

Altrusa International District Four
72nd Annual Conference
April 16-18, 2026 Oak Ridge TN



Echoes of Kindness:
The Friendship Bell Tolls



NO PLACE I'D RATHER BE THAN

OAK RIDGE

TENNESSEE

 *Explore*
Oak Ridge



Altrusa Collect

Our heavenly Father,
Surrounded by blessings,
May we learn to bless;
Reaping the fruits of patriotism,
May we love our country more;
Members of a world-wide community
May we cherish our neighbors everywhere;
Grateful to Thee,
May we show our gratitude
By efficiency and service.

Altrusa 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 Benediction

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





Welcome, Altrusans!

It brings me so much joy to welcome you to the 72nd Annual District Four Conference here in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Known for its rich history and spirit of innovation, Oak Ridge is the perfect place for us to come together – ready to learn, connect, and grow. This biennium, we are guided by our theme, “Sowing the Seeds of Kindness.” Throughout this conference, I hope you’ll take a moment to think about the seeds you’ve already planted through your service—and the new ones you can begin planting right here this weekend. Whether it’s through a conversation, a workshop, or a shared idea, every small act has the potential to grow into something truly impactful.

I encourage you to jump in fully – meet someone new, reconnect with friends, and take home ideas that will strengthen your clubs and communities. If this is your first conference, I am especially glad you are here. There is something truly special about experiencing Altrusa at the district level, and I hope this weekend leaves you inspired and energized.

We are especially honored this year to welcome our International President, Chris Devlieger, as our distinguished guest. Her presence is a wonderful reminder of the connection we share across Altrusa, and we are grateful for the leadership and insight she brings to our organization.

On behalf of the District Four Board, I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Oak Ridge club for hosting this year’s conference. Your hard work and hospitality are deeply appreciated.

As we spend this time together, I hope you will soak in every moment. Let’s learn from one another, celebrate our shared purpose, and leave here ready to continue Sowing Seeds of Kindness in all that we do.

With appreciation and excitement,

Malia Wyatt

Governor

Altrusa International District Four

Dear Altrusans,

What an exciting moment for your District – and what a joy to welcome you to your 2026 District Conference. Gatherings like this are the heartbeat of Altrusa. They remind us why we serve, why we lead, and why this organization continues to make a meaningful difference in communities around the world. Conference weekends have a special energy. They give us space to learn from one another, exchange ideas that spark new possibilities, and strengthen the friendships that make our work so rewarding. They also give us a chance to celebrate what you've accomplished and to focus on the important business that keeps your District moving forward. Most of all, they give us time to simply enjoy being together as Altrusans.

Your District Board, host club(s), and Conference Committee have poured tremendous effort into creating an experience that is both inspiring and practical. You can look forward to thoughtful speakers, workshops that expand your skills, and plenty of opportunities to connect with fellow members who share your passion for service.

I encourage you to spend time with your Altrusa International Representative during the weekend. She is here not only to share updates from the international level, but also to listen – to your ideas, your questions, and your hopes for the future of your clubs. We value your voice, and we want to support the work you're doing to strengthen your communities for generations to come.

On behalf of the International Board, I hope this weekend leaves you renewed, energized, and ready to carry the spirit of Altrusa back to your club. Travel safely, enjoy every moment, and share what inspired you when you return home. Together, we continue this biennium with purpose and heart under the theme Love, Literacy & Legacy.



With Altrusa Love,
Christine "Chris" DeVlieger
International President
Altrusa International, Inc.



WELCOME LETTER
72nd Altrusa District Four Conference
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Dear Members of Altrusa District Four,

It is our honor to formally welcome you to the 72nd Altrusa District Four Conference, hosted in the historic city of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. We are privileged to gather in a community known for its legacy of innovation, resilience, and global impact. Oak Ridge—once the “Secret City”—stands today as a testament to what can be achieved when people unite with purpose, determination, and vision. These same qualities define Altrusans across our district.

This year’s conference theme, “Echoes of Kindness: The Friendship Bell Tolls,” reflects the enduring influence of service and compassion. Inspired by the Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell, the theme reminds us that every act of goodwill resonates far beyond its moment, strengthening the bonds within our communities and advancing the mission of Altrusa.

We are honored to welcome distinguished speakers whose expertise and commitment to service will enrich our time together and inspire continued excellence in our work.

We extend our appreciation to the American Museum of Science and Energy for hosting our welcome reception, and to TownePlace Suites for serving as our conference home. We encourage you to explore the many cultural, historical, and natural offerings of Oak Ridge during your stay.

Thank you for your dedication to literacy, service, and leadership. Your presence here affirms the strength of our district and the shared commitment that guides our efforts. May this conference provide meaningful connection, renewed purpose, and a deeper appreciation for the impact we create together.

On behalf of the Conference Committee, it is our privilege to welcome you to Oak Ridge and to the 72nd Altrusa District Four Conference.



With respect and appreciation,
Samantha Berven and Jenna Watson
Conference Co-Chairs
Altrusa District Four





International Board Members

Chris DeVlieger
International President

Kitty McElhaney
President Elect

Penny Daugherty
Vice President

Lisa Boyd
Treasurer

Linda K Smith
Immediate Past President

Debbie McBee
International Director

Jennifer Gatlin
International Director

Tammy Boyd
International Director

Ingrid Christianson
International Director

David Mena
Executive Director

Foundation Representative

Karen Robinson

International Board Consultants

Patricia A. Woodward, JD
Legal Advisor

Colleen M. Duris, PRP
Parliamentarian

Brenda Smith
BRR Chair

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Welcome to 2026 District Conferences,

Last year I had the pleasure of attending District Five Conference. It was informative, educational, and fun. This is what I imagined conferences would be, and I hope you'll go find out for yourself what it's like. I got to meet new people, members who have devoted lots of time and effort to make their communities better. I am always inspired when meeting you all and can't wait to meet more of you this year and at Convention in Columbus next year!

I want to also take this moment to send a big thank you to all District Governors and everyone involved in making Conferences happen. So much work goes into it and having experienced a conference and several Conventions, I have a huge appreciation for you all.

Enjoy Conferences!

David Mena
Executive Director





**72nd Annual
District Four
Conference
Schedule
Thursday
April 16, 2026**

1:00pm – 4:00pm
Pre-Conference
Board Meeting
TownePlace
Suites Board Room

3:00pm-5:00pm
Registration/
Credentials

5:00-5:30pm

Expeditors Meeting

Suzanne Allred, Past Governor, Thibodaux, LA

Flag Ceremony & Club Banner Briefing

Pam Grantham, Governor- Elect, Jack Alabama

5:30pm

International Representative Reception

honoring

Altrusa International President

Christine DeVlieger

American Museum of Science and Energy

(AMSE)

115 E. Main St.

Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Entertainment - Trivia Event

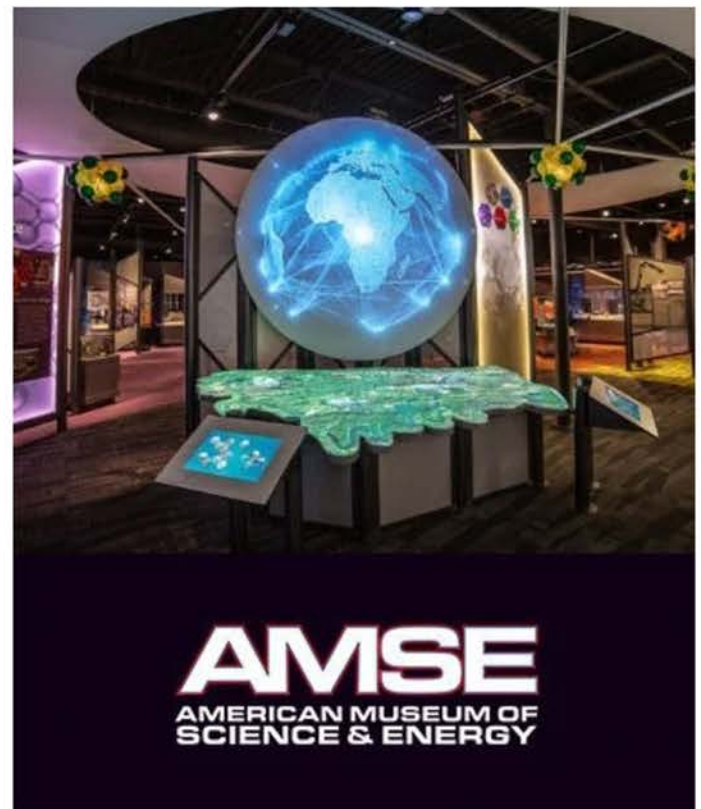
7:30 pm

Past Governors Meeting

Trillium Boardroom

Late night Hospitality Room-

Bring your own Refreshments Rm 323



**72nd Annual District Four
Conference Schedule
Friday April 17, 2026**

8:00-9:00am

Registration and Credentials

International Foundation Silent Auction,
District Four Foundation Purse Auction, Club
Brag Boards Display

8:30 – 9:00am

Flag and Banners Bearers Line Up

9:00am - 9:45am

Day One Opening Session

Presiding Malia Wyatt

Altrusa Collect Rhonda Watlington,
Kingsport, TN

Presentation of Colors

Oak Ridge High School Navy JROTC

National Anthem Nadia Shane Harris

Pledge of Allegiance Samantha Berven,
Conference Co-Chair, Service Chair,
Oak Ridge, TN

Presentation of Flags and Banners

Pam Grantham, Governor-Elect, Jack, AL

Introductions Malia Wyatt, Governor,
Clarksville, TN

Conference Welcome Jenna Watson,
Conference Co-Chair, Oak Ridge, TN

Introduction of City Mayor Jane Palmer,
Club President, Oak Ridge, TN

Welcome to the City of Oak Ridge, TN

Hon, Mayor Warren Gooch,
City of Oak Ridge TN

Explore Oak Ridge Katy Watt,
President of Explore Oak Ridge –
Convention & Visitors Bureau

Nadia Shane Harris, sing Beyoncé, “Bigger”



Warren L. Gooch
Mayor

Oak Ridge Mayor Warren Gooch was elected the City's 10th Mayor in November 2014, and he has been unanimously re-elected for five consecutive terms.

As Mayor, he has promoted the City's award-winning public school system, economic development and housing issues, including the revitalization of downtown; the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, established in 2015; recognition and celebration of the Scarboro 85, the black students who integrated Oak Ridge High School and Robertsville Junior High in 1955; strong advocacy for the United States Department of Energy's missions in Oak Ridge, which is the only host city in which all DOE facilities are within the boundary of a municipality; environmental, energy and infrastructure initiatives across the City; improvements to the world-class Melton Lake rowing venue; a new Senior Center; a new Pre-K School; replacement of the City's 80-year-old water plant with a state-of-the-art energy-efficient facility; and the completion of a new 10,800-square-foot conference center.

The Mayor is committed to promoting Oak Ridge as the leader in the Nuclear Renaissance, with the City having successfully recruited the Orano Enrichment Facility, the largest economic development project in the history of Tennessee.

The Mayor is a partner in the law firm of Kramer Rayson, LLP, where he has practiced for 48 years. He is recognized as one of the leading health care attorneys in Tennessee and established the firm's health law practice in 1988. He represents health care systems and providers in East and Middle Tennessee. He has been selected for recognition by national publications in the practice areas of health care law and administrative/regulatory law for many years. His firm has a reputation for mentoring young professionals and is consistently designated as one of the top workplaces in East Tennessee by the Knoxville News Sentinel.

Mayor Gooch earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and he served as a Captain in the United States Air Force Reserve.

He and his wife, Judy, have lived in Oak Ridge for 32 years. They have two sons, Ryan and Matt, graduates of Oak Ridge High School and Furman University. Gooch and his sons are Eagle Scouts. The couple are proud grandparents of Owen, Hayes, Haleigh Rae, and Jackson and are members of the First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge.

He is a past chair of the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce and was instrumental in organizing support for the Spallation Neutron Source at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and construction of the Oak Ridge campus of Roane State Community College.

He regularly refers to our City as, "OAK RIDGE, WHERE GREAT THINGS HAPPEN EVERY DAY."



Katy R Watt

Katy Watt has been the President of Explore Oak Ridge since December 2018. Prior to that she was in the Credit Union industry doing Marketing and Business Development for almost 30 years.

Since joining the Visitor's Bureau, they have updated the website and re-aligned all social media to attract more visitors to the City.

Explore has assisted in increasing hotel/motel occupancy over the past few years and had an 82% ROI on the portion of Occupancy Taxes received for their budget during the 2025 fiscal year.

Katy is devoted to promoting the unique history and abundant outdoor activities in the Oak Ridge area and has made numerous presentations around the region to increase tourism and encourage local visitation as well.

Through Explore Oak Ridge, she has started a local spotlight on small businesses within Oak Ridge, to highlight the great things our city has to offer new businesses as well as focus on why businesses are choosing to open here. With the assistance of her staff, they are promoting the tourism and history of the city online with a new spokesperson. If you haven't checked out a visit with "Katie the Calutron Girl", you really need to see the Explore Oak Ridge website.

Katy served 6 years on the Board of Directors for the United Way of Anderson County. She served 8 years on the Big Ed's Golf Committee to benefit Community Mediation Services. Katy also serves on the Oak Ridge Discovery Foundation Board and is an AMSE 117 Society Member. She is also on the Board of Anderson County Tourism.

Katy volunteers with Adopt a Golden Knoxville and is a foster home for dogs in crisis to help prepare them for their forever homes.

Katy has two boys, 5 dogs and 2 cats that keep her very busy. She is originally from Alcoa, TN, a graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Business and an avid UT sports fan.





Kelli Owens, Chair
Enterprise, AL
(334) 333-7376

Jackie Adams, Vice Chair
Clarksville, TN
(931) 338-7487

Mary Larson, Treasurer
Anniston, AL
(256) 452-1434

Sharon Sessions, Trustee
Enterprise, AL
(334) 447-7188

Janet Charles, Trustee
Oak Ridge, TN
(865) 663-3162

Pam Grantham, Secretary
and Ex-Officio
Jack, AL
Phone: (334) 685-1869

Welcome Altrusans!

What an incredible year it has been as we celebrate 15 years of the District Four Foundation! This milestone year has brought exciting growth and meaningful progress. We've celebrated the continued success of our STAR Program, recognized our dedicated VIP members and clubs, and introduced new initiatives to better serve our District. One of those additions is the Foundation Focus Newsletter, now delivered quarterly to keep everyone informed and connected. In honor of our 15th anniversary, we are proud to award \$1,500 grants this year, along with introducing a new VIP giving level, which will be officially announced at Conference.

I am especially grateful for our Board of Trustees, whose hard work and commitment have kept the Foundation moving forward with strength and purpose.

Be sure to join us Friday night for the District Four Foundation's "Roper's Romp" Dinner, where we will celebrate our donors, recognize our STAR participants, honor our VIP members and clubs, and award this year's grants. It's going to be a fun and meaningful evening!

As always, the Foundation exists because of you. We are truly thankful for every donor—large and small—who helps us make an impact across District Four.

During our celebration, we will recognize:

- VIP Clubs contributing \$100 or more (banner pins awarded)
- Individual donors contributing \$100 or more
- VIP Levels:

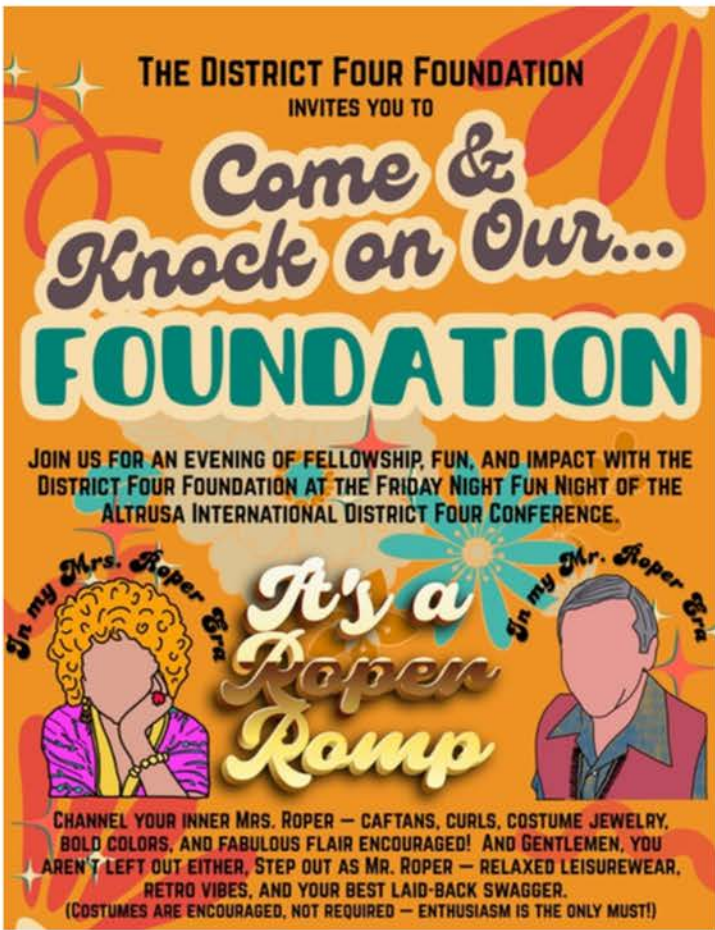
Please remember, all individual contributions are cumulative, so every donation counts toward your VIP status.

Have questions about the Foundation? Just ask a Trustee—we are here to serve you and all Altrusans of District Four.

We hope you enjoy this special weekend filled with fellowship, celebration, and inspiration, and that you leave with ideas and energy to take back to your clubs.

With gratitude and excitement,

Kelli Owens, Chair
District Four Foundation



GROOVE FOR GOOD

Friday night of the Altrusa International District Four Conference comes alive with the District Four Foundation Dinner—our Roper Romp. Hosted by the District Four Foundation, this 1970s-inspired celebration is a time to recognize those who generously support the Foundation, spotlight the impact made by the previous year's grant recipients, and celebrate the awarding of new grants and VIP statuses. Attendees are encouraged to break out the caftans, curls, bold prints, costume jewelry, and retro flair—and gentlemen, step into your best laid-back Mr. Roper style—as we enjoy an evening of fellowship, gratitude, and groovy fun while honoring the impact made and the work still to come.

STARS THAT TWINKLE

The District Four Foundation's STAR Program—Success Through Action and Responsibility—honors those who choose consistent generosity. These Stars that Twinkle may shine quietly, but their impact is felt throughout District Four. Our current STARS are:

- Gillian Allen, Thibodaux, LA
- Wendie Aurin, Oak Ridge, TN
- Melinda Dill, Nashville, TN
- Pam Grantham, Jack, AL
- Samantha Berven, Oak Ridge, TN
- Teresa Travis, Nashville, TN
- Malia Wyatt, Clarksville, TN
- Leia Duhaime, Enterprise, AL
- Christine Walters, Ft. Payne, AL



GOLD CIRCLE ALTRUSANS

The Gold Circle of the District Four Foundation honors those dedicated members who have reached a cumulative giving level of \$1,000 or more. These generous Altrusans have gone above and beyond in their support, helping fund meaningful service projects and initiatives carried out by clubs across our district. Their commitment reflects the very heart of Altrusa—investing in service, empowering communities, and strengthening the work we do together. Gold Circle members truly shine as leaders in giving, setting a powerful example and inspiring others to support the Foundation with the same spirit and dedication. The Foundation's

2025 Gold Circle*:

- Carolyn Robinson, Thibodaux, LA
- Jenna Watson, Oak Ridge, TN
- Malia Richmond, Enterprise, AL
- Jan Holmes, Baton Rouge, LA
- Gillian Allen, Thibodaux, LA
- Jennifer Gatlin, Jack, AL
- Pam Grantham, Jack, AL
- Judy Atkinson, Enterprise, AL
- Leia Duhaime, Enterprise, AL
- Kelli Owens, Enterprise, AL
- Rhoda Scherer, Nashville, TN

*Based on contributions made on or before 12/31/25.



Friday April 17, 2026

10:00-10:30am

Registration and Credentials

International Foundation Silent Auction, District Four

Foundation Purse Auction Saturday

Club Brag Boards Display

First Time Attendees Orientation

Raikes Anne McCrary, Membership Development

Committee Chair, Nashville, TN

Delegates and Alternates Briefing

Pam Grantham, Governor Elect, Jack, AL

10:45 – 11:45am

First Business Session

Presiding

Malia Wyatt, Governor, Clarksville, TN

Altrusa Accent

Julie Walters, Fort Payne/Dekalb, AL

Roll Call of Clubs

Joy Vaughn, Secretary, Clarksville, TN

Registration Report

Stephanie McIntosh, Registration Chair, Jack, AL

Credentials Report

Beth Hickman, Credentials Chair, Oak Ridge, TN

Conference Rules

Joy Vaughn, Secretary, Clarksville, TN

Presentation of Digital Program

Joy Vaughn, Secretary, Clarksville, TN

Treasurer's Report

Christine Walters, Treasurer, Fort Payne/Dekalb, AL

Board Actions

Pam Grantham, Governor-Elect, Jack, AL

Nominating Committee Report

Wendie Aurin, Nominating Committee Chair,

Oak Ridge, TN

Nominees' Introductions

Elections Committee Report

Lisa Boyd, Elections Chair, Past Governor,

Clarksville, TN

BRR Update

Carolyn Robinson, Past Governor,

BRR Committee Chair,

Thibodaux, LA

Message From Altrusa International

President Chris DeVlieger

Unfinished Business

New Business

Announcements



Literacy Luncheon, Friday, April 17th



Keynote: Rose Weaver Past Poet Laureate of Oak Ridge

Rose Weaver's passion for poetry began at Berea College, where her work was first published. Weaver has retired from a career at Union Carbide/Wackenhut Services and has become an active member of the Oak Ridge community. She serves on the Arts Culture and History Commission, the Scarborough Monument Committee and is writing a book on the Scarborough 85. Rose Weaver's poetry has been known to inspire others to see the world from different perspectives.

Shakitha E. Mckenzie, Blossom Center

Shakitha E. Mckenzie is an Early Childhood Educator from Alabama. Ms.

Mckenzie earned a bachelor's in Early Childhood Education from the University of Alabama. In the past, she taught for a preschool in Tuscaloosa, Alabama until her family relocated to the Knoxville area. Ms.

Mckenzie is happy to be a part of the Blossom Center for Childhood Excellence family in Oak Ridge. After learning about the Blossom Center, she appreciated that the center has created a community within that reflects family. In doing that the program has a great relationship with a lot of organizations in the community that have helped them reach their goal of keeping a welcoming environment for the children. The center continues to incorporate cultures and values from enrolled families and organizations within the community to stay connected.



Judy Gooch, Boost for Books

Judy is an Altrusan and an Oak Ridge past president, and past president of Altrusa Oak Ridge Foundation. She was one of the original developers of the Boost for Books project and current chair of the committee. Judy is an interior designer and owner of Judy Gooch Interiors and happens to be married to the Mayor of Oak Ridge.



Memorial, Friday, April 17th, 3:00pm

Ram Uppuluri

Oak Ridge Friendship Bell



Ram Uppuluri is a senior policy advisor and communicator with more than 30 years of experience in the U.S. government, local governments, and the nonprofit sector. He has developed innovative policy solutions, forged consensus among stakeholders, and led advocacy efforts in a variety of areas including the environment, energy, and education. He has a bachelor's degree from Princeton University and a J.D. from Vanderbilt University. He graduated from Oak Ridge High School in 1979. Ram's parents, Ram and Shigeko Uppuluri, were instrumental in bringing the International Friendship bell from Japan to Oak Ridge to celebrate Oak Ridge's 50th birthday.

IN MEMORIAM

Laura Tutor

Altrusa International of Anniston, Alabama lost a valued and beloved member. Laura Tutor brought her experience in the newspaper field and network in the civic arena with her to club projects and always found a way to maximize project results. Even while struggling with her health in her final months, she continued to work for the benefit of Altrusa even if remotely from her hospital bed. We loved and miss Laura. In fact, our next Girlfriend Gala event will honor the legacy of Laura Tutor.



Becky Potter

1949-2025

On November 18 of this past year, we lost a dear Altrusa sister— Becky Potter. Becky was 76 years of age when she passed, and she made an impact everywhere she went.

Becky joined Altrusa on September 30, 2003 and hit the ground running. She served on many committees, including the Bylaws, Resolutions, and Recommendations Committee (from June 1, 2017 through May 31, 2019.) Becky was our treasurer from June 1, 2017 through May 31, 2021. She served as president from June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2024. Becky also held the office of secretary from June 1, 2023 until her passing on November 18, 2025. She volunteered countless hours in service to our club and our community.

Those are the statistics. Now let me tell you about Becky's heart. Many things she did were never seen or recorded in the minutes of the club. Becky prayed. She prayed for the church, our country, and the sick. She prayed for people she loved and those she didn't even know. Becky not only served Altrusa, but more importantly, she served her Savior, teaching Sunday School and supporting her church, Twelfth Street Baptist, in every way possible. Becky was a generous giver of her time and her resources. Need a ride to chemo? She's there. Need help with a project? Just tell her where to be. Need encouragement? Just talk to Becky 5 minutes...and then look for her to send you a little devotion book or a small gift to lift your spirits. Loyal to a fault, Becky looked for the good in others.

Anyone who knew Becky knew her dry sense of humor...and her honesty. Becky was humble and knew how to laugh at herself. She also was not afraid to be honest on any given subject!

No, lots of things Becky did were never recorded in the minutes of the club. But they are recorded somewhere else, in a far more permanent Book. I wish all of you could have known our friend. You would miss her, too.



Vera "Louise" Mixon

Louise Mixon, age 90, passed away October 15, 2025 at Indigo Hall in Charleston, SC from natural causes. Her sons, Michael and Ric, were fortunate enough to have seen her in her final days and were able to give her hugs and whisper "I love you" and smile as she answered back with "I love you too."

After her sons were born Louise spent the next ten years devoted to her family, friends, and volunteer work until she finally decided to combine all of her skills as a real estate agent in 1970. She was well known in the community as an agent until she retired in 2024 from Coldwell Banker Wallace and Wallace.

Louise enjoyed volunteering and being active in numerous clubs and in her spare time she enjoyed tennis, ballroom dancing, boating, watercolor art, and reading with her book club. She and her late husband Bill enjoyed traveling all over the world.

She joined Altrusa in 1985, serving as President in 1989. She recently was named an Emeritus Member of the Oak Ridge Club.



IN MEMORIAM

Wilarlie Knight Barto

February 17, 1927 – March 11, 2025

Wilarlie Knight Barto, 98, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

She was the daughter of the late Alma and Wilson Knight and was also preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Barto and brother, Kenneth Knight.

Wilarlie was born February 17, 1927, and grew up in Nashville, TN. She was an active member and officer of the Nashville District Methodist Youth Fellowship and a proud 1944 graduate of Howard High School. She remained active in alumni reunions through 2019. She worked in banking for several years and there met her future husband, Gene Barto. They married in 1949 and had two daughters, Becky and Debby.

In 1960 they relocated to Huntsville, AL, and Wilarlie quickly became involved in a variety of community organizations. She was a founding member of Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater and remained an active Board member for several decades. She organized publicity, ticket sales, newsletters, and alumni activities for the theater in addition to sewing hundreds of costumes. She was an active leader in every school and extracurricular activity that her daughters were a part of, from PTA to Band Parent Organizations. She later became involved in the Broadway Theater League and eventually took over season ticket sales and coordinating volunteer ushers.

She was a volunteer for the Adult Learning Center, the Arts Council, and Friends of the Library, in addition to service and leadership roles at Valley United Methodist Church. Wilarlie spent decades researching family history and valued the many connections with cousins and relatives that she discovered. She found great joy in the Huntsville Altrusa Service Club, ultimately serving as District Governor and traveling widely to International Conventions with her fellow Altrusans.

In 2007, Wilarlie moved to Dalton, GA, to be near her daughters and grandchildren. She enjoyed watching them grow up and supporting their activities. She faithfully attended First Baptist Church and her ladies' Sunday School Class.

In 2020, Wilarlie moved into assisted living at the Gardens and later transitioned to Quinton Memorial Healthcare. The family would like to thank the staff of those facilities and her many caregivers over the past several years for their support and care of Wilarlie.



Sarah Housewright

Sarah Housewright became an Altrusan with the Kingsport Club in 1990. She was very involved at the local club level in all positions on the board, including several tours as president, and as a committee chair of most committees. She also served on the district level as treasurer and program coordinator as well as the Foundation treasurer. Sarah loved to travel and visited numerous states and many countries. She shared that love with several Altrusans who became her fellow travelers. Sarah's death leaves a big hole in the hearts of those who knew her well.



Friday April 17, 2026

12:00pm – 1:45pm

Literacy Luncheon

Presiding

Pam Grantham, Governor-Elect, Jack, AL

Altrusa Accent

Laura Tolbert, Club President, Etowah County, AL

Altrusa Grace

Johnnie Gamble – Anniston, AL

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Jane Palmer, President, Oak Ridge, TN

Keynote: Rose Weaver Past Poet Laureate of Oak Ridge

Regina Surber Oak Ridge Director of Service introducing

Shakitha E. Mckenzie, Executive Director Blossom Center

Presentation of Conference Service

Project Blossom Center of Oak Ridge, TN

Judy Gooch, Chair Boost for Books

Presentation of Conference Literacy

Project Boost for Books, Oak Ridge, TN

Announcements

1:45pm– 2:00pm

Break



2:00pm – 2:45pm

Conference Wide Workshop

The Modern Altrusan: Technology Tools to Strengthen Service & Connection

Directions to the Bell at Bissell Park
Jenna Watson, Conference Co-Chair Oak Ridge TN

3:00pm – 3:45pm

Memorial Ceremony at

The International Friendship Bell

Located at the Peace Pavilion at

A.K. Bissell Park, Oak Ridge, TN

Introduction of Speaker, Mark Watson,
Oak Ridge

Speaker Ram Uppuluri

Memorial Program– Melinda Dill,
Director, Nashville, TN

4:00pm - 6:00pm–

Free time

6:00 pm Foundation Night–

Dinner and Mrs. Roper Dress Up Night

Late night Hospitality Room 323-
Bring your own Refreshments

Saturday April 18, 2026

8:00am-9:00am

Registration and Credentialing

International Foundation Silent Auction, District Four Foundation
Purse Auction Saturday, Club Brag Boards Display,
Vote calculations - all voting complete by 8:00am

9:00am – 10:00am

Day Two Opening Session

Presiding

Malia Wyatt, Governor, Clarksville, TN

Altrusa Accent

Lynette Brown, Club President, Nashville, TN

All Conference Workshop

Recruiting and Retaining Great Members

10:00am – 10:15am-

BREAK

10:15am – 11:45am

Second Business Session

Presiding

Malia Wyatt, Governor, Clarksville, TN

Altrusa Accent

Janet Charles, Oak Ridge TN

Roll Call of Clubs

Joy Vaughn, Secretary, Clarksville, TN

Registration Report

Registration Chair – Stephanie McIntosh, Jack, AL

Credentials Report

Credentials Chair – Beth Hickman, Oak Ridge, TN

Approval of 2025 Conference Minutes

Joy Vaughn, Secretary, Clarksville, TN

International Foundation Update

Jennifer Amlong, Altrusa Intl Foundation Liaison, Jack, AL

UN Update

Chris DeVlieger Intl President for Sydney Gilley

Days for Girls Update

Samantha Berven Intl. Service Development Committee, Oak Ridge TN

Elections Committee Report

Lisa Boyd, Elections Committee, Past Governor, Clarksville, TN

Election Results

Wendie Aurin, Nominating Committee Chair, Oak Ridge, TN

2027 District Four Conference Invitation

Thibodaux, LA

Announcements

12:00-1:30pm

Leadership Luncheon

Presiding

Jennifer Gatlin, Immediate Past Governor, Jack, AL

Presentation of District Four Club Presidents

Pam Grantham, Governor Elect, Jack, AL

Altrusa Accent

Kristie Dennison, Kingsport, TN

Altrusa Grace

Liz Henry, Oak Ridge TN

Introduction of Speaker

Samantha Berven. Conference Co-Chair, Oak Ridge, TN

Keynote Speaker

Altrusa International President Chris DeVlieger 2025-2027 Biennium
“Kindness Leadership”

Announcements



**Leadership
Luncheon,
Saturday, April 18th**

**Keynote:
Chris DeVlieger,
Altrusa International
President,
2025-27 Biennium**

Chris DeVlieger has been a dedicated Altrusan since 2003 as a member of the Altrusa International Club of DeKalb County, Illinois. Over more than two decades, she has served in nearly every level of leadership within the organization. Her service includes two terms as Club President, twelve years on the District Six Board—including District Governor—and a distinguished progression through International leadership roles.

She has served as International Director, Treasurer, Vice President, President-Elect, and now proudly serves as International President for the 2025–2027 biennium. Chris is also a committed supporter of the Altrusa International Foundation and is a Hofmeister Lamplighter.

Professionally, Chris brings over 36 years of human resources leadership experience, with expertise in team development, organizational change, and systems improvement. She is widely recognized for her ability to mentor, teach, and inspire others, and has presented leadership and professional development topics for schools, nonprofits, and Altrusa audiences across all levels.

For the past 14 years, Chris has served as a Volunteer Coordinator for one of the nation’s largest Feed My Starving Children MobilePacks. Mark your calendar if you should be in northern Illinois the second weekend in November and call Chris.

She will gladly put you to work along with over 5,000 other volunteers that weekend. In addition to Altrusa and Feed My Starving Children, Chris serves on multiple nonprofit boards and committees in her community.

Chris holds a bachelor’s degree in Management & Leadership and has been an adjunct instructor on human resources. In 2007, Chris took her career to a higher level in human resources by becoming a certified Dream Manager. (Yes – Chris and her employees get paid to dream!) She is a certified Professional Life Coach, a Real Colors facilitator and a Ramsey Solutions Master Financial Coach, teaching Financial Peace University classes several times a year. Chris currently works full time as Vice President of Enrichment at The Suter Company in Sycamore, Illinois.

Chris and her husband, Steve, will celebrate 37 years of marriage this April. They have two adult children—Jordan and Emily (an Altrusan) and a son-in-law, Joe. Outside of her professional and volunteer commitments, Chris enjoys gardening, antiques, reading, traveling, and spending time at her family’s lake house in northern Wisconsin.

Chris looks forward to returning to District Four to reconnect and spend time with fellow Altrusans.

Saturday April 18, 2026

2:00-4:00pm

Awards Presentation

Presiding

Malia Wyatt, Governor, Clarksville TN

Altrusa Accent

Rhoda Scherer, Nashville, TN

Introduction of Speaker

Mark Watson, Oak Ridge TN

Keynote Speaker

Cortney Piper, Owner of Piper Communications

Installation of District Four Foundation Trustees

Carolyn Robinson, Past Governor,
BRR Committee Chair, Thibodaux, LA



PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

First Time Attendees

Raikes Anne McCrary, District Membership Chair, Nashville, TN

Best Brag Board

Christine DeVlieger, Altrusa International President, Dekalb County, IL

Social Media Award

Sidney Gilley, Webmaster, Enterprise, AL

Best Club Yearbook

Laura Tolbert, Communications Committee Chair, Etowah County, AL

Best Club Newsletter

Wendie Aurin, District Service Bulletin (DSB) Editor, Oak Ridge, TN

Greatest Net Membership Increase

Christine Walters, Treasurer, Fort Payne/Dekalb, AL

ASTRA Award

Pam Grantham, Governor Elect, for Cheryl O'Mary, ASTRA Committee Chair

Letha H Brown Literacy Award

Samantha Berven, Service Committee Chair, Oak Ridge, TN

Mamie L. Bass Service Award

Bobbie McLaren, 2nd Vice-Governor, Fort Payne/Dekalb, AL

Dr. Nina Faye Calhoun Intl Relations Award

Melinda Dill, Director, Nashville, TN

Outstanding Altrusan Award

Malia Wyatt, Governor, Clarksville, TN

Greatest Club Achievement Award

Malia Wyatt, Governor, Clarksville, TN

Judy Atkinson President's Award

Jennifer Gatlin, Immediate Past Governor, Jack, AL

Lola Culver Fundraising Award

Jennifer Gatlin, Immediate Past Governor, Jack AL

Membership Service Year Recognition

Malia Wyatt, Governor, Clarksville, TN
Pam Grantham, Governor Elect, Jack, AL

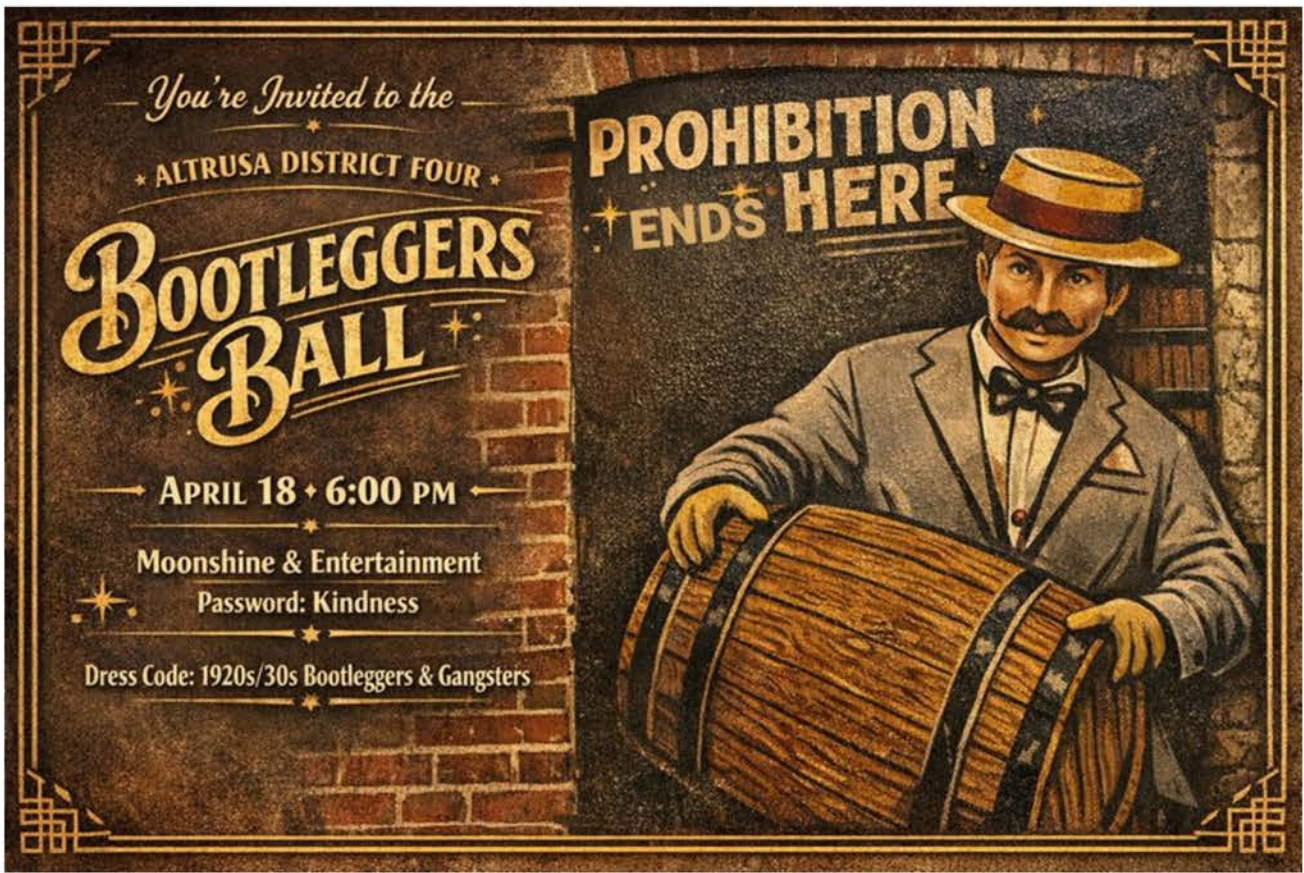
Announcements

4:00-6:00 PM Free Time



**Awards Program, Saturday, April 18th
Cortney Piper owner, Piper Communications**

In 2008, Cortney Piper founded Piper Communications at the height of the recession to provide strategic, public relations services for clients in the advanced energy and technology sectors. Her dedication and commitment to a job well done has allowed her firm to grow steadily, achieving meaningful results for local, regional, national and international clients. Never one to back down from a challenge, a client once referred to her as a "GSD'er." In other words, she gets stuff done. After running for a seat on Knox County Commission, Piper landed a spot as WATE-TV's (ABC affiliate) political contributor, appearing weekly on Tennessee this Week and providing commentary on current news and events. Piper's energy expertise led her to launch the Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council (a 501(c)(3) organization) in 2014 and currently serves as the Executive Director, while Piper Communications provides organization management. The organization champions advanced energy as an economic development and job creation strategy



72nd Annual District Four
Conference Schedule
Saturday April 18, 2026

6:00 pm

Governor's Banquet – Bootleggers Ball

Presiding

Malia Wyatt, Governor, Clarksville, TN

Presentation of Past Governors

Introductions

Altrusa Accent
Judy Gooch

Altrusa Grace
Margaret Johnson, Jack AL

Entertainment Introductions – Mark Watson, Oak Ridge, TN
Entertainment: The True Tones – jazz duo group

District Foundation Purse Auction
Bear Stephenson, Auctioneer, Oak Ridge Altrusa



Final Reports

District Four Foundation

Jackie Adams, District Four Foundation Vice
Chair, Clarksville, TN

International Foundation

Jennifer Amlong, Altrusa Intl Foundation
Liaison, Jack, AL

Final Remarks

International President Christine DeVlieger,
DeKalb County, IL

District Governor Malia Wyatt, Clarksville, TN

Courtesy Resolution Joy Vaughn, District
Secretary, Clarksville, TN

Final Announcements

Retiring of the Colors
District Four Past Governors

Altrusa Benediction

**Adjournment of the 72nd District Four
Conference**

Late Night Hospitality Room 323

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

District Four Post-Conference Board Meeting



**Governor's Banquet, Saturday,
April 18th**

Entertainment: The True Tones

The True Tones are a jazz duo
that performs regularly at 201
Cafe and

Wine Bar in Oak Ridge,
Tennessee. They are a featured
act during the cafe's weekend
jazz brunches and dinners.

District Four Officers and Board 2025-27 Biennium



Malia Wyatt - Governor

Clarksville, Tennessee

931-206-5178

malia.wyatt@gmail.com

Pam Grantham - Governor Elect

Jack, Alabama

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Christine Walters - Treasurer

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Joy Vaughn - Secretary

Clarksville, Tennessee

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Jennifer Gatlin-

Immediate Past Governor

Jack, Alabama

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jenniferdflowers@yahoo.com

District Four Committee Chairs 2025-27 Biennium

Archives Liason

Teresa Travis

Nashville, Tennessee

615-832-8785

ttravis6116@gmail.com

ASTRA Committee Chair

Cheryl O'Mary

Enterprise, Alabama

334-301-3167

omary32@yahoo.com

BRR - Bylaws

Resolutions & Recommendations

Carolyn Robinson

Thibodaux, Louisiana

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carolyn.robinson1951@yahoo.com

Communications Committee Chair

Laura Tolbert

Etowah County, Alabama

256-504-5722

lollylee61@yahoo.com

District Service Bulletin (DSB) Editor

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Oak Ridge, Tennessee

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International Foundation Liaison

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Jack, Alabama

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gmail.com

Leadership Development

Committee Chair

Jennifer Gatlin

Jack, Alabama

334-372-5817

jenniferdflowers@yahoo.com

Membership Development

Committee Chair

Raikes Anne McCrary

Nashville, Tennessee

615-337-7343

raikesanne@gmail.com

New Club Building Chair

Theresa Sanders

Clarksville, Tennessee

931-218-8319

wonderta@aol.com

Parliamentarian

Susie Quillen

Kingsport, Tennessee

423-967-1600

squillen123@gmail.com

Service Committee Chair

Samantha Berven

Oak Ridge, Tennessee

865-356-5411

sroberven@gmail.com

Webmaster

Sydney Gilley

Enterprise, Alabama

334-494-7254

sidneygilley@gmail.com

Conference Committees 2026

Conference Planning-

Samantha Berven- Co Chair

Jenna Watson- Co Chair

Wendie Aurin- Treasurer

Janet Charles

Judy Gooch

Beth Hickman

Jane Palmer

Kathie Shearer

Regina Surber

Mark Watson

Katy Watt

Sandy Wessel

Expeditors-

Suzanne Allred- Chair

Chasity Cheramie

Stephanie McIntosh

Cabrini Simon

Christina Waldron

Registration-

Stephanie McIntosh- Chair

Credentials-

Beth Hickman- Chair

Janet Charles

Jill Morris

Elections-

Lisa Boyd- Chair

Johnnie Gamble

Nominating-

Wendie Aurin- Chair

Jennifer Amlong

Johnnie Gamble



Past Governors

Term	Name	Club City and State
1955	Lola Culver †	Nashville, TN
1955-1957	Kathryn Carter †	Hattiesburg, MS
1957-1959	Irene Jones †	Huntsville, AL
1959-1961	Lee Rast †	Chattanooga, TN
1961-1963	Lois Toomer †	Gulfport, MS
1963-1965	Lessie Gardner †	Shreveport, LA
1965-1967	Derille Hill †	Mobile, AL
1967-1969	Vera Eure †	Hattiesburg, MS
1969-1971	Harriet Weymouth †	New Orleans, LA
1971-1973	Marjorie Wilson (Collins) †	Anniston, AL
1973-1975	Louise Manning †	Knoxville, TN
1975-1977	Charlotte Rhett	Biloxi, MS
1977-1979	Mildred "Billie" Scott †	Memphis, TN
1979-1981	Helen Shaffer †	Baton Rouge, LA
1981-1983	Frances Stewart †	Enterprise, AL
1983-1985	Marie Witt †	Tupelo, MS
1985-1987	Lou McHugh †	Nashville, TN
1987-1989	Jet Barksdale †	Anniston, AL
1989-1991	Carolyn Robinson	Baton Rouge, LA
1991-1993	Dink Taylor	Gadsden, AL
1993-1995	Betty Mathieson †	Kingsport, TN
1995-1997	Debbie Ellis	Greenwood, MS
1997-1999	Judy Atkinson	Enterprise, AL
1999-2001	Wilarlie Barto †	Huntsville, AL
2001-2003	Scottie Harrell	Kingsport, TN
2003-2005	Judy (Hammerstein) Black	Clarksville, TN
2005-2007	Della Ledford	Knoxville, TN
2007-2009	Regina Lawson	Kingsport, TN
2009-2011	Kelli Owens	Enterprise, AL
2011-2013	George Patterson †	Shreveport, LA
2013-2015	Nedra Odom	Dothan, AL
2015-2017	Clara Bennett	Tupelo, MS
2017-2019	Lisa Boyd	Clarksville, TN
2019-2021	Suzanne Allred	Boaz, AL
2021-2023	Susie Quillen	Kingsport, TN
2023-2025	Jennifer Gatlin	Jack, AL

† *Deceased*

Conference Rules

VOTING

Rule 1. The Conference voting body shall consist of the District Officers, Past Governors, and duly accredited Club delegates, or in the absence of duly accredited Club delegates, their alternates*.

Rule 2. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted and no delegate shall represent any Club other than his/her own.

Rule 3. Only members of the Conference voting body may make motions, second them, and vote. Alternates may have the privilege of discussion but may not vote, except in the absence of the delegate. Any other member of the District in good standing and who has paid registration fees may attend the meeting and have the privilege of discussion, but may not vote.

QUORUM

Rule 4. A majority of the voting body present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. The act of the majority of the voting body present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the members of the District.

SEATING

Rule 5. Delegates and Past Governors shall be seated in a section of the meeting hall especially designated by the Chair. District Officers, Past Governors, delegates and alternates shall wear badges at all meetings.

MOTIONS

Rule 6. Any person who speaks from the floor, upon receiving recognition, must give their name and identify their Club (city, state) for the secretary's record. All motions must be handed to the secretary in writing.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Rule 7. Discussion of all motions, reports, and other questions before the conference body shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker. No member shall be allowed the privilege of the floor a second time until those who wish to speak have first had the opportunity to do so. If additional time is to be granted, it must be done by unanimous consent of the conference.

Rule 8. The person making a motion shall have the privilege of opening and closing the discussion thereon.

Rule 9. No motion to reconsider a vote shall be made except at the session at which the vote was taken or no later than the first session of the following day.

Rule 10. A timekeeper shall be appointed for each meeting, who shall regulate the time of calling to order the speaker whose time has expired.

RESOLUTIONS

Rule 11. All resolutions, except courtesy resolutions, offered for consideration at any meeting of District Four shall have been previously approved by action of a Club belonging to the District and shall be assigned to the appropriate committee for consideration. Such committee shall make a report to the voting body on each resolution, giving the recommendation of the committee in reference hereto.

* In the event that an Alternate needs to take the place of a Delegate, they should coordinate this change by contacting the Credentials Chair. The Alternate will then return their initial credential (ribbon) and receive a Delegate credential in return. If the original Delegate has already been credentialed, their credential must be returned. It's important to note that this change is permanent; there is no provision for a temporary substitution allowing the original Delegate to subsequently resume their role.

**District Four Club Presidents
2025-2026 Club Year**

Alabama

Anniston

Peggy Grubbs
256 225-3690
peggygrubbs@mail.com

Enterprise

Leia Duhaime
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Etowah County

Laura Tolbert
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Fort Payne/Dekalb

Bobbie McLaren
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Greater Gadsden

Belinda Hiti
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Jack

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Thibodaux

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Kingsport

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Nashville

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Oak Ridge

Jane Palmer
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Lisa Boyd
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ECHOES of KINDNESS!



The Friendship Bell Tolls

Altrusa District Four Conference 📍 Oak Ridge, TN

Thank you for visiting the Secret City

Altrusa of Oak Ridge

We'll see you in...

Altrusa District Four Conference!



Thibodaux,
Louisiana!

April 22nd - 24th, 2027

