These are exciting days as a new school year begins and students gather again to learn together and to serve their communities together through their engagement in ASTRA! Your Altrusa International ASTRA Committee applauds the members of our ASTRA Clubs as they plan and implement amazing service in their communities and grow in their leadership abilities as they do so.

We are here to support you and to encourage your efforts, so please let us know how we can help. Congratulations to our newly chartered clubs as you begin your service and to those assuming new leadership roles in their clubs! Please let us know how we can encourage Altrusans as they sponsor new ASTRA clubs in their communities and reenergize clubs that struggled during the pandemic.

Isn't it exciting to emerge from the restrictions of a pandemic, to meet in person again, to serve in person again? Let's celebrate all we've learned during those days and how our ASTRA members continued to share their compassion and determination to serve those whose needs only intensified during that unique moment in time. Please read on in this ASTRAGram and let it inspire you to greater service in this new academic year.

With great anticipation for what lies ahead as we head into autumn and a new year of service together,

Lorraine Brewer
ASTRA International Committee Chair
SEPTEMBER:

Membership Co-Chairs: As school starts back, this is a great time to establish a membership goal for the coming year, actively recruit new ASTRA members and update membership records. Some ASTRA Clubs hold their Officer elections in the fall, or elect additional Committee Co-Chairs in the fall.

❖ Some ASTRA Clubs have their Treasurer’s collecting dues as club meetings resume in the fall. Planning Committee Chairs set their committee goals and timelines for the year.

❖ Service Co-Chairs: Discuss which service ideas you want to pursue during the upcoming year and create a calendar and timeline; assign project co-chairs to share leadership opportunities with various committee members.

❖ Plan a Make a Difference Day project for October. ASTRA can create its own project or help with the planned Altrusa project.

❖ Plan a fun fall membership activity.

❖ Fundraising Co-Chairs: Analyze need for fundraisers to support club projects and create a fundraising plan with timeline.

❖ Service Co-Chairs: September 15th is the deadline for the first round of Altrusa International Foundation grants for ASTRA service projects. Plan an ASTRA Service project that you can submit for the District ASTRA Service Award. The application typically is due in March, but may vary by District. Program Co-Chairs will schedule speakers for the year and your ASTRA Advisors can help.

For a complete list of “Monthly Reminders” for the rest of the calendar year, please visit our website at altrusa.org and click on the ASTRA page.

There are over 70 ASTRA Clubs!

Recent Clubs Chartered
Lake Belton ASTRA - Chartered in May.
San Antonio ASTRA – Chartered In August
Meet the new ASTRA Club of Escuela Antonio Acarón Correa of Cabo Rojo, P.R. The activity was at the school library.

The new club acquired its charter for its 18 members, on Friday, March 4, 2022 during an emotional initiation memorable for all. The mayor of Cabo Rojo, Hon. Jorge A. Morales Wiscovitch, the District Fourteen Altrusa International, Inc. governor, Virginia Caballero Santos, the representative of the school principal, teachers, librarian, ASTRA counselor, Olivia Santana Acosta, Altrusa members and very important, a large group of mothers, grandmothers and fathers who constantly support us, were present.

They received the support of the Altrusa advisors who guided them and collaborated to initiate knowledge about ASTRA. Some ASTRA members participated in the initiation program.

Finally, the board was installed, which is composed of the following ASTRA members.

- Genesis O. Rivera Surita - President
- Jeremy Loor Rivera - Vice-president
- Alondra Mercedes Rojas - Secretary
- Carlos D. Natal Padilla - Subsecretary
- Michael González González - Treasurer
- Briana D. Franqui Rivera - Subtreasurer

ASTRA club member Carlos Natal offers the reflection in the installation ceremony at the school library.
During the orientation a team work dynamic

ASTRA

A – Ability – To know that all of us have special talents to share with others.
S – Service – To improve the lives of those less fortunate in the community.
T – Training – To develop leadership ability and potential.
R – Responsibility – To learn to accept obligations and know the satisfaction of carrying projects through to a successful conclusion.
A – Achievement – To experience success; to know that a group can accomplish so much more than any one individual.

Upcoming Dates:
September 8 - International Literacy Day
September 17 – Constitution Day
September 21 - International Day of Peace
October 10 – Columbus Day
October 16 - World Food Day
November 11 – Veteran’s Day
November 25 - Int’l Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
December 10 - Human Rights Day
December 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
“ASTRA and Altrusa Clubs of Charlotte, NC joined forces to help a local pet rescue, “Forgotten Now Family Rescue” during their adoption event this past March. Members snuggled with and showcased the pups to potential adopters.”

“Our ASTRA Club of Charlotte, NC donated pencil cases filled with school supplies to all 50 of students at Centro Educacional Batey Verde during a recent spring break to Dominican Republic. The students at this K-8 school were Haitian children whose parents worked the sugar cane fields outside of La Romana and were as excited to meet us as we were them. We hope to continue our international reach as other ASTRA members visit countries with students in need.”

One Book at a Time
International Book Challenge
from President Kathy
Changing one million lives, one book at a time.

Go to:
astra.altrusainternational.org
for more information
• The Project Grant Applications must be emailed by the due date to foundation @altrusa.org.

• Do not mail applications to the Chicago office. A confirmation email will be sent to you when the application is received. Questions about grant applications may be directed to Shawna Kaiser, Foundation Director. You will receive an email confirmation, to the member listed on your application, upon receipt at the International Foundation office. Phone: (312) 427-4410 Fax: (312) 789-4416 shawna@altrusa.org or www.foundation.altrusa.org

• There are two funding cycles each fiscal year:
  • Cycle 1: Applications due September 15
  • Cycle 2: Applications due March 15

• In addition, Altrusa and ASTRA Clubs chartering now may receive a one-time grant up to $2,000 to begin service in their communities. The application must be received within one year of the charter date.

• The Altrusa International Foundation, Inc. reserves the right to make the final decision on all applications. The grant recipient is obligated to use the grant award for the intended purpose and must file a report within one year after the grant is awarded.

• Altrusa Clubs, ASTRA Clubs, and Districts may apply for one service grant per cycle in the fiscal year, and all applicants must agree to the terms of the grant. If an application is not awarded Foundation funds, the Club or District may reapply in the next cycle.

NOTE: This application can be submitted electronically up to midnight of its due date…..so get it done!!!

“Altrusa believes it is not enough to be good: Altrusans must be good for something.

Each member must be doing the piece of work that is hers in a way that puts her in the front ranks of accomplishments.”

Mamie L. Bass
DISTRICT ONE ASTRA Committee Liaison: Linda Dysart lindadysart2010@gmail.com
ASTRA Chair: Patricia(Tish)Maxim campnaples@fairpoint.net

DISTRICT TWO ASTRA Committee Liaison: Lorraine Brewer lobrewer@uark.edu ASTRA Chair: Dawn Aubrey daubrey@illinois.edu

DISTRICT THREE ASTRA Committee Liaison: Scott Tice scottaltrusa@gmail.com ASTRA Chair: Jeraldyn J. Rivest jeraldyn@hotmail.com

DISTRICT FOUR ASTRA Committee Liaison: Ileana Pacheco ipacheco2019.2021@gmail.com
ASTRA Chair: Britley Parker 1-334-897-5143

DISTRICT FIVE ASTRA Committee Liaison: Janice Storrs jlstorrs47@hotmail.com ASTRA Chair: Kathy Carmack kathycarmack52@gmail.com

DISTRICT SIX ASTRA Committee Liaison: Vici Giltner jgiltner@netins.net ASTRA Chair: Kathy Benz benzkb@comcast.net

DISTRICT SEVEN ASTRA Committee Liaison and Chair: Vici Giltner jgiltner@netins.net

DISTRICT EIGHT ASTRA Committee Liaison: Lorraine Brewer lobrewer@uark.edu ASTRA Chair: Heather Cleavinger h_cleavinger@yahoo.com

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ASTRA Chair: Sylvia Zamora szamora.altrusa@gmail.com

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ASTRA Chair: Pam Hayes president.tauranga@altrusa.org.nz