

ALTRUSA International | *Leading to a Better Community*®

District Nine

ANNUAL REPORTS

2013-2014

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

This report will focus on the activities of your District Board and Program Team through the first year of the biennium. Detailed information can be found in the officers' and committee chairs' individual reports, which follow this one. Please read through them so you can know for yourself the amazing progress our Dream Team is making toward fulfilling the ambitious goals set out in our Long-Range Strategic Plan.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The District Board met in Frisco after the 2013 Conference, for a midyear board meeting in November 2013 in Austin, and again just before this Conference in Austin. Each member of the board has either chaired or served on at least one District committee during the biennium. They are true leaders in service, and they are working for you.

This Board understands the goals of District Nine and is enthusiastically working to implement change. The members communicate efficiently via email and text, and seem to move at the speed of light. I have been impressed by each woman's dedication and diligence, and I encourage every District Nine Altrusan's support of them in carrying out our vision. A Board position is not just an honor. It is a labor of love.

Thank you, **Sylvia Zamora, Linda Moore, Janelle Williamson, Leslie Thompson, Antonia Buban, Trina Taylor,** and **Susie Stephenson,** and especially **LaVone Arthur** and **Martha Hofmeister,** whose experience and wisdom are invaluable. Thank you all for believing. You are my inspiration.

INTERNATIONAL

I was crushed to have to stay behind for this past summer's International Convention, but your District was well-represented. (Please see the awards listed in Immediate Past Governor **LaVone Arthur's** report!) Governor-Elect **Sylvia Zamora** continues to represent District Nine from her post as ASTRA Chair.

Congratulations to the District Nine Clubs that achieved Distinguished Club status for 2012-2013: **Dallas, DFW, Downtown Dallas, Garland, Pampa, Richardson, San Antonio,** and **Temple.** The criteria for this award recently changed, and achieving this honor is not an easy accomplishment, so kudos to these Clubs!

I have been delighted to serve alongside my sister Governors on the Governors' Council. We are a close group that communicates frequently. Our Facebook group page has been a nice informal forum for pitching ideas and problems. Someone always has an answer.

In 2013, the Altrusa International Board of Directors appointed me as chair of Altrusa International's 100th Anniversary Celebration, which will culminate July 21–24, 2017, at our

International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. We have one International stop to make first, though, in the summer of 2015 (July 16-20, to be exact) at International Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Start saving your pennies to join District Nine at Altrusa's biggest parties. I want to see you there!

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

District Nine is proud of the work its own **Martha Hardwick Hofmeister** (Downtown Dallas) has done as Legal Advisor to the International Foundation. Thank you, Martha!

Days before our 2013 District Nine Conference, the little town of West, Texas, suffered a tragedy that leveled homes, businesses, and school buildings. Before she left Conference for home, Dallas Altrusan **Gillian Allen** had formed a plan to personally help rebuild school libraries in West. Her plan took off when her Club backed her with a commitment to build a service project over the next two years, and our International Foundation, through the Governors Disaster Relief Fund, donated $6,000 to get it off the ground. In her announcement letter, **Ann Marie Snyer,** then chair of the Foundation Board, remarked, "The crafters of the Foundation's Disaster Relief Program would be very proud to know that their vision of recovery assistance was promoting literacy as well." Other Clubs throughout the District had similar thoughts, and their efforts to help rebuild West have been nothing short of spectacular. In the second year of the biennium, look to District Nine to combine the power of "strength in numbers" to make an even larger impact.

And after raising thousands of dollars for the International Foundation at our Conferences, District Nine is equally blessed to be granted thousands for our work. The following 10 Clubs received grants from the International Foundation in the September 2013 cycle.

- **Abilene**—DIAL UP: Dictionaries for International Adult Literacy Uniting People–$350
- **Anderson County**—Make A Difference Day With Literature and Art–$1,000
- **Arlington**—Magic of Mayans–$2,000
- **Borger**—Senior Cheer–$755
- **Copperas Cove**—Project Reading Is Fundamental Book Distribution–$2,000
- **DFW**—Building a Classroom at Nyongolo Primary School–$1,000
- **Fort Worth**—Westcliff Wranglers Read/Write–$750
- **Garland**—Future Readers of Garland (FROG)–$2,000
- **Greenville**—Team Up With Travis–$1,500
- **Lubbock**—Empowering Women in Crisis Through Literacy–$1,900

CLUB VISITS

In the first year of the biennium, I have been pleased to make official club visits to **DFW, Garland, and Lubbock** and schedule several more by the end of the year, including a few that were hampered by weather (imagine that!). I've also been privileged this year to attend meetings and/or events with the **Temple, Central Texas, Denton,** and **Sherman Clubs.** I love experiencing the spectrum of fantastic events our District Nine Altrusans have to offer, and I

appreciate the hospitality bestowed upon me at every visit. Thank you all for sharing your successes and challenges.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

I was distraught that no District Nine clubs bid for 2014 Conference, but what a phenomenal job **Past Governor Kathy Folley** (Temple) has done in stepping up to chair the event without a host club! Kathy, you are amazing and a rock. With **Governor-Elect Sylvia Zamora** at her right hand, assisting in the planning and execution while soaking it all in to prepare for the next biennium, Kathy and her volunteer army have put together one amazing show. And **Program Coordinator and First Vice Governor Linda Moore** is no slouch, either. Linda has been the magician who makes my every whim a reality. Please thank each of these ladies as you see them this weekend. They have made this event happen for you.

We are honored to have our friend from halfway around the world, **International Vice President Leanne Milligan,** join us as our International representative. Spend some time with Leanne this weekend, and show her your Mighty Ninth hospitality!

In June, I appointed an ad hoc committee to update the Conference Manual (did you know we have one?) and address innovation in our Conference structure. Led by **Janelle Williamson** (Texarkana) and joined by **Laura Trainor Collins** (Richardson), **Amanda Albright** (San Antonio), **Susan Duecy** (The Brazos), and **Sharron Vance** (Dallas), this committee did a great job and returned some eye-opening comments from District Nine Altrusans. I hope you will see some of your ideas implemented and your concerns addressed during this weekend. With all this great inspiration, we're already looking forward to 2015 Conference next spring in San Antonio!

THE DREAM TEAM

COMMUNICATIONS

Our District Service Bulletin, *News of Mighty Ninth,* underwent a facelift, morphing into a magazine-type format with a theme for each issue along with your club reports and district news. Led by Editor **Jan Skinner** (Richardson), with help from a different District committee for each issue, the *NOMN* is a huge hit.

A big thank-you to **Judy Sall** (Downtown Dallas), our website coordinator. In addition to maintaining our public-facing page, Judy has created a repository of information like no other, full of resources you can use in your club for planning and communicating with your Club members. Go to districtnine.altrusa.org, and *log in.* (If you don't have a login, you can request one using the email that International has on file for you.) Then go under "International" to Shared Files–District to see what all she's placed out there.

Have you checked your Facebook account lately? Our little corner of the web grew by leaps and bounds, so we started taking advantage by creating a viral meme campaign featuring our own Altrusans telling why "I am an Altrusan." Be sure to like and share those; you never know who will be intrigued!

I'm getting in on the act as well, using email to communicate with our Club presidents through a monthly update. The District Board, Past Governors, and Program Team also receive a copy.

MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't guessed it by now, 2013-2015 is the Biennium of Membership! As of February, we had initiated almost 70 new members and reinstated a handful more. District Nine is growing, but we have a long way to go to make up ground lost over the past decade or so. Building Altrusa is everyone's responsibility, and it will need to be a primary focus in the second half of this biennium. **Deborah Hecht** (Dallas), co-chair of the Membership Development Committee, and her committee will be doubly dedicated in this second half to helping Clubs reach out to potential new members and share the gift of Altrusa.

As we near the end of the Club year, everyone should be thinking about retention. Over the past several years, District Nine has lost more members per year than it has gained. That's backward! Membership Development Committee Co-Chair **Bobbi Klein** (Richardson) and her committee have some great ideas to help you retain members, but the work is up to you.

REVITALIZATION

WOW. Just wow. Imagine my surprise when I heard the news. Not one, two, or three Clubs had regained charter strength by February, but SEVEN. Congratulations, and keep on truckin' to **Borger, SETCER, Copperas Cove, Central Texas, Denton, Southwest Dallas County,** and the grandmother of all Texas Altrusa Clubs: **AUSTIN!** And an EIGHTH Club, **Anderson County,** will initiate its 20th member by the end of the club year. Congratulations! Thanks go to **Debbie Mabry** (Temple) for her encouragement of these Clubs to reach for that goal. The trick is now to focus on retention so you can keep the momentum going.

SERVICE

The Service Committee has organized two Districtwide service events in this first half of the biennium, both in the Dallas Metroplex area. The first was a workday at the North Texas Food Bank, where members of several DFW-area Clubs put in some elbow grease to feed the hungry in North Texas. The second, in February, was making sandwiches for Soupmobile—and they helped set a Guinness World Record! More opportunities for service alongside your District Nine friends will be coming; watch for the news and make plans to join us! A huge thank-you to **Belva Gibson** (Denton) and her committee for organizing these events for us.

And speaking of service in District Nine, I've appointed an ad hoc committee to oversee some joint efforts in West, Texas. Representatives from the **Dallas Club,** which received the Disaster Relief Fund allowance from the International Foundation, will be joined on this committee by Altrusans from **Waco, The Brazos,** and other clubs in a steering committee. All Altrusans and all District Nine Clubs are welcome to participate. You'll be hearing how you can help very soon!

NEW-CLUB BUILDING

Mary Black Pearson (Temple) and her army of a few are serious about extending District Nine across Texas. Dallas Altrusans Michelle O'Neil and Betsy Stephenson are leading their Club's charge to form an Altrusa Club in Rockwall, and they initiated their first four members in February. A new club equals 20 new Altrusans, so why not try to branch out? There's money from International to help you do it.

KEEP ON BELIEVING

And so, the first half of this marvelous biennium is coming to an end. Let's call it a practice run for what's to come next year. Together, we will build our Clubs from the inside out, and when we gather in this forum next year, each of you will be able to say, "I believed, and we did it!" Thank you for the outpouring of love you have shown me this year. I am truly blessed and honored to have such a forum to express my creativity, hone my leadership skills, and watch you make our dreams come true.

I am an Altrusan, and I believe.

Beth Blair

Beth Blair
Governor
District Nine, Altrusa International Inc.

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF Governor-Elect and Long Range Strategic Planning Chair

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

It has been an honor and an exciting experience serving as your Governor-Elect this year. Eagerly, I await in anticipation of an even more challenging and rewarding coming year. To begin my first year of this biennium as Governor-Elect, I attended the International Convention in New Zealand. I was honored to represent District Nine at the Governor's Workshop. It was a wonderful opportunity being able to present two *ASTRA Workshops* and participate in the *Leadership Fair* and the *International Program Team Presentation.* Along with all my District Nine Altrusa sisters who attended the convention this past summer, we made our presence known. We truly shined!

My year continued with the pleasure of visiting nine clubs, they were; *The Dallas Club, Denton Club, Borger Club, The Abilene Club, The Big Country, SW Dallas County, SETCER, the Nacogdoches Club and the Ft. Worth Club.* Each of these clubs is very unique and different, but all show their passion for serving their community in a way that makes a difference in the lives of those they serve. I benefitted from learning about the incredibly unique service projects and successful fundraisers these clubs presented. I was pleased to learn, four of the under charter strength clubs I visited earlier in this year, have now reached charter strength. Insight and knowledge was greatly gained from each one of these club visits. Also this year, I attended the 2013 *Pre and Post-Conference Board Meetings and the Mid-Year Board Meeting in Austin.* I also serve on the *District Nine Finance Committee.* This committee met in March to review our District Nine finances and budget.

As chair of the Long-Range Strategic Plan (LRSP) committee, I hosted a teleconference with my LRSP committee to review our District Nine Long Range Strategic Plan and goals. Together we accessed where we are thus far in the biennium in meeting expectations. This committee will continue its ongoing evaluation of our District's progress throughout the biennium and report our findings to Governor Beth. Our thanks to those of you who have assisted us with this evaluation process by submitting important club information to complete our reports.

Continuing through this year I have had the privilege of working alongside Kathy Folley, District Nine Past Governor, as her conference co-chair for this year's conference. I have gained extensive knowledge about the conference process. As a member of the San Antonio Altrusa Club, which will be hosting the 2015 conference next year, I will be able to apply all that I experienced, knowledge gained, and built relationships this year, to help my club create the 2015 conference more memorable, educational, and down-right entertaining for all attendees. It is my sincere hope and goal for everyone to leave this year's conference wanting more. Many different clubs assisted the District Board to host this 2014 conference. A first of its kind! I thank everyone who aided and went above and beyond to make this happen.

Looking forward to this summer when I will be attending the Governor-Elect training in Reno, Nevada. This training will prepare and train me for my very vital role of Governor of District Nine for the 2015-2017 biennium. I am honored and looking forward to serving as your District Governor. As we all join hands and work together we can bring about many astounding *changes in our communities, minds and hearts.*

Sylvia Zamora

Sylvia Zamora, Governor-Elect

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF FIRST VICE GOVERNOR AND PROGRAM COORDINATOR

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

I BELIEVE! I am so proud and so privileged to serve on the District Nine Board of Directors with such an amazing group of women. Thank you for giving me this honor. Governor Beth Blair is a true leader and the inspiration that keeps up going.

Report of First Vice Governor:

I have attended both board meetings held since Conference 2013 in Frisco, Texas. I have also had the wonderful experience of doing three club visits to Copperas Cove, Central Texas and Sherman. At each of these meetings I was able to meet new Altrusans and share my love for this organization. I continue to ask the questions, why did you become an Altrusan? And why do you remain an Altrusan? Please ask this of yourselves and then share this awesome family that we have!! I was also in attendance at the new membership initiations at the Central Texas Club that put them over Charter Strength. What a wonderful experience that was! Was also invited to attend a Killeen ISD School Board meeting where the Central Texas Club was recognized for their efforts in Literacy with their Highway 190 Project and where they were also presented by Past Governor Kathy Folley their 2nd Place International Award for the Letha H. Brown Literacy Award. Congratulations to all clubs that went over Charter Strength this year!

Report of Program Coordinator:

I hit the ground running after elections at last year's conference and wrote the Conference Review for 2013 for the News of the Mighty Ninth and then submitted the award winners to International for the International Awards. Conference 2014 has been a year-long work in progress. I have had the wonderful experience of working very closely with Past Governor and Conference Chair, Kathy Folley and Governor Elect and Conference Co-Chair, Sylvia Zamora. The three of us have worked alongside Governor Beth Blair to create a conference experience that everyone will love and remember. Serving in this role as Program Coordinator has been a true learning and educational experience that has solidified Altrusa in my heart. I look forward to serving in this capacity another year to learn even more of what Altrusa has to offer.

Respectfully submitted:



Linda C. Moore, District Nine First Vice Governor/Program Coordinator

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SECOND VICE-GOVERNOR AND FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE CHAIR

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

During my first year as Second Vice-Governor I attended the Fifty-Seventh District Conference and pre-conference and post-conference District Nine Board meetings in Frisco, Texas on April 19-21, 2013. The Dallas Club hosted this conference and did an excellent job in every way! On Saturday, November 9, 2013 I attended the Mid-Year District Board meeting held in Austin, Texas.

As the chair of the District Nine Fund-Raising Committee I worked with my committee to offer ideas for fundraising, improve and get the word out about existing fundraisers for the district clubs, as well as ways to explore optional sources of non-dues revenues for the district. My wonderful Fund-Raising Committee will present a Fundraising Roundtable at District Conference this year.

This Altrusa year, 2013-2014, I enjoyed visiting four clubs in District Nine – Altrusa International of Austin, Inc. on July 18, 2013, Altrusa International of Greenville, Inc. on August 21, 2013, Altrusa International of San Antonio, Inc. on January 9, 2014, and Altrusa International of Collin County, Inc. on February 13, 2014.

Though each of these clubs has their own challenges, each is working well in meeting the goals of this biennium and the District Long Range Strategic plan. They are growing in membership (Austin has now reached charter strength and is still growing!), leadership experience, providing wonderful service for their communities, applying for and receiving awards and grants, and getting members to attend and participate in conference, fall event and convention. They have embraced the new Altrusa Branding campaign and implemented it well within their clubs and communities. These clubs are financially strong and have good fundraising support and are utilizing their 501 c 3 foundation statuses to strengthen the service they provide to their communities.

As chair of the Ad Hoc Conference Committee this year, together with my terrific committee members, we gathered info and ideas from Altrusans to help make this year's conference the best one yet and presented at the District Nine Mid-Year Board Meeting.

As a member of the Long Range Strategic Planning Committee this year I helped by gathering information about the progress our district has made towards the goals our Governor has set out for this biennium.

It has been a true pleasure to work with such dedicated Altrusans this year. I am truly impressed with the warmth, hospitality, and the difference Altrusans make in our communities. I am very proud to be part of all of this and hope that I have helped other Altrusans along the way!

Janelle Williamson

Janelle Williamson
Second Vice-Governor
District Nine, Altrusa International Inc.

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as Altrusa District Nine Treasurer, Finance Committee Chairman, and a District Nine Board Member for 2013-2014. I have truly enjoyed fulfilling the following duties and responsibilities for this fiscal year.

- Attended the post-conference Board Meeting in Frisco on April 21, 2013.
- Opened a new checking account on behalf of District Nine in Lubbock.
- Attended (via conference call) the mid-year board meeting in Austin on November 9, 2013.
- Chaired the Finance Committee meeting in McKinney on March 22, 2014 at which actual income and expenses versus the approved 2013-2014 budget were reviewed, and the proposed 2014-2015 budget was prepared. Many thanks to the members of the Finance Committee, Governor Beth Blair, Immediate Past Governor LaVone Arthur, Immediate Past Treasurer Linda Hurt, Past Treasurer Terry Lechler, and Governor-Elect Sylvia Zamora.
- Worked to assure achievement of the Strategic Plan's goals of maintaining a balanced budget and maintaining reserves of no less than six months operating expenses.
- Retained an independent accounting firm to perform the 2013-2014 compilation. Presented the 2012-2013 compilation report at the mid-year board meeting.
- Coordinated with previous District Nine Treasurer Linda Hurt who submitted Form 990 for fiscal year 2013 prior to the IRS deadline.
- Reviewed the accounting of 2013 conference.
- Received District membership dues and Leadership Training Fees from Clubs and deposited proceeds in the District checking account.
- Maintained membership records and tracked membership numbers by Club.
- Provided the Governor with new member forms upon receipt from the Clubs.
- Provided the Editor of the *News of the Mighty Ninth* with membership numbers by club and a listing of new members for each edition. Submitted a Treasurer's report for the Spring Edition of the *NOMN*.
- Processed expense reimbursement and other expenses as approved by the Governor, and as stipulated in the District Nine Fiscal Policies.
- Reconciled monthly bank statements.
- Made one club visit to Altrusa International of Wichita Falls, TX on March 17, 2014.
- Prepare for and present the Incoming Treasurer's workshop at Conference and presented the proposed 2014-2015 budget.
- Assist with any fundraising activities at Conference in support of the International Foundation.

Many thanks to: Immediate-Past Treasurer Linda Hurt for her invaluable assistance with the biennium transition, our wonderful District Nine Board and Program Team for their leadership, encouragement, and guidance, and our District Nine Club Treasurers whose dedication and diligence in Altrusa fiscal matters in greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Leslie Thompson, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chairman
District Nine, Altrusa International, Inc.

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-APRIL 27, 2014

Greetings from your District Nine Director:

The role of a District Director is to support the District Nine Clubs. As your liaison to our District, I have had the pleasure of visiting and interacting with several clubs in our District this year. I am also serving on the Revitalization Committee; much of my effort with District Clubs has been put towards revitalizing club membership. It has been a wonderful experience as I have witnessed such commitment put forth by club presidents who are revitalizing the membership of their clubs by holding prospective member events and "advertising" Altrusa at their fundraising events. They have accepted the challenge and their clubs are growing! We will continue to work together in the second half of the biennium to bring the clubs in District Nine to charter strength.

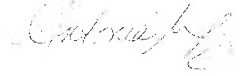
We are also concentrating on member retention. By encouraging club members to participate in club service projects, we are sharing the essence of Altrusa and bringing members closer together. Also, the importance of annual new member orientation events should not be underestimated. When all club members are encouraged to attend these events, there is an important bonding that takes place between club members and new club members.

Recruiting is a year-round effort. A way to create a streamlined path to grow membership, retain members and raise Conference attendance is to make a concentrated club recruiting effort in February by holding a new member luncheon or similar recruiting event. In March, prospective members have the opportunity to attend the required meetings or events to make application for club membership. The beginning of April is the perfect time for a new member orientation event. By Conference time, our new members understand the purpose of Conference and are excited to attend as "First-Timers!" Conference is a retention tool no club should overlook. Once you attend District Nine Conference, you'll always want to attend District Nine Conference!

At the District Conference to be held in Austin, Texas, new Altrusans from District Nine will have the opportunity to learn more about our organization as we welcome our new members who are "First-Timers" at Conference. For "seasoned members" who are becoming club board members, District Director Trina Taylor and I will hold a workshop on Saturday after the awards luncheon to help those members serve successfully as they step forward into the administrative responsibilities of their clubs. Keeping members growing within Altrusa is also an important aspect of member retention.

Thank you to each and every Altrusan, for your participation in the fifty-eighth Altrusa District Nine Conference. Everything you do for Altrusa directly impacts lives in our District and across the globe. It has been my honor to serve our mighty District this biennium. I appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and your clubs.

Very best regards,



Antonia M. Buban
District Nine Director

District Nine Altrusa International Inc.
Annual Report of the District Director
Fifty Eighth District Conference April 25-April 27, 2014

Hello my fellow Altrusans:

This has been an amazing year; a, year filled with growth opportunities, support and love.

This year, as a District Nine Director, I had the honor of attending two board meetings, where your District Nine Board planned and organized opportunities for Altrusans of District Nine to grow and serve their communities better.

It has been a wonderful experience to serve as a member of the District Nine Fundraising committee; the fundraising committee has been working to bring our clubs fundraising ideas that will not only grow your operating budgets and Foundation funds but will help your clubs gain exposure in the community. Serving on the Altrusa International Communications committee has been an opportunity for me to learn more about how Altrusa International is working to ensure that all Altursans and our communities are knowledgeable about how Altrusa is growing and making an impact on the universe.

Antonia Buban and I will host a workshop that will help you our clubs to support those members that are interested in serving in an administrative capacity with their clubs.

I am looking forward to getting to know more about what your clubs are doing to improve the lives of not only your communities but how you Altrusans are growing and supporting one another.

Lastly, I want you all to encouraged. We are here to support and love you... All you have to do is

BELIEVE!

All my Best,

Trina Taylor
District Nine Director

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

This biennium was off to an exciting start in Rotorua, New Zealand. I had the privilege of attending the 53rd International Convention from July 26 - 29, 2013 and was bursting with pride as so many District Nine Clubs were recognized for their stellar accomplishments. Congratulations again to Altrusa International of Lubbock (1st place, Mamie L. Bass Service Award), Altrusa International of Richardson (1st place, Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award) and Altrusa International of Central Texas (2nd place, Letha H. Brown Literacy Award). I encourage all Clubs to submit their wonderful projects for District awards. The winners at this Conference and at the 2015 Conference are submitted to International, and the International winners will be recognized at the 54th International Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

As Immediate Past Governor, I am also serving as Chair of the Edith DeBusk President's Award Committee along with **Linda Nichols, Carolyn Rash,** and **Brenda Tucker**. We received 22 submissions this year from last year's Club Presidents and the leadership skills exhibited are outstanding. I encourage each and every Club President to submit your entry for this award.

Last April, I attended the Post Conference Board meeting in Frisco, the Mid-Year Board meeting in Austin in November, and will attend both the Pre-Conference and Post Conference Board meetings in Austin this weekend. I also attended the District Finance Committee meeting in McKinney in March.

I am proud and excited to be part of the **Governor Beth Blair**'s leadership team and I BELIEVE in each and every one of you!

LaVone Arthur
Immediate Past Governor
District Nine, Altrusa International Inc.

District Nine, Altrusa International, Inc.
Annual Report of Parliamentarian
Fifty-Eighth District Conference, April 24-27, 2014

As Parliamentarian, I attended the mid-year (November 2013) Board meeting in Austin and will attend pre- and post-Conference (April 2012) Board meetings in Austin. The Governor occasionally called upon me for interpretations and advice, which I was pleased to provide.

I continue to serve as the Legal Advisor to the International Foundation, which has required me to attend the Foundation's Board meetings; participate in training and informational conference calls with the Districts' Foundation liaisons; work closely with outside counsel, the International Foundation Board Chair, and the Foundation Coordinator regarding compliance, IRS, group exemption, and other issues; advise clubs and individuals with regard to their questions about club foundations; review, correct, and approve club foundation submissions; and be available to the Foundation Board for research and advice.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Hardwick Hofmeister
District Nine BRR Committee Chair/Parliamentarian

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

It has been a pleasure to serve this year with the District Nine Board of Directors under the leadership of Beth Blair.

As District Nine Secretary, my activities included:

- Receiving records and instruction from Dorothy Nowlin, 2011-2012 District Nine Secretary
- Attending the Mid-year Board meeting in Austin, Texas
- Writing and distributing the minutes for the 2013 Post-conference and 2013 Mid-year District Nine Board of Directors' meetings
- Compiling the list of delegates and alternates for the 2014 District Nine Conference
- Coordinating the District Nine Perfect Attendance Awards for 2012-2013
- Preparing for and presenting the Secretary's workshop at the 2014 District Nine Conference
- Gathering material for and presenting the Memorial Service at the 2014 District Nine Conference
- Handling correspondence as directed by Governor Blair
- Writing articles for News of the Mighty Ninth as directed by Governor Blair
- Maintaining a record book of actions of the District Nine Board of Directors

Susie Stephenson
Secretary
District Nine, Altrusa International Inc.

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DISTRICT NINE ASTRA COMMITTEE

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

It has been a pleasure to serve as your ASTRA Chair along with my dynamite committee members, Beverly Luedke of Altrusa Temple and Allison Watson of Altrusa Pampa during this first year of 2013-2015 biennium. ASTRA updates with photos and articles published in the News of the Mighty Ninth have been a team effort. KUDOS to you ladies for your generous support!

Governor Beth Blair asked the committee to reach out to the Club Presidents and offer assistance for starting an ASTRA club. In the first edition of News of the Mighty Ninth, an article was published sharing guidelines on how to start and maintain an ASTRA club. The ASTRA Advisor's Manual has recently been revised and can be downloaded from International's website.

I'm excited to share that thirty of the thirty-three Altrusa clubs in District Nine responded to emails as we worked diligently to confirm the active ASTRA clubs. Currently, there are eight ASTRA clubs with three that are still under charter strength as well as a few Altrusa Clubs who are in planning stages on starting an ASTRA club in 2014. Governor Blair's goal of adding "one" new ASTRA club for this biennium was surpassed with Belton High School ASTRA club(charter strength) and Conservatory School of Music (not yet charter strength), both sponsored by Altrusa International of Temple, Inc.

The ASTRA committee will be participating in the "Round Table" session at District Nine on Saturday afternoon. Please stop by and check out the latest on ASTRA and talk to some of the college students from UMHB ASTRA Club.

In the next year of the biennium, the ASTRA committee hopes to work with Governor Blair to develop a section on District Nine website.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla S. Helstrom

Carla S. Helstrom
ASTRA Chair
District Nine, Altrusa International, Inc.

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.
ANNUAL REPORT OF BYLAWS, RESOLUTION and RECOMMENDATION
FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE
April 25-27, 2014

The following information was sent to all District Nine Board members, District Committee Chairs and Club President October 1, 2013:

International Policy 52 provides the opportunity for District Officers, District Committee Chairs, Past Governors and Clubs to submit proposed bylaws, resolutions and recommendation to the District BRR Committee Chair at least 90 days before District Conference. Each proposal should include a history with background and rationale; an implementation date, a list of other bylaws or policies affected by the proposed bylaw, resolution or recommendation; the fiscal impact, if any, and the suggested motion.
I know it is early and Conference is not until April 25-27, but the BRR committee is responsible for circulating these recommendations to all of you at least 60 days before Conference. So if you or your club members are considering any changes to the bylaws, any resolution or recommendations, begin collecting information so this can considered and submit to the BRR Committee by January 15.
Thank you for your attention to the request. Have a wonderful year in Altrusa.

Mary Osentowski, BRR Chair

The following article was submitted September, 2013 to Editor Jan Skinner for publication in the News of the Mighty Ninth:

Want to Recommend a Revision to the Bylaws?
If a Club, Past Governor, District Board member or Committee Chair wishes to propose changes to the bylaws, resolutions or recommendations, the District BRR committee needs to hear from you 90 days before our next Conference. Letters with details regarding any proposals will be sent to all interested parties by mid September.
Because these proposals require background and rationale, it is not too early to begin preparing documentation to support any changes or additions.
BRR Committee Members include Kathleen Dow, Melva Hill and Mary Osentowski, Chair.

Governor Beth Blair also included information in the January President's newsletter, which was shared with past governors and committee chairs. The BRR Committee received no proposals for changes to the bylaws, resolutions or recommendations and this information was submitted to Jan Skinner, editor of the News of the Mighty Ninth in a brief article in March.

Thank you to Kathleen Dow and Melva Hill for serving with me on the BRR Committee this year.

Mary Osentowski, Chair
BRR Committee

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

Members of the Leadership Committee for the 2013-2015 biennium are Amanda Albright of San Antonio, Laura Frias of SW Dallas County, Roxie Vincent of Copperas Cove and Shirley Raymer of Garland, Chair. Due to distance the committee primarily communicated by email and phone but met in Hillsboro in October to begin planning for the District Nine Conference and Leadership Luncheon.

In accordance with the District Nine Strategic Plan, the Leadership Committee is to solicit input as to personal development desired at conference and conduct workshops at conference based on this input. An email was sent seeking this information, but unfortunately, response was not as expected. However, the Leadership committee will conduct a conference workshop on "Success for New Committee Chairs" to provide helpful hints and guidance in leading club committees. The committee is also working on the Leadership Luncheon for the 2013-2015 program team.

The Leadership Development committee has submitted articles for the News of the Mighty Ninth and posted committee updates on Facebook and the District Nine Blog. I have attended leadership workshops offered by other clubs, attended meetings of neighboring clubs and supported Altrusa Dallas in their efforts to establish Altrusa Rockwall. I was able to attend the International Convention in Rotorua and attended several leadership workshops while there. This convention was a great learning experience.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to serve on the District Nine Leadership Development Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of this committee if there is any way we can be of service to your club. My commitment to Altrusa grows with each assignment and I thank you for allowing me to serve District Nine.

Shirley Raymer

Shirley Raymer, Chair
Leadership Development Committee
District Nine, Altrusa International Inc.

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (RECRUITMENT)

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

Love of Altrusa and Membership Development seem to go hand in hand. As the first year of the biennium comes to an end, the Membership team, focusing on recruitment, is happy with the direction in which District Nine is moving.

The Membership Development (recruitment) Committee consists of Deborah Hecht of Dallas, Janet Black of Garland, Beverly Lenoir of Collin County and Sharron Vance of Dallas. This year we had the opportunity to visit Clubs and share some of our membership ideas. We also had the pleasure to do the initiations of new members and assist in Club's membership events.

This year we also created a Membership Recruitment packet and distributed it to clubs before "Add an Altrusan" month. Our hope is Clubs use this tool to aid in their membership efforts in April as well as the remainder of the biennium and beyond.

For the second year of the biennium we hope to visit as many clubs as possible to work on membership ideas. We will also continue to be available to answer questions, build plans, coach, and assist in any way we can.

We will continue to strive toward Governor Beth's goal of 10% increase for the biennium. We BELIEVE we belong to an amazing organization and BELIEVE we can help The Mighty Ninth grow!

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Hecht

Deborah Hecht
Membership Development Co-Chair, recruitment
District Nine, Altrusa International Inc.

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.
ANNUAL REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP RETENTION
FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

To begin planning for the new Biennium the Membership Recruitment, Retention and Revitalization Committees conducted a joint meeting on April 7, 2013, prior to the 2013 conference at my home. Membership job descriptions, the District Nine Strategic Plan and our areas of focus and Governor Beth Blair's suggestions were discussed, prioritized, and specific job assignments were made. An additional joint meeting was held after the Leadership Luncheon on April 19th to further discuss and plan. On-going communications have been conducted via email and phone calls.

The Membership Retention Committee attempted to plan an event open to all District Nine members. To be held after the Board meeting in Austin in November. Plans included arrangements for reduced rates at the Schlitterbahn Lofts Resort in New Braunfels. While staying in the resort plans were made for a "progressive dinner" to be shared with each "course" being served by the members staying in different lofts. The alternate plan was to meet at a local restaurant. There was also a local festival, "WurstFest ", going on at the same time for anyone interested. The event did not engender enough interest to proceed. Other events are in planned for the future.

An important retention project was developed to assist the new members and their sponsors, which will promote proper assimilation into Altrusa. Since it is significant that members who make it through their first two years tend to become long time Altrusans, the New Member Planning Guide is intended to be used in the first 18-24 months. It is designed to assist the new member on her journey to become an Altrusan. It is a step by step guide with specific action steps to guide her through the very important first year or two of membership. We also developed a Sponsor Planning Guide, which is based on the New Member Guide, to aid the sponsor as they assist the new member and suggests steps to do together.

The other major project has been the compilation of a new resource guide specifically for Membership Retention. It includes a list of Retention ideas, guidelines for gaining and retaining members of various ages, ideas for creating a stronger "sisterhood" within a club, the New Member and Sponsor Plans along with ideas on how to make use of them, orientation ideas and examples from clubs. This resource guide will be presented to members during the conference Roundtable and has been included in the conference materials on the conference CD.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta A. Klein

Roberta A. Klein
Membership Retention Committee Chair
District Nine

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF NEW-CLUB BUILDING CHAIR

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

Altrusans kicked off the initiative to establish two new clubs in this biennium, by setting up a display at conference in 2013. The membership committee went fishing for names and places where the mission of leadership and service, the Altrusa way, could further grow in District NINE. The Dallas Altrusans picked up the challenge and began the search for community members in Rockwall to form a new club. Michelle O'Neil and Betsy Branch Stephenson partnered to begin making contacts in the community and explore the possibilities for new members and projects. In September of 2013, exploratory discussions lead to a meeting to set goals and a timetable for meetings and projects.

Altrusa is becoming known in Rockwall. From that very first meeting, Michelle and Betsy have worked to develop projects that showcase the mission of Altrusa. On Saturday, October 26, 2013, Altrusa Rockwall held its first community service project called I CAN Read. Participants collected canned foods benefiting the Helping Hands of Rockwall food bank and encouraged people and children to sign up for a free library card. Betsy Branch Stephenson led the group and Susan Wright and Alison Bennett assisted. The group collected over 80 cans of food for the cause. On January 11th, Altrusa Rockwall focused on homelessness. We prepared comfort bags for homeless people and pets. The "pet bags" contained a toy and snack for dogs and cats. The bags were taken to the Rockwall Animal Shelter. The "people bags" contained clothing items of thermal socks and gloves, toiletry items such as shampoo, wet wipes, wash cloth, deodorant, canned food items and hair accessories. Twenty-one bags for men and 9 for women were assembled for distribution. Participants were encouraged to take two or three bags and hand them out to someone in need appearing to be homeless. January 25th, once again Rockwall participants assembled snack sacks for boys and girls to be distributed through the Boys and Girls Club in Rockwall to those children in need. In March, participants assembled starter bags for the dogs and cats adopted from the Rockwall Animal Adoption Center.

Growing a new club starts with new Altrusans and Rockwall installed four new Altrusans in February of 2014 as charter members of the club. District funds are available as a new club begins to install new Altrusans. Governor Beth Blair conducted the ceremonies for the day as sponsors and new Altrusans were sworn in and pinned. Altrusans from the Dallas Club, the Garland Club and Temple club shared their reasons for becoming Altrusans and supported this initiative to build a new club through efforts leading to these first Altrusans joining the Altrusa family. The program that day focused on how to have impact with a project by sharing a passion for service to impact the needs of a community.

Efforts continue as Dallas Altrusans consider the possibilities of building another club in Carrollton. New clubs benefit from having existing clubs step up to sponsor and mentor Altrusans in a new community. Rockwall is a shining example of the emphasis on teamwork and the leadership of Michelle O'Neil to create a new club. Planning projects that focus on servicing an existing need for that community consistent with the mission of Altrusa International builds awareness in the community. Altrusans build women in leadership to develop initiatives that impact the futures of communities. Other communities are prime targets to develop new Altrusa clubs. Expansion and recruitment efforts will continue in Rockwall and other parts of the DFW area. With growth in the district picking up momentum, the goal is to identify another sponsoring club and target community to develop more Altrusans for District NINE.

Mary Black Pearson
New-Club Building Committee Chair

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

The Revitalization Committee, made up of Kimberly Kierce, Magaly Rincon-Zachary, Antonia Buban, and Debbie Mabry (chair), started the year with a survey of the Clubs that were under charter strength to identify areas where we, as a committee, could assist them. We then began making contact with the Club presidents to offer our assistance.

Additionally, the committee was responsible for an article in the News of Mighty Ninth each quarter. As we began to see Clubs attain charter, we began focusing on one Club who attained charter in the articles. Our goal was to not only recognize the hard work of that Club in attaining charter, but to also give information to other Clubs that would like to know how they did it. It has been very inspirational to see the work that has gone into reaching their goals.

The committee had hoped to hold a webinar this year for all Club presidents and membership chairs in Clubs under charter strength. These plans are still being put together and we hope to have our first webinar in early summer so stay tuned!

There were seven Clubs in District Nine who attained charter strength this year. The Revitalization Committee applauds the hard work of these Clubs as well as all Clubs working on revitalization. Please call on us if we can help in any way.

Debbie Mabry
Chair

DISTRICT NINE, ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SERVICE COMMITTEE CHAIR

FIFTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT NINE CONFERENCE, APRIL 25-27, 2014

The Service Committee has had a good first year of the biennium:

- Submitted articles for all issues of the News of the Mighty Ninth, including a number of low or no cost service projects.
- Sponsored a volunteer opportunity for DFW area Altrusans at the North Texas Food Bank.
- Sponsored a volunteer opportunity for DFW area Altrusans to help break the Guinness Book of World Records to help feed the homeless and needy.
- Encouraged clubs to participate in Make A Difference Day.
- Mamie L. Bass Service Award, Letha H. Brown/Governor's Literacy Award and Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award entries were received and judged. Winners to be announced at District Conference.

Belva Gibson
Service Committee Chair