

C MPASS



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At the heart of every strong community is a shared commitment to leadership, literacy, and service. When we invest in one another through education, encouragement, and leadership, we create opportunities that extend far beyond today. The stories and accomplishments highlighted in this newsletter reflect the power of a love for learning, the importance of building a lasting legacy, and our collective dedication to creating a brighter future for generations to come.

So, grab your favorite beverage, sit back, relax, and enjoy this edition of The Compass.

On behalf of the International Board, we would like to thank everyone for the wonderful hospitality we received at your District Conferences. The conferences were outstanding, and we hope you enjoyed them as much as we did. As you continue through this biennium, please consider submitting an entry for an International Award at your 2027 District Conference. We would love to see participation continue to grow. Every day, clubs across our association are accomplishing amazing things in their communities, and those efforts deserve recognition.

Congratulations to all clubs that achieved Distinguished Club status for 2025-2026! We know that every club in our association makes extraordinary contributions and has a meaningful impact on its community. Begin planning now so that we can celebrate even more Distinguished Clubs in 2026-2027.

Now that your annual reports are complete, have you entered your book donations and Days for Girls donations on the International website? If not, please take a few moments to do so as soon as possible.

Recently, the International Board met in Des Plaines, Illinois, for our only in-person Board meeting outside of the pre- and post-convention meetings. For many Board members, this was their first opportunity to visit the International Office and Doc Morgan, our jewelry vendor, in St. Charles, Illinois. The experience provided valuable insight into the day-to-day operations of our association.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming the 2025-2027 Governor-Elects (GEs), who participated in their own training sessions during the weekend. After two full days of Board meetings and GE training, we gathered for dinner on Saturday evening before heading home to rest, reflect, and recharge after a productive and rewarding two days.

Highlights from the In-Person Board Meeting

- The registration plan and budget for the 2027 International Convention were approved. This includes discounted registration rates for first-time attendees and ASTRA members – plus a special rate for a partial registration on Friday & Saturday. More details will be shared soon regarding our next convention, which will be held in Columbus, Ohio, July 21-24, 2027. Mark your calendar for what promises to be a fun and exciting experience!
- Several new forms and manuals were reviewed and approved and will be uploaded to the Altrusa International website as soon as possible. In addition, a number of existing manuals and forms are currently being updated.
- We are proud to support the United Nations (UN) Committee as they prepare our application for a potential change to Consultative Status with the UN. We will also be accepting applications for a new UN Youth Ambassador in the future, so watch for additional information.
- After evaluating several software platforms, including Group Tally, the Systems Task Force will present its recommendation for a new platform at the October Board meeting.
- And, of course, plenty of follow-up activities!

New Literacy Challenge

We are excited to announce a new Literacy Challenge that will run from September 1 through November 30. Many clubs already support literacy through book distribution efforts, and now it's time to count those books and log them online.

Clubs that donate at least one book per member during this period will receive a commemorative patch for their club banner. Watch your email for additional details coming soon!

As we celebrate these successes and look forward to new opportunities, let us continue to champion literacy, embrace positive change, and lead with purpose and compassion. Together, we are building a legacy rooted in service, leadership, and a commitment to strengthening our communities.

Thank you for being part of this important journey and for helping us create connections, inspire growth, and lead the way toward an even stronger future for all.

With Altrusa Love,



Christine "Chris" DeVlieger
International President

Reminders

- Since our old Facebook page was unfortunately deleted, follow Altrusa International's new Facebook page [here](#). Also, don't forget to follow us on [Instagram](#) so you can stay up to date with our organization's happenings.
- President Chris is continuing previous bienniums' service project - the Literacy Challenge. Remember to keep track of books and service hours donated [here](#).

Navigating the Web...

- Important websites to know!
www.altrusa.org (click Member Login in the upper right)
login.altrusa.org (go directly to the members area)
www.altrusastore.com (purchase Altrusa branded items including pins and banners)
www.altrusaservice.org (browse and share your club's service projects) **(Not currently active.)**
- Give us some feedback and share your thoughts on improving Altrusa with the [Suggestion Box](#).
- If you have forgotten your password to the site please send an e-mail to Altrusa@altrusa.org or call the International Office for assistance.

Important Dates

- July 30** International Day of Friendship
- August 12** International Youth Day
- September 8** International Literacy Day
- September 21** International Day of Peace
- October 1** International Day of Older Persons



Retaining Members: Make Members Feel Valued and Appreciated

Dena Burian Blacklaw, International Membership Development Committee Member

How do you retain members and make them feel needed and appreciated?

In order to retain individuals in your club it requires treating them as essential members, this can be accomplished by aligning their skills with meaningful tasks. Start at onboarding/orientation by providing clear expectations and fostering a strong sense of worth and belonging. Share your club goals of literacy, service and how you are working in the community. Respect and encourage their time, talents, and what they have to offer. Our Altrusa clubs will begin to thrive when we help members see exactly how their contributions make a difference and this will encourage them to remain good Altrusans.



In order to make members feel appreciated, shower them with recognition and make it personal, frequent and specific. Besides relying on just an annual acknowledgment, try to add gratitude into everyday interactions by sending personalized thank you notes/cards, do public shout outs, and acknowledge the massive impact of what they do and what they offer, no matter how big or small it may be. Even those behind the scenes “make a difference” in what we do as Altrusans.

You can help increase membership and retention by making referrals, which is keeping your current members actively engaged by encouraging them to invite or refer other people to join the organization. The idea is that members who bring friends, family, coworkers, or acquaintances often become more connected and are more likely to stay themselves. Referrals are not just a recruitment strategy—they are also a retention strategy. Holding social gatherings, promoting members into mentorship and leadership roles. Asking for, listening to and implementing your member’s feedback also shows them, that you “value” their voices and respect what they bring to the club. Ensure their volunteer work matters.

It takes ALL of us...sharing and acknowledging our members.

For more information about club retention and revitalization visit altrusa.org.

2027 International Convention
Columbus, OH
Wednesday, July 21 - Saturday, July 24



Creating Workshops in a Box

Pam Grantham, International Communications Committee Chair

One of the greatest strengths of Altrusa is the willingness of our members to share ideas, experiences, and successful projects. Every club has members with valuable knowledge that can inspire and educate others. The challenge isn't finding great ideas—it's finding a way to share them.

That's the inspiration behind Workshops in a Box, a new initiative of the Altrusa International Communications Committee. Our goal is simple: create a collection of ready-to-use workshops BY Altrusans, FOR Altrusans. Together, we can build a resource that saves planning time, strengthens clubs, develops leaders, and inspires new ideas throughout our organization.



Will it actually come in a box? No... Instead, think of it as a ready-to-use collection of workshop materials that any Club, District, or Committee can download and present with little preparation. Each Workshop in a Box will provide everything needed to facilitate an engaging learning experience without having to start from scratch.

A typical Workshop in a Box might include (but not limited to):

- A presenter's guide with step-by-step instructions
- A PowerPoint presentation
- Participant handouts or worksheets
- Discussion questions
- Activities or interactive exercises
- Additional resources for continued learning

Of course, a library is only as strong as the resources it contains—and that's where YOU come in. Over the next few months, the Communications Committee will be creating a few Workshops and sharing those materials with Altrusans around the world. We'll even take requests!

If you presented a workshop at your Club, District Conference, or International Convention that others found valuable, tell us about it. Whether your workshop focuses on Communications, Membership, Leadership, Service, Fundraising, Technology, etc., your presentation could become part of our growing Workshop in a Box library.

Together, we can create a resource library that helps Altrusans everywhere learn, lead, and serve with confidence!

Bridging Plan: The Blueprint for Success (LRSP, Bridging Plan, Policies & Procedures, and Bylaws) continues from the last Compass with the Bridging Plan.

Karyn Evans, International Leadership Development Committee Chair

The Bridging Plan (formerly, succession plan) is developed to guide the leadership pathway. We hear repeatedly that members just aren't stepping up to leadership. This is not - or at least, should not - be a surprise, if you are without a plan. What steps are you taking to PLAN your Club (District, International) leadership?



- Do you define the expectations of being an Altrusa before dues are paid and initiation takes place? We must recruit Altrusans not simply new members. Make sure understanding and a good fit are in place beforehand. You may lose some members, but you will gain and retain Altrusans.
- Does an orientation take place early in the process for new Altrusans, with periodic updates for everyone? This component ensures greater understanding of Altrusa and the expectations for Altrusans.
- Does the nomination committee share expectations (position descriptions) for each role and seek confirmation of the ability to fulfill the role and agreement to do so? Are potential candidates well-informed about the bridging plan?
- Are you looking at directors as future club presidents, district governors, or the International Board?

So often, the role of director is looked at as "Oh! The director doesn't do all that much." However, it should be considered as one of the most important positions. It should be a major step in learning, training, and understanding leadership. Altrusa Builds Leaders!

- Are you nurturing all of your leaders - both current and future? Do you support, uplift, and praise as appropriate or do you complain, criticize, and weaken confidence? Do you create an environment that makes members feel willing to step up or are you a barrier?
- Do you provide position descriptions, specific training, and mentoring for all officers and chairs? Or do you throw them in the pit before the criticism starts that they don't know what they are doing? The orientation should start with a written plan that encompasses expectations, traditions, service projects, fundraisers, and an explanation of the levels: Club, District, and International. Allowing time for questions is essential.
- Do you support new members? Each new Altrusan should be assigned a mentor, perhaps, one of the sponsors. Mentors should provide information, answer questions, encourage, and guide. Having someone to sit with, who can explain what is going on during a meeting or answer questions is essential to a good foundation.
- Are you inclusive and thoughtful in decisions about who to invite into leadership?
 - New Altrusans should be included, but the timing is important. Encouraging (aka coercing) new members into a role before they understand Altrusa and the expectations has caused new Altrusan to resign because they were overwhelmed. Start by placing them on a committee, then as a committee chair. Conversely, ignoring new Altrusans can leave them dissatisfied and under-appreciated. Seek early involvement in committees and projects.
 - An unbiased nominating committee is critical. That includes not having the same people serve on this committee year after year. The bridging plan will help, especially if the nominating committee is charged with following the plan.
 - The leadership team should be a mix of newer and more seasoned members. A mix of new ideas and tradition enhances the opportunity for success.
 - Everyone should be working together to promote the success of Altrusa. Each one reach one applies to leadership as well as recruitment.

It all starts with a plan, continues with implementation, and is successful with an evaluation that includes improvement!

International Day of Peace - September 21, 2026

Kathy Schrein, Altrusa Representative to the United Nation's Department of Global Communications, Civil Society Unit/NGO

2026 THEME: "Invest in Peace-For Everyone,Everywhere, Every Day!"

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21.It was established in 1981 by the UN General Assembly. Then in 2001, the GA unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace both within a person and among nations globally. It recognizes the efforts of those who have worked hard to end conflict and promote peace.



UN Sec-General Antonio Guterres said "Peace is needed today more than ever. War and conflict are unleashing devastation,povertry, and hunger, and driving millions of people from their homes. Climate chaos is all around. And even peaceful countries are gripped by gaping inequalities and political polarization."

Altrusans in Action/Projects:

Actions/projects:

1. Join in a minute of silence at noon September 21 with people all over the globe.
2. Have an Altrusa meeting with the focus on meditation/peace/yoga.
3. Plant/construct a Peace Poll in your local park.
4. Join a community peace vigil.
5. Do an article for your club newsletter about recent Nobel Peace prize winners.
6. Give your time to help someone else.
7. Lend your voice to drive positive change in your community.
8. Join a local group to paint murals about peace to celebrate peace.
9. Have a World Peace art or essay contest in an elementary school

See this web site for more ideas: un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace

News from your Altrusa International Service Program Development Committee

Scott Tice, International Service Program Development Committee Chair

NO CLUB NEEDS TO SERVE ALONE!

Everyday Altrusans around the world create innovative projects, address community needs, and make lasting impacts. Why start from scratch when you can learn from the success of other Altrusans?

Our committee is excited to share the newly revised searchable Service Database, now available on the Service page of the Altrusa International website. The updated database has been redesigned to make finding project ideas easier than ever. Just look for this:



Service Projects
Searchable Database Form
<https://login.altrusa.org/service-page/>

Simply click on a service category, and you'll instantly see all the projects submitted within that area. Whether you're looking for literacy programs, fundraising ideas, community service projects, or new ways to engage members, the database is filled with inspiration from clubs just like yours. **Select from a wide range of categories:** Disability Support, Education, Food Insecurities, Health, Homeless, International, Letha H Brown Literacy, Literacy, Mamie L Bass Service, Nina F Calhoun International Relations, UN Goals, Veterans.

Do you have a project your club developed that was successful? We encourage you to submit it! By sharing your ideas, you're helping other clubs discover successful programs they can adapt to meet the needs of their own communities. Together, we will build an even stronger network of service worldwide!

Please share information about your upcoming service projects with your community. Engaging members of the community in service with you may just inspire them to become Altrusans, continuing to serve alongside you! Need ideas? Check out the following:

<https://login.altrusa.org/files/2025/04/10-Ways-to-Advertise-Your-Service-Projects.pdf>

Need some financial support to bring your next project to life? Don't forget about the grants available through the Altrusa International Foundation. Foundation grants can help clubs launch new initiatives, expand existing programs, and reach even more people through service. If your club has an idea that needs funding to make it happen, we encourage you to explore the grant opportunities available through the Foundation. Check out the support available!

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

The combination of shared ideas and available funding gives every club the opportunity to dream bigger and serve innovatively. Visit the Altrusa International website to explore the Service Database, learn about Foundation grants, and discover new ways to strengthen your club's impact. After all, that's what Altrusa is all about—**Leading to a Better Community®**. By sharing our ideas, supporting one another, and investing in service, we enhance the impact we make as we seek to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

TRACKING DONATIONS TO DAYS FOR GIRLS

Vickie Kilgore, Altrusa International Service Committee

Altrusa International partnered with Days for Girls International in 2017. Since then, Days for Girls International has been tracking monetary donations received from Altrusans. Altrusa International began tracking non-monetary donations in 2023. Tracking allows Altrusa International to determine if this service project is still of interest to our membership.



There are four ways to donate to Days for Girls:

1. Fundraise and make monetary donations
2. Collect and donate items that are included in kits (panties, soap, washcloths, etc.)
3. Contact a local team or chapter to participate in making kits (sewing and non-sewing work available)
4. Start a Days for Girls team.

At our International Convention held in Quebec City, Canada, Vickie Kilgore, Altrusa International Service member challenged all Altrusans to make a donation of \$25 during this biennium. A \$25 donation equates to the cost of a Days for Girls kit. Your donation can be made by mailing a check made payable to Days for Girls International, P.O. Box 2622, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. In order to track back to Altrusa, annotate "Altrusa International" on the memo line of your check. You can even request your donation go to a specific Days for Girls team or chapter. Or you can donate online by going to daysforgirls.org and click on "GIVE" tab at the top of the screen. This will take you to a screen where you select a one-time or monthly donation. Choose or enter the amount you want to donate. You can even dedicate your donation in honor or in memory of someone. Then enter your personal data but don't forget to leave a comment. In order to track back to Altrusa, enter "Altrusa International" and you can also request your donation go to a specific team or chapter. Select your payment method and then click DONATE. Once done, watch the video that will Thank You for your donation. If you prefer, you can write a check to a specific Days for Girls team or chapter. Again, annotate "Altrusa International" on the memo line and request from the Days for Girls team or chapter a receipt. This will allow tracking of your donation as receipts from Days for Girls are issued by Days for Girls International.

Monetary donations made from January 2026 through June 2026 total \$8,635.84. Thank you for this support.

Donations other than money are tracked by Altrusa International. Login to altrusa.org as a member. User: Altrusan; Password: MamieBass1955 then click on Service. Scroll down to Days for Girls Donations. The survey will come up for you to enter, District, Club, tracking as individual or club, individual material donated: drawstring bags, carry pouch for washing/storage, absorbent liners, feminine pads, underwear, waterproof shields, washcloth, soap, fabric (by year), thread and ribbon. Thank you for your work.

Also, your service hours of "hands on service" are reported to your club and your club President reports those service hours in their annual report to Altrusa International. Thank you for your continued service.

TOGETHER WE CAN LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE PERIODS ARE NEVER A PROBLEM.

Debbie Mabry, Altrusa International ASTRA Committee Member





CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2026



HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Cody Frieser - \$2,000.00
District Three

Irene Ertman - \$2,000.00
District Seven

Mollene Hartwell — \$1,000.00
District Four

Martha Garcia — \$1,000.00
District Five

Jordyn Simo — \$1,000.00
District Ten

Tristan Rivest — \$1,000.00
District Three

COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

Vincent Johnsen — \$1,000.00
District Eleven

Gloria Kaur — \$1,000.00
District Fifteen

**ASTRA Scholarship Winners: Leading with Purpose,
Learning with Heart.**



District Fifteen

Governor Margaret's biennium theme 'Share the Journey' is about sharing the load within our clubs, working together as a team. It is about engaging more as a District, sharing our knowledge and having fun at IFF Days and Conferences. If we work together, we can share in each other's achievements.

The ultimate challenge at our 42nd Conference in Wellington 2026, under the banner of **Absolutely Positively Altrusa** was to create a table centre piece using food items which would later be donated to the Wellington City Mission. A fun activity and very competitive! Taieri Club were the winners on the day as were the Wellington City Mission who took away car full of food!



Congratulations to Altrusa International of Christchurch who celebrated **60 years** of service to their community!



Distraction Packs have become a popular project for our members throughout District Fifteen. The packs are full of items to "distract" children who find themselves in a traumatic situation. They are distributed to our first responder's, hospitals, refuges.



Book Giveaways at many locations, pass on hundreds of books to new families to be loved all over again! Books are included in newborn baby bags and given to schools to enhance learning.



Love Grace Handbag Appeal remembers Grace Milane, a young lady from the UK, who on her OE in our country, had her life tragically cut short. Grace loved handbags and with the blessing of her parents, every year New Zealanders come together between Valentine's Day and International Women's Day to collect new and preloved handbags, filling them basic toiletries which are then donated to Women's Refuges throughout NZ



Remembering through a humble biscuit – a plain biscuit baked by the women of New Zealand during World War 1 and sent to the troops as a sign of love from home, has become the symbol of ANZAC*Day. Today it remains a sign of the peace and freedom they fought for, many not returning to families. Two clubs in District Fifteen, brave the cold of autumn to hand out Anzac biscuits to those attending remembrance services. It is a way of connecting with our community

*Australian New Zealand Army Corps



We have enjoyed sharing a brief glimpse of how we are weaving threads through our local communities and sharing our Altrusa journey. To find out more from down under check out our website.

[Altrusa International District Fifteen – Leading to a better community](#)

With best wishes to all our Altrusa friends around the world

Altrusa at the United Nations (UN)

Kathy Schrein, Altrusa Representative to the United Nation's Department of Global Communications, Civil Society Unit/NGO

Why does Altrusa International want to increase UN visibility from current Roster (observer) status to the full participation General Consultant level?"

From New Zealand to Quebec City to Hamilton, Bermuda to India, Altrusa is an International service organization, seeped in a long historical partnership with the United Nations (1945-Present)

According to Faye Snodgress, an Indianapolis, Ind. Altrusan and Team UN member, "All members need to understand how our work aligns with the UN and how our involvement with the UN can open doors to growth in membership and in our global impact. " Our world is so interconnected now and our UN/Altrusa partnership is an example of service and peace to our communities-here and abroad.



Positive Talking Points- Altrusa is now at UN Roster level: Observers

NOW- Roster level activities:

1. Recognition as an NGO (Non- governmental Organization)
2. Access to General Assembly and other open sessions at UN-in person or via Zoom. We are OBSERVERS!
3. Support UN Mission statements and Sustainable Developmental Goals (2015-2030).
4. Secure Ground Passes to attend in-person UN specific -only OPEN sessions.
5. Recruiting tool for new members.
6. Partner with other NGOs.

FUTURE: General Consultant level activities:

1. Bring Altrusa to active partnership with another worldwide organization; Altrusa will be able to add to certain UN agendas, partner with other NGO's to hold sessions/workshops, make motions. Have ACTIVE PARTICIPATION
2. Increase visibility of Altrusa within a worldwide stage of service and peace
3. Access all allowed sessions (not the Security Council, unless invited)
4. Assist and support international policies, including our own in a more proactive role.
5. Actually collaborate with diplomats on global issues such as community service, human rights, literacy, and hunger/health.
6. Finally, General Consultant status provides Altrusa International with increased credibility, networking opportunities and a true platform to advance Altrusa's specific causes--and participate in international decision making within the sphere of the UN's Department of Global Communication.

Please access altrusa.org and use the dropdown "United Nations" to learn more about TEAM UN and our member information resources! Our contact information is also included-we welcome questions/ comments/ ideas for partnerships.

NOTE: Altrusa International staff/Board along with members of the Altrusa Team UN have begun the application process of attaining General Consultant status at the United Nations. Application deadline is June,2027 with decision June, 2028 or later. Members will be kept updated.

Mamie Moment

Romance Has Become Reality

"No ancient tale of history, no fable or fiction, ancient or modern, hold more of romance for me than the story of Altrusa. Always she has been to me a distinct personality, the composite of all of us who can appreciate her even a little, and love her very much, and she is a something beside the sum total of us. Always she has seemed to be leading us onward—not as if we created her but as if she existed apart from our efforts, and that she has added something to our lives.

It has been a rare experience to have been present at the very beginning and to have seen our dream, our far off vision, become real."

"The real Altrusa was created by our own members. Our aspirations, our hopes, our standards for Altrusa came from within our own organization, not from outside."

"Altrusa is truly a splendid vision. She shall continue to be an inspiration to women, a builder for good wherever she is known, so long as we feel her reality in our hearts, and so long as we follow her with sincerity, with unselfishness and wisdom. Fortunate are we who have had the joy of working for her."

Mamie Luella Bass

National Altrusan April 1930 page 14-15

**Don't forget to follow
our Altrusa International
social media pages!**

We post club service projects, updates from the International Office, club updates, and more to help grow our membership.



[@altrusa](#)



[@altrusainternational](#)



[@altrusaintl](#)



Your Generosity. Our Collective Impact.

Club 52: Renew Your Impact

Renew your annual Club 52 membership and help the Altrusa International Foundation continue funding grants that support international healthcare and educational initiatives, as well as camps for children with disabilities and serious illnesses. Membership is \$52 USD for individuals and \$252 USD for Clubs and Districts each fiscal year (June 1–May 31). Your renewal ensures these life-changing programs continue to create brighter futures for children, families, and communities worldwide.

Lamplighter: Leadership Through Giving

Whether you are renewing your commitment or becoming a Lamplighter for the first time, an annual gift of \$500 USD demonstrates leadership and a lasting investment in the International Foundation's mission. Your support helps sustain grants and programs that advance literacy, education, healthcare, disaster relief, and community service, ensuring the International Foundation's work for generations to come.



2027 VIP Donor Recognition Reception

Altrusans who contribute \$500 USD during each fiscal year of the 2025–2027 biennium will be invited to a special VIP Donor Recognition Reception at the 2027 Altrusa International Convention in Columbus, Ohio. This exclusive event celebrates the dedication and generosity of our Lamplighter-level donors whose consistent annual giving helps transform lives by supporting meaningful programs wherever the need is greatest.

Ways to Give

Supporting the International Foundation is easy. Choose the giving method that works best for you:

- **Donate Online:** <https://foundation.altrusa.org/donate/>
- **Zelle:** foundation@altrusa.org (include your name and, if applicable, "Club 52 Renewal" in the payment note)