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## THE ALTRUIST



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March, 2026



#### President's Message

*Altrusa International and District One give several awards every year. There is an application process, and the applications are due in March. The service committee are busy selecting the best projects of all the service projects we do to submit this year.*

*Three non Altrusans are the judges for each award, and the winners are presented at the conference in April- May.*

*The first one is the Mamie L Bass Award. This award is given to clubs for outstanding community service projects. The award was established by the International Board of Directors in July 1963. As a memorial to the first National President of Altrusa, the name was changed to the Mamie L Bass Service award in 1975. The objective of this award is to stimulate interest in developing service programs in the community, to encourage members of local clubs to participate actively in these service projects and to recognize outstanding club achievements in service to community.*

*The second one is the Letha H Brown Literacy Award given to clubs with outstanding literacy projects. The award was established by International Board of Directors in July 1993 to honor Past International President Letha H Brown who in 1977 introduced literacy as a major emphasis to the organization. The objective of the award is to stimulate interest in developing active literacy projects to serve their communities, to create an awareness of Altrusa and its commitment to literacy, to encourage members of local clubs to participate actively in these service projects and to recognize outstanding club achievements in service to their community.*

*The third is the Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award, which is given to clubs with projects and programs featuring international relations. This award was adopted in 2003 as a memorial to the only International President who served two terms during World War II and who focused on the international aspect of the organization. The objective is to encourage and to stimulate international relations, to create an awareness of other cultures and people of the world and to recognize outstanding achievements in international relations.*

*Sandy will share the projects chosen to be submitted by Greater Biddeford Saco Club at our next meeting.*

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## Volunteer Hours

February 2026

Altrusa – 161    Altrusa Literacy – 15    Non-Altrusa –83

1. Total hours for December 259

### Altrusa International of Greater Biddeford-Saco ME

Altrusa of Biddeford-Saco  
Business Meeting  
Atlantic Heights  
02-13-2026

Guest: Deb Dyer, active in Bon Appetit

Handouts: Agenda, add to agenda T shirt and sweatshirt sizes and color selection presentation. Agenda approved.  
Correspondence: Need thank you to 99, being done, Sandy. Received a thank you note from Ruth Recycling for the \$500 check, note was passed around. Make sure that it goes to Judy afterwards for the archive.

#### **Leaders in Service:**

Anne has an update on Martha Taylor who was a very active member until three to four years ago. When Martha turned 80, she declared she didn't have to do anything anymore at which point she became inactive in the club. Ann received a note from Martha's Caretakers letting us know that she is now a resident of Seal Rock's memory care unit. She would welcome visitors between 1:00pm and 5:00pm. She will not remember names but she will recognize faces. She is in Room 229 and she does well with visitors, but may occasionally search for words. Don't feel the need to bring anything, but by the way she does like Lindt chocolates. Cards, visits and calls welcome. A phone can be brought to her through the receptionist desk.  
Contact: Martha Taylor, Seal Rock room 229, 88 Harbor Dr, Saco ME 04072/ Tel 283-3646

#### **Brady's T-shirts and Sweatshirts**

Ruth brought samples to show colors and sizes. Note: The tags showing numbers are sizes, not colors. Colors vary slightly between brands; for example, the sweatshirt color "Ash" is listed as "Light Gray" on the order form. Colors are, light blue, mint, white, and light Gray/Ash. For those who were not at the last meeting: We discussed ordering Tshirts, crewneck sweatshirts, Vneck Tshirts, and Sweatshirts, crew and hoodies, with and without zippers, and visors with the Altrusa Greater Biddeford-Saco logo on them.

Design Details: The logo will feature: The Altrusa Swirl lol graphic (same one commonly used). Text: "Greater Biddeford Saco". Not "District One" on these items.

Logo placement: Crew neck Tshirts: front center. Sweatshirts (pullover): front center. Zipup hoodies: left chest. Vneck Tshirts: left chest in a circular format. Visors logo placement limited due to the size of the visor front.

Materials: Tshirts: 100% cotton, Sweatshirts & hoodies: 50/50 blend

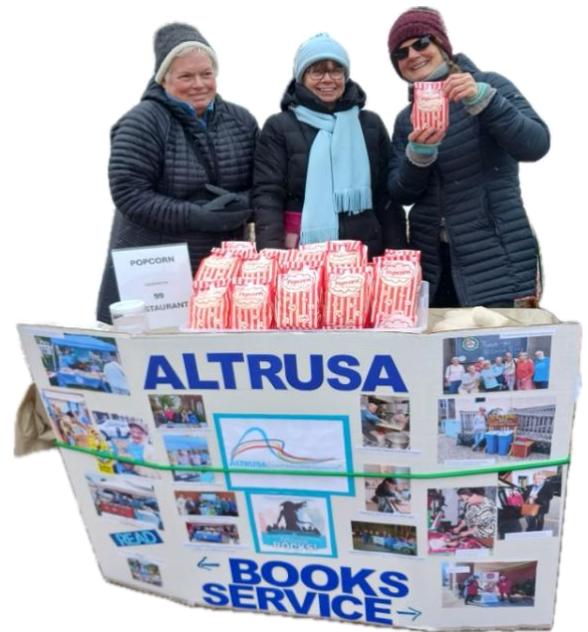
Sizing Notes: Vneck shirts run small; recommended to order one size up.

Ordering Payment: Order forms were passed out. Payment can be made by personal check to Brady Screenprint  
Embroidery Logo Color Specifications

Denise has the original color numbers from when the logo was first produced. These can be given to the printer for accurate color matching.

### Feedback From Winterfest in Biddeford

The group volunteered at Winterfest and, despite the cold (“freezing our buttocks off!”), the event went very well. They gave away 300 bags of popcorn. First shift ended around 12:15 PM. Second shift arrived and gave away the rest of the popcorn and stayed for another half hour. Everyone was in great spirits and the crowd was very positive. While the morning group was there, they met gubernatorial candidate Bennett from Oxford County. He was found to be very pleasant. Also while braving the cold, the group had a positive encounter with Randy Seaver from the Biddeford Gazette formerly of the Courier. Randy spoke briefly with the group and left them with his business card. Randy, who in the past has done an article on Altrusa for the Courier, mentioned that he would like to do a full article on the group for the Biddeford Gazette which is an online publication. This is regarded as a very positive thing for the group. The card was given to Denise on communications committee.



**Secretary Report:** Any corrections-none. Motion to approve Debby, 2 Nd Anne approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** No report. Life has been busy and way too interesting

### Committee Reports

**Finance-** Lucille - Finance doesn’t have much for agenda items right now, but I do have two questions. Last May, we held a fundraiser at Raptor Falls, and it was amazing. We raised about \$300, and they actually ended up giving us more money than expected. They were wonderful to work with, very generous, and they are willing to do this fundraiser for us again—just about any time. I’m wondering if everyone would be interested in doing this fundraiser again in July or possibly the first week of August. July might be better, because many families begin going home later in August—especially after the first or second week. The last two weeks of July tend to be the busiest, particularly in the area, when visitor traffic is at its peak. Discussion seems to recommends July—Sandy mentions going there with her grandchildren—it is extremely busy in July and August, which would benefit the fundraiser.

Points in favor for doing this event:

- We do not need to be present all day
- Raptor Falls provides us with a percentage of the entire day’s income, whether we are there or not
- We like being present for:
- Exposure
- Handing out books
- Coverage could be as little as three hours
- There is also a new water ride feature this year, which should increase attendance

Given the level of summer traffic, this fundraiser has strong potential to raise significantly more money than last year. Motion: To reserve the third Saturday in July for an Altrusa fundraiser at Raptor Falls. Debbie moves, 2nd Sandy, Approved

The second question is about collecting the \$5 fee for program meetings to help cover the cost of the meeting rooms. I’m wondering if it would make more sense to collect that at the business meeting instead of the program meeting. Discussion: There was some discussion about attendance, and whether more people attend business meetings than program meetings. While that was somewhat

surprising—since many people enjoy coming for the speakers—it was agreed that collecting the fee at the business meeting may be easier logistically.

There was also concern that not everyone always has cash or exactly \$5 with them.

Suggestion:

- Collect the \$5 at the business meeting going forward
- For anyone who does not have the \$5 on hand, they can:
  - o Pay at the program meeting, or
  - o Pay at a later time

Clarification: Going forward, the intent is to collect the \$5 at business meetings, understanding that flexibility will be offered when someone forgets or doesn't have change. Finance will begin collecting the \$5 program meeting fee at business meetings, starting with the next scheduled meeting. There was discussion as well regarding adding \$35 to annual dues to cover the program moving forwards. This amount was calculated on how many times we need to pay for the meeting room. Will be discussed further latter.

**Calendar's:** If you brought your calendar money or raffle tickets today, thank you. If you did not, please mail them or bring them to the program meeting. All money and tickets must be received by the program meeting. For Calendars we need everything collected before the drawing starts. Because of the unreliability of the U.S. mail, please avoid lastminute mailing whenever possible. After the drawing, we plan to notify the group of the winners. In situations where the winner is someone we know personally—for example, one of Susan's pickleball teammates—it may make sense for Susan to deliver the gift card directly rather than mailing it. The same applies if a prize is cash. Since sellers' names were not written on calendars, sellers of the prize will need to self identify. This means the person who sold the ticket must say, "I sold a ticket to [name]," so we can match the prize to the correct person. The mail's questionable performance leads to this suggestion of direct delivery of the calendar prizes.

Venmo: There is a question regarding two raffle tickets that were sold via Venmo for which the Calendars have not yet been received. Please ensure that all raffle funds and Calendars are submitted by the program meeting. Agnes is working to resolve this issue. If you know someone who was not present at tonight's meeting, please let them know about this situation. Agnes will be sending an email to the group to help determine who may have accepted a Venmo payment for these Calendars Based on discussion, this transaction most likely relates to the sale of a calendar on or around December 18. If you accepted payment via Venmo at that time, please contact Agnes as soon as possible. Further discussion also revealed that not all members may be receiving group emails, which will need to be addressed.

Email Discussion: Due to the fact some members are not apparently being included on group emails when responding back to group emails it's very important that you use the reply all button. That way we can all stay informed and no part of the discussion is missed. New members emails will have to be added email list.

**Membership**-No report

**Scholarship**-No report

**Service – Sandy** We met Saturday morning at Debbie's house to plan activities for January, February, and March.

January:

## Kindness Kits Project.



For January, we decided to bring back the Kindness Kits project we did a few years ago. This involves



filling small baggies with items such as:

- Crackers
- Candy
- Rice Krispie treats
- Tissues
- Other small comfort items

Once assembled, the kits will be placed around Biddeford, such as on fences and other accessible

outdoor locations. This project is meant to offer a small gesture of kindness, particularly for people who spend a lot of time outdoors.

Assembly Plan: The Kindness Kits will be put together at the end of the program meeting.

### February:

#### Biddeford Winter Carnival

- Date: Friday, February 7
- Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Location: Outside, near City Hall
- Weather dependent

We will participate in Biddeford's Winter Carnival by giving away a simple treat such as cookies or popcorn. No books or complex setup—just something easy and fun.

Julie's son is helping coordinate and will check what food items are already being offered so we don't duplicate efforts. We'll keep things simple and weather appropriate. If conditions are unsafe or too cold, we may cancel.

There was lighthearted discussion about baking, but no final decision yet on what exactly we'll bring.

#### Valentine's Social at St. Andre's

- Date: February 13
- Time: 2:00 – 3:00 PM
- Location: St. Andre's Community Room

This event is being called a "Valentine's Social." The facility will already be decorated, so we do not need to bring decorations.



- A round logo option is also possible
- Logo placement would typically be on the front, over the heart area
- Back printing is optional but not required

#### Important clarification:

- The former restriction requiring printing through Doc Morgan no longer applies. Clubs are now free to print Altrusa logos locally, as long as logo colors are not altered.

#### Item Options & Pricing (Approximate)

Minimum order is typically 12–24 items per style to receive these prices.

- Shortsleeve Tshirt: ~\$15
  - Longsleeve Tshirt (crew or Vneck): ~\$19
  - Crewneck sweatshirt: ~\$28
  - Visors: ~\$15
  - Baseball caps: Available (smaller logo placement) Note Alumni Band pay \$18 a hat
- Colors discussed:

- Gray was recommended as the most versatile
- White or off-white also possible
- Blue may not work well with existing logo colors

#### Sizes:

- Brady carries a full-size range, from XS through 2XL/3XL
- They have experience fitting entire groups into consistent styles
- 

#### Additional Items Discussed

- Aprons:
  - o Brady can print logos on aprons
  - o Plan is to use just the logo, without excess text for clarity and cleaner design
- Hoodies, windbreakers, stocking caps:
  - o Available, but not strongly recommended at this time due to cost, interest level, or practicality

#### District Conference Fundraiser Possibility

- District One Conference: May 1–3
- The club has traditionally sold items (cookies, cream puffs, ornaments, apparel) at conferences.
- Apparel (especially visors or simple sweatshirts) could be a good fundraiser:
  - o Low table space required
  - o Visors could be sold for \$20–\$24, creating a reasonable profit margin
- Concern noted: ordering correct sizes can be challenging, as preferences vary widely regarding shirts and sweatshirts.

#### Member Preferences & Discussion Themes

- Some members prefer:
  - o Subtle, smaller logos
  - o Front only branding
  - o Neutral colors
- Crewneck sweatshirts received strong support for comfort and visibility
- Large block lettering was seen as less flattering by some
- Overall sentiment:
  - o Apparel is especially appealing to newer members
  - o Longstanding members may already have items

Will Follow up with a simple feedback sheet or flyer

- o Item options
- o Prices

o Logo style/placement choices

Members will be asked to indicate top preferences (1st, 2nd, 3rd choice) This will help determine whether there is enough consensus to move forward with an order before committing funds. No final decisions were made at this meeting. The goal is to gauge member interest first, then revisit apparel ordering at a future meeting with clear data.

**Upcoming Events** Board Meeting Planning

Upcoming events were reviewed, and there was no additional business to report at this time.

Board Meeting. A board meeting will be held between now and the next program meeting. The meeting will be limited to one hour.

- Format: Zoom
- Date: Monday
- Time: 6:00 PM

Zoom was chosen for convenience. Members who do not currently use Zoom were advised that it can be accessed through a browser if needed.

Attendees:

- Board members
- Committee Chairs
- Secretary (to take minutes)

A Zoom invitation will be sent. Anyone who does not receive it should notify the sender, as email distribution issues have been identified. As notated earlier email communications have been spotty in places. It was noted that members are not consistently receiving group emails. The Zoom invitation will help confirm whether email addresses are working correctly, and further follow-up may be needed to resolve this issue.

Director Position. Wendy a board member expressed the intention to step down from a director role due to time constraints. The position remains open, and members were encouraged to consider serving in this role. Being a board member typically requires two to three meetings per year.

**District Visit**

- The upcoming District One club visit will be conducted by Deb O'Deo, Director from the Portland Club.
- The visit may include two representatives from Portland, per district practice.
- Once the visit date is confirmed, the club will decide whether to hold a regular meeting or a dinner meeting.

No confirmed date has been received yet. Deb has been approached multiple times so she will need to contact us to facilitate a visit to business meeting.

Adjournment

With no further questions or comments, a motion was entertained to end the meeting moved by Debbie seconded by Judy. All in favor passed, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM.

**WISHING YOU ALL HAD A VERY HAPPY  
VALENTINE'S DAY.**



*This might be like a  
“where’s Waldo”!!!*

*Can you guess where Ruth  
went? Isn’t this beautiful.*

*END.*