ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT NINE 2026

CALL TO CONFERENCE

Come for Service. Stay for Friendship. Grow in Leadership.

UPDATED CONTENT!! CHECK OUT PAGES 12-14

Altrusa Int'l District Nine 70th Annual Conference is where friendship, fun and learning come together to inspire you as an Altrusan.



Discover Your Altrusa Journey

Join Us

April 17-19

Embassy Suites by Hilton Amarillo Downtown

It is my pleasure to invite you to the 70th Annual District Nine Conference, April 17–19, 2026, in Amarillo, Texas, proudly hosted by Altrusa International of Pampa, TX. Get ready for the most exciting event of the year and a wonderful opportunity to "Discover Your Altrusa Journey" - Texas style!

Throughout the weekend, you'll enjoy plenty of opportunities for connection and celebration. We'll honor the amazing accomplishments of our clubs and members, conduct important district business, and reflect on how far our Altrusa journey has taken us - while looking ahead to what's next.

Friday Fun Night promises a playful journey across Texas with games, laughter, and fellowship. You and your club are encouraged to dress up as your favorite game - video, board, card, or sport game, etc. - for an evening of creativity and unforgettable fun!

We are thrilled to welcome Kitty McElhaney as our International Visitor, and we are excited to be inspired by our keynote speaker, Rebecca Sylvestri. Both will encourage us as we continue to grow, connect, and discover the many paths of our Altrusa journey.

Whether you're a seasoned Altrusan who has attended every conference or a new member attending your very first one, your presence truly matters. Every member brings something special to our district, and every journey adds to our collective story.

Now is the time to take the next step in your Altrusa Journey. Mark your calendar, register early, invite your fellow club members, and come ready to learn, serve, celebrate, and have fun. All the information you need is included in this Call to Conference, and we can't wait to welcome you to Amarillo as we continue to "Discover Your Altrusa Journey" - together.

In Altrusa Service and Celebration,

Kimberly D. Kierce

Kimberly D. Kierce
Governor, Altrusa District Nine

Discover Your Altrusa Journey: "Where Legacy Meets the Road Ahead"



REGISTER HERE

STEP ONE

REGISTER
FOR THE CONFERENCE

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS **MARCH 15, 2026**.
FINAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2026.

Conference registration is officially OPEN, and you won't want to miss a moment of this unforgettable Altrusa Journey! Your registration includes **Friday Fun Night Dinner**, **Saturday Lunch**, and the **Saturday Banquet**, along with all leadership speakers, interactive workshops, and conference materials.

- Take advantage of the **Early Bird Special (ends March 15) — just $245** — or register later for $275 (by March 31).
- Banquet guests may attend for $70 per person.
- ASTRA attendees can join us for $42, which includes Saturday lunch and afternoon workshops.
- Want to show off your club pride? or say a Special "Thank you"? **Brag Ads are only $25 each!**
- Sponsorship opportunities are also available - celebrate with us as a...
  - **70th Anniversary Sponsor** (for $70), or
  - aim high and become a $100 **Ultimate Journey Sponsor!**

REGISTER HERE

Don't wait—Register TODAY and continue to Discover Your Altrusa Journey!

What's on the menu? ...Let's talk food!

When registering for Conference, one of the most important decisions you'll make is choosing your **Saturday Lunch** and **Saturday Banquet** meal options—because Texas knows how to eat!

To help you decide, we've provided a full breakdown of each delicious meal option. Plus, take a look at the tasty eats we have planned for Friday Fun Night—you won't want to miss it! And, its all included in your registration!

And here's a little extra treat: if you're staying overnight at the Conference Hotel – Embassy Suites Downtown Amarillo, your stay includes a **daily breakfast buffet** and a **complimentary evening Happy Hour** each night. Great food, great company, and great value—cheers to that!

FRIDAY FUN NIGHT TEXAS BBQ BUFFET: Smoked sliced **beef brisket** and **Grilled chicken** thighs, House garden salad, Mustard potato salad, Smoked pork charro beans, Yeast rolls and whipped butter, and delicious Blackberry and Apple cobblers.

SATURDAY LUNCH: Plated Lunch
Salad & Half-Sandwich Combo

Half sandwich (*select one*):
- [ ] Artisan **Turkey** Sandwich, or
- [ ] Shaved **Roast Beef** Sandwich, or
- [ ] **Veggie** Wrap, or
- [ ] **BLT** Salad (GF)

and
Small House Green Salad
and
Small Fruit Salad

SATURDAY BANQUET: Plated Dinner
Main Entrée (*select one*):
- [ ] 6 ounce **Beef** Filet Mignon, or
- [ ] 8 ounce Grilled **Salmon**, or
- [ ] Grilled Portobello **Mushroom** (GF)

Sides:
Smashed Yukon and Chive Potatoes
Roasted Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert:
Tiramisu or Flourless Chocolate Torte



STEP TWO

BOOK YOUR ROOM

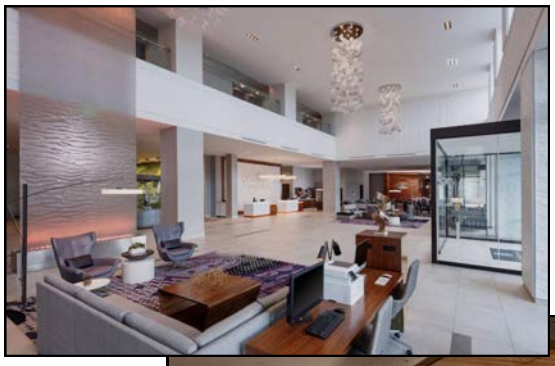
AT EMBASSY SUITES - AMARILLO DOWNTOWN

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 25, 2026
OR UNTIL SPECIAL ROOM BLOCK IS FULL.

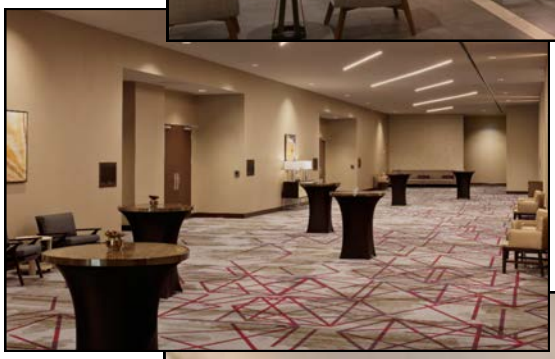
Located in the heart of downtown Amarillo, the recently remodeled Embassy Suites by Hilton welcomes Altrusa District Nine! Our hotel room block consists of rooms with 2 queen beds suite or 1 king bed suite, including a limited number of accessible rooms, at a special rate of **$159/night + tax.**



Embassy Suites by Hilton Amarillo Downtown
550 S Buchanan Street Amarillo, Texas 79101









CLICK HERE

Quick Book
Altrusa Conference26
$159

Hotel registration is now open! Your Hilton hotel reservations can be made online using our custom Altrusa Group page (click link above) or copy and paste the URL below into your browser to access the exclusive rates available for our group.

BOOKING LINK:
https://group.embassysuites.com/sk0ogy

or call: 1-806-803-5500
Group Name: **Altrusa Conference26**

Conference Arrival Date: 04-17-2026
Departure Date: 04-19-2026

STEP THREE

GET READY

KNOW HOW TO PREPARE AND WHAT TO BRING!

What to Wear

We all know the April weather can be unpredictable in Texas. We could have blazing sunny blue skies or rainy Spring weather. Since all meetings and meals are within the hotel, bring comfortable **BUSINESS-CASUAL** clothing for the Business Sessions and Workshops. Meeting room temperatures can vary so dressing in layers is wise.

WHEN DO WE DRESS UP FOR BUSINESS or FUN?

- All sessions are Business Casual attire, except…
- For our **Friday Fun Night - It's Game Night!**, you are encouraged to wear attire that represents a favorite video game, board game, card game, sport game, etc. as we travel Texas playing games along the journey, and yes, while dancing to the latest DJ tunes. (*more details on pg 7*)
- The **Saturday Evening Foundation Banquet** is dress-up night if you like, so bring on the Glam and Glitz if you so choose. Cocktail or semi-formal attire is acceptable - as well as Dressy Casual / Business attire.



***PLEASE NOTE: TOTE BAGS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED AT CONFERENCE.**
Please bring your own bag if you feel you will need one.

Club Displays

Share the exciting projects that your club has done in the past year with a Club Display that other Altrusans can view at their leisure during conference. This area is a great place to visit – you'll discover new ideas for raising funds, increasing membership, and serving your community. There will be **18"x36" table space** (this is a shallow depth and the width of your club banner) for each club to bring a display. Please do not bring anything larger so all clubs will have equal space. Please reserve your club space by emailing Club Displays Coordinators by **March 31, 2026** if your club will be bringing a display.

Reserve your space TODAY! Send an email directly to Club Display Coordinators:
Paulette Landry laugh1942@yahoo.com and
Pat Dugan dugganp@sbcglobal.net

Club displays will be judged by the Int'l Visitor using the following criteria:
Click here for the Club Display Award criteria



MORE WAYS TO GET READY...

Memorials

The Memorials Ceremony provides a heartfelt opportunity to honor and remember Altrusans who have passed away. This time of reflection celebrates their service, dedication, and lasting impact on our organization, reminding us that we build upon the legacy of those who served before us.

On Sunday morning, April 19, 2026, we will recognize and honor former and current Altrusans who have passed away during the last year. District Nine Clubs may submit a memorial tribute by providing the member's information and photo.



- Submit memorial info: **HERE**
- Email a member photo to: districtninealtrusa@gmail.com

Deadline: **Tuesday, March 31, 2026**

International Foundation Donations

Support the International Foundation by donating a **NEW or GENTLY USED designer or luxury handbag or wallet** for our raffle.

The **Designer Bags Raffle** will add excitement while supporting a greater purpose. This popular activity brings fun and anticipation to Conference while raising funds for the International Foundation, directly supporting literacy and service initiatives. It's a meaningful way to give back while enjoying a bit of friendly competition.

To **Donate**:

- Email photos and estimated value by **Tuesday, March 31, 2026** to:
  - Linda Moore: moorelindac@yahoo.com
  - Betty Sainz: bsainz@multiforms.com

Bring your item to Conference and deliver it to the Everything Room:

- Friday, April 17, 2026: 1:00–5:30 p.m.
- Or no later than 8:00 a.m. Saturday, April 18, 2026

Questions? Contact Linda Moore or Betty Sainz.

Thank you for supporting the International Foundation!

Brag Ads

The BRAG Slideshow shines a spotlight on the incredible work, creativity, and dedication of Altrusans across District Nine. By sharing successes and recognizing individuals, projects, and clubs, this feature inspires others, encourages idea-sharing, and celebrates the collective impact of our service.

Celebrate your remarkable Altrusa friend, project, or club! Submitted brags will be included in a slideshow shown during Conference.

- $25 per brag
- **REGISTER Here**
- Email slide content (message and image) to:
  - Amy Ward: texas_amy@hotmail.com
  - Trudy Sprinkle: trudy.sprinkle@gmail.com

Questions? Contact Amy Ward or Trudy Sprinkle
Deadline: **Tuesday, March 31, 2026**

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorships help make Conference possible while providing visibility and recognition for individuals and businesses that support Altrusa's mission. These partnerships strengthen our ability to deliver a high-quality Conference experience while fostering connections between members and community supporters. Sponsorships are available to help offset Conference costs while showcasing you or your company.

Secure your unique sponsorship level:

- Trailblazer ($25)
- Pathfinder ($50)
- 70th Anniversary ($70)
- **Ultimate Journey** ($100)

REGISTER Here - **Deadline: Tuesday, March 31, 2026**

Calling All Vendors!

Join us at the District Nine Conference. Vendor participation enhances the Conference experience by offering unique products, services, and networking opportunities. Vendors add energy to the event space and create opportunities for attendees to discover new resources, support small businesses, and engage with community partners.

- Limited space available - reserve your spot today!
- Booth Fee: $100

Early Bird Deadline: **March 15, 2026** Click here to **REGISTER**
Questions?

- Lisa Crossman: nanalisa8974@gmail.com
- Sheryl Stephens: sherylkd1@gmail.com



Let's get ready to SHOP!!

Together, these elements create a Conference experience that is meaningful, engaging, celebratory, and impactful—strengthening connections, honoring our past, and energizing Altrusans for the year ahead.

All Conference Service Project

Tralee Crisis Center

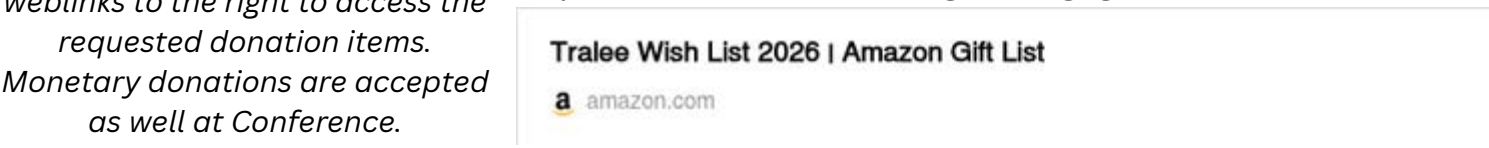
In the early 1980s, a Pampa social worker's heart sank as he watched a badly beaten woman he had just counseled leave the hospital emergency room with the man who had caused her injuries. She left with her attacker, her husband, because she had nowhere else to go. That night, Travis Plumlee vowed he would do something about this deplorable situation. With the help of a local civic organization, **Altrusa International of Pampa**, and a caring community, Tralee Crisis Center was created.

Tralee Crisis Center's mission is to provide shelter and coordinated supportive services to victims of family violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes; to educate the community about the causes and implications of family violence and sexual assault, as well as the needs of and resources available to victims; to provide consultation and education services to other community providers; to recruit and train a diverse group of volunteers who will provide direct victim services; and to provide adequate financial resources to ensure support of the organization's programs.

Donations are needed for everyday toiletry and household items, personal and baby needs as well as bathroom and kitchen items.

Scan the QR Code above or use the weblinks to the right to access the requested donation items. Monetary donations are accepted as well at Conference.

https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3G6ZLSNU4JX8E





STEP FOUR

GET EXCITED

CHECK OUT WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED!!

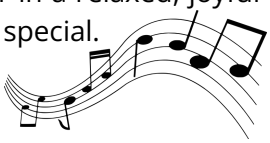
Friday Fun Night: Travel Texas "Get on Board the Game Train"



All aboard for an unforgettable evening of fun, laughter, and Altrusa camaraderie! Friday Fun Night invites attendees to Travel Texas by hopping on the Game Train, with game stations set up throughout the banquet room. Each station represents a stop across this great state, giving everyone the chance to play, connect, and enjoy friendly competition in every corner of Texas.

Attendees are encouraged to **dress in their favorite game-themed attire -** whether inspired by a **video game, card game, board game, or sports game**. Get creative and have fun with it! This is a wonderful opportunity for clubs to showcase their personality and team spirit. Ask yourselves: **What game best represents your club?**

Between games, enjoy a **Texas-style BBQ buffet**, hit the dance floor, and keep the energy going as our DJ spins favorite dance tunes throughout the night. Friday Fun Night is designed to bring everyone together in a relaxed, joyful setting - building friendships, sparking laughter, and creating memories that make Conference truly special.



So grab your game face, show off your creativity, and get ready to play your way across Texas!



International Visitor

Kitty McElhaney

President Elect, Altrusa International. Inc.

An Altrusan since 2000, Kitty has served in leadership roles at the club, district, and international levels, including Club President (2006-07, 2018-19, District Three Governor (2019–21), International Director (2021-23), and currently serves as President-Elect of the 2025-27 Altrusa International Board of Directors.

A retired educator with more than 42 years of service, Kitty remains active in education and community leadership through scholarship, foster care, and adoption boards. She enjoys time with her family and looks forward to attending "*Discover Your Altrusa Journey: Where Our Legacy Meets the Road Ahead*," reconnecting with friends, and building new relationships.

Keynote Speaker

Rebecca Silvestri



Get ready for your "Best Day Eva"!

Rebecca Silvestri is the VP of Sales & Marketing at *Local Profile* magazine, a trusted North Texas media brand with over 40 years of history. Passionate about helping local businesses elevate their brand and reputation, Rebecca brings creativity, strategic insight, and a people-first approach to her work. Known for her contagious personality, she inspires others to embrace gratitude and live their **Best Day Ever**! A breast cancer survivor, autism mom, and rock-climbing enthusiast, Rebecca believes in the power of resilience and the importance of cherishing everyday moments. When she's not connecting with clients or running the magazine alongside her husband, Philip, she's spending time with her two children or planning her next adventure. Rebecca's LinkedIn Profile

2026 District Nine Conference Agenda

Subject to Change

Workshops*

One of the most important benefits of Conference is the valuable learning that takes place while having fun with friends. Our workshops are designed to inspire, energize, and equip Altrusans with practical ideas they can take back to their clubs and communities.

Workshop Tracks:

Each track will focus on topics important to all Altrusans. While final workshops are still being finalized, we are planning engaging sessions in the following areas:

- **Service** – Discover innovative service projects, best practices, and meaningful ways to expand our impact through literacy and Int'l community service.
- **Membership** – Learn creative strategies for attracting new members, strengthening engagement, and building vibrant, welcoming clubs that thrive.
- **Leadership** – Develop essential leadership skills at every level, including communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and leading with confidence and vision.
- **Communications** – Gain practical tools for effective social media, websites, technology, and marketing to better share your club's story and increase community awareness.

No matter which track you choose, you'll gain valuable insights - while learning, laughing, and connecting with Altrusa friends. **(JUMP to PAGE 13-14)**

Please note: Officer-specific workshops for Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries will not be held during Conference. These important training sessions will be offered virtually in May 2026, allowing officers to participate fully and conveniently.

Thursday, April 16, 2026

6:30 pm	Private Dinner with Past Governors, District Nine Board, and Conference Chairs (Dinner on Your Own)

Friday, April 17, 2026

9:30 am - 12:30 pm	District Nine Board Meeting
10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Vendor Set-up
12:00 pm	Lunch on your own
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Vendor Fair Open
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Set up Club Displays and Banners
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	**Get Social with a Hands On Focus "Service Projects" & "TECH /Social Media" Social** Service Project Donations
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Registrations & Credentials Open
5:30 pm - 6:15 pm	First Timers Special Event
6:30 pm	BBQ Buffet and Cash Bar Open
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm	**Friday Fun Night & Member Award Recognitions "Travel Texas: Get on Board the Game Train" Membership Awards**. Dress Attire: Favorite Game

Saturday, April 18, 2026

7:30 am - 8:20 am	Registrations & Credentials Open Set up Club Displays / Banners
8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Vendor Fair Open
8:30 am	District Nine Conference Opens
8:30 am - 9:45 am	**District Nine Business Session #1 - Opening**
9:45 am	Break
10:00 am – 11:15 am	Keynote Speaker & **Leadership Awards**
11:00 am – 11:45 am	Registrations & Credentials Open
11:15 am – 11:30 am	Voting Live Auction Opens Break for Shopping
11:45 am – 1:30 pm	**"Discover Altrusa Service" Luncheon** **Celebrate Lone Star Virtual Club / Service Awards**
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Break for Shopping
2:00 pm - 2:50 pm	**Workshop* Session ONE** (w/5 breakout sessions)
3:00 pm - 3:50 pm	**Workshop* Session TWO** (w/5 breakout sessions)
4:00 pm - 4:50 pm	District Nine Business Session #2
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Vendor Teardown
5:30 pm - 6:50 pm	Club Group Photos
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Reception with Cash Bar
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	**Governor Banquet Celebrating Altrusa Int'l Foundation** & Live Auction Closes at end of event

Sunday, April 19, 2026

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakdown of Club Displays and Banners
8:30 am	Memorial Service
9:15 am	Break
9:30 am - 12:00 pm	**District Nine Business Session #3 - Closing Communications, First Timers & Final Awards**
12:30 p.m.	Post-Conference District Nine Board Meeting

MORE WAYS TO GET EXCITED...

Friday Afternoon Welcome Activities

Connect • Create • Serve • Learn

After a long drive to Amarillo, take time to unwind, recharge, and reconnect with fellow Altrusans during two engaging activities designed to welcome you, spark friendships, and celebrate the heart of Altrusa.

Friday, April 17, 2026 (1p - 4p)

Hands-On Service Projects

Nothing captures the spirit of Altrusa more than serving together. Join fellow members for hands-on service projects that make a meaningful difference while bringing people together. These relaxed, come-and-go projects offer the perfect opportunity to connect with friends, meet new Altrusans, and experience the joy of service side-by-side.

Whether you're working with familiar faces or introducing yourself to someone new, these projects embody what makes Altrusa special - service, teamwork, and shared purpose. You'll leave inspired, energized, and proud of the impact created even before Conference officially begins. **(JUMP to PAGE 12)**

Tech Corner: Digital Skills

Stop by the Tech Corner, a friendly, hands-on help hub for members who want to feel more confident using technology to promote Altrusa. Bring your smartphone, tablet, or laptop and receive personalized guidance on:

- Accessing and using social media platforms
- Sharing club stories and photos
- Navigating digital tools that highlight Altrusa's mission and service
- Learning tips and shortcuts to make online engagement easy and fun

Whether you're tech-savvy or just getting started, Tech Corner is a welcoming space to ask questions, explore new tools, and gain skills you can take back to your club. **(JUMP to PAGE 12)**

Calling All First Timers!



If you are going to be a First Timer at our District Conference, WELCOME! We're excited that you'll be joining us! You'll learn a lot and make new friends while being inspired and having a ton of fun. Here are a few insights to help you as you plan for conference:

- Register for conference early
- Reserve your Embassy Suites Amarillo Downtown hotel room early
  - Check with your club members about potentially sharing a room and carpooling to conference
- Order an Altrusa t-shirt if you want one
- Arrive Friday before 4p to participate in Hands-on Service Projects and educate yourself in the Tech Corner
- When you get checked in to the hotel, find the conference registration area to get your name badge, meal tickets, and Conference mini program
- Throughout conference, enjoy the speakers at each meal, attend workshops that interest you, participate in the business sessions, have fun at our Friday Fun Night, and enjoy the weekend making new friends
- If you are a delegate, you will be seated with other delegates during the business meetings. Attend the delegate briefing to know the issues and be ready to vote as your Club wishes
- Dress is business casual, except for Friday Fun Night and Saturday Banquet (see page 4 "What to Wear")
- Group photos by club will be taken Saturday evening before the Banquet
- **DON'T MISS THIS! A First-Timers Orientation Session will be offered Friday 5:30pm** to help you become acclimated. At this session, you'll get a better idea of what to expect from conference and have the opportunity to get questions answered, along with meeting other Altrusans who are attending conference for their first time too. We look forward to meeting you!

Most important, take time to visit with Altrusans from all over our district and have fun during Conference!

VOTE

2026-2028 NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES and Delegate Reporting

(listed in alphabetical order)

Serving as a Club Delegate is an important responsibility. All members are encouraged to consider representing their club and voting on District business presented to the Conference body. This year's voting will include:

- **2026–2028 Nominating Committee candidates**
- **2026–2027 District Nine Budget** (to be published prior to Conference)

Each club must report Delegates and Alternates to the District Secretary in order to be eligible to vote at Conference.

- Verify your club's delegate count: **HERE**
- **Report the names of your eligible delegate(s) and alternate(s): HERE**

Delegate Reporting Deadline: **Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

Questions? Please contact District Secretary Sharon Tramonte at smt4733@gmail.com

Your participation ensures your club's voice is heard—thank you for helping guide the future of District Nine!

Delegates will elect 5 Candidates, the Candidate with highest number of votes will be the Chair.



Belva J. Gibson

Altrusa International of Collin County

I joined Altrusa of Denton in 1992 after attending a membership tea, where I met some amazing women who were to become my best friends. In 2014, after serving in every position in Denton, I helped charter Altrusa International of Lewisville (later Denton County) .

In 2023, I joined Altrusa of Collin County to continue my Altrusa journey where I am now serving as President. In the past, I have been involved with District Nine on awards and nominating committees. I truly believe in what Altrusa stands for - service to others! All the clubs I have been involved with have had many varied service projects and these projects are what makes me continue with Altrusa!



Sheryl King

Altrusa International of North San Antonio

I became a member of Altrusa International of Northeastern Connecticut in 2010 in Manchester, Connecticut.

I moved to San Antonio in 2012 and joined Altrusa International of San Antonio, Texas. I was very active serving as Club Secretary twice and Club and Foundation Director. I began writing Grants for literacy-based projects and was very active on the Service Committee.

Altrusa of North San Antonio was founded in March of 2019, and I am a charter member. Since joining Altrusa of North San Antonio, Texas I have served as Vice President 2019-2020, President in 2020-2021 and again in 2023-2024. I have served as a Director and Secretary on our Foundation and am currently the Foundation Treasurer. I have written several grants to Altrusa International Foundation Grant Program. Altrusa International of North San Antonio has built, given to schools and filled with books Little Free Libraries located on five elementary school campuses. I headed up these projects with the help of club Altrusa members. I served on the conference committee and was Vendor Chair for the District Nine 2023 Conference.

My heart is with literacy as a past classroom teacher and Language Arts Consultant I know how important books are to children and adults.

Serving on the Altrusa International District Nine Nominating Committee would be an honor. I look forward to meeting Altrusans across the District!



Shirley Raymer

Altrusa International of Garland

Immediate Past Governor, Altrusa International District Nine.

Shirley's Altrusa journey began more than twenty years ago. The desire to serve others and the service opportunities, especially related to literacy, offered by Altrusa Garland led her to become an Altrusan.

Nominating Committee Candidates *(cont.)*

Shirley has chaired the Membership Development, Leadership Training and the International Foundation Liaison committees on the District Nine Program Team and served on each level of the District Nine Board of Directors with the exception of District Treasurer, serving as Governor of District Nine 2023 –2025.

The joys of service have been many for her. The opportunities for contributing to others and making a difference in their lives, the honor of visiting clubs across the district and becoming better acquainted with the wonderfully caring members and the precious friends that would likely not have become a part of her life if not for Altrusa, have all been a part of her rewarding experience with Altrusa over the years.

Shirley's desire for Altrusa is to have membership grow as clubs continue to share the gift of Altrusa touching and bettering more lives through Altrusa's many services to local communities as well as abroad. Shirley affirms that Altrusa has blessed her life and she is thankful for the privilege of serving the Mighty Ninth.



Laura Roach
Altrusa International of DFW

My Altrusa journey began in 1991 when I was invited to become a member of Altrusa International, Inc. of Downtown Dallas. I was quite busy in my legal career and was already volunteering with several organizations, but I couldn't resist the allure of Altrusa, where I found inspiring leaders and an abundance of warmth and welcome for whatever time and talent I might be able to contribute.

After moving 30 miles away to the (then) small town of Southlake, in 1997, I continued to stay actively involved in the Downtown Dallas club, including serving as President in 2000. After 5 years of commuting, I agreed to work on an expansion club that would serve the needs of the community where I lived. In 2002, Altrusa International of DFW was chartered, and I was delighted to have dual membership in both Downtown Dallas and DFW for many years.

Over nearly 35 years, I have been privileged to serve 2 different Altrusa clubs in many capacities, including a total of 3 presidencies. I have very much enjoyed serving on District Nine Program teams, where I worked on development of the Discovery, Power and Learning membership growth models, along with my current role as International Relations Co-chair.

I have practiced commercial law for nearly 40 years, the last 21 of which have been as in-house counsel in the telecommunications field, where I am currently employed by Nokia of America. As I look down the road at the next chapter in my life, I know Altrusa will feature prominently, and I would be honored to serve District Nine as a member of its Nominating Committee.



Kathleen Witte
Altrusa International of Greenville

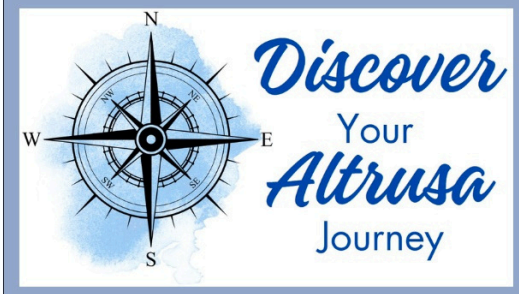
Kathleen Witte grew up in Monument, Colorado, and attended Christ for the Nations Institute in Dallas. She served with Mercy Ships in 13 countries, providing healthcare, housing, and essential resources to developing nations, and met her husband Tim aboard the Anastasis in 1988. They have two daughters, Annette and Bethany, and three grandchildren: Ruby, Tucker, and Avery Jo.

An educator since 1984, Kathleen earned her B.A.S. and M.Ed. from Dallas Baptist University and currently serves as Director of Family and Community Engagement and English Learner Support for Quinlan ISD.

She became an Altrusa member in 2017 and has held various roles, including committee co-chair, recording secretary, and president. Kathleen currently serves on the District Nine Program Committee as Literacy Team Co-Leader.

2026-2027 Proposed District Nine Budget

Conference Delegate are encouraged to review the Proposed Budget PRIOR to attending Conference and discuss any concerns with your club that should be addressed by the District Board and Conference body. **(click the title above to view the Proposed Budget)**



"JOURNEY INTO SERVICE" HANDS-ON EDITION APRIL 17 (1P-4P)

JOIN US FOR A COME-AND-GO AFTERNOON OF SERVICE AND CONNECTION! ENJOY FELLOWSHIP, CREATIVITY, AND HANDS-ON SERVICE PROJECTS WHILE CONNECTING WITH FELLOW ALTRUSANS FROM ACROSS TEXAS. STOP BY, LEND A HAND, AND BE PART OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER.



CARDS OF KINDNESS

Share hope, encouragement, and joy - one handwritten note at a time. Conference attendees will add heartfelt messages of care and comfort for those who need a reminder that they are seen, valued, and supported. Special thanks to Altrusan BJ Taylor (Altrusa Copperas Cove) for providing the 300 hand-made cards.

BEADS OF FRIENDSHIP

String together connection and compassion as you create colorful bracelets to share as tokens of encouragement in your community. Create unique, one-of-a-kind wearable treasures using beads transformed from simple paper.
The donated beads are part of TeachHaiti's vocational training.
(Hosted by Jane Tucker, Altrusa Richardson & Altrusa Austin)



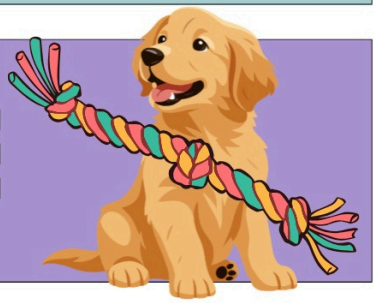


DAYS FOR GIRLS: FABRIC PREP

Support menstrual equity efforts by helping prepare reusable hygiene kits. Participants will trace and cut fabric pieces that will be sewn (at a later date) into sustainable menstrual products distributed through Days for Girls International. Your hands-on help ensures girls and women around the world can attend school and work with dignity and confidence.
(Hosted by Altrusa Richardson)

PATRIOT PAWS: TUGS TOYS

Support service dogs in training with hands-on heart. Attendees will help create durable tug toys that provide enrichment, play, and reward-based training for future service dogs assisting veterans and individuals with disabilities through Patriot PAWS Service Dogs.
(Hosted by Altrusa Dallas)





"DIGITAL LITERACY" TECH-CORNER

Build confidence in the digital world with hands-on guidance from tech-savvy helpers. This interactive opportunity will provided one-on-one support to show you how to navigate social media platforms, post/share photos, create engaging content, and understand the basics of online visibility. New to social media? Looking to sharpen your skills? Explore practical tools, simple "how-to" tips, and the confidence to represent your club online with ease.
BRING YOUR SMART DEVICE and/or LAPTOP

2026 District Nine Conference Workshops "A"

Navigating Our Leadership Journey - Together! *

Saturday April 18 - Session "A" (2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.)



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: LEADERSHIP IS A MOVE

Learn how the choices you make shape your day, your leadership, and the impact you have on those around you. This interactive workshop builds on the keynote message, empowering Altrusans to respond with intention, strengthen their leadership skills, and inspire others through everyday decisions. (Same presentation at both sessions)

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH: FROM INVITATION TO IMPACT



This interactive workshop combines inspiration with action. Hear real stories and proven strategies from four growing clubs that have achieved significant membership growth. Then, shift into hands-on strategy mode as teams receive a scenario and collaborate to create a customized Membership Growth Proposal designed to help that community thrive.



"I AM REMARKABLE"

Learn to own your accomplishments - supporting your ability to achieve your goals while inspiring others along the way.
Back by popular demand! This workshop was first presented at the 2025 District Nine Conference and received outstanding feedback from attendees because of its powerful message and practical takeaways. Learn important skills that helps build confidence, strengthen leadership abilities, and inspire those around us.

LITERACY SUCCESS: INCREASING LITERACY IN OUR COMMUNITIES



An interactive workshop designed to help Altrusa members create measurable literacy impact through strategic, sustainable projects. Participants will explore local needs, discover proven project ideas, build community partnerships, and gain practical tools to evaluate and share their club's literacy success.



MARKETING 101: ALTRUSA BRANDING & COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

An interactive, practical workshop equipping clubs with Altrusa Branding Guidelines and ready-to-use marketing tools and technology. Participants will explore press release basics, social media engagement, and strategic event promotion - all designed to increase visibility, strengthen branding, and amplify community impact.

*Subject to Change

2026 District Nine Conference Workshops "B"

Navigating Our Leadership Journey - Together! *

Saturday April 18 - Session "B" (3:00 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.)



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: LEADERSHIP IS A MOVE

Learn how the choices you make shape your day, your leadership, and the impact you have on those around you. This interactive workshop builds on the keynote message, empowering Altrusans to respond with intention, strengthen their leadership skills, and inspire others through everyday decisions. (Same presentation at both sessions)

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT: INVITE, INSPIRE, INVOLVE... AND WATCH YOUR CLUB THRIVE



You've welcomed new members - now let's help them truly belong. Learn from our dynamic panel as they share proven strategies to spark connection, strengthen retention, and turn members into engaged leaders. Walk away inspired and ready to build intentional engagement that strengthens your club and community.



LEADING WITH KINDNESS: CREATING A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

Learn how empathy, emotional intelligence, and kindness can drive performance, strengthen relationships, and improve team dynamics. Discover actionable strategies to incorporate kindness into your leadership style and create a positive, high-performing work environment.

LONE STAR TEXAS VIRTUAL CLUB: "SERVICE THAT FITS YOUR LIFE"



This workshop explores how virtual clubs work, how it can expand Altrusa and invite others to give back to the community. Let's explore meaningful, mission-driven service opportunities that offer true flexibility. Participants will help build an actionable plan and service project calendar with flexible initiatives, supportive engagement, and a service model that truly fits your life.



HOW TO USE YOUR FUNDRAISER TO PROMOTE ENGAGEMENT

Learn how to encourage friendships and engagement to make your fundraiser a success! How to create excitement, leadership growth and even gain new members while creating a successful event. Take your Fundraising farther!

*Subject to Change

70th Annual
District Nine Conference

Discover your Altrusa Journey

"Where Legacy Meets the Road Ahead"

April 17-19, 2026

Embassy Suites by Hilton - Amarillo Downtown

Order Your Shirt TODAY!





The **2025–2027 District Nine Board** looks forward to celebrating Conference with everyone and conducting the important business of the District.
Thank you for being a part of The Mighty Ninth!