In our Governor-Elect’s training in the summer of 2018, our trainers Jenette Borrell, District Fifteen, and Linda Barb, District Six, used Dr. Seuss’ *If I Ran the Zoo* as part of their training. They shared snippets from it throughout our training sessions. However the closing thought at the end of the training was *"Yes ... That’s what I’d do,"* said young Gerald McGrew, *"I’d make a few changes if I ran the zoo."* Oh my, the changes we all have had to make!

We have had to cancel club meetings, service projects and fundraising activities
We canceled our District Six Conference
We conducted our District Six business via conference call
We made our district awards via conference call
Clubs are conducting business using various electronic means
Clubs are continuing with service to their communities, albeit in a different way
This list could go on, but I want to address one major change.

The club presidents and treasurers have been notified of the changes in dues at the International and District levels. Although there has not been a reduction in dues, both International and District Six are allowing those who are financially compromised to pay dues a little later on an installment plan. They can pay ½ of their dues by July 1st with the final ½ due November 30th. In addition, all late fees and reinstatement fees have been suspended. **However, for those members who are able to do so we encourage you to go ahead and pay your full dues at this time so that club treasurers can submit them to International and the District by June 15th.**

I hope this finds those who have or had members in their families who have been ill are doing better. I want to encourage clubs and members to continue to be in touch with each other through notes, phone calls, emails and electronic conversations. Please take care and be safe. We are Altrusans, and we will get through this. In closing, let me share the 9th Principle of Altrusa – **Altrusa expresses good will for all mankind. It emphasizes the good and lets the evil sink into the oblivion it merits.**

Mamie L. Bass, First President of Altrusa 1917.

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In Altrusa Service

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District Six Governor

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REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE DISTRICT SIX BOARD

District Six Board Meeting via Conference Call February 13, 2020
Approved the 2020-2021 Budget as presented, allowing for updated numbers.
Approved Chris DeVlieger and Jill Falls to be nominated to serve on the District Six Nominating Committee.

District Six Board Meeting via Conference Call March 12, 2020
Approved cancelling the 2020 District Conference because of the impending Covid-19 Pandemic and reschedule it for May 7 - 9, 2021 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Champaign, IL.

District Six Board Meeting via Conference Call April 6, 2020
Approved the minutes of the January 4, 2020, February 13, 2020 and March 12, 2020 Conference Calls.
Approved that District Six will recognize dues at ½ price (congruent with International Bylaws) for new members under the age of 30.
Approved that District Six will not collect the Conference Fee from clubs for the 2020-2021 Budget Year.

District Six Conference Meeting
Approved the audit of the 2018-19 District Six financials.
Approved the 2020-21 District Six budget.
Approved Beverly Herzog (Champaign-Urbana Club) as the district’s candidate for the International Nominating Committee.
Approved Karen Crawford (Lexington Club), Chris DeVlieger (DeKalb County Club) and Jill Falls (Fox Valley Club) as members of the District Six Nominating Committee. The election for chair of the committee will be conducted by Survey Monkey.
Approved the District Six Bylaws.
The District Six Board approved by email vote on April 21, 2020 the appointment of Angela Beck as District Six Treasurer. (With the approval of the District bylaws on April 18, 2020 the position of Second Vice Governor was deleted.)

2021 DISTRICT SIX CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for May 7-9, 2021, at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center in Champaign, IL. We are planning to continue with some of the tours, programs and activities planned for the 2020 Conference, and will be adding the election and installation of new District Six officers. We will be updating you with plans throughout the year.
CLUBS CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY

DeKalb County, IL was chartered in 1962 as DeKalb-Sycamore, IL, but in 2019 changed their name to better reflect the geographic area. Congratulations on their 58 years of service to the area.

Congratulations to the Elgin, IL club who is celebrating their 73rd anniversary.

Fox Valley, IL chartered in 1951 is celebrating 69 years of service to their area.

Although the Frankfort, KY club has been in existence since 1928, they will be disbanding at the end of this year.

Since 1929, the Pekin, IL club has been a part of their community for 91 years.

Congratulations to all of these clubs for their years of service to their communities!

Chris DeVlieger, DeKalb County, IL has been elected chair of the District Six 2020-2022 Nominating Committee. The other two members of the committee are Karen Crawford, Lexington, KY, and Jill Falls, Fox Valley, IL.
The recipient of the 2020 Governor’s Award is a 34 year member of Altrusa. She has held leadership positions at all levels of Altrusa. She jumped right in as a committee chair in her club within her first three years and hasn’t stopped, and is still chairing a committee in her local club. She has served in various club committees and officer positions including president. At the district level, and she has served as chair of various committees including a conference planning committee. She served on the district board for 14 years including being District Governor. At the International level she has served as a member and Vice Chair of the Leadership Development Committee, and has served on the Best Practices Leadership Task Force. She has attended at least eight International Conventions. In the club’s nomination letter, they highlighted the eight club awards she has received, including one of the awards being named for her. On a personal note, this individual has been one of my Altrusa mentors. It is therefore my personal pleasure to present the 2020 Governor’s Award to Linda Barb of the Muncie Club. The recipient of this award is presented a Lamplighter. Since Linda is already a Lamplighter, a diamond will be added to her pin. Congratulations, Linda! The following pictures show her involvement with Altrusa.

Linda, as Vice Chair of the International Leadership Committee helped to lead the training sessions for the 2019-21 District Governors. This picture was taken during the visit to the International office to meet and visit with the staff.

On the left is Linda being given a toast following her installation as District Governor in 2013.

On the right is Linda participating in the Muncie Snack Attack Service Project.
The recipient of the 2020 District Six Rookie Award became an Altrusan in April of 2018. During these past two years, she has been involved at both the club and district levels. At the club level, it looks like she has participated in every club project and activity. She has participated in a number of their literacy projects and has worked to collect supplies for these projects. I would like to share this from her nomination letter:

The individual doesn’t draw attention to herself. She is willing and dependable, hardworking and organized, intelligent and friendly. She follows through, gets things done, and involves other people. She can follow or she can lead and has truly made a difference to our club and to me personally in the short time she has been an Altrusan. It is my pleasure to present this year’s Rookie of the Year Award to Monica Davis of the Champaign-Urbana Club. On a personal note, I can echo all of the accolades given to her as I have worked with her this year as one of the Co-chairs of the District Conference Committee and she has been nothing short of fantastic.

Congratulations, Monica!

Left: Salvation Army Bell Ringing (with Mary Waters); Right: Read Across America (with Kristi Townsend); Below: Cunningham Children’s Home (with co-chair Dorey Panno)
The committee received a total of 15 entries from eight different clubs. Descriptions and pictures of the winning awards are included.

**Mamie L. Bass Service Award** is designed to stimulate interest in developing hands-on, action programs in the community that fall within the scope of Altrusa’s program of services.

First: Altrusa International of Champaign-Urbana, IL: It Takes More than Food  
Second: Altrusa International of Lexington, KY: New Opportunity School for Women  
Third: Altrusa of International of Fox Valley, IL: Connect with Teens at Juvenile Court  
Other entries: Altrusa International of Bedford, IN: Remembering Our Military  
Altrusa International of Muncie, IN: Delaware County Foster Closet  
Altrusa International of Warsaw, IN: Beaman Home Service

**Letha H. Brown Literacy Award** is designed to stimulate interest in developing active literacy projects to serve our community. (There was a tie for second place.)

First: Altrusa International of Lexington, KY: Filling Brains and Bellies  
Second: Altrusa International of Champaign-Urbana, IL: Books, Books, Books  
Second: Altrusa International of Paris, IL: Reading Trailer  
Third: Altrusa International of Quincy, IL: Literacy Carnival  
Other entries: Altrusa International of Bedford, IN: Pre-School Book Bag Project  
Altrusa International of Fox Valley, IL: Giving Tree  
Altrusa International of Warsaw, IN: Lincoln School Literacy Project

**Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award** is designed to encourage and to stimulate international relations.

First: Altrusa International of Champaign-Urbana, IL: Building Bridges: Thanksgiving in June  
Second: Altrusa International of Bedford, IN: Haiti: Bringing Light into Darkness with Books
First Place Mamie L. Bass Service Award
Altrusa International of Champaign-Urbana, IL: It Takes More than Food

The project was designed to help meet the basic needs of low-income people in the community. There were three components to the project which took a multipronged approach to the problem. They have operated a food pantry at Centennial High School in Champaign for several years, providing food and personal care items to about 150 people every two weeks during the school year. The club recently took over the pantry at Urbana High School. Several times a year they volunteer to repack bulk food for into containers suitable for distribution to pantries at the local food bank. They also provide 60 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches at least once a month for the Salvation Army Canteen Run, which feeds the homeless four evenings every week.

Second Place Mamie L. Bass Service Award
Altrusa International of Lexington, KY: NEW OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL FOR WOMEN—Compassion, Creativity and Community

The Altrusa Club of Lexington coordinated with the New Opportunity School for Women (NOSW) to provide additional support and camaraderie to participants by offering a program of food, fellowship and creative arts to encourage these women of Appalachia in overcoming their adversities. Those served by NOSW are low income women of Appalachia who are seeking an opportunity to create a stable future for themselves and their families. These women are overcoming poverty, domestic violence, drug addiction and other impediments to their personal success. An important part of this program is building on their skill sets and creating an environment that helps to build solid self-esteem.

The club’s role in this project was to provide opportunities for these ladies to interact with other women in a safe easy environment. It allows them to improve their conversational and other social skills. They do this through activities, games, food and crafts. Members also provided the craft materials, food and gift baskets during these sessions.
Third Place Mamie L. Bass Service Award  
Altrusa of International of Fox Valley, IL: Connect with Teens at Juvenile Court

Troubled youth, while in detention at Kane County Juvenile Justice Center and awaiting court dates/residential placement, are at a turning point in life. The club’s contributions provided warm coats, holiday treat bags, and a pizza dinner & craft/service project opportunity for them to help others. Positive interactions can provide a ray of hope and, perhaps, recognition that a better path is possible.

LETHA H. BROWN LITERACY AWARDS

First Place Letha H. Brown Literacy Award  
Altrusa International of Lexington, KY: Filling Brains and Bellies

Brains and Bellies is a partnership with One Parent Scholar House (OPSH), a residential program offering 80 low income single parents, working to earn a post-secondary degree, affordable housing and an on-site 5-Star child development program for their preschool children. The children are from single parent, low income homes. To be accepted into the OPSH program, the parent must have demonstrated an understanding of the importance of higher education as the key to breaking the cycle of poverty, and often familial and/or substance abuse. Reading books to children offers exposure to vocabulary on different topics and is one of the most important tools toward developing reading, writing and language skills. The more words children know, the better learners they become. Members met monthly with the 4-year-old class to read books, complete related crafting activities, share a snack, and give a gift book to each child. They believe giving children monthly personal gift books will encourage their parents to read to them and other children in the home.
Second Place Letha H. Brown Literacy Award (tie)
Altrusa International of Champaign-Urbana, IL: Books, Books, Books

This combined literacy service project focused on bringing reading materials to underserved populations: at-risk high school students, incarcerated adults, and children of migrant workers. Altrusans participated in three book distribution projects which formed community partnerships and put books into the hands of children and adults who have limited access to reading materials and public libraries.

- The first project served a residential program for at-risk teenagers who have been unsuccessful in public school for a variety of reasons; e.g., behavioral issues, family trauma, or involvement with the juvenile justice system. The club responded by donating books for the students and establishing an onsite library at the school.
- The second group served is prison inmates. Over the year, Altrusans volunteered to help at two book sales to benefit the program. Proceeds from the sales are used to purchase and mail books requested by inmates in state penitentiaries and local jails.
- The third underserved population that received books from the club were the children of the migrant workers. The club planned a bookstore field trip for the children and purchased books for each child.

Second Place Letha H. Brown Literacy Award (tie)
Altrusa International of Paris, IL: Reading Trailer

The project was a joint effort between the Paris Altrusa Club and other local service organizations. The funding from the International Foundation allowed the club to purchase the wrap on the trailer as well as books to stock the trailer. During the summer the trailer is moved to different events and festivals in the area and the children are allowed to take books for their personal reading.
Third Place Letha H. Brown Literacy Award
Altrusa International of Quincy, IL: Literacy Carnival

The club sponsored a Literacy Carnival on the last day of Summer School for all of the public and private school students in the city. The purpose of the project was to provide literacy activities for K-5 students in an entertaining environment. In addition, special needs students from the extended-year program were also served. Members used their talents to build all the games that were featured at the carnival. Those with teaching experience ordered books to match students reading levels. Members chose the game they wanted to supervise according to their talents and personalities. One member volunteered to be the story teller. Seventy five percent of the club members actively participated in the project. Approximately 500 hours were contributed by club members and their friends and families. The original objective was achieved by creating a new literacy project for the community and making the community more aware of Altrusa and its objectives. Approximately 435 students experienced a fun literacy-based day. Students returned to their homes with books and literacy prizes that helped to reinforce the importance of literacy within the community. In addition, local television, newspaper and social media reports also helped to create an awareness of Altrusa within the community.
First Place Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award  
Altrusa International of Champaign-Urbana, IL: Building Bridges—Thanksgiving in June

Champaign-Urbana welcomes each summer’s cohort of international professionals at the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs by hosting Building Bridges—Thanksgiving in June. Club members prepared a traditional Thanksgiving meal. During the time together Altrusans explain Thanksgiving traditions and dispel myths, leading to a discussion of harvest festivals from the visitors’ countries that enlightens us all as visitors come from around the globe.

Second Place Nina Fay Calhoun International Relations Award  
Haiti: Bringing Light into Darkness with Books – Altrusa International of Bedford, IN

The Bedford Club helped Emma, a 12-year old girl, fulfill her dream of establishing a library in the small Haitian village of Chambrun. Emma “pitched” her idea to members of the Bedford Club along with her implementation strategy. She wanted to sell books in her hometown to raise money to buy books in Haiti. She would purchase and help stock the new library at the elementary school when she arrived in the village with her mother. The club helped by donating books, purchasing age appropriate books for preschoolers and providing monies. All Bedford Altrusans helped Emma realized her dream “to brighten their world with books and help give them the opportunity to learn to read.”
The information contained in this annual report is the result of a Symphony of Leaders working together at the District and Club levels. At the district level, committee chairs and members were appointed for all district standing committees. It was my goal to have every club represented on these committees. In the end, 17 of the 26 clubs had one or more members serving on district committees. Each committee was asked to develop a strategic plan for their committee and these plans were then incorporated into the District’s Strategic Plan.

**ASTRA:** The committee is in contact with the one ASTRA club in the District. The club is at Ball State University with eight active members and is sponsored by the Muncie Club. In addition, the committee chair made a contact with the 10 clubs who had indicated on the 2019 Club Annual Report they were interested in learning more about ASTRA. The committee chair has been responsive to the requests from the international ASTRA committee.

  **Committee Chair:** June Kramer, Muncie, IN  
  **Members:** Amanda Ehmann, Champaign Urbana, IL and Mary Ellen Riehl, Jeffersonville, IN  
  **Board Liaison:** Angela Beck, Treasurer, Muncie IN

**BRR:** The BRR committee has had a busy and productive year. In the fall, the chair and committee member participated in a conference call with club presidents to work on either revising their current bylaws or developing club bylaws so as to be in line with the current International bylaws. Using the club bylaws template, clubs were asked to update or develop new bylaws and submit to the BRR committee for review. To date, eight clubs have had their bylaws approved. The committee will continue to work with clubs until all clubs have approved up to date bylaws. The Governor worked with the committee chair to develop District Six Bylaws, again using the template provided by International. After approval by the District Six board, they were printed in the Call to Conference that was a part of the February *In Touch*. The committee also participated in another conference call with club presidents in February to review the proposed bylaws and answer any questions. The proposed bylaws were presented to the District Six delegates on April 18 and were approved.

  **Committee Chair:** Heather Miklozek, Terre Haute, IN  
  **Member:** Nancy Easum, Springfield, IL  
  **Board Liaison:** Mary Burford, Parliamentary Advisor, Muncie IN

**Club Building:** The committee was tasked to assist struggling clubs in rebuilding rather than actually trying to form new clubs. Our contact information was shared with the club presidents and with the District Board members. Currently, there have not been any requests for assistance, but the committee stands willing to serve when called upon. They are willing to assist District Board members in their efforts by attending club meetings or corresponding and/or talking with local club officers and members. We all want to see Altrusa survive as a viable organization to provide service to our local communities.

  **Committee Chair:** Elaine Wolf, Fox Valley, IL  
  **Member:** Gayla Morrow, Galesburg, IL  
  **Board Liaison:** Doris Kowalski, Vice Governor, Galesburg, IL
Communications: A major goal of the committee is to assist in the marketing of the district and the clubs. To this end the committee chair developed templates to be used with the *In Touch* (District Service Bulletin) and the *Governor’s Gavel* (Governor’s Newsletter). There have been four issues of the *In Touch* and seven issues of the Governor’s Gavel published since May 2019. Both publications have included articles submitted by committees, the Governor’s recognition of clubs’ anniversaries, new members, deaths and new Emeritus members. The May 2019 *In Touch* provided a glimpse of the 2019 District Conference to all district members. The January 2020 *In Touch* featured MADD and holiday service projects of 18 of our 26 clubs. In an effort to keep all members informed, a summary of board actions are provided following board meetings. The communications committee, along with the Facebook and Website committees, will be participating in the May Conference Call with Club Presidents.

**Committee Chair: Sue Creighton, Warsaw, IN**
**Members: Cathy McConnell and Cristie Harry, Evansville, IN**
**Pat Schutt, Champaign-Urbana, IL**
**Board Liaison: Sue Whitaker, Governor, Muncie, IN**

Facebook: The District Six Facebook page has been a great marketing tool allowing members and clubs to share their activities. There are currently 337 members following the District Facebook page. The committee divided up responsibilities with Bev servicing Illinois and Ginny servicing Indiana and Kentucky and as such have kept the Facebook fresh and up-to-date.

**Committee Chair: Bev Herzog, Champaign-Urbana, IL**
**Member: Virginia (Ginny) Smith, Lexington, KY**
**Board Liaison: Jan Fritz, Governor-Elect, Quincy, IL**

Foundation: This committee serves as the link between the district and the International Foundation. The committee had a conference call in July to develop their strategy for biennium. One of their goals was to promote the International Foundation to all members and did this in the December 2019 *Governor’s Gavel* with an article written by Bev Faulkner. They also had an article in the Call to Conference, but due to the cancelation of the District Six Conference, they are currently looking at alternative ways of supporting the International Foundation.

**Committee Chair: Nancy Gerner, Elgin, IL**
**Committee Members: Kathy Canny, Elgin, IL; Bev Faulkner, Warsaw, IN**
**Jill Falls, Fox Valley, IL**
**Board Liaison: Dana Vierck, Immediate Past Governor, Elgin, IL**

Leadership Development: The committee had a conference call in July to make plans for the biennium. Mary Barnes, Bedford, prepared the article *What is a Leader?* for the September 2019 *In Touch*. Linda Barb and Bev Herzog, both members of the International Leadership Development Committee along with members of the District Leadership Committee participated in the Club Presidents Conference Call in January 2020. The topic of that call was Developing Club Leaders. The committee developed a survey that was sent to club presidents to share with their boards to ascertain the amount of time members were spending conducting the business of Altrusa in their clubs. The results of this survey were shared with the club presidents. Their future plans are to work with clubs to have position descriptions for each of their officers and committee chairs.

**Committee Chair: Linda Barb, Muncie, IN**
**Committee Members: Mary Barnes and Bill Barnes, Bedford, IN**
**Board Liaison: Sue Whitaker, Governor**
Membership Development: The committee led the October 2019 Club President’s Conference Call on Membership Recruitment and Retention. The committee has made clubs aware of the membership recruiting and retention information that is on the International website. The committee chair presented the Governor’s Membership Growth Award to the club with the greatest net gain in membership during the District Six Conference Call in April.

Committee Chair: Jackie Fields, Lafayette, IN
Committee Members: Lisa McCullough, Paris, IL; Fran Moore, Galesburg, IL; and Joy Gulotta, DeKalb County, IL
Board Liaison: Angela Beck, Treasurer, Muncie, IN

Service Development: The primary responsibility of the committee is to promote club service in the district. They provided reminders for clubs to do and report MADD and other service projects. The results of these projects were shared in the January 2020 In Touch. All of the District’s International service projects were submitted to the committee chair for judging. The committee received a total of 15 applications from eight different clubs. The awards were announced on the April 18th District Conference Call and are featured in this issue of the In Touch.

Committee Chair: Rebecca (Becky) Mercier, Lexington, KY
Committee Members: Carol Strum, DeKalb County, IL; Angela Cliff, Fox Valley, IL and Karen Brunson, Muncie, IN
Board Liaison: Nancy Heal, Secretary, DeKalb County, IL

Website: The goals for the District Website this biennium have been to be sure that the information on the club websites are current with what the clubs want. Clubs were notified of what was needed to keep their website current and if the clubs provided the information, their information was updated. In the future I would encourage clubs to be sure that the information on the website is current with up-to-date pictures. It seems that the individual clubs have migrated to their own website and are using Facebook as a tool for communication. The district page was updated with pictures of current officers and other information.

Committee Chair: Neveta Salmons, Quincy, IL
Committee Member: Laura Latimer, Indianapolis, IN
Board Liaison: Jill Deege, Director, Quincy, IL

Strategic Planning: The board reviewed the current strategic plan and noted the accomplishments from the last year. The board, with input from the district committees, then updated the strategic plan. The plan was approved by the board.

Committee Chair: Jan Fritz, Governor-Elect, Quincy, IL
Committee Members: District Six Board with input from District Committees
Board Liaison: Sue Whitaker, Governor, Muncie, IN

Thank you to a
A Symphony of Leaders in Service
Annual Giving to the Altrusa International Foundation, Inc.

As you might expect, the Foundation will lose major income due to the canceled 2020 District Conferences...yet needs continue. Therefore, we ask you to please consider making a contribution to support your International Foundation programs. You may click here https://www.altrusa.org/foundation/ to make a contribution to the Club 21 Program, Grants Program, Endowment Fund, Disaster Relief Fund, Lamplighter Program, or Where Needed Most. The Luci lights are also available for purchase to benefit the Disaster Relief Fund. Gifts made to the Foundation from United States citizens and companies are tax-deductible.

Thank you for your support.

It may have slowed us a bit, but we will come back strong!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **May 15**: United Nations International Day of Families
- **June 15**: 2019-2020 Club Annual Reports are due to International
  
  For those members who are financially able, please pay your dues prior to this date so your club treasurer can send dues to International and District

- **July 1**: First installment of dues to the International and District for those members paying installments are due

- **November 30**: Second installment of dues to the International and District for those members paying in installments are due
Mark your calendars now for the International Convention in Quebec City, Canada on Wednesday – Saturday, July 21-24, 2021. You will need a passport to travel to Canada. If you have one, check the expiration date. You will need one that is valid to December 2021. If you don’t have one, you will want to start the process soon; however, according to the passport website, you should wait to apply for or renew your passport until they resume normal operations. If you are needing to either renew or get a passport, I suggest you check periodically at https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html to see when it is possible to do this.

Meanwhile to whet your appetite, check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRe_Qb4MPdc