



Governor's Letter

October 2022

Julie Stratos, Governor
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I love autumn, and this year has been particularly beautiful. I don't, however, love raking and bagging leaves. After working last weekend all day, and barely being able to move on Monday, I now have leaves at least three inches deep on my lawn. Guess what I'm doing this weekend!



Autumn is also the time for the mid-year board meeting. This year's meeting was a little different than what we'd planned as it was very apparent that the hotel would not have renovations done by our April conference. After much time and effort, thanks to Tammy Bader and Linda Williams, we were able to determine two possible sites. So, after discussing the two sites and costs associated with each, it was decided to hold the 2023 District Five conference at the Mohican Lodge and Conference Center. The setting is beautiful, we will be able to stay in one place, and the accommodations are very nice. We will still be able to visit the Reformatory, but it will be on Friday afternoon as the Mohican is about a 40 minute drive from Mansfield. District Conference will still be April 28-30, but in a different, and I think even nicer, location. Room reservations will need to be made no later than March 27, so start planning now.

I want to thank those members who stepped up and agreed to be on the slate of officers to be elected at the District Conference. They model what an Altrusan is. The slate will be presented in the December District Service Bulletin (DSB). If you are not receiving the DSB via email from International, please let me know. As we learned during Covid, communication is so important and the DSB is one of our best communication tools.

Great news! District Five will be hosting the 2027 Altrusa International Convention in Columbus! We are very excited as District Five has not hosted an international convention in as long as anyone can remember. Stay tuned for more information as planning progresses.

We're all experiencing the effects of inflation. Here are some examples of price increases over the years:

- The price of a first class postage stamp in 2001 was 33 cents, currently 60 cents, a 55% increase.
- The price of a gallon of gas in 2001 was \$1.46, currently \$3.89 (or higher), a 38% increase.
- The price of a dozen eggs in 2001 was \$.90, currently \$1.89, a 48% increase.
- The price of a loaf of bread in 2001 was \$1.00, currently \$1.79 (for a store brand), a 56% increase.
- The IRS mileage reimbursement rate in 2001 was \$34.5/mile, currently \$58.5/mile, a 59% increase.

After a great deal of discussion at the mid-year board meeting and the following Zoom meetings, it became quite apparent that we are trying to balance a budget with fewer active members paying the same dues they were over 20 years ago with expenses increasing every year. For the past several years, the Board has chosen to use funds in our "savings" to balance the budget. This year that amount will be over \$8,500. At that rate, we will soon deplete our excess funds within a few years, and we don't consider that an option. As a result, the Board has proposed an increase in District dues to \$20. It has been over 20 years since the last dues increase, and as you can see, prices have increased dramatically. We hope



Together we will grow . . .



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members will discuss this and the proposed budget at club meetings. If you have questions or comments, please contact me before conference and then come to conference ready to further discuss this issue, if needed, and make a knowledgeable and judicious decision.

My sincere thanks to the Board this year. They have put in many more hours than usual this biennium on Zoom calls. And please remember these are volunteers who often don't turn in expenses and are only reimbursed for mileage at 30 cents per mile while gas prices have risen to nearly or over \$4.00 a gallon. They have gone above and beyond, and I hope, when you see them, you'll let them know you appreciate their time and effort to make our District the best it can be.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for April 28-30, 2023, for District Conference at the Mohican Lodge and Conference Center with Mansfield's theme of Reform the Norm and a visit to the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield where the movie, Shawshank Redemption, was filmed. And don't forget the International Conference in San Antonio, Texas July 19-22, 2023. Hope to see you there!

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Your District Board and Chairs are here to help in any way we can. Please contact us.

In Altrusa Service, Julie



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