

Service Projects:

Altrusa of Lexington is involved in numerous community service projects, providing the membership with varied opportunities to make the Bluegrass a better community in which to live.

Mighty Moms: provides moms who care for children with severe developmental disorders a fun and relaxing weekend.

Brains and Bellies: a regularly scheduled program of reading and fun for children age four. Each child receives a book, completes a craft and enjoys a snack.

Dictionary Project: members present third graders in select Fayette County Public schools their own personal dictionary.

Monthly Service Projects are scheduled throughout the year and provide opportunities for members to contribute their time, expertise and resources. These include: Mentoring Harrison Elementary, New Opportunity School for Women, Thursday's Child Graduation Party, HUGS (hats, underwear, gloves and socks), Humane Societies, Ronald McDonald House, Hope Center, Friendship Towers Sayre Christian Village Bingo night, Lexington Habitat for Humanity, International Book Project and many, many more.

Operations Plan Goals:

- Broaden, increase and retain membership in age and diversity.
- Achieve recognition while enhancing and increasing visibility
- Provide opportunities for personal development, lifelong learning and networking.
- Improve the quality of community service by Altrusa.
- Maintain sufficient organization and financial resources to support programs and objectives.

Motto: Patriotism
Efficiency
Service

Vision Statement:

Develop leadership through opportunities for service and encourage fellowship in our community in partnership with District Six and Altrusa International, Inc. goals.

Mission Statement:

Altrusa International, Inc. of Lexington, KY provides time, talent and resources to improve literacy and quality of life in our community.

Altrusa Key:

- A - Amity
- L - Loyalty
- T - Talent
- R - Reciprocity
- U - Unity
- S - Service
- A - Achievement

Altrusa's Grace:

For this food before us spread,
For our steps in safety led,
For thy favor on our way,
Lord accept our thanks today.

Altrusa's Benediction:

May we go forth with high ideals,
To greet our fellow man;
Be true to all Altrusa aims,
Until we meet again.

Altrusa International, Inc. of Lexington KY

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MEMBERSHIP GUIDE

Who is Altrusa?

Altrusa is an international non-profit organization making our local communities better through leadership, partnership and service. We are civic-minded people who strive to create better communities worldwide.

Why join Altrusa?

Members gave these reasons for joining:

- To give back to the community through volunteer hours and service.
- To establish a new network of diverse friends and resources.
- To develop skills and leadership not possible through the workplace.
- To do something rewarding for people in need, and to *have fun!*

No matter the reason, most people feel better about themselves by becoming more altruistic—by showing unselfish devotion to the interests and welfare of others.

History of Altrusa:

The first Altrusa club was founded on April 11, 1917 in Nashville, TN. It became the first national organization of business and professional women. The Lexington Altrusa Club was established in 1923 by Miss Jessie O. Yancy.

Structure of Altrusa:

All Altrusa Clubs are governed by Altrusa International, a corporation with both elected and appointed officers and a chairperson (www.altrusa.org). Under the International umbrella there are fifteen (15) Altrusa Districts throughout the world. The Lexington Club is in District Six. District Six incorporates Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. Each district has its own Governor and Board of Directors.

Altrusa of Lexington:

The officers of the club include president, vice-president, treasurer, recording secretary, and immediate past president. There are also four board members and a foundation treasurer.

Sponsorship, Acceptance, Orientation and Initiation:

To be considered for membership in Altrusa, one must be sponsored by two existing members in good standing. A Recommendation for Membership form is completed by the sponsor and is submitted to the Membership Committee.

The Board of Directors will review the application. If accepted, the new member will begin attending meetings. Shortly thereafter they will spend time at an orientation where current members discuss all aspects of the club, expectations and responsibilities of membership.

After orientation, the new member will be initiated at a monthly dinner meeting and presented with an Altrusa pin & yearbook.

Cost of Membership:

Each year members (or in some cases their employers) pay dues. The dues are split among the local club, district and national entities. Dues for new members are \$110 and renewing members pay \$100 annually.

Meetings:

The dinner and business meeting is held on the third Thursday of each month opening at 5:30 pm for registration and socialization, with the meeting getting underway at 6:00 pm. Please check our website for the current meeting site. Members pay for their own dinner which ranges in price from \$15 to \$20.

Format of Dinner Meetings:

Meetings generally last about two hours.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Call to order and welcome-President
- Introduction of guests
- Minutes of previous meeting-Secretary
- Financial report-Treasurer
- Vice-President's report
- Altrusa Grace (dinner)
- Speaker/Program
- Report of Board actions & recommendations
- Committee reports
- Old Business/New Business
- Initiation of new members (if appropriate)
- Brags/Birthday Raffle
- Altrusa Benediction

Optional Monthly Costs (fundraiser):

At the close of most monthly dinner meetings there is the opportunity/option to address the group with a brag or brags. Each brag costs \$1.

Members are asked to bring a wrapped gift (value \$10–\$15) to the dinner meeting on the month of their birthday. Members then may buy raffle tickets to win this gift. Tickets are \$1 each or 3 for \$2.

Committees:

Communications: Responsibilities include the *FOCUS* newsletter, press releases, yearbook, website, oversight for printed materials, & the Membership Outreach Coordinator who sends cards & makes follow-up phone calls to members.

Finance: Responsible for annual budgets, and assisting the treasurers when requested.

Fundraising: Responsible for raising funds to meet Club expenses and to fund service projects for our Foundation.

Membership: Responsible for new member recruitment, retention, and recognition.

Service: Responsible for planning & executing community service projects. This will include coordinating the “baskets” at several of our monthly meetings where members bring items to be donated to charitable organizations.

Nominating: Responsible for selecting the slate of candidates for Officers and Board of Directors for election.

Program: This committee is chaired by the vice-president and is responsible for meeting programs, and special meeting arrangements including the annual picnic and Holiday party.

Newsletter:

Our newsletter, the *FOCUS*, is published monthly and distributed via email to all current members, District Six and International. Additionally, District Six's *In Touch* bulletins and International's *Altrusan* newsletters are emailed to members throughout the year. Altrusa also has a presence on Facebook.

Yearbook:

The Yearbook contains basic information on International, District and the Lexington Club. Each member has a page listing their contact information. The yearbook is available in hard copy and on our website in the Members Only section.