NEWSLETTER

Altrusa International of the Central Coast, Inc
PO Box 5026, Santa Maria, CA 93456
www.districteleven.altrusa.org/central-coast

ALTRUSA International | Leading to a Better Community® Central Coast, CA

OCTOBER 2026

HO, HO, HO time is flying by with Rudolf!

Thank you to all that made our Make A Difference Day joint fundraiser so successful from buying tickets, selling tickets, playing bunko, making a raffle basket and getting the snacks/food for the festivities. We had over 90 bunko players, gave away $460 in the 50/50 raffle and we will be presenting Sleep In Heavenly Peace a check for about $4850. We did good!! This may be an annual event.

Bea and her committee raised about $5000 on the Alzheimer's walk. Melinda and her ASTRA Club volunteered also. They all seemed to have a good time from the pictures I've seen.

I've been told we are the most active Altrusa Club within our community and the other clubs are looking to step up their participation. With that in mind get your project sheets in early so the board can approve the activity before presenting them to the club at our business meeting.

And finally----

Festival of Trees is approaching quickly. PLEASE DO NOT MISS ATTENDING THE NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING AT THE TOWNCENTER EAST MALL FOT SITE at 5:30pm. I will be in Alabama so come support Maria at her first meeting.

Put on your elf hat, a smile and get ready for the holidays,
Nancy



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:
November 2-Board Meeting-Chef Rick's
November 9-Business Meeting at FOT-5:30pm (no meal)
No meetings in December



11/30- Betty Wolf,

12/25-Raul Aguirre

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

10/3-PROJECT RESCUE-Walking for a Cause-On October 3, Altrusa members gathered at Waller Park for the Project Rescue Walk, a meaningful event that brought our members together for a cause close to the heart of our member Maria. The cost to participate was $40, and Maria introduced our club to this important project because of her passion for helping women and children who have been trafficked. One of the special things about our Altrusa club is that every member has a project or cause that is near and dear to her heart. When we share those passions with one another, we discover new ways to serve our community and make an impact. (*ASTRA RHS members and Maria in cap*)





Supporting Our Santa Maria Natural History Museum-On October 3, Bea and Melinda represented Altrusa of the Central Coast at the Santa Maria Natural History Museum's Open House, held at the Santa Maria Public Library. Our club is a member of the Natural History Museum.





10/10-Bunco Fun! All three Altrusa clubs joined forces for a fun-filled afternoon of friendship, 50/50 and a silent auction! Held at the Santa Maria Boys & Girls Club, the event brought Altrusa members together for a great cause—Sleep in Heavenly Peace. The dice were rolling, the laughter was flowing, and the snacks kept everyone happy between rounds. Three clubs, one great cause, and a whole lot of fun! A huge thank-you to Nancy for putting this together and our club members who supported the event. Thank you to DJ Chuck for keeping us toe tapping. There will be a check presentation during the Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build at Home Depot on 11/14. *(1st pic: Nancy, Sandra, Sandy, Elizabeth; 2nd pic: Noe, Maria; 3rd pic is Danielle and Caitlin)*









October 12: Altrusa Program Meeting Welcomes Wisdom Center Speaker-At our recent Altrusa business meeting held at Giavanni's Pizza, we were pleased to welcome Diana Basulto from the Wisdom Center as our program speaker. Diana shared information about the adult daycare services offered at the Wisdom Center and how these services support adults and their families by providing care, activities, and social connections in a welcoming environment. Diana is a former ASTRA member at Pioneer Valley High School.



Altrusa Members Out in the Community-Altrusa members love getting out into the community, connecting with others, and supporting causes that make a difference! Sometimes that means joining forces with other service clubs and participating in their events. These opportunities allow us to learn what is happening in our community, discover new needs, build friendships, and find ways to work together. By getting involved beyond our own club, we strengthen our connections and expand our reach. It's a wonderful reminder that when service organizations come together, we can accomplish so much more. Getting out, getting involved, and building relationships is what community service is all about!

Altrusa Walks for a Cause: Alzheimer's Awareness-Altrusa members participated in the Alzheimer's Walk in honor of their loved ones, joining together to support this meaningful cause. Members Stacey, Bea and Melinda and a special guest appearance by Willa added to the day; and everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast burrito before the walk. Melinda and her ASTRA students from PVHS were busy volunteering throughout the event. They worked the Volunteer check-in table and handed out free T-shirts, placed tablecloths on the tables, set up the Kids' Corner, and helped distribute Alzheimer's awareness lawn signs throughout the park. It was a beautiful day to walk, remember loved ones, and support those affected by Alzheimer's. A heartfelt thank-you to the Altrusa Club and the Altrusa Foundation for their generous donations to this wonderful cause! (*Melinda and Stacey*)



LITERACY

Follow Our Little Free Library Trail! Books are traveling all around our community! Altrusa of the Central Coast now has four Little Free Libraries where children and families can find a book, take a book, and hopefully discover a new favorite story. Our Little Free Libraries are making it easier for children to discover the joy of reading. And the best part? The books are free!

📍 Santa Maria Natural History Museum – Our first Little Free Library, located at 412 S. McClelland Street.

📍 Waller Park – A perfect stop during a day at the park. Waller Park is located at 3107 Orcutt Road.

📍 Los Alamos Park – Our Little Free Library brings books to this beautiful community park in Los Alamos.

📍 Orcutt Community Park – Our newest location, dedicated in memory of Frankie M. La Fuente, the son of one of our Altrusa members.

From Santa Maria to Los Alamos and Orcutt, our Little Free Libraries are making it easier for children to discover the joy of reading. And the best part? The books are free!

International Fall Book Challenge- The international book challenge ends November 30, challenging Altrusa clubs to donate books in their community to support literacy around the world. Data on donations will be collected for each participating club; those who meet the challenge criteria will receive a special patch for their club banner. ASTRA clubs are included in this challenge!

President Chris DeVlieger has created a patch and will roll out the challenge in phases. During the challenge, be sure to designate someone from your club to upload the number of books donated onto the website. Awards will be presented once the challenge window has closed. Start thinking now of where your club can have the biggest impact in getting books into the hands of people in your community! (*Altrusa Service Newsletter)*

SERVICE

RECURRING SERVICE PROJECTS: The following list are recurring monthly projects. Our club is always collecting **RX bottles**, **aluminum tabs and bedding for Sleep in Heavenly Peace**. Please bring them to our business meetings. Aluminum tabs go to Stephanie- RX bottles go to Melinda-and Bea gets the bedding. Thank You!

NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

Next bed build is 11/14 at SM Home Depot for "Serve Santa Maria" 8am.

Coast Hills Bank Bed Build Makes a Difference-On October 12, Coast Hills Bank hosted a private bed build in the Elks Lodge parking lot, where volunteers came together to build 100 beds for children in need through Sleep in Heavenly Peace. The Elks generously kept everyone fueled with breakfast burritos in the morning and delicious tri-tip sandwiches for lunch. We were also pleased to have our District Eleven Governor-Elect, Danielle Robello, join us for this special day of service. Altrusa member, Raul, even joined us!









COMMUNCATIONS

Sunshine Committee-The Sunshine Chair is responsible for communicating, on behalf of the Altrusa Club, any get well wishes, condolences, sympathy, etc. to members needing a little Sunshine in their life. Sunshine examples might include reaching out to members who are sick, have had surgery, are in the hospital, lost a loved one, etc. Thank you to Betty for chairing this committee. Betty can be reached at 805-714-5319 or by email at wolfbetty@ymail.com.

Newsletter Committee-If you have articles/pictures, please email to Melinda by the 25th of each month at: melinda.aguirre84@yahoo.com or text 805.448.6268

Website and Social-Media-You can visit our CLUB website at: **districteleven.altrusa.org/central-coast**.
Check us out on face-book at our official page, Altrusa of the Central Coast.

District Service Bulletin-The DSB is emailed to all District Eleven members three times per year and contains DISTRICT ELEVEN updates. Make sure to read it and any other emails you receive from Altrusa International.
*You can find the district eleven website: districteleven.altrusa.org.

Altrusa International-THE COMPASS comes out every other month to ALL Altrusa Members and is filled with any changes, events and inspirations and can be found at the International Website: altrusa.org. **username**: Altrusan, **password**: MamieBass1955

Yearbook-The communications committee continues to update the yearbook every September

***Navigating the ALTRUSA Web*... • Important websites to know!**

www.altrusa.org (click Member Login in the upper right) *See above*
login.altrusa.org (go directly to the members area)
www.altrusastore.com (purchase Altrusa branded items including pins and banners)

DISTRICT ELEVEN NEWS-

2027-2029 District Committees-By Danielle Robello, Governor Elect

Be Part of the Spark

Governor Elect Danielle Robello is already gearing up for the new biennium and assembling the committees that will shape our district's next chapter. If you're ready to bring fresh ideas, strengthen our membership, and help us creatively engage our communities, Danielle would love to hear from you. Send her a message at drobello.altrusa@gmail.com.

Committees

- Awards - Recruit judges and compile scores to select winners
- Communications - Support social media, newsletters, and resource sharing
- Conference - Lead one of the subcommittees: expediters, registration and credentials, ceremonies, special events, hospitality and decorations
- Leadership - Train emerging leaders, coordinate recognition, develop resources, and help secure inspiring speakers
- Membership - Support new club building, revitalization, recruitment, and member engagement
- Service - Lead one of our initiatives: literacy, Days for Girls, patriotism, international, and ASTRA
- Fundraising - Secure conference sponsors and exhibitors and raise funds for the International Foundation, clubs support fund, and Judy Tharp Award

Get Ready for the 2027 District Eleven Conference *Las Vegas Awaits!*

Mark your calendars and get ready to hit the *Jackpot of Generosity* because the 2027 District Eleven Conference is heading to Las Vegas, April 29 – May 1! This year's conference promises inspiration, connection, leadership, and plenty of fun. Hotel reservations are officially open for the Hilton Garden Inn on South Las Vegas Blvd, conveniently located right off the Strip and ready to welcome Altrusans.

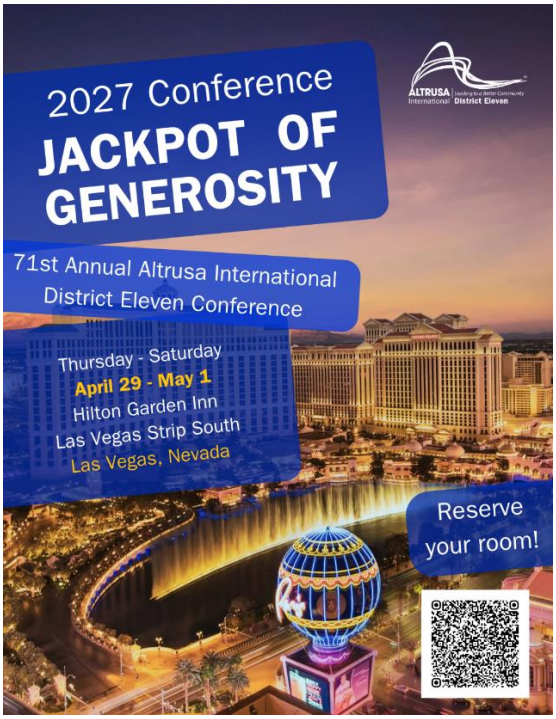
Room Details:

- **Available Dates:** April 28 – May 2
- **Reservation Deadline:** March 31, 2027
- **Click here to book online**
- **Phone Reservations:** (702) 453-7830
- **Group Code:** ELEVEN
- **Handicap-Accessible Rooms:** Limited availability — contact Governor Elect Danielle Robello if you need one.

Whether you're planning to attend the full weekend or just a portion, we encourage you to book your room early to secure your stay and be right in the heart of the action.

To help us plan the best conference experience possible, the District is gathering input from members. We want to hear from YOU! Please take a few minutes to complete the **pre-registration survey**. Your feedback will help shape workshops, service opportunities, and more. You can also indicate if you'd like to volunteer — either in advance or onsite — to help make next year's conference a *jackpot* experience. Your voice matters, your presence matters, and your generosity makes our district shine. Let's come together in Las Vegas and celebrate everything that makes Altrusa extraordinary.

Save the date, book your room, complete the survey — and get ready for a *Jackpot of Generosity*!



ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SOCIAL MEDIA: A new social media how-to-guide is available to help you create social media pages and how to use Meta Business Suite and Google Docs. You can find it on the altrusa.org website under the Communications tab after logging in.

FINANCIAL REVIEW GUIDE: A District and Club Financial Review guide is now available. A financial review is a process to ensure club or district funds are being expended appropriately and all records are in order. Go to altrusa.org website, leadership tab under leadership toolkit.

ALTRUSA COMPASS: the Compass was emailed to everyone on 10/30. It is full of information so if you want to know more about Altrusa, read it.



CLUB FOUNDATION NEWS

FOUNDATION BOARD: Foundation Board held its ANNUAL Foundation meeting on 9/21/26. Our next meeting will be January 2027.

Together, We Make the Magic Happen!

The Altrusa Foundation Board would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all our Altrusa members who will participate in Festival of Trees 2026! Our Festival of Trees is more than just a fundraiser. It is a wonderful example of what can happen when people come together with a shared purpose and a passion for serving our community. Whether you donate your time, help with setup or cleanup, greet visitors, sell tickets, assist with activities, or take one of the many behind-the-scenes tasks, your contribution will make a difference. It takes many helping hands, willing hearts, and countless hours to make Festival of Trees a success. We know that everyone has busy schedules, and we truly appreciate the time and energy you choose to give to this important Foundation fundraiser. Because of your dedication and generosity, we can continue supporting programs that make a positive impact in our community, including our ASTRA students and their service projects.

Festival of Trees Is Almost Here! by Noe Mahelona and Sunday Ballas

The holiday season is just around the corner, which means it's almost time for our annual **Festival of Trees**! We are excited to be returning to the Town Center Mall, on the second floor next to Crunch Gym. This year, we are proud to have a solid 20 trees with a possibility of two more. We are grateful for each and every one of them for helping make this event possible.

Here is some important information and dates regarding FOT:

Sponsor Decorating Days – Sunday & Nancy

- Thursday & Friday, November 12th & 13th, 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- Saturday, November 14th, 11:00 am – 8:00 pm
- Sunday, November 15th, 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Sponsor & Mixer Night – Sunday & Nancy

- Date/Time: Thursday, November 19th 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- Location: FOT Site

Open to the Public

- Black Friday, November 27th – December 12th
- Monday – Friday 12:00 pm – 7:00
- Saturday 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Sunday 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Raffle Drawing Day

- Date/Time: Sunday, December 13th at 11:00 am
- On Facebook LIve
- Emcees: **Chuck (Grinch) and possibly Dan Pankratz (Buddy)**

Volunteers Needed

To staff the FOT, we'll need **two adult volunteers and one to two student volunteers for each shift**. Volunteer signups will be available soon as **Leticia and Chuck** finalize a SignUpGenius or similar volunteer tracking system. In the meantime, please review the dates above and start marking your calendars with times you may be available to help. Your support is what makes the FOT successful year after year.

November Business Meeting-Please plan to attend our November Business Meeting on Monday, November 9th, at the FOT site at **5:30 p.m.** During the meeting, we'll discuss the operating manual, provide training on using Square, and answer any questions before we open our doors to the public. Whether you're decorating a tree, welcoming guests, selling raffle tickets, or helping behind the scenes, thank you for being part of this special community tradition. We look forward to celebrating another wonderful Festival of Trees with you! If you have any questions, please contact Noe or Sunday.

ASTRA CLUBS- sponsored by Altrusa of the Central Coast

October-ASTRA Club of RHS by Dayna

Righetti ASTRA got their yearbook picture done this month for those that were able to attend the photo session!



Righetti ASTRA Volunteers Aubrey George, Gael Hernandez, and Kayla Hernandez helped Altrusa member Maria Castillo on Saturday, **October 3rd**, with the Project Rescue "Run for Rescue" 5K Run & Walk at Waller Park. Thank you, Maria for including us in this meaningful event! (*please view article under "membership")*



October 9th: Mary Buren Fall Festival at Mary Buren School in Guadalupe. Righetti ASTRA had 18 volunteers help with the festival and carnival games.

October 16th: Friends of the Orcutt Library Book Sale flyers. Alfredo Damian and Natalie Valenzuela placed flyers for the November 7th Book Sale all around the Orcutt community.

Thank you to Righetti English teacher, Mrs. Kurth, for another donation of 211 books and a big thank you to Miah Arevalo for counting and stamping all of those books!

A hot Friday**, October 16th**, found Righetti ASTRA members Judith Arevalo, Alyze Basurto, Daniela Espinoza, and Aubrey George braving the heat promoting their ASTRA Club and selling ice cold Arizona Tea at Righetti's Fall Club Day. Many new members recruited!





October 17-Righetti ASTRA hosted a fun Halloween Crafts event on Saturday, at the Orcutt Library! Fun Halloween crafts and prizes with the librarian counting 59 people in attendance! Many of the children and even their parents wore their Halloween costumes! Our wonderful volunteers Alessandra Castelli, Braden Collins, Jenna Elkhoury, Natalia Hernandez, Carolina Herrera, Evelyn Romero, and Gabriel Rucobo were kept very busy but had a lot of fun!





October 19th: Righetti ASTRA supported the Friends of the Orcutt Library with their presentation for the funding of a new Orcutt Library at the County Supervisor's Meeting. ASTRA put together and sent to each supervisor a letter of why we are in support of the Orcutt community's need for a new, larger library, along with about 50 ASTRA member's signatures in support of this funding of a new library, and a few ASTRA members put together statements with their thoughts regarding the need for a new library.

October 22nd: Orcutt Lions Club Eyeglass Sorting. ASTRA had 7 members volunteering their time sorting donated eyeglasses to eventually be given to those who cannot afford to purchase them. This will be an ongoing process, so we are excited to partner with the Lions Club again for this worthy cause.

October 23rd: Ralph Dunlap School Fall Festival at Ralph Dunlap School in Orcutt. Righetti ASTRA was represented with 10 volunteers helping run games and pass out prizes.

October 23rd: Jimenez School Harvest Festival at Jimenez School in Santa Maria. Thanks to the 16 ASTRA volunteers that helped with carnival games.

October 29th: Patterson Road School Trunk or Treat 2026 at Patterson Road School in Orcutt. Volunteers will be helping with the event, including setting up, cleaning up, traffic guides, etc.



RHS ASTRA made the Friends of the Orcutt Library Newsletter! Wanted to share with all!

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2026

Friends of the Orcutt Library at the Chalk Festival

By Betty Rose Gunn, President FOL



The Friends of the Orcutt Library enjoyed a successful and exciting day at this year's Chalk Festival, where our booth attracted a great deal of community interest. One of the highlights was displaying the renderings of the new library. Many visitors stopped by to view the plans, and the display helped raise awareness that a beautiful new library is on its way to our community.

We were fortunate to have the assistance of two dedicated ASTRA students from Ernest Righetti High School. John Snyder and Aubrey Reynolds. Despite the hot sun, they enthusiastically handed out snap bracelets, welcomed visitors, and directed people to both the library renderings and the free books available at our booth. Their energy and commitment were greatly appreciated.

The Friends also offered a special membership promotion. Anyone who joined as a new member received a small bag of children's games along with a Friends of the Library book bag. The promotion generated interest and helped introduce new supporters to our organization.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to all of the volunteers who helped staff the booth throughout the festival. Special thanks to Roberta Hough for securing our spot at the Chalk Festival and for generously providing the treat bags and snap bracelets that helped make our presence such a success.

The event was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community, share the exciting news about the new library, and welcome new Friends members. We appreciate everyone who stopped by and look forward to seeing you again at future community events.



OCTOBER-ASTRA Club of AHC by Melinda

10/16- ASTRA AHC Gives Prescription Bottles a Second Life

On October 16, ASTRA AHC took over the prescription bottle recycling project! ASTRA students sorted, cleaned, and bagged empty prescription bottles for Matthew 25: Ministries, which distributes them for reuse in developing countries where medical supplies are often limited. Our dedicated ASTRA members prepared 300 prescription bottles for shipment. Our off-campus advisor, Melinda, will ship the bottles to Matthew 25: Ministries. On-campus advisor, Clint Freeland, also lent a helping hand removing the labels.






10/24- ASTRA AHC Students Walk for a Cause-three ASTRA AHC Club students participated in the Alzheimer's Walk for a Cause, showing their commitment to supporting an important community cause. The students helped set up the event, assisted at the registration table, and staffed a booth throughout the event. Through their efforts, they also raised $200 to support the cause. Each of these students worked 5 hours to make a difference!





"GROWING IN SERVICE"

10/25-ASTRA AHC Celebrates Día de Los Muertos

ASTRA AHC students enjoyed being part of the Día de Los Muertos celebration, sharing creativity and smiles with the community. Two AHC volunteers teamed up with ASTRA PVHS to help at a button-making table, where children decorated paper circles with their own colorful designs. The volunteers then turned each creation into a special button for the children to take home. Together, the ASTRA volunteers dedicated five hours to the activity and helped make approximately 100 buttons! Thanks to the book donations from OASIS, they gave out 50 books!



ASTRA AHC Continues Supporting Victory Snacks-ASTRA students at Allan Hancock College continue to support the Victory Snacks project at the Santa Barbara County Juvenile Hall. This ongoing service project helps provide snacks to youth in the facility, offering a little encouragement and comfort during their time there. ASTRA students at Allan Hancock College were touched to receive another letter from a young person at the Santa Barbara County Juvenile Hall, thanking them for their continued donations of snacks through the Victory Snacks project. *Melinda drops off the snacks*

A Little Library Making a Big Difference at Juvenile Hall

Thanks to continued book donations from Altrusa and our ASTRA AHC students, Santa Barbara County Juvenile Hall now has a small library system where inmates can check out books and enjoy the opportunity to read. This is awesome news! One of the inmates has even volunteered to serve as the library's very own "librarian"! He is enjoying his new role so much that he has shared his dream of attending school to become a librarian when he is released. What a wonderful example of how books can inspire hope and open doors to new possibilities! ASTRA AHC students have generously donated young adult (YA) books, helping provide reading materials that connect with the interests and needs of the young men. We are also grateful to the OASIS Senior Center for its continued book donations, which have helped make this library a success.

SEPTEMBER-ASTRA CLUB OF PVHS by Melinda and Tyler

ASTRA PVHS Brings Books, Creativity, and Fun to the Mall-On October 13, ASTRA members from Pioneer Valley High School (PVHS) returned to the Santa Maria Mall for another fun-filled literacy and activity event! Fifteen students volunteered. The students gave away **80 books**, helped children make monster masks, and enjoyed playing LEGOs with the young participants.







ASTRA PVHS Students Support Alzheimer's Awareness Walk-Fifteen ASTRA students from Pioneer Valley High School volunteered at the Alzheimer's Walk, arriving at 8:00 a.m. to meet Melinda and get started on a busy day of service. The students helped set up the event, host the kids table, helped walkers decorate their flowers, place signs around park, greeters and assist with cleanup and tear-down. Their willingness to arrive early and work throughout the event helped make the day a success.






ASTRA PVHS Celebrates Day of the Dead/Dia de Los Muertos

ASTRA PVHS students enjoyed a beautiful day celebrating Day of the Dead while spreading literacy and fun throughout the community! Our students hosted three tables featuring a fun "Spin the Wheel and Win a Prize" game that brought smiles and excitement to children and families. Throughout the event, ASTRA volunteers gave away 150 books, 100 activity bags, and, of course, plenty of candy! Ten enthusiastic volunteers showed up to help make the day a success. Thank you to our dedicated ASTRA PVHS students for giving their time and sharing the spirit of service with our community!



ASTRA and AVID: Working Together to Make a Difference

Our ASTRA students at Pioneer Valley High School are involved in more than one amazing service organization! Many of our ASTRA members also participate in AVID, a program that provides students with opportunities to learn, grow, and give back to their community through volunteer service. AVID is always busy with a variety of volunteer projects, and we are fortunate to have AVID students join our ASTRA activities. At the same time, our ASTRA members are happy to support AVID projects whenever they can. It is wonderful to see students working together, sharing their time and talents, and making a positive difference. Both ASTRA and AVID are excellent organizations that encourage leadership, service, and community involvement. When these groups work together, everyone benefits—and our community is stronger because of it!



CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026-2027

Nancy Voss	President
Maria Castillo	Vice President
Stephanie Stadtmiller	Secretary
Sunday Ballas	Treasurer
Leticia Kossuth	Director
Noe Mahelona	Director-(26-28)
Patty Elswick	Immediate Past President

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leticia Kossuth	President
Raye Zelaya	Vice President
Kim Tito	Treasurer
Melinda Aguirre	Secretary
Bea Goyette	Director
Noe Mahelona	Director

COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Chair: Leticia; Committee: Maria, Melinda

LITERACY/SERVICE COMMITTEE: Chair: Nancy; committee: Norma, Sunday

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Chair: Stephanie, Nancy, Melinda

ASTRA OF RHS ADVISORS: Dayna DeBernardi Watson

ASTRA OF PVHS ADVISORS: Melinda Aguirre and Tyler Dickinson

ASTRA of AHC ADVISOR: Melinda Aguirre