

# THE ALTRUSA COMPASS



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 19, 2016

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Altrusa Membership is one of my passions. Eleanore Pettersen, Past Governor of District Two, (and mentor) was a champion of membership growth; to every District Conference she would carry a box which she labeled a Membership Bank along with slips of paper for members on which to write the names of friends and relatives who might be interested in Altrusa. The box had an opening at the top in which we could put the slips of paper with the names and contact information of prospective members, she would then go through the names in the box and send them to the President of the Club closest to the prospective member's home; this practice not only helped grow our District, but also helped grow all of Altrusa, and better yet, it got members thinking about their friends, family members and co-workers who might become great Altrusans. I do not think we need membership growth for the sake of increasing our numbers, but because in larger numbers we are able to make a bigger impact in our communities, reach a growing number of people in need.

We are striving to grow ALL our Districts by growing our Clubs through new members and retention, and Building New Clubs, remember that the more communities that have an Altrusa Club, the more dedicated, civic minded people will want to become Altrusans. So, if you know of a location that is just screaming to have an Altrusa Club, please contact your District Governor and New Club Building Committee Chair to let them know about it; Remember our Vision Statement: "Altrusa is a leader among international organizations, improving communities worldwide through a network of member clubs." As we grow we WILL be the organization everyone wants to join. Let's grow Altrusa together!

The International Office has undergone some changes in personnel during the last few months. We wish all the best to our long time employees Bill Howard and Adriana Mena who have moved on to other endeavors. Joining our Office Team of Sandy, Tanika and Rachel is Lisa Sevier. With a background in accounting and office management, Lisa will surely bring a lot of talent to the Office.

In Altrusa Service,

Silvia D. Silverman, President  
Altrusa International, Inc.



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Tanto las versiones en español e inglés de este boletín se pueden encontrar en línea en [http://members.altrusa.org/Publications/Altrusa\\_Compass.aspx](http://members.altrusa.org/Publications/Altrusa_Compass.aspx)

## ***DISTRICT CONFERENCE AND BECOMING AN ALTRUSAN***

*A message from Deborah Hecht, International Membership Development Committee Chair*

It's spring, and with the warmer weather and blooming of flowers comes Altrusa Conference Season. As an organization, each of our Districts get together once a year for a weekend of fun, learning, fellowship, inspiration, and celebration. For those of us who attend conference regularly, we know conference is where we cement our relationship with Altrusa and re-energize our Altrusa batteries.

If you haven't been to a District Conference yet, or in a while, here's what you're missing. Conference is a wonderful opportunity to mix and mingle with other like minded people. We have all decided to be part of a service organization, so we of course have a lot in common. We can use this time together to learn and open our hearts and minds to different ways of doing things. We have the opportunity to see what other clubs have been able to do successfully and perhaps replicate some of their results in our own communities. At Conference we also have the opportunity to see many Past Governors all in one room. These individuals hold a wealth of Altrusa knowledge and are often anxious to share their stories.

District Conference also offers more formal learning opportunities and workshops. If you are taking on a new role as a committee chair or a board position there are experts at Conference ready to teach you how to do your job in the most effective way.

Personally, my favorite is the award luncheon. I love hearing about the successful projects other clubs have done to make the world a better place. I am always inspired by everyone's work and motivated to go back to my club and make things happen. Attending Conference not only gives you the opportunity to hear about the great work being done by Altrusans, it also gives you the opportunity to congratulate those doing it.

If all this doesn't sway you toward your conference, I'd like to share with you a memory from my first conference experience. On the Sunday morning I went to the memorial. Although I didn't know any of women being memorialized, I was incredibly moved. I saw women who had dedicated decades of their lives to Altrusa and who had worked tirelessly to improve the community. I also witnessed the grief and sadness of those who had known them. Altrusans touch one another deeply, and mourn the passing of their peers they have come to know through their Clubs, District, or International. It is at that moment I went from being a person who joined Altrusa to being an Altrusan. I believe, conference is where "becoming an Altrusan" happens.

Fill out the form, make the reservation, and get to your District Conference, you'll be glad you did!

### ***DISTRICT CONFERENCE SEASON 2016***

Each and every District Conference is unique. Be sure to check out the Call to Conference DSBs for all the details. Each issue is chocked full of important information, so don't miss a single page! The Call to Conference DSBs, along with an all-District Conference calendar can be found online on the Membership side of the International website at <http://members.altrusa.org/Events-Calendar/DistrictConference2016.aspx>.

# SUMMARY MEMBERSHIP REPORT - JANUARY 2016

Altrusa Membership Summary Report as of January 31, 2016

District	Members 1/31/2016	Active	Affiliate	Life	Emeritus	Members 1/31/2015	Variance	%
One	383	377	0	2	4	409	-26	-6.36%
Two	317	299	0	1	17	325	-8	-2.46%
Three	788	748	3	2	35	778	10	1.29%
Four	404	394	0	1	9	433	-29	-6.70%
Five	677	646	0	2	29	665	12	1.80%
Six	819	761	1	2	55	858	-39	-4.55%
Seven	737	709	0	0	28	755	-18	-2.38%
Eight	600	569	1	0	30	629	-29	-4.61%
Nine	1058	993	26	1	38	956	102	10.67%
Ten	372	350	1	1	20	372	0	0.00%
Eleven	451	428	2	0	21	493	-42	-8.52%
Twelve	620	594	2	1	23	645	-25	-3.88%
Fourteen	610	566	1	1	42	607	3	0.49%
Fifteen	478	455	0	0	23	478	0	0.00%
Clubs-At-Large	58	53	1	0	4	62	-4	-6.45%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8372</b>	<b>7942</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>378</b>			
<b>TOTAL 1/31/15</b>	<b>8475</b>	<b>8106</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>8475</b>	<b>-93</b>	<b>-1.22%</b>

Altrusa International gained 58 new active members between December 31, 2015 and January 31, 2016. Districts Three and Nine are leading the way with 12 and 14 new members each, respectively.

Summary and detailed membership reports are available on the Altrusa website at <http://members.altrusa.org/Committees/StandingCommittees/MembershipDevelopment/Reports.aspx>.

## INTERNATIONAL AWARDS AT DISTRICT CONFERENCES

Conference season is also awards season! Be sure to check that your Club is submitting award entries using the most recent criteria and entry forms. Award information can be found online at <http://members.altrusa.org/Publications/Forms.aspx>. The following revision dates should be in the footer section of each document:

- Mamie L. Bass Service Award - revised February 2014
- Letha H. Brown Literacy Award - revised February 2014
- Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award - revised January 2015

Deadlines for Conference submission are set by each District, so contact your Governor with any questions. And remember - first place at Conference enters your Club into the running to win at Convention 2017. Good luck and thank you for all your service!



# FOUNDATION SPRING 2016 GRANT CYCLE

The International Foundation Grants Program is accepting applications for the spring 2016 cycle. **The deadline for applications is March 15, 2016.** The Grants Committee updated the project grant application forms to clearly state application criteria and be more user-friendly. The forms are being piloted in the spring cycle and the Foundation Board of Trustees encourages feedback through your [Foundation District Liaison](#). Please go to <http://members.altrusa.org/F.Board/FoundationGrants.aspx> for the Grants Program forms. If you have any questions, you may contact Shawna Kaiser at [foundation@altrusa.org](mailto:foundation@altrusa.org) or (312) 427-4410.

<b>Grant Application Due Date to the Altrusa International Foundation Office:</b>	<b>Grants Committee Funding Decision:</b>	<b>Grants Awarded:</b>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>April 30</b>	<b>May 15</b>

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