

SUMMER DSB 2026

# CONFERENCE 2026

## Governor's Message

The 2026 District Conference, "Desert Bloom – Growing Through Service," in Avondale, Arizona, was a tremendous success! Members enjoyed inspiring workshops, strengthened existing friendships, and made many new connections throughout the conference.

The weekend was filled with learning, fellowship, and fun, culminating in a fantastic Saturday night Governor's Banquet featuring great music, dancing, and memorable moments with fellow members.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this conference such a special experience. We look forward to continuing to grow through service together in the year ahead!

–Hillary Sloan, Governor





# President's Workshop- Danielle Robelle, Gov Elect

FROM DRY SEASONS TO FULL BLOOM:  
LEADERSHIP CONVERSATIONS FOR  
EVERY CLUB

THE PRESIDENTS WORKSHOP SHOWED HOW STRONG ROOTS AND SHARED TOOLS HELP EVERY CLUB THRIVE. GOVERNOR ELECT DANIELLE ROBELLO GUIDED CURRENT, PAST, AND ASPIRING PRESIDENTS THROUGH PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR RECORD MAINTENANCE AND THE USE OF ONLINE SHARED DRIVES, WHICH SUPPORT SMOOTHER TRANSITIONS AND STRONGER CONTINUITY BETWEEN LEADERSHIP TEAMS. ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATIONS WERE FILLED WITH IDEAS ON LEADING WITH LIMITED RESOURCES, ENGAGING MEMBERS ACROSS GENERATIONS, RECRUITING NEW VOLUNTEERS, AND MAXIMIZING IMPACT IN SMALL CLUBS. ATTENDEES LEFT INSPIRED, EQUIPPED WITH ACTIONABLE TOOLS, AND CONNECTED TO A NETWORK OF PEERS WHO ARE READY TO GROW TOGETHER.

[CLICK HERE](#) TO DOWNLOAD THE RECORD MAINTENANCE BEST PRACTICES HANDOUT.



# 2026 DISTRICT ELEVEN FOUNDATION REPORT- MICHELLE BELL, DIRECTOR



## FUNDS RAISED

**\$15,071.68**

CONFERENCE  
ATTENDENCE

**68 MEMEBERS**

## FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

- **SILENT AUCTION-**  
\$1,420.00
- **RAFFLE -** \$1,045.00
- **FUN & FITNESS-**  
\$558.00

**CLUB  
52**

**NEW  
28**



## LAMPLIGHTER

**NEW  
10**

**RENEW  
8**

**RENEW  
11**

**CLUB  
2**



# INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT MESSAGE- CHRIS DEVLEGER "MOONSHINE"



**A GOOD BOOK DRAWS US IN FROM THE VERY FIRST SENTENCE. IT CAPTIVATES US WITH A COMPELLING STORY, SURPRISES US AT THE END, AND STAYS WITH US LONG AFTER WE'VE CLOSED THE COVER. A GOOD BOOK CAN TRANSPORT US TO NEW PLACES, EXPAND OUR KNOWLEDGE, CHALLENGE OUR THINKING, OR SIMPLY ENTERTAIN US FOR A FEW HOURS. I LOVE TO READ AND JOURNAL. SO IF WE COMPARE THIS WEEKEND'S DISTRICT ELEVEN CONFERENCE TO READING A BOOK (AND WE CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO WRITE A STORY), I ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE TIME, AS YOU TURN THE PAGES OF YOUR ALTRUSA JOURNAL, TO REFLECT. CAPTURE THE IDEAS YOU WANT TO FURTHER EXPLORE AND SHARE WITH OTHERS.**

**I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOT DOWN THREE IMPORTANT THINGS YOU LEARNED AND THREE THINGS THAT.**

- **TAKE TIME TO THINK ABOUT HOW YOUR STORY WILL END.**
- **WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE? WHOSE LIFE WILL YOU ENRICH**
- **HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL YOU ASK TO BECOME AN ALTRUSAN?**
- **HOW MANY BOOKS WILL YOU AND YOUR CLUB DISTRIBUTE? WHAT NEW SERVICE PROJECT COULD YOUR CLUB CONSIDER?**

**THE QUESTIONS ARE ENDLESS, AND MAY THIS CONFERENCE INSPIRE A CHAPTER YOU'LL BE PROUD TO WRITE AND INCLUDE IN YOUR ALTRUSA STORY.**

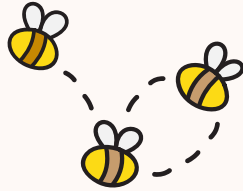




## **GROWING YOUR CLUB** **MEMBERSHIP IDEAS OVERVIEW**

THESE IDEAS AND EXAMPLES WERE SHARED BY ATTENDEES AT THE DISTRICT ELEVEN MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP. THEY REPRESENT STRATEGIES THAT CLUBS HAVE ALREADY IMPLEMENTED SUCCESSFULLY OR ARE PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT TO ATTRACT, ENGAGE, RECRUIT, AND RETAIN MEMBERS. THE IDEAS FOCUS ON INCREASING COMMUNITY VISIBILITY, BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS, STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS, CREATING WELCOMING SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND HIGHLIGHTING ALTRUSA'S MISSION OF SERVICE, LITERACY, LEADERSHIP, AND CAMARADERIE. MANY OF THE SUGGESTIONS CENTER ON BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE PROJECTS, NETWORKING EVENTS, BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS, SOCIAL GATHERINGS, AND PERSONAL OUTREACH, WHILE EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOW-UP, HOSPITALITY, AND CREATING MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS.

# Membership Ideas



**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
MIXERS & COMMUNITY  
NETWORKING**

**SOCIAL &  
NETWORKING  
EVENTS**

**BUSINESS & CORPORATION  
PARTNERSHIP**

**RECRUITMENT TARGETS  
& COMMUNITY  
CONNECTION**

**HOSPITALITY  
RELATIONSHIP  
BUILDING & CLUB  
CULTURE**

**GUEST ENGAGEMENT,  
MEMBERSHIP MATERIAL, &  
FOLLOW UP**

**MENTORSHIP & MEMBER  
RETENTION**

**COMMUNITY PRESENCE &  
PUBLIC EVENTS**

**GRANTS & CLUB  
DEVELOPMENT**

# LEADERSHIP- BUFFUM RICHARDSON, LEADERSHIP CHAIR

**NORTH** - BEFORE THE FIRST DAY  
(SET THE DIRECTION)

SEND A WARM WELCOME AND ESSENTIAL  
INFORMATION  
ASSIGN A MENTOR OR SPONSOR  
SHARE MEETING DETAILS AND EXPECTATIONS  
LEARN THE NEW MEMBER'S INTERESTS, SKILLS, AND  
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**WEST** - ONGOING SUPPORT  
(SUSTAIN THE JOURNEY)

PROVIDE CONTINUED LEARNING AND  
LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES  
RECOGNIZE PARTICIPATION AND  
CONTRIBUTIONS  
FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS AND  
BELONGING  
REVISIT INTERESTS TO MAINTAIN  
ENGAGEMENT

**EAST** - ORIENTATION  
(PROVIDE THE MAP)

INTRODUCE ALTRUSA'S MISSION,  
HISTORY, AND PURPOSE  
EXPLAIN CLUB STRUCTURE,  
COMMITTEES, AND PROJECTS  
REVIEW ROLES,  
RESPONSIBILITIES, AND MEMBER  
BENEFITS  
ENSURE INTRODUCTIONS AND  
EARLY MEETING ENGAGEMENT

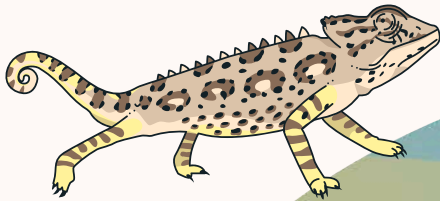
**SOUTH** - MENTORING (BUILD CONFIDENCE)

CONNECT NEW MEMBERS WITH AN ACTIVE MENTOR  
ENCOURAGE EARLY INVOLVEMENT IN A PROJECT OR COMMITTEE  
GUIDE THEM THROUGH CLUB CULTURE AND TRADITIONS  
OFFER REGULAR CHECK-INS AND SUPPORT

ORIENTATION GIVES THE MAP. ONBOARDING PROVIDES THE COMPASS—GUIDING  
NEW MEMBERS TO FEEL CONNECTED, CONFIDENT, AND ESSENTIAL IN ALTRUSA.

# FIRST TIMERS ENGAGEMENT- KONI SHAFF, VG

KATHY BOSWELL, WEST VALLEY      VIRGINIA PFEIFFER, WEST VALLEY  
CHERIE BURTON, WEST VALLEY      JOYCE RICHARDSON, SAN DIEGO NCC  
DONNA CETTOLIN, SLO COUNTY      VIRGINIA RUDE, EASTERN SIERRA  
KARYME DE LA ROSA, COACHELLA      JACKIE SCHELL, WEST VALLEY  
ANN EAGLE, WEST VALLEY      CATHY SOUTHERD-GRAHAM, WEST VALLEY  
DELIA GARNETT, GOLDEN VALLEY      DIANA STEFFEY, SANTA MARIA  
JUDITH HANSON, SAN DIEGO NCC

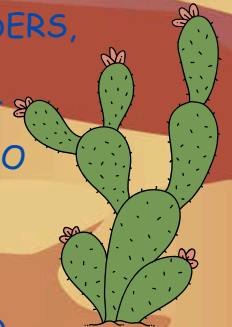


AT THE FIRST TIMERS WORKSHOP, EACH ATTENDEE INTRODUCED THEMSELVES AND SHARED A FUN FACT. PARTICIPANTS LEARNED ABOUT THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT THE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS, NETWORKING, SHARING IDEAS, MAKING NEW FRIENDS, AND STRENGTHENING THEIR COMMITMENT TO ALTRUSA'S MISSION.

SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDED ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT CHRIS DEVLIEGER, DISTRICT ELEVEN GOVERNOR HILLARY, AND IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR APRIL.

EACH FIRST TIMER RECEIVED A CLIPBOARD AND A GOODIE BAG CONTAINING A NOTEBOOK, PEN, AND A DESERT-THEMED BOOKMARK. TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE, ATTENDEES COMPLETED A FIRST TIMERS ALTRUSA BINGO CARD BY MEETING DISTRICT AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERS, ATTENDING WORKSHOPS, VISITING THE FOUNDATION AND HOSPITALITY ROOM, AND CONNECTING WITH MEMBERS ABOUT CLUB PROJECTS, FUNDRAISERS, AND AWARDS. THERE WERE ALSO FUN SQUARES FOR MEETING MEMBERS WHO HAVE GRANDCHILDREN, DOGS, OR CATS.

GIFT CARDS WERE AWARDED TO CHERIE BURTON (FIRST BINGO), GINNY PFEIFFER (SECOND BINGO), DIANA STEFFEY (FIRST BLACKOUT BINGO), AND ANN EAGLE (SECOND BLACKOUT BINGO). WE WERE DELIGHTED THAT ALL 13 FIRST TIMERS ATTENDED THEIR FIRST DISTRICT CONFERENCE AND LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING MANY MORE IN THE FUTURE!





**ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT ELEVEN**  
**DESERT BLOOMS**  
GROWING THROUGH SERVICE  
APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2024 AVONDALE, AZ

**Use AI to...**

- save time
- brainstorm
- draft work
- review & edit work

**Be sure to...**

- protect privacy
- be specific in prompts
- double check facts
- use AI to support, not as an authority
- start small & low-risk
- keep Altrusa's voice & values
- consider ethical



**ALTRUSA** Leading to a Better Community  
International District Eleven

**Don't use AI to...**

- gather factual information
- produce a final draft
- cut corners on responsibility
- speak for Altrusa

**Be sure not to...**

- enter confidential data
- replace human judgment
- forget AI lacks context
- skip tone checks

**Don't chase the mirage — use AI wisely.**



# CULTIVATING YOUNG WRITERS



ALTRUSA OF TUCSON HOSTED AN INTERACTIVE SESSION THAT INTRODUCED PARTICIPANTS TO THE YOUNG AUTHOR CONTEST. THE SESSION DEMONSTRATED HOW IMAGINATION CAN TRANSFORM INTO A PUBLISHED STORY. PARTICIPANTS LEARNED ABOUT THE CONTEST'S HISTORY, ENTRY PROCESS, AND JUDGING CRITERIA. THEY ALSO RECEIVED PRACTICAL TIPS FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS LITERACY PROJECT IN LOCAL CLUBS.

TO CONCLUDE, PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED IN A FUN AND HANDS-ON WRITING ACTIVITY THAT TRANSFORMED THEIR IMAGINATION INTO A SHORT STORY. WE ALSO LEARNED WHAT IT'S LIKE TO START A VACATION IN THE OBX IN NORTH CAROLINA AND SOMEHOW END UP IN VEGAS.





# REMEMBER.....



**MARY ELIZABETH DALESSI-  
ANAHEIM**



## *After Glow*

I'd like the memory of me  
to be a happy one.  
I'd like to leave an after glow  
of smiles when life is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo  
whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing  
times and bright sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,  
to dry before the sun  
Of happy memories that I leave  
when life is done.  
- Helen Lowrie Marshal



**JUDY & DONALD  
GUNDERSON- ANAHEIM**



**MARION PORCH-  
PHOENIX / WEST VALLEY**



**JOAN MALLOCH-  
ANAHEIM**



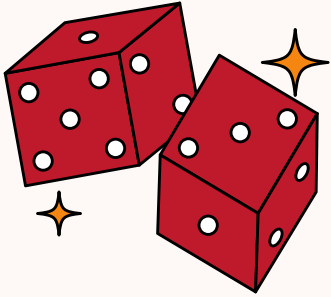
**MARY WELCH- SAN DIEGO**



**JUDITH BERGQUIST- LONG  
BEACH**



# CONFERENCE 2027



**ALTRUSA** *Leading to a Better Community*  
International **District Eleven**

## Las Vegas

2027 Conference  
**JACKPOT OF GENEROSITY**

71st Annual Altrusa International  
District Eleven Conference

Thursday - Saturday  
**April 29 - May 1**  
Las Vegas, Nevada



# CHEERS!



**2026 MARILYN  
ATTWOOD RECIPIENT-  
BEA GOYETTE**



**NINA FAY CALHOUN-  
SAN DIEGO**



**LETHA H BROWN-  
ANAHAIM**



**MAMIE L BASS-  
SANTA MARIA**



**MEMBERSHIP  
GROWTH-  
GOLDEN VALLEY**



**Pioneer Valley  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**ASTRA - PIONEER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL,**



# Thank You!



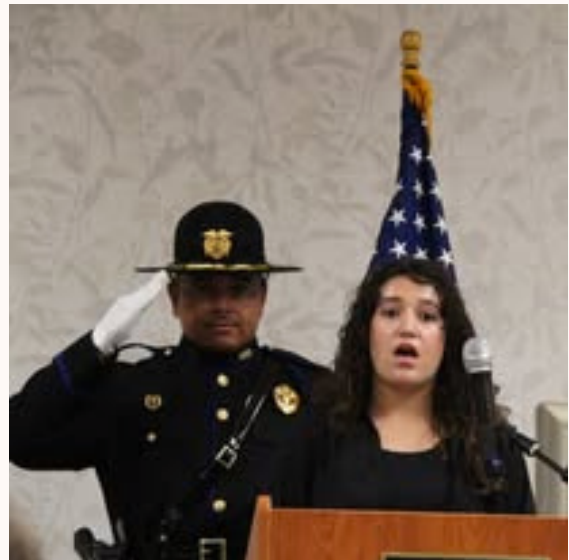
**AVONDALE POLICE & FIRE HONOR  
GUARD**



**CHAPLAIN LARRY WHITE**



**NEELY LEWIS- RIO SALADO  
COLLEGE**



**ALISSA MARGE**



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



# Clubs



**ANAHEIM**



**THE CENTRAL VALLEY**



**CHULA VISTA**



**COACHELLA VALLEY**



**EASTERN SIERRA**

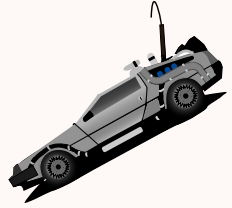




**GOLDEN VALLEY**



**LONG BEACH**



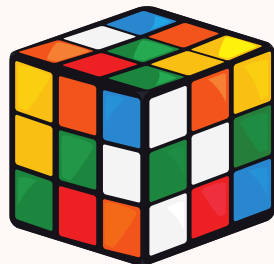
**SAN BUENAVENTURA**



**SAN DIEGO NORTH COUNTY COASTAL**

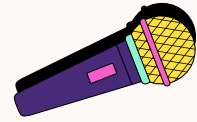
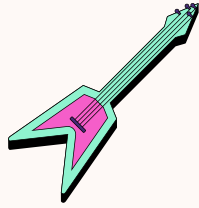


**SAN DIEGO**





**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**



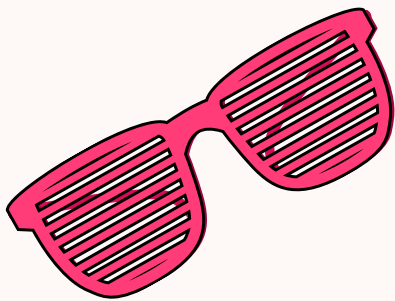
**SANTA MARIA**



**SOUTHERN CA VITRUAL**

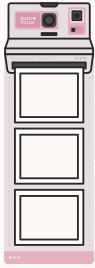


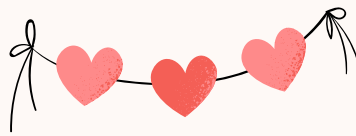
**TUCSON**

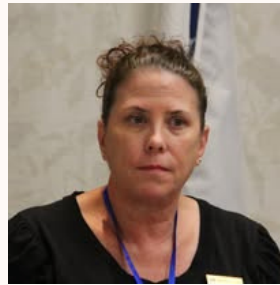


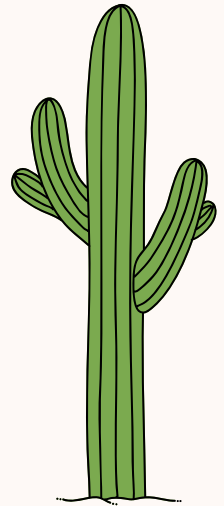
**THE WEST VALLEY**



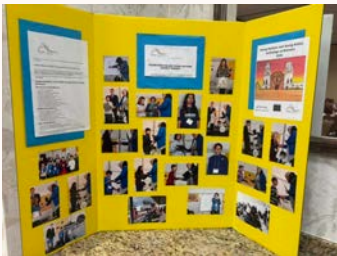
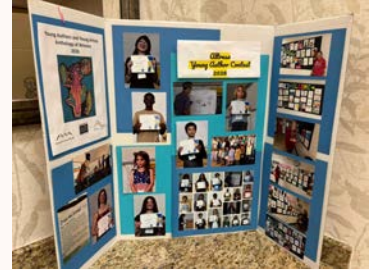




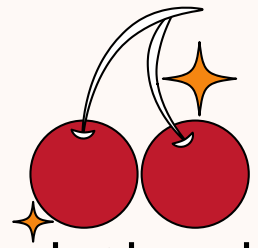








LITERACY DAY



On behalf of the District Eleven board, thank you for your attendance at the 70<sup>th</sup> 2026 conference. We can not wait to see you all next year in Las Vegas!

