



CONVENTION 2017 - CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE BY ALTRUSANS

This was my first Convention since I became an Altrusan in 2005. Having gone to District Conferences from the very beginning of my being an Altrusan, I thought I knew what to expect. A lot of Convention is much like District Conferences, in that there is business to be conducted, bylaws to be revised, and officers to be elected. What I did not anticipate was the overwhelming joy I experienced just being a part of this International organization. The opportunity to meet, interact, visit with, and get to know people from all over the world was the highlight of the Convention in my eyes.

Also, getting to hear about projects and listen to ideas on service from other clubs was uplifting. I got to hear first-hand about ideas of service that are changing the world for the better. To hear that even the smallest clubs are making a difference in their communities made me so proud to be part of the bigger picture of Altrusa.

I want to encourage each of you to take on a bigger role in serving our community in Richardson. By attending District Conferences and International Conventions, it will make you a better Altrusan in our community. The more you participate the more you will grow in service to others. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you at our 100th Birthday Celebration.

Sue McElveen, President, 2017-2018



Next Convention: July 16-20, 2019 in Reno Nevada at the Grand Sierra Hotel – Save the Date!

Thoughts from a Convention “First Timer”

By Christine Hart

Our 100th Altrusa International Convention was my very first Altrusa convention and I am very happy that I went. 125 people were there for the first time! With about 650 attendees, it was an exciting first convention. During our birthday party, all of the first time attendees got on the stage and sang a song written for the occasion to the tune of The Tennessee Waltz. It was a fun time.

Of course, meeting people from all over the world was wonderful and the Kindness Ninja pins that we handed out made it so easy to introduce myself to complete strangers. The pins gave me an easy opening subject as I enthusiastically shared this wonderful project with others. Everyone was very interested in our Kindness Ninja program and many asked me to send them more information. I plan to follow up and send information to people who gave their addresses. And the good continues.....



First Timer Banquet (l-r) Christine Hart, Pam Johnson, Sue McElveen



New ‘first timer’ friends from the Southwest Dallas County Club

Convention Summary

by Nancy Rohm

About 660 people from around the world came together beginning Friday, July 21, 2017, to conduct business, learn, hear from a variety of speakers, eat together, be awed, be overwhelmed, celebrate Altrusa's 100th birthday, share ideas, laughter and sometimes tears.

Seventeen Richardson Altrusans attended full- or part-time.

Each Convention opens with an impressive ceremony. The flag of each Altrusa Country is presented while that country's National Anthem is played.

The next morning, a representative from each Altrusa District and from each Club marched in with their club banner. With fourteen districts and one hundred ninety-five clubs represented, it was an overwhelming sight.

Delegates voted in the Elections using Survey Monkey on computers. District Nine's own, Kathy Folley, was elected International Vice-President.

We sat through some long Business Sessions, reaching consensus on thirteen proposed Bylaw Amendments. It was sometimes difficult to bring together people of diverse ages, club sizes, and home locales; but many positive changes were agreed upon.

The training sessions were worthwhile and the speakers had interesting topics. We learned about the history of Altrusa and the preservation of club records. We learned that the "L" in Mamie L. Bass stands for "Luella".

A real highlight was the installation ceremony on Monday evening, July 24th. Incoming President, Leanne Milligan's District Fifteen from New Zealand, was granted permission for and purchased for Leanne a Maori Cloak with feathers and various symbolic colors woven into it. We were told not many people are awarded this honor. The banquet room was made totally dark. The lights came on and we heard a Maori Chant. Leanne, wearing the cloak, was led in by club members and friends. They

made their way to the front of the room, and the Board was installed. It's hard to describe how impressive this experience was.

Plan to attend the next Altrusa International Convention in Reno, Nevada, July 16-20, 2019.



Opening Banquet

By Mimi Tanner

Following the International Reception honoring the International Officers and Past International Presidents, the Opening Banquet of the 55th Altrusa International Convention was held. Montgomery County Maryland's International President, Silvia D. Silverman presided. The Mistress of Ceremonies was International Director Kathy Folley of District Nine's Temple, Texas.

Immediate Past President Ilona Kerby narrated the presentation of all the flags of nations and organizations that have had Altrusa International. Imagine the excitement of hearing the anthems of all the countries and organizations! We truly are an international organization. Judy Stubbs of Roswell, New Mexico presented the Inspiration, which was followed by dinner.

Dignitaries from Nashville welcomed the Convention. They were: Lisa Boyd, Governor of District Four; Host Committee reps Lisa Boyd and Kelli Owens; the President of the Nashville Club Phillis Corritore; and Chamber of Commerce rep Ralph Schultz.

President Silverman presented the Distinguished Club Awards and we are proud to report that Altrusa Richardson was one of the recipients of this award! She then presented the International President's awards, after which the Banquet was recessed.



Altrusa Richardson attendees immediately following the A.M. Business Session on Saturday, July 22. Seated (l-r): Mimi Tanner, Marsha Peters, Sue McElveen, Julianne Lovelace, Cindy Murray, Mary Beth McLemore. Standing (l-r): Cindy McIntyre, Mary Osentowski, Bobbi Klein, Nancy Rohm, Sandy Martin, Jean Stuart, Pam Johnson and Kimberly Kierce. Not pictured: Laura Trainor-Collins and Christine Hart, who were, no doubt, busy passing out Kindness Ninja Pins!

District Nine Caucus

By Sue McElveen

After the Opening Banquet, District Nine Governor, Linda Moore, called a caucus to discuss the upcoming business meeting that will cover the bylaws changes that are being proposed by the International Board. Governor Linda and others made us aware of some of the bylaw changes and how they would impact District Nine as well as International implications. Also, there was some mention of the election, reminding District Nine delegates and alternates that Kathy Folley, from the Temple Club, was on the ballot for election to the position of Vice President on the International Board of Directors. We then adjourned for the day!



Altrusa Richardson Delegates



Pictured (l-r): Kimberly Kierce, Pam Johnson, Nancy Rohm, Cindy Murray, Mary Osentowski. Standing is Club President Sue McElveen.



Keynote Speaker Sheryl WuDunn: "A Path Appears"

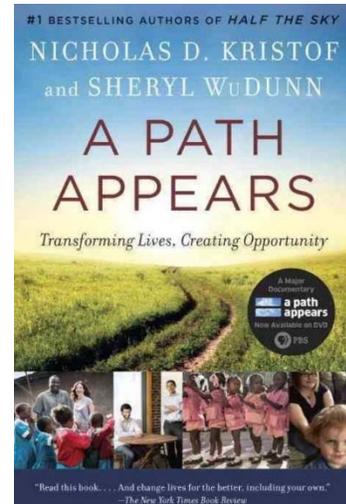
By Mary Osentowski

Poverty in the United States often has the face of a woman, according to Sheryl WuDunn author of *A Path Appears; Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*. WuDunn, keynote speaker at Altrusa's International Convention in Nashville, identified two keys to helping those in poverty: focus on outcomes and early intervention.

WuDunn provided examples throughout the world of how assisting women addresses poverty. Micro-lending and micro-savings plans helped women in rural Kenya market products. The Beads for Life program in Uganda helped impoverished women earn funds that could be used to

access health-related products. Providing economic support for women with childcare in Korea made it possible for women to work. Rwanda invested in clean water so women did not spend hours walking to get clean water for their families. Water filters have also been designed and used in India. According to WuDunn, the perfect product is cheap, clean water. Deworming efforts in African countries help children stay in school and cost only \$3.50 per year.

WuDunn and her husband Nicholas Kristof, Pulitzer Prize winners, researched how acts of kindness worldwide have made a difference in the lives of many. They identified in *A Path Appears* also how these altruistic acts can have a positive impact on our brain and physical health.



Credentials Report

By Cindy Murray

Below is the Final Credential Report for the Convention as of Monday, July 24th:

Credentials:

International Board of Directors: 9 of possible 9

Past International Presidents: 6 of possible 12

Governors: 14 of possible 14

Past Governors: 78 of possible 138

Delegates: 284 of possible 551

Alternates: 114 of possible 551

Total number of Voting Members: 391

Registrations:

Total Registrations: 659

Total Clubs Represented: 196

Total Districts Represented: 14

Grand Ole Opry Fun!

By Sandy Martin

In addition to meeting other Altrusans from all over the world and attending informative workshops covering a myriad of topics, 650 Altrusans and their guests were treated to a performance at the Grand Ole Opry. The show consisted of four sets of three artists per set...and it was FANTASTIC! In set one, hosted by Jeannie Seely (“Don’t Touch Me”) who introduced both Mark Wills and Bobby Osborne & The Rocky Top X-Press (“Rocky Top”). Set two was hosted by the very funny Mike Snider who incorporated Sylvia (“Nobody”) and Charlie Worsham in the set. In set three, hosted by multi-award winner Connie Smith (“Once A Day”), the house was ‘brought down’ by LoCash singing “I Love This Life” and the Opry Square Dancers performance. Finally, Ricky Skaggs treated us with his bluegrass mandolin, guitar playing and singing before he introduced The Whites (“Keep on the Sunny Side”/O Brother Where Art Thou) and Exile (“Kiss You All Over”). What a great and fun memory to share with fellow Altrusans!

Election of International Board of Directors, Nominating Committee Members and the International Foundation Board of Trustees.

By Sue McElveen

As this was the end of a biennium for the outgoing International Board of Directors, it was time for the election for the next biennium. The following officers were elected:

International Board of Directors:

President Elect: Beverly Hardy, District Three

Vice President: **Kathy Folley, District Nine**

Treasurer: Judy Stubbs, District Ten

International Director: Christine DeVlieger, District Six

International Director: Denice Gilb, District Eleven

International Director: Kathy Jackson, District Five

International Director: Linda Smith, District Eight

There was a runoff election of candidates for the **International Nominating Committee**. There were six nominees for five positions.

The Candidates were:

Lisa Boyd, elected, District Four

Anne DeFrancisco, elected, District Four

Donna Johnson, elected, District Three

Olga Ramos-Perez, elected, District Fourteen

Cynda Wright, elected, District Eight

Connie L. McIntire, not elected, District Ten

Also, a runoff election was held for International Foundation Candidates Board of Trustees. There were six candidates for three positions. Two of the candidates withdrew their names from nomination, and that left four candidates for three positions.

The Candidates were:

Sherral Nelson, elected, District Two

Susan Carpenter, elected, District Eight

Linda Robison, elected, District Three

Cheryl Borchardt, not elected, District Ten

Elaine Wolf, District Six, and Mary Lokken, District Seven withdrew their names before elections were held.

This was the first International election that was done by computer voting. It was a piece of cake and took far less time than using paper ballots.



(back row l-r) Mary Beth McLemore, Christine and Peter Hart



(l-r) Mimi Tanner, Cindy Murray, Bill and Sandy Martin, and Kimberly Kierce

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

2017 Convention Awards Luncheon

By Kimberly Kierce

And Winners Are.....Congratulations to the following winners of the 2017 Altrusa International Awards

MAMIE L. BASS SERVICE AWARD (2015-2017)

First Place (Tie)

- Altrusa International of Te Awamutu, NZ: **Twelve Days of Service** (2016)
- Altrusa International of Muncie, IN: **Snack Attack** (2017)

First Honorable Mention

- Altrusa International of Branch County, MI: **Altrusa Teen S.H.A.R.E.** (2017)

Second Honorable Mention (Tie)

- Altrusa International of Fargo, ND: **Eat, Meet and Serve** (2017)
- Altrusa International of Longview Kelso, WA: **Centennial Service Challenge** (2017)

LETHA H. BROWN LITERACY AWARD (2015-2017)

First Place

- Altrusa International of Pendleton, OR: **Literacy Rocks!** (2016)

First Honorable Mention

- Altrusa International of Lexington, KY: **Literacy and Learning at Harrison** (2016)

Second Honorable Mention (Tie)

- Altrusa International of Eastern Sierra, CA: **Don't DUMP the Books** (2017)
- Altrusa International of Oamaru, NZ: **WORDS WORK** (2017)

DR. NINA FAY CALHOUN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AWARD (2015-2017)

First Place

- Altrusa International of Olympia, WA: **Days for Girls** (2017)

First Honorable Mention

- Altrusa International of Tidewater, VA: **Dresses for Children in Need** (2016)

Second Honorable Mention

- Altrusa International of Taieri, NZ: **Nepal** (2016)

2015-2016 Club Net Gain Awards

First Place:

Altrusa International of Temple, TX (24 new members)

Second Place:

Altrusa International of Downtown Dallas, TX (16)

Third Place: Altrusa International of Houston, TX (14)

2016-2017 Club Net Gain Awards

First Place:

Altrusa International of San Juan, Puerto Rico (18 new members)

Second Place:

Altrusa International of Central, TX and Altrusa International of Lakeway City, FL (12)

Third Place: Altrusa International of Muncie, IN (11)

100th Birthday Party – Dancing through the Decades!



On Sunday evening during Convention in Nashville, we were invited to a birthday party celebrating 100 years of service with Altrusa. What began in Nashville in 1917 as a handful of business women gathering to give back to their community, has grown in 100 years to a powerful International service organization.

The theme was “Dancing Through the Decades” and we were encouraged to pick a decade to represent. Some of the clubs went to great lengths to mimic the early 1900’s with elaborate costumes, including period shoes and hats. They were beautiful and made us stop and think about how far we have come today in our “business attire” as well as our fancy “dress up” clothes for a special occasion.



Another club came dressed as the marchers in the Women’s Suffragettes movement when they marched for equal rights back in the early 1900’s. The costumes took me back to the old newsreels showing women in the streets of New York, wearing the white dresses, shoes and hats, carrying signs demanding the right to vote. It reminded me how long women have

been fighting for equal rights, equal pay, and the right to choose our own healthcare benefits without paying more than men. The battle has not been won, so keep fighting! And, not to be forgotten, the Downtown Dallas Club were fabulous in their flapper costumes.



Chula Vista, CA club rocking to the 50's 1

Then, there were clubs dressed like the Rosy Riveter women of the 1940's, who paved the way for more women in the workforce. Some of the clubs chose the poodle skirts of the 1950's and there were rock and rollers of the 1960's. Altrusa

Richardson chose to represent the late 1970's and early 1980's as Urban Cowboys, wearing our red shirts, Kindness Ninja t-shirts, jeans, and black cowboy hats. We rocked the night away laughing, talking, handing out more Ninja pins, and basically having a ball celebrating with our other Altrusa sisters from all around the globe.

Lisa Boyd, Governor, District Four, honored our Founding Clubs. Silvia Silverman, International President, Honored our Past International Presidents. Mary Lokken, Governor Elect, District Seven, and Linda Peterson, Lake Washington East, Washington, held a Live Auction, auctioning off some very special items donated by past presidents, families of some of our members, and special memorabilia to raise money for our International Foundation.

There was also recognition of the 100 for 100 project achievers, our 50-year plus members, and the cutting of the birthday cake! The evening ended by dancing to music from all decades. A great time was had by all that attended.



birthday festivities.

(pictured l-r) Pam Johnson, Kimberly Kierce and Bobbi Klein enjoying

Cindy McIntyre, Mary Beth McLemore enjoying the birthday celebration!



Cowgirl Kindness Ninjas Kimberly Kierce, Christine Hart, and Sue McElveen

Roommates Jean Stuart and Cindy Murray enjoying the birthday dinner.



The History of Kindness Ninjas!

By Laura Trainor-Collins



As a part of the 2014 Choose Kind Library program, the parents group at Lake Highlands Elementary was instrumental in having Brian Williams, founder of the Think Kindness organization in Reno, NV, come to Richardson and give assemblies on his acts of kindness program in eight RISD Elementary schools. Brian came and talked to our club on January 22, 2015, while he was in town for these assemblies and our club was so taken with his organization that we have stayed in contact with him ever since. Think Kindness was founded to create a quantifiable way of documenting acts of kindness, to show how acts of kindness can be habit forming, and how a simple act of kindness can change a person's life. The organization uses a Kindness Ninja as its logo and we have obtained permission from Brian to use it as well.

Cindy McIntyre was president at the time and she heard great things about Brian. She was searching for an inclusive project and loved the idea of Kindness Ninjas and moved forward with the Kindness Action Ninjas program for the club.

Richardson Altrusans did a trial run at the District Nine Conference in San Antonio with great success. Members wore their Kindness Ninja t-shirts and presented attendees with a card saying, "You've been touched by a Kindness Ninja, please pay it forward!" On the back of the card was information about our club and our kindness project. By weekend's close, the entire conference was buzzing about it. The International President, Ilona Kirby, was so touched she proclaimed at the closing ceremony on Sunday that ALL Altrusans should be Kindness Ninjas.

In April, for the past two years, we have had the KAN (Kindness Action Ninjas) weekend and some of our focus has been on local first responders, Hope's Door, New Beginning Center, and nursing facilities.

The Choose Kind Libraries caught the attention of Altrusan Bobbi Klein who was project lead for a UN World Day of Social Justice project. Our International Relations Committee started the first Altrusa Choose Kind Library in the fall of 2015 at Terrace Elementary. The same year, we received a grant which allowed us to open a Choose Kind Library at four more elementary schools,

with several more in the planning stages through a second grant we received in 2016. We were also able to open a Choose Kind Library in 2015 in St Michel, Haiti and, in 2016, one in Santa Avelina, Guatemala.

This year at the International Convention, we wore bigger "Kindness Ninja" pins to identify us as Altrusa Richardson Kindness Ninjas. We gave out mini ninja pins and asked each person to perform a random act of kindness - and we created quite a buzz!

Sandy Martin and I purchased the pins for our club. Be sure to thank Sandy when you see her. We have large pins for every member, so please pick one up before the meetings. We are planning on passing out more of the mini pins at the OWT luncheon, so please wear your Ninja pin for OWT. Special thanks to Cindy McIntyre and Jane Tucker for providing the Ninja history. Stay tuned for more Kindness Ninja projects in the future.

EXCELLENT WORKSHOPS!

Reaching Out: Stretch Into Social Media

By Kimberly Kierce

Social Media is a sign of the times and the best way to build Altrusa clubs in the future. It is the language we must speak to attract new members of the younger generation. It is how their world functions and we need how to speak their language. But, members need to know the best way to navigate the quagmire of social media options with a little... Social Media 101.



Facebook is an online social media and social networking service, which derives its name from the face book directories often given to United States university students. Today, it can be accessed from a variety of devices making it very accessible to connect with others around the world. All members that have a Facebook (FB) page should connect with the club's FB page (Altrusa Richardson) as well as other FB pages like District (Altrusa District Nine) and International (Altrusa International). Remember to "Like" posts, but more importantly, "Share" posts so your friends can see other Altrusa posts. This is how we spread the word of Altrusa with others in our network.



Do you # **Hashtag**? You should! But if you are like me, do even know what that is...? I don't. But after attending this workshop at Convention, now I know! Hash tagging started as a

Twitter thing, but now it is common in FB - and is a great tool - if you know how to do it. Hashtagging means a word or phrase with a “#” prefix (i.e #Altrusa Richardson). I didn’t quite get its purpose at first but once I “got it”, I discovered it’s not all that complicated. Hashtags are simply a way to categorize post/tweet topics using a common catch-phrase making it easier to search for other posts/tweets about the same topic. Hashtags are not case-sensitive and contain no spaces.

When posting on FB about a club event or activity, remember to include in the post **#AltrusaRichardson**. Then, if you search FB for #altrusarichardson (remember it is not case-sensitive), all posts that contain this hashtag will appear at one time without searching through endless posts by various friends and topics for just Altrusa Richardson related posts.

Now on to **Tagging**... And no we are not talking about prepping for a garage sale. Tagging identifies someone in a post, photo, or status update you share in FB. A tag may also notify that person that you mentioned them or referred to them in a post or photo and provides a link back to their profile. You can tag someone in a photo that you share to identify them in the photo, as long as they also have a FB page. Be cautious about tagging people in your photos and posts. A good practice may be to have members self-tag for privacy reasons. Get approval from others mentioned in your posts or included in your photos before tagging.

Navigating the Social Media world can be uncertain for some people so be sure you have protected yourself online. (1) Verify your Privacy settings and review who can see your posts, who can contact you, and who can look you up. (2) Confirm Timeline and Tagging settings by checking who can add things to your timeline, who can see things on your timeline, and how you can manage tags people add to you.



Project Reach Out and Create More Good and... Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

By Nancy Rohm

The workshop, “Project Reach Out and Create More Good” was in response to new International President Leanne’s desire for a new International Project for this biennium. The three ideas below were presented for our consideration. During the remainder of the convention there were four voting boxes out. We were encouraged

to vote for one of these three ideas, or for a different idea.

1. Shelterbox – This is currently a Rotary project. Kits are made and boxes filled with items that might be needed and are sent to homeless persons around the world. Some boxes are for adults and others are for children. The people may become homeless because of economics, mental illness, war, or weather-related tragedies. Altrusa could have our logo on the boxes, but the Rotary logo would continue to stay on the boxes. This would be strictly a donation project where we would give funds. To ship items ourselves would be prohibitively expensive. (Shelterbox works with a \$5.2 million budget with \$43,000 to the director.)
2. Sole Hope – This is a project in Uganda; it is not global. No particular organization is helping with this. They need financial and hands-on donations for making parts for shoes and shipping them there for sewing. The big issue is sand fleas that attack the feet of children and adults and make it impossible to walk until they are disinfected and fitted with shoes. (Sole Hope has a \$709,000 budget with \$85,000 to the director.)
3. Dayforgirls – This is a world-wide project. They estimate girls miss two months of school yearly because they do not have sanitary products, so they can’t attend school. They need sustainable sanitary products. The type of sanitary products used in the U.S. can’t be used in developing countries due to disposal issues, etc. Money may be donated and/or clubs may make homemade kits and donate them. (Dayforgirls has a \$3.5 million dollar budget with \$48,000 to the director.)

I am reporting on a Convention Speaker Presentation in this same article because some attendees voted for this idea for a new International Project instead of one of the three options listed above. The speaker was Angela K. Harris, Director of International Programs for The Dollywood Foundation. She told us about a program Dolly Parton started under her foundation. Knowing that 90% of a child’s brain develops before age five, children age 0-5 years are signed-up to receive a book by mail every month. The child’s name is on this book. The Dollywood Foundation pays to receive, store, label, and mail the books. The cost of one book is \$2.10. Age appropriate books are selected annually by a committee of early childhood professionals. The opportunity here would be to locate and work with the parents to enroll

children of those ages, and pay for the cost of the books for the children enrolled. The money would come from a club's budget or be raised in the community. It is my opinion/suggestion there might also be opportunities to work with parents of these children, encouraging them to read the books aloud to the child, to hold the child when they read, and to talk with the child about the book.



#LetsTalkAbout

By Jean Stuart

Presenters: Jenette Borrell, Timaru, New Zealand
Chris DeVlieger, DeKalb, Sycamore, Illinois

As the title suggests, this was a session on bringing club members to agreement. The presenters divided the attendees into groups by issuing a different colored crayon to each attendee. All those with the same color crayon sat together to discuss and solve problems. Different situations were assigned each group, but each was tasked with whether to (a) start a new project or (b) stop, change or continue an existing project. The project our group was assigned was training days/workshops. Another was whether club visits by the Governors were a good thing and to be changed/continued.

The presenters provided a form with three columns to help us determine what we should do differently:

Start: What we wish we had done

Stop: What we wish we had NOT Done.

Continue: What worked well that we should do again.

One of the groups was from New Mexico, where they are mostly hundreds of miles from each other. They have very little interaction between clubs and would like to collaborate. We devised a get together between this club and the closest, whereby the officers could meet and work together improve their processes.



Altrusa Responds to Changing America / World

By Pam Johnson, Delegate

As Altrusa International celebrated 100 years of service, many of the workshops focused on our future growth and survival as a service organization. As a delegate, I attended two workshops, which appeared on the surface to be on distinctly different topics. In actuality, both addressed how each club must embrace changes that are occurring all around us, and respond accordingly if

we are to remain a strong and vibrant service club in our worldwide community.

The “Versatility and Flexibility: Putting the Altrusa Club in the Forefront”

workshop defined versatility as the ability to adapt or be adapted to many different functions or activities. It started with a focus on flexibility, suggesting ways for clubs to provide members with better options that would enable them to be active while still balancing the demands of family, work, and other personal commitments. Then, the remainder of the session concentrated on the benefits of Virtual Clubs and Virtual Members.



According to the presenters, in the past 30 years, membership in all of the widely recognized service clubs has declined. The conclusion was that formation of virtual clubs or members directly reflects our brand drivers “Clarity, Flexibility and Inclusion” by appealing to different age groups and lifestyles. Our world has become digital. This change not only attracts our next generation of leaders but allows traditional clubs to retain active members that are no longer able to attend meetings, due to retirement or other personal circumstances.



The workshop “Reaching Out for Our Future Through ASTRA”

made it seem feasible that an ASTRA could be started in any community. The

workshop leaders, and other participants whom have successfully organized and supported ASTRA in their communities, provided a wealth of handouts, information, and suggestions. Rather than just looking at high schools and middle schools as a source for members, clubs were encouraged to consider vocational schools, home school programs, community colleges, and forming community clubs with no one specific school affiliated with the members.

One club formed a community ASTRA club that meets at the Boys and Girls Club and, although it is not a “school” club, promotes it as an opportunity for students to add to resumes their membership and participation in a non-profit, international service organization.

The quote found on a handout summed it all up. **“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”** – Socrates

Foundation Workshop: Grants

By Sue McElveen



The workshop on Grants from International was very informative. The workshop leaders discussed ways that individual clubs can apply for an International Grant, and there are several ways our club can apply. One is for a Club 21 grant that would benefit domestic camps based in the U.S., i.e. Camp Sunshine, Aurora; OH, Cavett Kids, OK; Camp Dream Catcher, Kennett Square, PA; or Camp Dream Catcher, Temple, TX. There are also grants available for two International Projects, the Ghana Health & Education Initiative or Youth Futures International.

Other grants offered are based on literacy improvement projects and the awards are anywhere from \$250 - \$2,000. Applications can be made once a year and once a club is given a grant for a particular project, the club cannot apply for a second grant for that project. If you are denied a grant, you may reapply for the same project during the next grant application period.

Please consider writing a grant application for one of the projects that your committee is working on for this year. This can be done online using the Altrusa International website. Let me know if you are considering this and I can give you detailed information on applying.



Planning to Disagree Workshop

By Cindy Murray

Thought for the Day: "Honest disagreement is often a good sign of progress"

Workshop Objectives:

- Leaders need to have awareness of the value of diversity – We are not all the same so we may not always agree
- Leaders need to provide a safe environment for interpersonal differences
- Leaders need to maximize their Club's true potential
- Leaders need to manage disagreement constructively

We are not all the same: Free personality test -

<https://www.16personalities.com/free-personality-test>

Let's talk about meetings:

- #1 Problem: Losing focus
 1. Discussion off agenda item or point of meeting
 2. Excessive disagreements
 3. Lack of participation by some, domination by others
 4. Bickering, disrespectful behavior
 5. No conclusions or decisions
 6. Side conversations or members taking phone calls
- Regaining focus
 1. Remind purpose of meeting / agenda item
 2. Clarify question on table – summarize discussion
 3. Recognize contributions
 4. Control disruptive behavior
 5. Use parliamentary rules to assist (great tool to control dissent)
 6. Table items if no decision can be made
- It is okay to say "nay". How can we enable people to have their say?
 1. Validate the person who is disagreeing
 2. You are part of the collaborative process
 3. Disagree if needed, but don't be disagreeable
 4. Your ideas are important but share during the meeting, not afterwards
 5. You don't have to agree, but accept the difference

Key Points:

- Promote respect and divergent views
- Have constructive disagreements
- Find the common ground
- There is no right or wrong viewpoint
- Reinforce areas of agreement
- Be prepared to compromise – agree on aspects
- Acceptance vs Agreement is important



Diversity and Changing the Club Culture

By Sue McElveen

This was probably the most interesting part of the convention for me. What I learned about changing club culture was very informative and enlightening. As an organization, Altrusa in the last ten years has declined in membership from almost 10,000 members to less than 7,900. Many of these losses have been because of our aging population, but also because we are not attracting younger members as well as not creating diversity in our memberships.

Diversity can mean many things but the simple definition is variety. We need to raise awareness within the club to the diversity in our community. As a club we need to better represent the demographics of the community.

Maya Angelou said, "In diversity there is beauty and there is strength."

The workshop provided a diversity assessment tool our club can use to see where we can improve our diversity within Altrusa Richardson. I will be sharing this with the Membership Recruitment and Membership Retention Committees so they may begin to help us with our quest to build membership by **welcoming diversity!**



Barbara Arissa and her husband rockin the 60's (and rocking our Kindness Ninja pin!)



Cindy Murray and Kimberly Kierce with Minnie Pearl and Roy Acuff at the Ryman Auditorium



Julianne Lovelace, Marsha Peters, Cindy Murray and Bobbi Klein at the Grand Ole Opry



Group Lunch at Country Music Hall of Fame (l-r): Pam Johnson, Cindy Murray, Jean Stuart, Kimberly Kierce, Nancy Rohm, and Mary Beth McLemore.



"Put that camera down...I'm trying to take a picture!" Sue McElveen



(pictured l-r) Cindy Murray, Cindy McIntyre and Jean Stuart ready for the Installation Banquet.



Mary Beth McLemore with Mary, her Indianapolis friend, who was honored for 54 years as an Altrusan

Installation Banquet night of glamour (Pictured below: l-r) Bobbi Klein, Jean Stuart, Cindy Murray, Cindy McIntyre, Sue McElveen, Nancy Rohm, Pam Johnson, Mary Beth McLemore, and Kimberly Kierce.



**ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL, INC. BYLAWS, RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
AMENDMENTS PASSED AT 55TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 2017 - NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

Item 17.01 Change to amend International Bylaw Article XI, Officers and Directors, Section 1. Elected Officers and Directors, Subsection (I) to allow two members of the International Board of Directors to be from the same District during any term, without specificity of office.

After multiple amendments to the motion, the motion passed. Article XI, Section 1, Subsection (I) will now read: No more than two members of the Board of Directors shall be from the same District during any term. Only one District at a time may have two (2) members on the Board of Directors at the same time and those members may not be from the same Club. No District may have two (2) members on the Board of Directors in two (2) consecutive bienniums.

Item 17.02 Change to amend International Bylaw Article IX. Officers and Directors, Section 2. Election of Officers and Directors to allow the presiding officer to declare a candidate elected by unanimous consent if there is only one candidate for an office and there is no objection by the delegates. Such amendment will impact District Bylaws, Article XI, Section 2. Elections and Club Bylaws, Article XII, Section 1. Elections.

After much discussion from the voting Delegates to assure that this did not stop Delegates from making nominations from the floor, the proposed Bylaw change passed. Article XI, Section 2 now has a Subsection (c) which reads: "In the event there is only one candidate for a position, The Presiding Officer may declare that candidate elected, if there is no objection by the delegates, by unanimous consent." The coinciding Bylaws pertaining to District and Club elections are similarly changed.

Item 17.03 Change to amend International Bylaw Article IV, Members, Section 3. Emeritus Members to remove the requirement for a member to be "Active" when granted Emeritus status, but that the Member be one in good standing within the current or previous club year.

This amendment impacts Policy 18 regarding Emeritus status and Club Bylaw Article IV, Section 3. This amendment passed and accordingly, Bylaw Article IV, Members, Section 3, Emeritus Members has a new Subsection (i) inserted to read: "They have been members in good standing within the current or the previous Club year;" and the previous listed Subsections are renumbered to Subsections (ii through iv).

Item 17.04 Change to Amend International Bylaw Article IV, Members, Section 9, Charter Strength to reduce charter strength of a Club from twenty (20) to fifteen (15) Active Members. Reducing the number allows new clubs to reach charter strength at an earlier time. This amendment affects International Article V. Delegates to Convention, Section 1, Number of Delegates Authorized as well as Policy 20 to reduce the number of prospective members needed from fourteen (14) to five (5). Such reduction will encourage and enable the development of new clubs.

After much heated debate, the motion passed by a slim margin. International Bylaw Article IV. Members, Section 9. Charter Strength now reads "Charter strength is fifteen (15) Active members." Article V. Delegates to Convention, Section 1. Number of Delegates Authorized now reads: "Each Club in

good standing in International that has a total of Active members of fifteen (15) or less for who dues have been paid to International, shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate. For each additional fifteen (15) members or portion thereof, a Club shall be entitled to one (1) additional delegate and alternate up to a maximum of five (5) delegates and five (5) alternates.” District Bylaw Article V. Delegates to Conference, Section 1. Number of Delegates Authorized now reads: “Each Club in good standing in International that has a total of Active members of fifteen (15) or less for who dues have been paid to International, and to the District where applicable, shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate. For each additional fifteen (15) members or portion thereof, a Club shall be entitled to one (1) additional delegate and alternate up to a maximum of five (5) delegates and five (5) alternates.”

Item 17.05 Amendment of International Bylaw Article X. Committees, Section 1. Standing Committees and Section 3. Composition. This change will result in the Chair of the Bylaws, Resolutions, and Recommendations Committee and the committee’s members are appointed in the same manner as other standing committees. This change will also affect Policy 7. Bylaws, Resolutions and Recommendations (BRR).

This amendment passed, therefore International Bylaw Article X. Committees, Section 1 (d) Standing Committees now reads: “Appointment of all committee chairs, other than for the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee and Finance Committee, are made by the President and approved by the International Board of Directors. Appointments of the members of those committees, except the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee and Finance Committee, shall be made by the President in consultation with the applicable Committee chairs. Chairs and/or members of those committees may be removed from office in accordance with the provisions of Article XIII, Section. 1.” Additionally, International Bylaw Article X. Committees, Section 3. Composition, Subsection (a) is removed and the remaining subsections are renumbered.

Item 17.06 to amend International Bylaw Article X. Committees, Section 3. Composition, Subsection (c) (iv) to delete the requirement that the Nominating Committee prepare a slate of two (2) candidates for each office.

After much discussion and several amendments, this motion passed. For several bienniums, the Nominating Committee has been unable to come up with a slate with two candidates for each office. This year’s committee was only able to produce a slate with one candidate for each office. International Bylaw Article X. Committees, Section 3. Composition. Subsection (c) (iv) now reads: “It is recommended that the Nominating Committee prepare a slate of candidates for each office.” Due to the passing of Item 17.05 above, this amendment is actually now Article X., Section 3., Subsection (b) (iv).

Item 17.07 Change to amend International Bylaw Article XVIII. Dues and Fees, Section 1. Dues to permit the Board of Directors to lower the amount of dues as part of a membership incentive program.

This amendment passed, therefore International Bylaws Article XVIII. Dues and Fees, Section 1. Dues, Subsection (a) now reads: “Each Active member of a Club and each Affiliate member must pay to International annual dues as established by the International Board of Directors and approved by delegates at International Convention, unless the dues amount were to be lowered by approval of the International Board of Directors as part of a membership incentive program.”

Item 17.08 Amend District Bylaws to provide a uniform “Name” whether districts are incorporated or not.

This amendment passed, therefore District Bylaws Article I. Name and Territorial Limits, Section 1. Name now reads: “The name of this District of Altrusa International, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “International”) shall be Altrusa International District _____, with the accurate indicia of corporate status, if any, and shall be so designated wherever its name is used. (Use words, not figures, for District Name.)”

Item 17.09 Amend District Bylaws to allow Districts more time to determine and notify Clubs of the number of paid memberships, and thus, the number of delegates/alternates for a Club at District Conference.

This amendment passed, therefore District Bylaws Article V. Delegates to Conference, Section 2. Basis for Determination shall be changed to read: “The District Treasurer shall confirm its record of paid memberships of each Club in its District with International’s record of paid memberships of each Club. The District Treasurer or its designee shall then notify each Club of the number of delegates and alternates to which it is entitled at least sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled date of the District Conference.

Item 17.10 Amend Club Bylaws to recognize and include a definition of Virtual Clubs. International wishes to authorize the formation of Virtual Clubs and set forth certain appropriate operational requirements.

This amendment passed. Therefore, Article 1. Name, Section 2. Virtual Clubs was added to the Club Bylaws as follows: “(a) A Virtual Club refers to a group of individuals who work together from different locations and interact using technology or other methods of electronic communication and are committed to the principals and purposes of Altrusa. By its very nature, members of a Virtual Club communicate electronically through regularly scheduled meetings and may never have face to face communication. (b) For purposes of these bylaws for Virtual Clubs, the words “written or writing” “notice,” “mail or mailed,” “meet or meetings,” “hearing,” “minutes,” “record or file,” “report or book,” shall include actions taken by electronic means.”

Item 17.11 Amend Club Bylaws to provide requirement that election of Officers and Directors can be completed anonymously.

This motion passed, therefore Section 1 (b) shall be added to Article XIII. Election of Officers and Directors, Section 1. Election. Section 1 (b) shall read: “The Board of Directors of a Virtual Club shall develop a process whereby the election of Officers and Directors can be completed anonymously by its members.

Item 17.12 Amend Club Bylaws to clarify that International does not prescribe the procedures for invitation of individuals to become members of Altrusa. Altrusa attempted to so revise the Club Bylaws at the 2015 Convention but the revision was not properly presented. Thus, the following change will recognize that clubs determine the procedures for invitation of new members.

This amendment passed, therefore Article V. Invitation of Members was changed to read: "Membership shall be extended by invitation from the Club."

Item 17.13 Amendment to International Bylaws Article XIX. Altrusa Clubs and Districts, Section 1. Organization of New Clubs and Districts to remove the Clubs at Large Committee and bring it under the International Membership Development Committee, given the small number of Clubs at Large.

This amendment passed, therefore Article XIX. Altrusa Clubs and Districts, Section 1. Organization of New Clubs and Districts shall now read: "Clubs and Districts shall be organized and the boundaries thereof established or changed as authorized by the International Board of Directors. The International Board of Directors must approve the creation of the District or the change in its boundaries by two-thirds (2/3) vote. A notice of a proposed change in boundaries must be sent to every Club within the District at least ninety (90) days before the effective date of any change. Clubs outside the geographic boundaries of the approved Districts will be designated Clubs-At-Large and assigned to the Chair of the International Membership Development Committee as the liaison between the Club and the International Board of Directors. They shall be organized within the Altrusa International organization."



Save The Date!
56th Altrusa International Convention
Reno, Nevada
July 16-20, 2019

