Starving Children MobilePacks. Mark your calendar if you'll be in northern Illinois the second weekend in November; call me. I will gladly put you to work along with over 5,000 other volunteers that weekend. In addition to Altrusa and Feed My Starving Children, I serve on several non-profit boards and committees in my community.

I hold a bachelor's degree in Management & Leadership and have been an adjunct instructor on human resources. In 2007, I elevated my career in human resources to a higher level by becoming a certified Dream Manager. (Yes – my employees and I get paid to dream!) I am a certified Professional Life Coach, a Real Colors facilitator, and a Ramsey Solutions Master Financial Coach, teaching Financial Peace University classes several times a year. I currently work full-time and serve as Vice President of Enrichment at The Suter Company in Sycamore, Illinois.

My husband, Steve, and I will have celebrated 37 years of marriage in April. We have two children: Jordan (33 years) and Emily (30 years), who are also Altrusans. In my free time, I enjoy gardening, shopping at flea markets and estate sales for antiques and Christmas items, reading, traveling, and spending time at the family lake house in northern Wisconsin.

I am looking forward to coming to District Eleven and meeting as many Altrusans as possible!

AWARDS INFORMATION

The following is a list of awards, along with the names and addresses of the members coordinating each award. The postmark deadline for all entries is **March 1st**. E-mail applications are recommended and preferred. Altrusans are doing amazing things that improve their communities: service projects, literacy projects, leadership training, and mentorship of young people through ASTRA. The conference offers us the opportunity to recognize these accomplishments with special awards.

Club presidents were mailed information on submitting entries for the awards, but we all know how busy they are. **YOU CAN HELP** by offering to complete an application. Your president will thank you forever!

NEW SERVICE AWARD FORMS!!!!

All clubs must use the new service award forms from Jan 2026: **See links below**

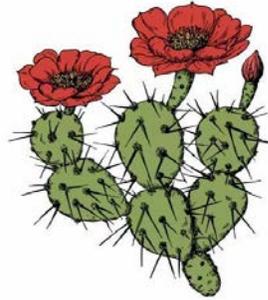
- [Mamie L. Bass - overall service](#)
- [Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun - international service](#)
- [Letha H. Brown - literacy service](#)

<https://districteleven.altrusa.org/member-resources/> or <https://login.altrusa.org/service>

The deadline is **March 1st**.

The District Board will have an Awards Workshop to assist clubs in submitting their awards application on **February 21, 2026 via Zoom @ 10:30 am**

<p>Marilyn Atwood Award Governor Hillary Sloan Email: hillaryaltrusa11@gmail.com Marilyn Atwood Award</p>	<p>Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Buffum Richardson Leadership Chair Email: buffummichele@gmail.com Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Award</p>
<p>Mamie L. Bass Becky & Beth Service & Literacy Chairs Email: pieheartces@yahoo.com (Becky) blogrover@yahoo.com (Beth) Mamie L. Bass Service Award</p>	<p>ASTRA Lillian Leopold & Melinda Aguirre ASTRA Chairs Email: socalprpro@gmail.com melinda.aguirre84@yahoo.com ASTRA Service Award</p>
<p>Letha H. Brown Becky & Beth Service & Literacy Chairs Email: pieheartces@yahoo.com (Becky) blogrover@yahoo.com (Beth) Letha-H. Brown Award</p>	<p>Years of Membership Shauna Stokes Membership Chair Email: sstokes55@mac.com</p>



From Dry Seasons to Full Bloom: Leadership Conversations for Every Club

PRESIDENTS WORKSHOP

GOVERNOR ELECT - DANIELLE ROBELLO

Friday, May 1, 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.

Current and past Presidents and Vice Presidents are invited to a focused, energizing session designed to strengthen leadership at every stage. This workshop blends practical guidance on **record maintenance and shared drives** with rich, **peer-driven roundtable discussions** on leading with limited resources, engaging members across generations, recruiting new members, and maximizing impact in small clubs. Attendees will exchange real-world strategies, ask questions, and learn from one another's experiences—leaving them equipped with *fresh ideas, renewed confidence*, and a stronger sense of *connection* across District Eleven.

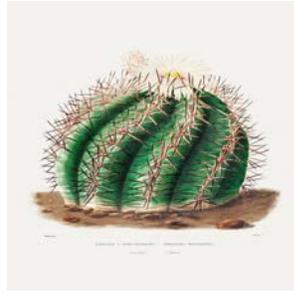


PAST GOVERNORS BREAKFAST

IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR - APRIL SMITH

Saturday, May 2, 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Immediate Past Governor April Smith is inviting all the District Eleven Past Governors to a breakfast at the 2026 District Conference on Saturday morning. Past Governors will receive more detailed information prior to the conference.



FIRST TIMERS ORIENTATION

VICE GOVERNOR - KONI SHAFF

Friday, May 1, 10:15 - 11:00 am

We're excited to have YOU at this 70th annual District Eleven Conference, providing opportunities to meet new people and build friendships with members across the District, learn strategies, and be inspired by ideas that you can take back to your local club, for the benefit of your community. Review First Timers' Conference tips and meet with Vice Governor Koni Shaff for a live Zoom webinar on **Saturday, April 18, at 9am** to get your questions answered before the Conference. We will also have a First Timers Orientation at the Conference on Friday morning from 10:15-11:00 a.m.

We are hoping to pair up all 1st Timers with some of our seasoned members as a Mentor to help make your first conference a memorable experience. We look forward to meeting YOU!



CONFERENCE TIPS for First Timers

Registration & Dress Code

- Mark that you're a **First Timer**
- You can attend one (**Partial**) or both days (**Full**)
- You can **bring a guest** - just pay for their meals
- **Judy Tharp Scholarship** available
- Book your **hotel room** by **April 9**
- **Business casual** & Banquet **music costume**

Networking & Friendships

- **Thursday** night Meet & Greet
- **Friday:** First Timers meeting & Market Place
- **Saturday:** Fun & Fitness & Receptions before & after Banquet

Learning Opportunities

- **Service & Literacy:** Starting & growing a young author contest for your club
- **Communications:** Making AI your club's ally
- **Leadership & Membership:** Growing club membership & cultivating leadership

Giving Opportunities

- **Altrusa International Foundation**
 - Silent auction
 - Fun & Fitness
 - Foundation Luncheon
- **Service project:** Donate toddler blankets & books for migrant Head Start students



districteleven.altrusa.org/conference



DIRECTOR MICHELLE BELL

International Foundation

Grant Application is Open!

The Altrusa International Foundation Grant is now open, with a deadline of March 15, 2026. This provides clubs with an excellent opportunity to secure funding for meaningful service projects that align with Altrusa’s mission. The International Foundation offers grants to support projects that make a lasting impact in our communities. Eligible projects may include initiatives focused on literacy, education, community development, and other areas of need served by Altrusans.

Grant guidelines, eligibility details, timelines, and the application process can be found here:

<https://foundation.altrusa.org/grants-programs-and-awards/>

I strongly encourage your club to review the information and consider applying if you have a qualifying project planned or in progress. These grants are a wonderful way to expand the reach of your service and strengthen the work you are already doing. In August, we held a tips-and-tricks Grant Writing Workshop. Click on the recording below to watch the video. Please contact me if I can support you in any way.

 Altrusa International Foundation International Grant Writing Workshop - August 2025.mp4

International Foundation Silent Auction / Raffle - Conference 2026

Call for Donations

If members or a club would like to donate an item for our Altrusa International Foundation silent auction / raffle, please contact Michelle Bell at bellmichelle4089@gmail.com.

REMINDER: Join Club 52 Today!

What began as Club 21 - to support camps for children living with HIV/AIDS - has grown into a vibrant 30-year tradition of support and service. Today, as Club 52, we continue that legacy by funding children’s camps for children living with disabilities and serious illnesses, as well as international healthcare and educational initiatives that change lives around the world.

Individuals: \$1 per week for 52 weeks, as a one-time gift of \$52 each fiscal year

Clubs and Districts: \$252 each fiscal year, uniting Altrusans in collective impact

[Become a Charter Member Today! https://foundation.altrusa.org/giving-programs-2/club-52/](https://foundation.altrusa.org/giving-programs-2/club-52/)



International Bylaws Update!

Submitted by Koni Shaff, District Eleven Vice Governor

No submissions for proposals to change or add to the Bylaws of Altrusa International have been received. As a result, our District Eleven Conference in Avondale, AZ, will not include any discussion or voting on BRRs.

As stated in the Governor's Newsletter, August 2025, International Bylaws were amended at the 59th International Convention. As a result, District Eleven Bylaws and District Eleven Club Bylaws also need to be updated. As this was approved at Convention, no approval is needed - **just updating. See below for required changes.**

Please send confirmation that your Club Bylaws have been updated by March 31, 2026, to Vice Governor Koni Shaff at konster.monster@comcast.net. Thank you!

REQUIRED BYLAWS CHANGES:

Section 1. Members

The members of International shall consist of Active members, **Young Adult members**, Emeritus members, Honorary members of ALtrusa Clubs (hereinafter referred to as "Clubs") in good standing, Affiliate members, and Life members. Membership is open to individuals of good character who endorse Altrusa's purposes and principles.

Section 3. Young Adult Members

Young Adult members are Active members age 30 and younger who are eligible for a 50% reduction in international dues from the regular rate. Any member who is unwilling to document their date of birth will be charged the full regular rate.

Section 2. Notice

At **sixty (60)** days prior to the date of such Convention, notice shall be given to the membership of any proposed amendments to Bylaws to be placed before the Convention Body.

CHANGED TO READ:

Section 2. Notice

At **forty-five (45)** days prior to the date of such Convention, notice shall be given to the membership of any proposed amendments to the Bylaws to be placed before the Convention Body.

Article IV. Members

The membership of the District shall be composed of Active, **Young Adult**, Emeritus, and Honorary members of Clubs in good standing, and Affiliate and Life members within its territorial limits.

To find the Altrusa International Bylaws, visit <https://login.altrusa.org/governance>



70th ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Altrusa International District Eleven

April 30 - May 2, 2026 – Hilton Garden Inn - Avondale, AZ

Full Name: _____ Preferred First Name on Badge: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Altrusa International of _____

DEADLINE: April 1, 2026
Late Fee: \$25

Current Status ending 5/31/2026 - Circle all that apply:

District Board District Chair Past Governor International Rep First Timer
Current/Past Club President/VP Current/Past Club Treasurer Lamplighter ASTRA

IMPORTANT: SUBMIT SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH ATTENDING MEMBER

FULL REGISTRATION FEE – ENTIRE CONFERENCE \$200.00 \$ _____

Includes Friday/Saturday Luncheons, all Sessions, Saturday Evening Banquet

DISTRICT BOARD/INT’L REP REGISTRATION FEE \$0.00 \$ _____

Includes Friday/Saturday Luncheons, all Sessions, Saturday Evening Banquet

PARTIAL REGISTRATION

Friday Only-All Sessions, Workshops & Luncheon \$100.00 \$ _____

Saturday Only-All Sessions, Workshops & Luncheon (NOT Banquet) \$100.00 \$ _____

Saturday Only-All Sessions, Workshops, Luncheon, AND Banquet \$175.00 \$ _____

- I plan to attend the President's Workshop on Friday, May 1, 2026, 10:15-11 am
- I plan to attend the First Timers Workshop on Friday, May 1, 2026, 10:15 am-11 am

SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET MEAL CHOICE – Indicate number of meals ordered:

Tuscan Chicken W/Penne _____ Beef Brisket _____ Tuscan Penne Pasta Primavera _____

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, including vegetarian requests for meals:

GUEST MEALS

Friday – Luncheon Only (Guests) # _____ @ \$55.00 \$ _____

Saturday – Luncheon Only (Guests) # _____ @ \$55.00 \$ _____

Saturday – Banquet (Guests and Members) # _____ @ \$75.00 \$ _____

DISTRICT ELEVEN 70TH CONFERENCE COMMEMORATIVE PIN: # _____ @ \$10.00 \$ _____

PROGRAM HANDBOOK: no charge digital copy e-mailed to registrants prior to the Conference.

Printed program may be ordered here # _____ @ \$15.00 \$ _____

LATE FEE: REGISTRATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER APRIL 1, 2026 **\$25.00** \$ _____

TOTAL CHECK (your check is your receipt) \$ _____

Mail check and registration to: Lina Cestero
333 Corte Nación
Chula Vista, CA, 91910

Make check payable to:
Altrusa International
District Eleven

****Refund requests handled by the District Board post-Conference**

TO REGISTER ONLINE (you can choose to pay by check):

districteleven.altrusa.org

ONLINE REGISTRATION COMMEMORATIVE PIN

<https://altrusadistricteleven.regfox.com/2026-altrusa-district-eleven-conference->

Make sure you check the box to purchase District Eleven's **70th** Conference commemorative pin!
The Commemorative Pin is only **\$10!**



CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE APPLICATION

The Judy Tharp Conference Attendance Fund was established in 2014 by a longtime member of the Indian Wells Valley to assist members, especially first-time attendees, with the costs associated with attending the conference. Awards are \$200 that goes toward registration and are not transferable. If not used, the award must be returned. Please submit the information below no later than April 1 to:

[Judy Tharp, 1047 N. Inyo Street, Ridgecrest, CA, 93555](mailto:JudyTharp@altrusa.org)

All information will be kept strictly confidential.

Name of Requesting Member: _____

Name of Club: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Date Submitted: _____

Please indicate how a grant would affect your ability to attend the District Eleven Conference:

Date Reviewed: _____ Approved (Y/N) _____ Date applicant notified: _____

HOTEL INFORMATION



Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix/Avondale
11460 West Hilton Way, Avondale, AZ, 85323, US

Altrusa District Eleven Conference

April 30 – May 2, 2026

\$149.00 Standard Guest Room Rate

Two queen beds or one king bed

(Plus, applicable taxes and Tourism Fees)

Check-in is 3:00 p.m.

Check-out is 11:00 a.m.

FREE PARKING!

Breakfast Included in Room Rate (Gratuity Not Included)

Rooms include a mini fridge, coffee/tea maker, microwave located near the lobby,
and complimentary wireless internet.

The Garden Grille & Bar is open for Breakfast and Dinner, with a bar and an outside patio

To make Reservations and receive the Altrusa group rate

Call: [\(623\) 882-3351](tel:6238823351)

Reference: Altrusa International District Eleven

Online Reservation Link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=PHXAVGI&groupCode=90F&arrivaldate=2026-04-30&departuredate=2026-05-03&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

The hotel will hold rooms at these rates until APRIL 9, 2026

2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM ADVERTISING

Deadline March 21, 2026

Submit form and pay online:

<https://altrusadistricteleven.regfox.com/2026-conference-ads>



or e-mail the form to Governor Elect, Danielle Robello: drobello.altrusa@gmail.com

Name: _____

Altrusa Club / Organization: _____

E-mail: _____ **Phone:** _____

Select size and amount to be paid:

- \$125 Full Page Ad – Size 8 ½" w x 11" h
- \$80 ½ Page Ad – Size 4 ¼" w x 5 ½" h
- \$50 ¼ Page Ad – Size 4 ¼" w x 2 ¼" h or 2 ⅛" w x 5 ½" h
- \$30 Business Card - Size 3 ½" w x 2" h

Email a photo of your ad in either PNG or JPEG format to drobello.altrusa@gmail.com or request a discussion to finalize the design and format.

* Electronic Programs will be emailed to all District Eleven members in color. Purchased printed programs distributed at the Conference will be in black and white.

Checks payable to: Altrusa International District Eleven

Memo: Conference ad

Mail checks to: Lina Cestero
333 Corte Nacion
Chula Vista, CA, 91910

CONFERENCE MEMORIAL SERVICE INFORMATION

Each year, District Eleven holds a Memorial Service at the Conference to acknowledge District Altrusans who have passed away in the last year. District Clubs may honor deceased members at the special memorial by completing and submitting this form, along with a photo.

Email the following information to Kathy Girard at kathy.girard3@gmail.com

Name of Deceased Member: _____

Altrusa Club: _____

Member Since: _____

Optional Date of birth or year: _____

Date Deceased: _____

Offices or positions held: _____

Please submit a digital photo in JPG or PNG format.

Deadline April 1, 2026

***Provide a short bio and any memories you would like to share
(you may use an additional page)***



2026 CONFERENCE MARKETPLACE APPLICATION

Deadline: March 21, 2026

Marketplace Fee: \$10 per table

Add a \$10 late fee for all applications postmarked after March 21st

Submit form and pay online:

<https://altrusadistricteleven.regfox.com/2026-conference-marketplace>



or e-mail the form to Governor Elect, Danielle Robello: drobello.altrusa@gmail.com

Proceeds benefit YOUR Altrusa Club. Share your talents with fellow Altrusans and generate funds for your club. Knit? Sew? Bake? Craft? Let your creativity show!

Name: _____

Altrusa Club: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

of tables: _____

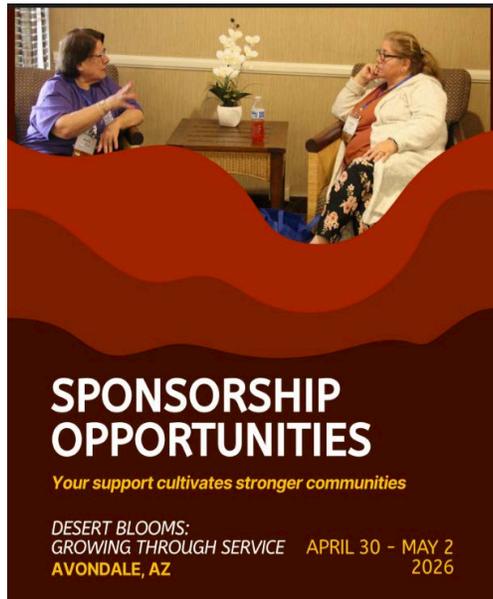
Items to be sold:

Checks payable to: Altrusa International District Eleven

Memo: Marketplace

Mail checks to: Lina Cestero
333 Corte Nacion
Chula Vista, CA, 91910

Sponsorship for Conference 2026



Governor Elect - Danielle Robello

We're gearing up for an exciting conference, and you're invited to help us! We need to **identify and secure mission-aligned sponsors** for our upcoming conference. Whether you have connections with local businesses, community organizations, or service-minded leaders, your outreach can make a meaningful difference in strengthening our impact across the District. We also encourage clubs to explore additional opportunities to participate through **Sponsorship opportunities, Program advertising**, and reserving a **Marketplace table** to raise funds for your club. You'll find all three links below. Please share these widely and support our District's growth as we continue *Growing Through Service* together.

[Sponsorship opportunities](#)



[Program advertising](#)



[Marketplace table](#)





! FREE FRIDAY NIGHT !

Check Out The Local Spots

Food	Entertainment	Shopping
<p>Avondale</p> <p>EEst Asian Bistro Zeta’s Grill Flavors of Louisiana Fiesta Mexicana The Pasta Factory Culvers Pier 88 Boiling Seafood</p>	<p>Blackout Motel Escape Room</p> <p>Speakeasy Escape Room</p> <p>Phoenix Art Heist</p> <p>Phoenix Zoo</p> <p>Top Gulf</p>	<p>Brass Armadillo Antique Mall</p> <p>Mountain Ranch Marketplace</p> <p>Westgate</p> <p>Gateway Pavillons</p>
<p>Goodyear</p> <p>Bella Luna Texas Roadhouse P.F. Chang’s Black Angus High Tide Copper & Sage The Stillery BJ’s Restaurant Litchfield’s Lakeside Grill Ground Control</p>	<p>Comedy Shows</p> <p>AMC IMAX</p> <p>Estrella Tower</p> <p>Arizona Challenger Space Center</p> <p>Bible Museum</p> <p>Dessert Diamond Casino West Valley</p> <p>Gila River Resorts & Casino</p>	<p>The Shops at Alameda Crossing</p> <p>Antique Trove</p> <p>CanyonTrails Towne Center</p> <p>Palm Valley Pavilion</p>

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS



Service & Literacy

Beth & Becky Lorenzo
& Tucson Club

Desert Flourish: Cultivating Young Writers

Hosted by Altrusa of Tucson, this engaging session introduces participants to the Young Author Contest and shows how imagination can turn into a published story. A brief overview will highlight the contest's history, entry process, and judging criteria, along with practical tips for bringing this impactful literacy project back to participants' own clubs. Participants will then jump into a fun, hands-on writing experience with a twist — creating a short story or poem that brings their ideas to life. Time will be reserved for questions. Each participant will receive a notebook and pencil, and past Young Author anthologies will be available to browse and purchase for inspiration.





Membership & Leadership

Buffum Richardson, Leadership Chair
Shauna Stokes, Membership Chair

Growing Your Club

This workshop will focus on practical, proven strategies for *Growing Your Club* by following a simple but powerful growth cycle: **Planting the Seed**, **Growing Through Mentorship**, and **Harvesting Leaders**.

Planting the Seed will explore effective recruiting methods, including “Be a Friend, Bring a Friend,” and highlight two Altrusa clubs that have successfully implemented creative recruiting strategies.

Next, **Growing Through Mentorship** will focus on Onboarding and mentoring practices that help new members feel welcomed, informed, and connected from the start.

Finally, **Harvesting Leaders** will address leadership development through partnerships, training, and succession planning, ensuring clubs build confidence, maintain continuity, and achieve long-term sustainability.

Attendees will leave with actionable ideas, real-life examples, and tools to strengthen membership, develop leaders, and secure the future of their club.



Communications

**Kathy Girard,
Communications Chair**

Isis Perez, Webmaster

Beyond the Mirage: How AI Is Redefining Altrusa

Step beyond the mirage and explore how AI can become a practical ally for Altrusa clubs. AI is everywhere, but what's real, what actually helps volunteers, and what's worth exploring? This session cuts through the confusion with real-world examples, showing how AI can simplify everyday tasks, save time, and support Altrusa's mission—while keeping people, values, and relationships at the center.

ASTRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD INFORMATION:

Our clubs need to encourage the **ASTRA** Clubs to submit projects for the **ASTRA** Service Award and for those eligible members to submit scholarship applications. Keep in mind that many of these young members are the future Altrusa members.

These **scholarships** provide the Altrusa International Foundation with the opportunity to recognize college and university **ASTRA** members who have developed through service within **ASTRA**. A winning applicant will have demonstrated exemplary Altruism within their community. Applicants must be enrolled in an institution of higher learning (college, university, technical school, etc.) that they are currently attending as of the **March 15 application deadline**. The application is designed to help the applying **ASTRA** members demonstrate their growth in Ability, Service, Training, Responsibility, and Achievement through service to their community and sponsorship of the Altrusa Club. Up to four scholarships will be awarded annually, each for \$1,000. Please go to astra.altrusa.org to view the various scholarship applications.

ASTRA Clubs, please remember to submit your application for the **ASTRA** District Eleven **Service Award**. The application can be found on our District Eleven Website and is due **March 1, 2026**.

Click Below for the Awards Form

<https://astra.altrusa.org/files/2019/10/ASTRA-Service-Award-Guidelines-2019-fillable.pdf>

DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE 2026-2028



Carol Lathum (Anaheim)



Kimberly Painter (Santa Maria)



Andrea Shallcross (Eastern Sierra)

Region #1	Region #2	Region #3
Tucson	Santa Maria	Chula Vista
Eastern Sierra	Golden Valley	Anaheim
West Valley	San Luis Obispo County	San Diego
Reno/Sparks	Central Coast	San Diego NCC
Indian Wells	Long Beach	Glendale
Coachella Valley	Oxnard	San Buenaventura
		Southern CA Virtual Club



Nominating Slate Bios

Carol Latham

In 1994, Carol Latham's community service life changed and blossomed when she accepted an invitation to become an Altrusan. This invitation came from someone who saw her potential for service and asked her to consider the opportunity Altrusa offered. She did and became a member of the Anaheim [California] Club in District Eleven, where she served on various committees before becoming president in 1997-1998. After a biennium as the District Eleven Communications Chair in 1999-2001, she was elected to the District Eleven Board of Directors in 2001, and was installed as the District Governor for the 2003-2005 biennium with her theme being 'Leaders in Service ~ Making a Difference.

ALTRUSA LEADERSHIP: 2021 – 2025 ~ District Parliamentarian
2019 - 2021/ 2023 to present – Club Foundation President
2015 – 2017 ~ International Director
2011 - 2013 ~ International Clubs-At-Large Chair
2009 - 2011 ~ International BRR Committee member
2007 - 2009 ~ International Clubs-At-Large Chair
2005 - 2007 ~ International Service Development Chair
~ International Director
2003 - 2005 ~ District Eleven Governor
2003 - 2001 ~ District 1st Vice & Governor Elect
2001 - 1999 ~ District Communications Chair
1997 - 1998 ~ Club President

Carol serves on a variety of community service organizations in leadership roles, including a two-and-a-half-year term as Board Chair of the Anaheim Community Foundation, the Anaheim Arts Council, the Orange County Symphony, the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce, and the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce. Since 1995 to the present she has received a variety of awards for her community service and business acumen. These include the prestigious Altrusa International ***Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award*** in 2019; Sally White Humanitarian Award, Cypress College Americana Anaheim's Citizen of the Year, Woman of the Year for the 34th California Senate District, Sarah Fay Pearson Humanitarian Award, Annie Anaheim Accolade Award, Anaheim Chamber Small Businesswoman of the Year, and Women's Referral Service Excellence in Business Awards. Since moving from Canada, Carol and her husband, Lindsay, have lived in Anaheim. They are the 'pawrents' of two adorable dogs, Muffsko and Fewi.

Andrea Shallcross

I'm Andrea Shallcross, and I have been asked to serve on the Nominations Committee. My previous service to Altrusa has included being an active Altrusan with my home club of Eastern Sierra for 40 years, serving in every leadership position within my club, in some positions for multiple terms.

Additionally, I've served as District Eleven Treasurer for two different bienniums and District Eleven Director for one biennium. I've attended more than twenty (who's counting?) Altrusa District Conferences, and I have loved getting to know so many of you in our district. This personal knowledge would be an asset to the committee.

I believe in Altrusa as a builder of women! Leadership at the District level is a great opportunity for personal growth and for building new and lasting friendships, so if I am elected to the committee, and I call you, just say YES!

Kimberly Painter

Kimberly Painter has been a member of Altrusa of Santa Maria for about 2 years. She is currently serving as treasurer and co-chair of the service committee. She also volunteers at the Santa Maria Elks Club 1538. Kim works full-time as a program manager in Goleta, CA, and spends her free time with family and friends. She has three grown children and two grandchildren, both boys. Other than volunteering, her passions include cruising, scrapbooking memories, and playing cards and games.



Saturday Night Banquet



The Banquet

Saturday, May 2, 2026



Join the District Eleven Board in celebrating music through the decades with a club costume party! Come to the banquet in costume representing your chosen decade. We will celebrate with music and fun!

The District Board members will celebrate with the 70's



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF DISTRICT ELEVEN

Be sure to email Kathy Girard, Communications Chair, kathy.girard3@gmail.com or Governor April your photos, flyers, invitations, etc. to help your clubs promote your events and activities.



Follow us on



[@altrusadistricteleven](https://www.facebook.com/p/Altrusa-International-of-District-Eleven)

FOUNDATION DONATION REQUEST 2026

District Eleven will hold a Silent Auction and Raffle at the District Conference to raise funds for the Altrusa International Foundation. Your donation(s) will be displayed either in the Silent Auction or as one of the Raffle items. Your donations and generosity will enable more Altrusa Clubs to receive International Foundation Grants, supporting their own projects. Thank you for your support!

Name: _____ Altrusa Club: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Description of Donation: _____

Approximate Value of Each Item: \$ _____

PLEASE RESPOND BY APRIL 1ST

Please deliver your donation to the Foundation Room by the Opening Session on Saturday morning.

FUN & FITNESS FOR THE FOUNDATION

Join us for the FUN & FITNESS for the FOUNDATION "Sandiaize"

Please refer to the Conference Program Handbook for the meeting time and location. If you would like to ask friends, family, coworkers, or others to sponsor you, simply fill out the sponsor pledge at the bottom.

_____ Yes, I want to participate and make a pledge of \$ _____

_____ I'll be there in spirit but still snoozing. Here's my pledge of \$ _____

Name: _____ Altrusa Club: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PLEDGES:

Name and Pledge	1. _____	\$ _____
	2. _____	\$ _____
	3. _____	\$ _____
	4. _____	\$ _____

Please include payment. Make it payable to *Altrusa International Foundation* and mail to:

Michelle Bell
40231 Baltusrol Circle
Palm Desert, California 92211

For More Information, contact Michelle at:
bellmichelle4089@gmail.com

April is “Add an Altrusan Month”

by Shauna Stokes, Membership Chair



Yes, April is “Add an Altrusan Month,” but that doesn’t mean you can’t add members the other 11 months of the year! What’s special about initiating new members in April is that they pay the 2026-27 one-year membership, and they get April and May 2026 “for free”. That’s an incentive and selling point.

Here are four ideas for recruiting some new members:

- If you are having a member event or fundraiser, invite potential members, even people you have approached in the past who had declined to join. They might be ready now. Then invite them to a club meeting, and ask them to join.
- If your club is doing a service project, send a photo and article about the project or a blurb to your local newspaper, post it on Facebook or other social media, and mention when and where your club meets, and invite people to attend. Ask members of the agency or organization your club is helping to join your club.
- Set up a “meeting” with your bank official, school district leader, major employer executive, etc., and talk up Altrusa, and invite them, or whom they may select, to join your club to help serve their community.
- Invite people you see regularly (family, friends, neighbors, hairdresser, dry cleaner, manicurist, dentist, doctor, nurse, etc.) to a club meeting.

At our Chula Vista club, two friends of two members joined. You know what they both said? “I thought you’d never ask!”

ALTRUSA DISTRICT ELEVEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

DISTRICT BOARD

Governor	Hillary Sloan	Chula Vista	hillaryaltrusa11@gmail.com
Governor Elect	Danielle Robello	Southern CA Virtual Club	drobello.altrusa@gmail.com
Vice Governor	Koni Shaff	San Luis Obispo County	konster.monster@comcast.net
Director	Michelle Bell	Coachella Valley	bellmichelle4089@gmail.com
Immed. Past Treasurer	Andrea Shallcross	Eastern Sierra	andrea@shallcrossassociates.com
Treasurer	Lina Cestero	Chula Vista	linacestero.altrusa@gmail.com
Secretary	Sandy Pfefferkorn	San Diego	pfefly50@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Leslie Fountain	West Valley	leslifountain389@gmail.com
Immed. Past Governor & Team Liaison	April Smith	San Luis Obispo County	aprilaltrusa@gmail.com

DISTRICT COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ASTRA	Melinda Aguirre Lillian Leopold	Central Coast Chula Vista	melinda.aguirre84@yahoo.com socalprpro@gmail.com
Communications & Webmaster	Kathy Girard Isis Perez	San Diego Chula Vista	kathy.girard3@gmail.com isisprz@gmail.com
Service & Literacy	Becky & Beth Lorenzo	San Luis Obispo County	pieheartces@yahoo.com blogrover@yahoo.com
Membership	Shauna Stokes	Chula Vista	sstokes55@mac.com
District Service Bulletin (DSB)	Hillary Sloan	Chula Vista	hillaryaltrusa11@gmail.com
New Club Building	District Board		hillaryaltrusa11@gmail.com
Leadership	Buffum Richardson	Eastern Sierra	buffummichele@gmail.com

CLUB LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Immed. Past Governor – April Smith	Eastern Sierra, San Buenaventura, Santa Maria, San Diego
Governor Elect – Danielle Robello	West Valley, Tucson, Indian Wells Valley, Coachella Valley, Reno / Sparks
Vice Governor – Koni Shaff	Long Beach, Oxnard, Southern CA Virtual, Golden Valley, Chula Vista
Director – Michelle Bell	Anaheim, SDNCC, Glendale, Central Coast, San Luis Obispo County