Dear ASTRA Members and Altrusans,

Please enjoy reading this new ASTRAGram. It is packed with important information and great news of service provided by students thanks to engagement with their communities through ASTRA. It’s been exciting to charter new clubs and to receive news of incredible service by ASTRA members in their communities. We want you to celebrate with them and to be inspired by them as you read this newsletter.

Altrusans, we encourage you to continue to engage with the students in any ASTRA Club you sponsor, inviting them to join with you in your spring celebrations and service. They will enjoy getting to know you even better as they join you for your district conferences, too! We look forward to learning about the ways your district involved them at your 2023 conferences.

If your club hasn’t yet sponsored an ASTRA Club, we are here to serve you as you begin that process. There is much helpful information on the ASTRA website to get you started, including a terrific video to introduce ASTRA to school and/or community leaders. It is an amazing journey on which you’ll embark with some compassionate and creative youth and young adults as you work with them in service to our communities and beyond. We are working on a leadership training power point to help ASTRA Club leaders as they transition from one leadership team to the new one for the next academic year.

Please be in touch with us if you have any needs as we serve together with these emerging leaders!

Lorraine Brewer
Altrusa International ASTRA Committee Chair

Thanks to this month’s contributors:
Lorraine Brewer, Int’l Chairman
Ileana Pacheco (Fourteen)
Jeraldyn Rivest, (Three)
Grace Cleavenger (Eight)
Jan Storrs (Five)

Is your club doing any special projects to help the victims of Ukraine? Please let us know so we can highlight them in our next issue. Thanks.

Email to Editor Jan Storrs,
Altrusa Int’l Club of Branch County, MI
@ jlstorrs47@hotmail.com
District Fourteen, in its ASTRA Meeting activity, celebrating its forty-third meeting, recognized the planning work of ASTRA clubs.

96 ASTRA members from the clubs of San Sebastián, Cabo Rojo, San Lorenzo, and San Germán attended together with their advisors and parents.

The first place award of the participants was given to the ASTRA Club of the Ernestina Méndez Schools, the second place to Patria Latorre Ramírez School, and the third place to the Carmelo Serrano School, all of them sponsored by Altrusa International of San Sebastián, P.R., Inc. Clubs are rewarded for their practical and active planning.

It was an excellent activity of great benefit to the youth. Under the motto "ASTRA raising your quality of life," they participate in workshops, dynamics, a Talent show, and Goofy Games for the knowledge and enjoyment of all. From their evaluations, it was the same great happiness and pleasure for all.
Astra Moberly visits Mexico
Astra along with past president, Molly Grace Cleavinger. They discussed ways to build membership, service project ideas, and team building ideas.

Moberly Astra had a day of service with some at the local animal shelter and others at the community kitchen. They also gave out over 35 bags of personal care items to individuals in need.

Branch County District Five – Coldwater and Quincy High School ASTRANS read to elementary students as part of the community United Way United We Read Program.
Coldwater and Quincy ASTRA club members joined together to help Branch County students “shop” for their upcoming proms. Thanks to the generous donations of the community, students had dresses, shoes, suits, ties, etc. to take for the asking. With more than a hundred items to choose from, most everyone went away with something. Thanks ASTRANS for offering the “Gowns for Gals and Ties for Guys” program each year. Thanks to Vested Risk Strategies for allowing the use of their bldg. to house their “store”.

Club advisors include Emily Heffner from Quincy and Julie Stratos, Janelle Warner, Michelle Scheetz, Heather Hyliard, and Jan Storrs from Coldwater. District Five – Branch County Altrusa
I am pleased to share a couple of photos from the Charter ceremony we held last Friday, 3/17/23 for the ASTRA Club of Cabarrus County Home School Association hosted by the Altrusa Club of Charlotte, NC Inc. It was exciting to charter District Three's first Home School Club. Family and friends joined in the ceremony and enjoyed a lunch celebration following. There were 14 students in attendance with a few not able to attend. The ASTRA Club of Charlotte donated the ASTRA banner and ASTRA pins to the founding members.

In attendance...
From the Altrusa Club of Charlotte, NC:
• Past District Three Governor and current Club President - Christy Bryant
• ASTRA Co-Sponsor: Josie Frieser
• District Three ASTRA Committee Chair and ASTRA Co-Sponsor: Jeraldyn Rivest
• Services Co-Chair: Cindylu Brubaker
• Fellowship Chair: Rey Thompson-Wilson
• Ways & Means Chair: Yolander Hunter
District Three Governor Shannon Schell joined us through Zoom and delivered her speech remotely. Letters were received and read aloud by Josie Frieser from Altrusa International President, Kathy Folley and one from Lorraine Brewer, International ASTRA Committee Chair.

The founding officers of the ASTRA Club of CCHSA include:
President - Austin Sorensen
Vice President - Navaeh Tuck
Secretary - Wyatt Stapleton
Treasurer - Christian Davis
DISTRICT FOURTEEN

Two new ASTRA Clubs sponsored by Altrusa International of San Lorenzo, PR, Inc, have been activated. One is at the José Campeche High School and the other is at Generoso Morales Middle School.

During this year, they have been sharing a lot of information about some holidays among ASTRA youth, parents, guardians, teachers, and other students in the school community.

They have carried out activities to celebrate the days No More Violence Against Women, World Health Day, Animals Day, Make a Difference Day, and Peace Day, among others.

Astra members are receiving orientation about bullying.

Peace Day Activity
End of the Year Reminders

ASTRA Graduation Cord Request

Congratulations to your graduates. Allow them to represent their participation in ASTRA with cords to wear over their gowns as they walk across the stage at graduation. Cords are provided free of charge. Please request at least 2 weeks prior to date of graduation.

Please go to Altrusa@Altrusa.org to complete your order.

Club Annual Report and planning for the new ASTRA year!

MAY:
Altrusa ASTRA Advisor completes and submits the ASTRA Club Annual Report to International by the deadline, typically in June; ASTRA Club Officers may assist with that report.

New ASTRA officers sign the new signature card at the bank, if needed.

JUNE:
This June you’ll find a power point on the ASTRA website to help you in your transition meeting between the former officers and the newly elected officers.

Newly elected ASTRA Officers and Committee Co-Chairs schedule a time to start planning a successful new ASTRA year.

See astra.altrusa.org for further information and a sample copy.

DID YOU KNOW?

That Summer is a GREAT time to sponsor a new ASTRA Club?

Be sure to go to: astra.altrusainternational.com to learn “WHY YOU SHOULD START A NEW ASTRA CLUB WHEN THERE ARE PLENTY OF CLUBS AT YOUR SCHOOL”.

Calling all Alumni

Be sure to fill out the ASTRA Alumni Information Sheet on the astra.altrusainternational.org website before you head off for new and exciting adventures. We want to stay in touch with you and know how you are doing. Please take the time to do this now.
**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**April/May:** ASTRA Service Awards will be announced at District Conferences.

**April/May:** ASTRA Alumni Information survey information needed.

**April 15:** All scholarship winners announced.

**June 1:** Deadline for each District to submit ASTRA Service Award winner information to International.

**June 15:** ASTRA Club Annual Reports are due to International (submitted online by each Altrusa ASTRA Club chair).

**ASTRANS are always invited.**

**Changing one million lives, one book at a time.**

For more information: Go to: www.altrusa.org
DISTRICT ONE ASTRA Committee Liaison: Linda Dysart lindadysart2010@gmail.com
ASTRA Chair: Trish 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

DISTRICT NINE ASTRA Committee Liaison: Traci Squarcette tsquarcette@umhb.edu
ASTRA Chair: Sylvia Zamora szamora.altrusa@gmail.com

DISTRICT TEN ASTRA Committee Liaison and Chair: Linda Dysart lindadysart2010@gmail.com

DISTRICT ELEVEN ASTRA Committee Liaison: Scott Tice scottaltrusa@gmail.com ASTRA Chair: April Smith aprilboat@gmail.com

DISTRICT TWELVE ASTRA Committee Liaison: Janice Storrs jlstorrs47@hotmail.com ASTRA Chair: Terri J. Taber tjtaber50@gmail.com

DISTRICT FOURTEEN ASTRA Committee Liaison: Ileana Pacheco ipacheco2019.2021@gmail.com ASTRA Chair: Britley Parker mikebritkin@hotmail.com

DISTRICT FIFTEEN ASTRA Committee Liaison: Traci Squarcette tsquarcette@umhb.edu
ASTRA Chair: Pam Hayes president.tauranga@altrusa.org.nz