



District Eight Service Bulletin

Volume 51, No. 1

June, 2008

Governor Linda Smith

Together Everyone Achieves More

Words from the Governor



Governor
Linda Smith

WOW! What an outstanding 52nd Annual District Eight Conference we had in Rogers. We had almost 200 women attend and take advantage of all the Conference had to offer. Thank you to Altrusa International of Rogers and all of the Arkansas clubs on a fabulous job of hosting Conference.

Sue Hart has written a wonderful article about Conference so I won't cover Conference in any great detail. However, I do want to address the First Timers. We had 41 First Timers attend Conference. That must be a record! First Timers, I hope all of you are making plans to attend the 53rd Annual District Eight Conference in Chickasha, Oklahoma, next April. Bring a First Timer with you and let them share what you experienced this year.

Conference was great but now it is time to get to work. Presidents, I hope all of you turned in your Club Activity Report forms and sent those on to International to be considered for the Distinguished Service Award. Treasurers, have you sent in dues renewals to Treasurer Cheri Heeren? If not, that needs to be done ASAP!

When I say, it is time to get to work; membership is definitely one aspect of the game plan we must concentrate on. We MUST start increasing our membership or Altrusa will fade away like a number of other service organizations have in recent years. I think all of you believe too much in Altrusa to ever allow that to happen. I encourage each of you to recruit one new member in this triennium. I recently discovered a website on working with volunteers (and that's what all of our members are). I encourage all of you to visit <http://volunteerpower.com>. This website has articles and other resources to use in not only recruiting volunteers (members) but on how to work with your members.

As Governor I have set several goals for the District which are listed in this DSB. However, I cannot accomplish these goals alone. It will take TEAMWORK.

Remember our theme for the triennium – Altrusa's TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More! I truly believe this to be true.

I am so excited about the District Board and Committee Chairs who have agreed to serve District Eight for three years. This is a huge commitment, but I know this TEAM is up to the challenge. Teamwork is going to be critical for us to reach our goals over the next three years and if we all work together as Altrusa's TEAM!

Teamwork is essential to any group accomplishing a common goal. Webster's defines a team as "a group on the same side" and "a group organized to work together". That's Altrusa!

As we all formulate the game plans for our clubs for the next three years, I want all of you to be reminded of District Eight's Mission Statement - Altrusa District Eight works to strengthen community service and fellowship among clubs, to develop leaders, and to foster International understanding - and our Vision Statement - Altrusa District Eight Leads in Service by empowering local clubs to provide leadership and Service to their communities. When I read those statements, I am so proud to be a part of this organization and all of the work we do in our local communities.

J.R. Katzenbach and D.K. Smith, in The Wisdom of Teams, defines a team as "... a small number of people with complementary skills who are committed to a common purpose, performance goals, and approach for which they hold themselves mutually accountable." And former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor perhaps puts it best: "We don't accomplish anything in this world alone... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something." That is certainly true of Altrusa!

Members of District Eight, all of us have roles to fulfill in the next three years. You are all an essential component of this TEAM. Our goals are impossible to meet without you and your energy. District Eight is your TEAM. As I call on you to fill positions on the TEAM in the coming three years, I hope you will all be ready and willing to step up to the plate.

First Principle
of
Altrusa

Altrusa
Is a
Builder
Of
Women.

Once again thank you all for your trust in me as I serve as your Governor for the next three years. Let's all remember that we are Altrusa's TEAM and Together Everyone Achieves More!

Linda K. Smith
Governor

What Signals Are You Giving?

District Eight is all about teamwork this triennium — and Communications is no exception. While most of us think of "Communications" as strictly press releases and advertising for our service projects and fundraising, we need to remember that how we communicate, or the "signals" we give within our local club, within our District, and within the Altrusa International Community effects us all.

Communication within our local clubs, especially with new members, has a direct affect on membership retention. Some clubs have begun initiating phone calls and/or emails to members when they miss a meeting. Not only does it keep the member informed of what happened at the meeting, but it also lets the member know that they were actually missed and makes them feel they are an integral part of the club. Informative newsletters and websites with listings of important club meetings and events keep everyone in the loop, regardless of their activity level within the club. Club websites can also bring newcomers to your club when linked to city or chamber sites. Notes of sympathy, congratulations and concern remind members that they belong to an organization where people actually care.

Our new governor realizes the importance of communication between District Officers and their members. The process has already begun for web page availability through the District website for each of the 26 clubs to post their events. Getting to know area clubs and their members can lead not only to the value of their friendship, but also informative and idea - gen- erating discussions -- possibly even joint projects or events. Getting to know your District officers makes their annual club visits more productive and enjoyable. It also makes it easier for them to pick up the phone or drop you an e-mail when informa- tion is needed. And, let's face it -- connecting face-to-face with other members in our District tends to make us all a little more accountable for what happens in our local club. For these rea- sons, I would encourage you to attend the District Events plan- ned in your area, including the Kansas City event coming up in July. It's a great chance to meet with members of our District "Team".

Last, it is important that we all remember we are part of the larger "league" of Altrusa International. The sheer magnitude of what our organization accomplishes annually is amazing. While it's important to get acknowledgement for works in our communities, we are all accountable to our International organization. We need to remember to communicate our club activities, statistics and successes not only on the District level, but also at the International level.

International has provided us with a great website packed full of information and tools for members to use — the key word being "use". Familiarize yourself with the site and the tools it can provide. Also be sure to send in your photos and releases so that we can all applaud your club's accomplishments.

If I can be of assistance to you with regard to your club Communications during this triennium, please do not hesitate to contact me. Truly "Together Everyone Achieves More"!

Penny Daugherty

Communications Chair



Elevator Speech Competition

How creative are you? Develop a 30-second elevator speech about Altrusa and send it to Governor Linda Smith. The District Board will judge the entries (all submissions will be given to the board without the name of the person who wrote it) and a prize will be awarded to the winner. The winning entry will be shared with all of you in the next DSB.

We all get asked about Altrusa. How often do we stumble over what to say? Here is your chance to come up with what you would say given time to think about it. Remember to time it before submission. We want 30-second speeches.

Good luck!

Make Club Visits Successful

Now that the new club year has begun, it's time to start making plans for the annual visit from a district officer. This is the club's opportunity to take advantage of the district officer's experience and knowledge of club operations, as well as being updated on the latest information from District and International.

Governor Linda Smith made club visit assignments at the post conference board meeting and soon a district officer will be contacting your club President to schedule a visit date. The visitor will need to know the club's meeting dates, times and location, as well as overnight lodging information. Here are just a few helpful hints in preparation of the district officer's visit:

Preparing for the visit

- **Schedule the date.** The district officer may be visiting other nearby clubs to save travel expenses. Work with her on the dates as much as possible. Visits are usually scheduled between July and October.
 - **Start planning early.** Take advantage of the district officer's visit to generate discussion of your club's challenges, goals and achievements. Let the district officer know what your club's needs are so that she and your members can maximize the impact of the visit.
- Return the club background report promptly.** Providing information about your club to the district officer gives her an opportunity to learn more about your club and make the visit more meaningful. The club background report form can be found on the district website under the publications/forms tab. Additional materials that would be very helpful could include your yearbook, latest club activity report and newsletters.

Planning the visit

- **Board meeting.** Schedule a board meeting before or after the regular meeting if possible, with oral and written committee report. Allow time for questions.
- **Regular meeting.** Notify members well in advance and encourage them to be in attendance. Allow ample time for the district officer's presentation, usually 15-20 minutes as well as discussion and questions
- **Special touches**
 - Assign a greeter; have members wear name tags.
 - Arrange for any special equipment needs.
 - Provide the district officer with information about meal costs and menu choices.
 - Read all about club visits in the president's manual and the A Itrusa Encyclopedia.

Diane Eberhard
Governor Elect



MAJOR LEAGUE AWARDS

Congratulations to the following clubs who received awards during the 52nd Annual Conference of District Eight.

Newsletter	Springdale, AR
Newest Member	Mary Ann Clark, Lawrence
Newsletter	
1st Place	Hot Springs Village, AR
2nd Place	Fayetteville, AR
3rd Place	Jonesboro, AR
Yearbook	
1st Place	Sedalia MO
2nd Place	Hutchinson, KS
3rd Place	Greater Kansas City, MO
Hon Mention	Mexico, MO
Club Displays	
1st Place	Sikeston, MO
2nd Place	Hot Springs Village, AR
3rd Place	Fayetteville, AR
Membership – Under 35 members	
1st Place	Little Rock, AR
2nd Place	Bentonville/Bella Vista, AR
tie	Norman, OK
3rd Place	Poplar Bluff, MO
Membership – Over 35 members	
1st Place	Hot Springs Village, AR
tie	Lawrence, KS
2nd Place	Fayetteville, AR
3rd Place	Jonesboro, AR
Letha H. brown Literacy Award	
1st Place	Lawrence, KS
2nd Place	Sedalia MO
3rd Place	St. Louis, MO
Mamie L. Bass Service Award	
1st Place	Stillwater, OK
2nd Place	Greater Kansas City, MO
3rd Place	Hot Springs Village, AR
Governor's Distinguished Service Award	
	Little Rock, AR
Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award	
	Salina, KS

Altrusa International of Chickasha, OK

The International Chapter of Chickasha, OK hosted the reception of the Graduation Commencement of the students who received the Oklahoma High School Diploma on Thursday, June 5, 2008. The ceremony was in the Chickasha Activity Center of the Chickasha High School. The speaker was State Representative Susan Winchester. This reception is an annual event hosted by the Chickasha Altrusa Chapter. Scholarship money is also awarded by Altrusa to students who are in need.

Altrusa President, Mary Grote and Past President, Kelly Nunn assisted in giving out the diplomas to the graduates.



Second Annual Reading Festival In Lawrence, Kansas

The second annual River City Reading Festival will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. September 27, 2008, at the Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont, Lawrence, KS. Altrusa Club of Lawrence, KS, is the underwriting sponsor for the festival.

The festival, a daylong celebration of reading, will again feature author readings, book signings, workshops for all ages, and the return of popular storybook characters. Food vendors and book sales round out the offerings.

Last year's festival attracted more than 900 attendees and featured appearances by more than 50 authors. The Lawrence Club won the District Eight Letha H. Brown Literacy Award for the festival.

Everyone had so much fun last year, and this year will be even better,"said festival chair Kassie Edwards, a member of Lawrence's Altrusa Club. "It is truly a fun day to celebrate books and reading, with something for everyone. Because we'll have so much going on, we'll use the library meeting space inside and set up tents outside."

2008 Foundation Donations District Eight Conference

Altrusans of District Eight shine when it comes to supporting the International Foundation. During this year's Conference, a total of \$4,748.50 was raised. The members were challenged to exceed last year's contribution to the foundation through Club 21 membership, and they did by over 150%! Congratulations to all you for this contribution!

Breakdown of the donations:

Club 21 contributions:	\$2,425.00
Anonymous Lamplighter donation:	500.00
Silent Auction proceeds:	\$1,823.50

Congratulations to all for this contribution!

LET'S FILL OUR BALLPARKS: by Brenda Sailors Membership Chair

It is the responsibility of every active and active retired member to help build the club's membership by recommending outstanding candidates for membership. Club members should be able to recognize professionals and employers who would be eligible for membership.

We should be targeting the businesses or professions not represented in our clubs. Provide your members with a list of these business and professions, so that as they go through their busy lives they will recognize these potential members.

Always wear your Altrusa Pin. You will be asked about the pin and what better chance to share Altrusa. Invite prospects to your next meeting or service activity. You do **not** have to wait for a formal membership function.

If you have other recruiting ideas, please share them with me and I will get these ideas to all of our clubs. You can e-mail me at brsailors@yahoo.com.

Brenda Sailors
Membership Chair



District eight summer gathering

July 18-19, 2008

Kansas city, Missouri

Join your District Eight Altrusa friends for fun, fellowship, shopping, eating, shopping, dinner theater, shopping, fun! Here are the details you have been waiting for. We are looking at an activity we can all do together! Our hotel is at the renowned Country Club Plaza. The new Kansas City entertainment district is also now open! There lots to do to satisfy everyone's interests!

Accommodations:

Hampton Inn and Suites

Country Club Plaza

4600 Summit

Kansas City, MO



Cost: \$129.00 per night for double/\$139.00 for triple or quad although there are limited triple/quad rooms. Tax is 15.225% and \$1.50 additional fee per night. Breakfast is included.

Past Governor Debbie Holesko has made hotel arrangements for us. Since we are coming as a group, the hotel requires a rooming list. Please make your reservations through Debbie by calling her at 800-678-2255 or emailing her at dh@travel-its.com. She will need to know who is in the room, whether you want the room one night or two (July 18-19), and credit card information. Deadline for booking rooms is June 17 as Debbie must give the hotel a rooming list with credit card information by then.

For more information contact Governor Linda K. Smith at 785-825-6935 or email at lksmith53@cox.net or LindaK.Smith@nara.gov.





May 27, 2008

*Altrusa District Eight Conference
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Rogers, AR 72757*

Board of Directors

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Dear Friends:

The staff and children at Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for your generous donation of pans of lasagna, rolls and cakes left over from the District Conference fundraiser dinner, as well as disposable dinnerware, cases of water, orange juice, Sprite, juice boxes, cases of snack cakes and crackers, cheeses, carrots and trail mix. We also appreciate the three suitcases, clothing, purses and gift cards from Wal-Mart(\$1067) Mazzios (\$5), Target (\$100), McDonalds (\$50), Pizzu Hut (\$25), Sonic (\$50), two conference checks in the amounts of \$235.00 and \$377.10 and individual donations making a total of \$2779.00 (received on May 13, 2008). Your kindness and generosity mean much more to us than words alone can express.

We are grateful for your willingness to lend a helping hand to a child in need. Without your support, we could not continue to provide this place of safety for children who have not found safety in their own homes.

Thank you for taking the time to think of the children at NWACS. You have touched a child's life more than you know.

Sincerely,

*Tim Nichols
Executive Director*

Acknowledgment of receipt for your generous donation. NWACS is a 501 (c) (3), non-profit emergency facility for children and youth who are victims of abuse and neglect

All Aboard for District Conference in Rogers!

Wow! What a Conference!

Altrusa members were "All Aboard" for an exciting and informative Conference led by an outstanding group of conductors from Altrusa International, Inc. of Rogers. There was a little of everything at this year's District Eight Conference.

Thursday night Altrusans were welcomed to Rogers and introduced to Doris Kowalski, International Director, a member of Altrusa International, Inc. of Galesburg, Illinois. Friday morning many of the 41 First Timers were introduced to Conference by challenging district officers and past governors to questions posed during the welcoming session "Are You Smarter Than a First Timer?"

Opening Business Session was enhanced by the introduction of the flags by Mary Sobba from Mexico, Missouri. Voices filled the air, including a spontaneous chant from proud Lawrence Altrusans, as the attendees were led in singing songs representing the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Mayor Steve Womack welcomed attendees to Rogers and shared many stories and memories of his visits to other Altrusa cities. He thanked us for our contribution to the economy and apologized for not arriving earlier to have morning coffee with us as he was delayed by numerous shoe delivery trucks!

The business of Altrusa was conducted efficiently and with decorum as the slate of candidates for office was presented, the Treasurer reviewed the budgets and the incoming Governor's team presented highlights from their playbook for the next three years. TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More.

Wow! What a luncheon! Bridget Beckerfield, Director of Development for Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter tugged at our hearts and graciously accepted our donations of cash and gift cards for the center that totaled \$2,772. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Shoulders, began his presentation by leading us in a rousing chorus of "R-E-A-D" (to the tune of the Village People's song "YMCA"). The word "excitement" is not powerful enough when describing this man, as his commitment to literacy issues is off the charts! Reminding us that "regardless of what you are, what's important is what you become" he closed his presentation by rapping through the alphabet, highlights from his book V is for Volunteer, A Tennessee Alphabet.

Friday afternoon was filled with workshops offering training to become a cheerleader for Altrusa. Was that Santa Claus leading a session?

After exploring Rogers for dinner and more shopping, Altrusans were entertained by a real American Idol participant, Patrick Hall. Once again, Altrusa voices filled the banquet rooms of the Embassy Suites with song.

During the business session on Saturday morning, the results of the election of officers were announced. Thank you to Marjorie Jackson for chairing the Nominating Committee and to Charlotte Fisher for leading the Election Committee. The Conference Body approved submitting a recommendation to International that the 2015 Convention be held in Kansas City, Missouri. Past Governor Debbie Holesko was approved to be our nominee for the International Nominating Committee.

Saturday was filled with additional outstanding workshops, awards announced during the luncheon, fund raising activities and time for attendees to contribute to the economy of Rogers.

Wow! What an evening! The Governor's Banquet was the time to thank those who contributed to a very success-filled conference, with 198 registrants. The outgoing district officers and committee chairs were thanked for their dedicated service to District Eight. Past Governors Betty Asheer and Marilyn Bell installed Governor Linda Smith and her teammates who will lead District Eight through the next three years as we transition to follow our International biennium structure.

An excerpt from Past Governor Cynda Wright's Courtesy Resolution states that "Altrusans will remember and refer to this Conference as the shoe conference." Mark your calendars now to attend the 53rd Annual District Eight Conference on April 24-25, 2009 in Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Sue Hart
First Vice Governor



TEAM up with International Foundation And be a Winner

The new Altrusa year has arrived and all the clubs in District Eight are busy reviewing current activities, contemplating new projects and work- on 2008-2009 budgets. As your club is reviewing your strategic plan, don't forget to "**Be a Winner! TEAM up with Foundation!**" One of the most important goals of Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. is to help Altrusa clubs carry out independent programs of community service through grants. These include an International Foundation Project Grant and an International Foundation Individual Grant. The funds from these grants are designated for:

- Literacy projects sponsored by Altrusa clubs.
- Community Service projects that benefit those in need.
- Graduate school assistance to international students from developing countries.
- Vocational assistance, including job training and retraining, equipment purchase for start-up businesses and rehabilitation programs.

Grants range from \$250 to \$2000 based on need and funds available. While an Altrusa Club can submit only one individual and one project grant application a year, the Foundation accepts grant applications twice a year. Fall applications must be received by September 15th and spring applications must be received by March 15th.

All the information needed for applying for a grant is available on the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. Web site, including eligibility requirements, tips on writing a grant application and sample grant application. Remember that International Foundation Project Grant is made available for projects that require "hands on" participation by Altrusans. Last year seven clubs in District Eight received grants. This year let's see all the clubs in District Eight apply for a grant and win!

Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. Endowment Fund also gives out monetary awards each year. Submitting your very worthwhile projects for awards gives you the opportunity to use the award money to continue your current project or start new ones.

These include:

Letha H. Brown Literacy Award recognizes Altrusa Club achievement in literacy service projects. The first place winners from each District are entered in the competition at the International level.

Community Leadership Awards honor individual achievement by a volunteer service leader. Nominations are submitted directly to the International Foundation.

ASTRA Club Service Award recognizes the activities of Altrusa's service group for young women ages 13-25. Nominations are submitted directly to the International Foundation

Nina Fay Calhouns International Relations Awards recognizes Altrusa club achievement in the field of international relations. The first place winners from each District are entered in the competition at the International level.

2008 District Conference Note:

At the 2008 District Conference, Sue Hart challenged us to exceed last year's contributions to Club 21. According to Sue, we exceeded the 2007 contributions by 150%! We sent \$2425.00 to the International Foundation to support the work done by Club 21. Yeah for us! If you aren't familiar with Club 21 let me know and I'll send you information, you can be a member of the Club 21 team too!

If you have any questions concerning the grant application process or other International Foundation questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

**DON'T FORGET – FALL GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE DUE
SEPTEMBER 15TH
AND SPRING APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 15.**

Send to:

Altrusa International Foundation, Inc.
332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suet 1123
Chicago, IL 60604-4305

Holly Burgess
District Eight Foundation Liason

Welcome to the new Members of District Eight

Bentonville/Bella Vista

Nancy Evans
Bobbie Platt
Paula Youens

Lawrence

Mary Ann Clark
Audrey Coleman
Janet Horner
Susan Morris

Dexter

Wendy Chen
Grace Long

Sikeston

Crystal Peyton
Deborah Rodery

Hot Springs Village

Mary Ann Malavenda

Springdale

Lyda Pinkett

Welcome to each of you and congratulations on becoming an Altrusan.

Governor Linda Smiths' 2008 - 2011 Goals

- Increase District Eight's membership by 10% through recruitment, retention and developing new Major League Teams (Clubs) for our District
- Market Altrusa by developing and implementing a plan to "get the word out" about Altrusa across District Eight
- Increase the number of grant applications to International Foundation from District Eight
- Involve someone from every club on the District level

Marilyn Bell Update

from Penny Storms of Fayetteville:

"Here is straight from the horse's mouth (Chris!)"

In regard to Marilynn, she is doing well physically. She is able to get up more and more with assistance. She rode the motorized wheel chair yesterday to the Fayetteville City Hospital Auxiliary board meeting. This was good for her morale. She still struggles with "low" days as the 4 walls close in and she still has to rely on others for most things. Her daughter, granddaughter and 2 great grandchildren will be here for a short visit this weekend.

She really enjoys the cards, calls and visits. Marilyn said "I really appreciate all my Altrusa friends who have called, written or come by and the others who inquire and keep me in their thoughts". Keep the cards, and notes, calls, etc. coming.

To all District Eight Altrusa Members,

This is your DSB Editor wanting to tell you that the DSB is an evolving work that will get better as each bulletin is put together in this triennium. I made the purchase of a publishing program several weeks ago hoping to make this job a little easier and faster. I was greatly mistaken! It has taken more time than I could ever have imagined pulling this edition together. I have learned new ways of doing things each night that I have worked on this. The next edition should be to you in a timelier manner than this one (plus I won't have the Treasurers job anymore).

Anyone who has news for the DSB, be it pictures, news of members, fundraisers, service projects or Officer and Directors articles, please send via email to: marne_close@sbcglobal.net. I will try to use what you send, but there is limited space and articles may have to be edited to fit the available space. I am also open to suggestions for layout and contents of the DSB in order to make this a more useful tool for the district.

Have a great and healthy summer,

Marne Close

Snatches of Conference Life in Rogers, Arkansas



Rogers, Arkansas
April, 2008

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