

Altrusa International, Inc.

International Update 2022



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Eleanor Roosevelt: “Never allow a person to tell you no, who doesn’t have the power to say yes.”

I am Kitty McElhaney, proud member of the Lake City, Florida Altrusa Club. I am a Director on the International Board and have the opportunity to serve as the International Representative for the District One Conference. I appreciate the occasion to become acquainted with sister Altrusans in this area.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



On behalf of International President Kathy Folley and the International Board, I bring greetings to you as you embark on “Opening the Door to Service.”

DISTRICT ONE MEMBERS SERVING AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL



Susan Hawes
Leadership Committee



Violet Sims
Communications
Committee

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The service of Susan Hawes and Violet Sims on International Committees is greatly appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Numbers

June 30, 2019 7803

June 30, 2020 7612

June 30, 2021 6665



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Our membership numbers have taken a hit during the last couple of years – no surprise - we’ve lost members. A lot of that appears to be new members, those who have joined within the last three years. But that’s understandable ... newer members have less of a connection with the club and to the membership. And it’s difficult to stay motivated when you are unable to meet unless you really work at it. So it’s vital that we continue to make membership a top priority for all clubs. If you have newer members please reach out to them and make them feel welcome, make sure their needs are being met, and get them engaged in the club that’s the key to retention!

But the news is certainly not all bad when it comes to membership many clubs out there continue to put their focus on recruiting efforts and we thank you for that. In fact a big thank you and welcome to the newest club ... Altrusa International of Hatillo, PR. Their Charter Banquet was held March 22, 2022. Please join us in welcoming this new club into the Altrusa family.

The workshop your District held last year on Growth and Retention focused on this topic. Thank you, Governor Pam for bringing this to the forefront for growing Altrusa in District One.

REACHING OUT - MEMBERS

- **Website Tools**
- **Virtual Club Building**
- **New Club Building**
- **Group Tally**
- **Clubs at Large**



Jenn Belcher
District One
Membership Chair



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- Various tools are on the International website and includes a New Member Kit, sample welcome letters, the Altrusa Encyclopedia, which should be given to each new member so the new Altrusan can become acquainted with Altrusa.
- Virtual Club resources are provided.
- A manual for new Club building is available as well and is under revision to be completed before the end of the biennium. This is an invaluable tool for your use.
- Resources for the Member Management tool, Group Tally is provided.
- As of February 1, 2021 there are six At Large Clubs with a total membership of 67 members. Clubs at Large are located in Ireland (2), India (3) and Russia (1)

SERVICE

- **Service Project Database**
- **International Service Project: Days for Girls**
- **Service Facebook Group**
- **Service Project Toolkit**



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- The Altrusa Service Project Database is a tool for Altrusa clubs and members to share ideas on service projects. You can search projects that have already been submitted and add projects from your own club that you would like to share.
- Days for Girls (DfG) is creating a world with dignity, health, and opportunity for all, through sustainable menstrual care solutions and health education. The DfG movement has reached more than 2.5 million girls and women and counting. Altrusa International will help to reach “Every Girl, Everywhere, Period.”
- The Altrusa Service group is here to share service ideas among clubs. You will also find tips and ideas regularly from the International Service Committee and other group members. Please use this space to share your ideas and questions, it is an open forum for service chairs or anyone interested in building stronger communities through Altrusa. An Altrusa Service Facebook page is also a venue for sharing accomplishments and ideas.
- The Service Project Toolkit includes resources that help you to research your community and evaluate the adequacy of programs available, then turn project ideas into reality. The Altrusa Project Guide covers all aspects of running a project from goal setting, member participation, budgeting, creating a timeline, and evaluation of success.



SERVICE

Literacy Challenge

1. Develop a literacy based signature project
2. Assign a record keeper to keep track of your numbers
3. Carry the project over through the next club year
4. Send your total numbers (for both years) to the International Service Committee before June 1, 2023
5. And last but more important --- HAVE FUN WITH IT!!



4/28/2022

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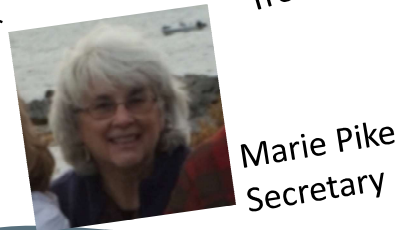
During her biennium, President Folley has set forth a Literacy Challenge for all Altrusans. There are so many things you can do start a book club or a book exchange, establish a children's library in a youth center or free clinic, donate bookshelves and books to an underprivileged neighborhood, adopt an underprivileged school and establish a free library for them, work with schools and youth clubs to furnish books for their students.

Remember the club who distributes the most books will be recognized during the 2023 Convention in San Antonio. If we ***Unite*** together we can reach the goal of **One Million Books in the hands of One Million Children/People**. A Google form for the Literacy Challenge has been added to the International website under the Service tab.

REACHING OUT - LEADERS

Leadership training

- Governor Elects
- District Treasurer
- District Secretary
- Position Descriptions



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- Leadership training is provided at various levels of service.
- Governor Elect training will be in Austin, Texas in July.
- A manual for the District Treasurer is available on the International website.
- Resources for District Secretaries are available on the website, and include sample agendas, minutes, and a District Secretary's guide under the Governance tab on the website.
- Position descriptions are available on the International website for International Officers and Committee Chairs.

LEADERSHIP

- Long Range Strategic Plan revision
- Club Annual Report
- Revised Club President Manual
- Revised Governor-Elect Manual
- Leadership Tool kit



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- The Leadership Committee has been working on a complete review of the International Long Range Strategic Plan and has been busy updating the Governor-Elect Manual as well as the Club President's Manual - two very important tools available to you. A couple of topics this team discussed during the 2021 Convention was Succession Planning and Conflict Resolution. If you are having issues or need help with either of these issues please reach out to the Leadership team.
- It is Club Annual Report time again. It was released on March 15 and is due June 1. It contains 23 questions to help us record important data which will be provided to District and International Boards to help us better serve our clubs. Clubs can also use the report to get ideas for how they can become stronger. Please answer the questions for the club year April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022. You need to score 65% and have charter status to become a 2021-2022 Distinguished Club.
- Your Leadership team is gearing up for Governor-Elect training which will be held this summer. Your future Governor will get an in-depth look into the new role she is about to undertake and will learn many valuable tips to bring back with her.
- A plethora of leadership resources are available on the International website.

REACHING OUT - COMMUNICATIONS

Publications

- **Compass**
- **Governor's letters**
- **District Service Bulletins**



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- The Altrusa Compass is an International publication that includes information from your International Board and International Chairs, updates from the International Office, and details of International Convention.
- Our Communications team is working on keeping us up-to-date on the latest technology which is paramount if we wish to attract younger members. Many Altrusans have asked for the PowerPoint presentation from the Communications workshop at the 2021 Convention. It is available on the International website under the Events tab.
- The International Office will email, upon request the Governor's letters. They also send out the quarterly District Service Bulletins.

REACHING OUT - COMMUNICATIONS

- Social Media
- Translations
- Marketing



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Other communication tools available include:

- Social Media is a wonderful tool and an easy way of getting information out about your clubs. One thing we do need to stress is the importance of obtaining a photo release if you are going to post photos. This is **especially** important if minors are involved. You are putting your club and Altrusa in jeopardy by not doing this. Release forms can be found on the International website under the Communications tab.
- Some materials are translated into primarily Spanish.
- Marketing tools are provided by International. In the search box, enter “marketing and several resources will be listed for you to peruse.

REACHING OUT - WEBSITE

- Individual Log In
- Search Function



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- Several references to the International Website have been made.
- To log in to the International website:
User: altrusan
Password: MamieLethaNina1917
- At the top of the page is a search function: type in the topic you are seeking. If the word matches a title of a document, a list will appear.

REACHING OUT TO ASTRA

- ASTRA Scholarship
- ASTRA Service Award
- ASTRA Honor Cords
- ASTRA Annual Report



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- ASTRA is an acronym for: **Ability, Service, Training, Responsibility, Achievement**
The ASTRA motto is "Growing in Service"
- Your ASTRA committee is working on ways to reboot ASTRA in the aftermath of COVID. Having the shutdown really put a strain on many clubs, but the good news is we now have several new clubs working toward charter which is always exciting. This committee is also developing more detailed information for Districts on the potential for community and home-school ASTRA clubs. Also, they have been working closely with the new ASTRA clubs providing them with information and encouraging them to apply for grants which can help get them started.
- Information on the ASTRA Service Award, Honor Cords and Annual Report are available on the ASTRA portion of the International website.
- Thank you, Trish Maxim, ASTRA Liaison for District One.

REACHING OUT TO ASTRA

- ASTRA Newsletter
- ASTRA Tool Kit
- ASTRA Alumni Program



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- The first publication of the ASTRA newsletter – the ASTRAGRAM - went out last Oct with the next issue due out in May. The ASTRAGRAM has some very useful information so please be on the lookout for it.
- ASTRA tools are on the International website.
- . The ASTRA Alumni database is under review with the intent of making it a more efficient system to use for gathering and disseminating information.

REACHING OUT - OPERATIONS

- **Records Retention**
- **United Nations**
- **BRR – Bylaws for Convention**



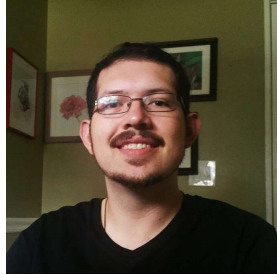
Kathy Schrein
United Nations Liaison



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- After receiving several questions regarding record retention, we established an Ad Hoc committee to put together information for clubs to use. The information will include what to keep, how long to keep it, as well as, suggestions on where records can be stored. So stay tuned for more.
- After a long two years, the United Nations has once again opened up and is allowing ground passes so our UN Chair and Vice Chair will make that happen in the near future. This committee continues to keep us updated on the NGO activities at the United Nations. Please reach out to them if you want more information. Kathy Schrein can provide United Nations Days of Observances to share with members.
- Proposed bylaws changes are to be submitted by to send them in sooner rather than later. At least sixty (60) days prior to the date of such Convention, notice shall be given to membership of any proposed amendments to Bylaws to be placed before the Convention Body.

REACHING OUT - INTERNATIONAL OFFICE



David Mena
Interim Executive Director



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In regards to the International Office ...as reported before we did discover through our biennial audit that there was misappropriation of Association funds. I can assure you, your Board immediately jumped into action to stop the bleeding. The situation has been contained and safeguards are now in place to ensure this type of thing does not happen again.

David Mena, who has been with the organization about five years, is serving as our Interim Executive Director and will act in this capacity until we have had time to secure a full time person to serve as Executive Director.

David has stepped right into this new role and is working closely with International President Folley and the rest of the Board as we transition through the difficult situation we found ourselves in. Rest assure David and your Board are doing everything possible to see that all our member needs are being met. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to David, President Folley or any of your International Board members.

CONVENTION 2023

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Why should you come to Convention:

1. Workshops to choose with information on a wide range of topics to support the growth of Altrusa in communities worldwide.
2. Key note speakers who will inspire and inform
3. Celebrate our awards success
4. Make new friends, renew friendships and share ideas with other Altrusans



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The 58th Altrusa Convention will be held July 19-22, 2023 in San Antonio, Texas, the home district of International President Folley.

So, why attend?

- Attend workshops
- Hear from keynote speakers
- Celebrate accomplishments of Altrusans
- Renew friendships, make new friends, share ideas.

CONVENTION 2023 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

6. Elect our 2023 – 2025 Leadership and learn about plans for our next biennium
7. Check out all that the San Antonio has to offer
8.and have most of allhave fun



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- The next biennium leadership team will be elected and plans shared.
- Enjoy the San Antonio area.
- Most of all...have a great time!

United We Can



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- In the words of International President Kathy Folley: As Altrusans, remember United We Can!