



May, 2017

EVERY DAY IS A CELEBRATION!

One short year ago, we embarked on a year of **Celebrations!** You embraced the theme “Every day is a Celebration! Service, Leadership, Friendship” by weaving it into your projects, activities and decorations. You accomplished amazing things, helping our community. The passion with which each of you served, and continue to serve, comes from deep inside you. Your friendships bind our group together; you care for one another. Your energy at meetings and get-togethers is contagious; your outreach has embraced the addition of many new members, with more still to be added this year.

Among things we will do at our May business meeting will be a memorial remembrance for those close to us who passed away this year; an initiation; finalization, then acceptance of our 2017-18 Strategic Plan; “recommendation” of the Foundation Policies; and election of 5 Delegates and 5 Alternates to the International Centennial Convention.

On May 18, we will install new club board. Although there will be a new theme, new leaders, a new budget and the other things that come with a new year, you will continue to serve, to care and to have fun together. Trustees for our Foundation will also be installed on this special evening.

Although we don't do good things for recognition, it is important for those outside of Altrusa to know who we are and what we do. This is the way we receive the financial support at OWT, so we can afford to do the service we do. Recently there was a break-through in awareness of Altrusa of

Upcoming Events:

See online calendar for event details, location, and sign-up at <http://altrusarichardson.com>

May 1	Network Book Collection
May 4	Monthly Business Meeting (7p)
May 8	RETENTION – Bridge (6:30p)
May 10	SENIORS – Atria Bingo (6p)
May 12	Mother's Day Tea – Friends Place (11a)
May 18	Dinner Meeting - (7p)
May 22	AWCLS Book Club – (6p)
May 24	Comm. Initiative – Older Adult Month (11a)
May 25	Board of Directors Meeting (6:30p)
May 26	Comm. Initiative – Older Adult Month (11a)

Richardson. The City of Richardson contacted **Cindy McIntyre** to find out if and when we would be doing KAN this April. They wanted to include our project in the “Richardson Today” newsletter (and they did). The print version is sent to all residents by mail and it is posted online on the city's website. Only by being known in our community can we receive the support we need.

I am so proud of each one of you, and so humbled to be a part of such a wonderful, caring sisterhood. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president this year!

Together we accomplish great things.

*Every day is a Celebration! Service,
Leadership, Friendship*

Nancy R. Rohm, President, 2016-17
nancyraltrusa@gmail.com



Patsy Palmer Reynolds Endowment Update

Sue McElveen, Endowment Administrator

The Patsy Palmer Reynolds Endowment Fund was created by the first Altrusa Richardson Club President, Patsy Palmer Reynolds. She endowed our club with \$10,000 upon her death. This money was put into investments and we are to use the interest made on the initial endowment to help single parents with "enrichment activities" for their children that otherwise they may not afford. Some of the money has been used in the past to help with band camps, band uniforms, enrichment summer camps, and other such expenses that a working single parent might not otherwise be able to give her children. As administrator of the endowment, I have this year appointed three of our club members to work with me to secure candidates within the Richardson community that qualify for help. They are **Christine Hart, Janet McColloch, and Carol Ruszkowski.**

For the past two years, we have supported twin girls who attend Terrace Elementary go to summer camp. The Patsy Palmer Reynolds Foundation is happy to report that we are once again sponsoring them to attend Elementary Camp this summer. Last year, the twins attended Playground Camp hosted in Heights Parks in the morning, and then inside the Heights Recreation Center for lunch and afternoon activities. Through this camp, the twins attended one field trip a week and went swimming daily. They had a blast and really enjoyed their summer. Last Fall, the twins' great-grandmother visited with **Kimberly Kierce** and shared her heartfelt thanks to Altrusa and the Endowment for enriching the lives of these precious girls. As guardian of these very energetic twins, the great-grandmother was brought to tears as she shared the attached photo and touching stories of her girls and all that she struggles to provide them - and that she is beyond grateful for the generous gift we have given to enrich the lives of these very bright and sweet girls. Altrusa Richardson is proud to sponsor another rewarding summer of camps to two well-deserving children and their great-grandmother. As administrator for the Patsy Palmer Reynolds Foundation, I know this is

something Patsy would be pleased that we are continuing to give in her honor.



*Patsy Palmer Reynolds Scholarship recipients
pictured with their great-grandmother.*



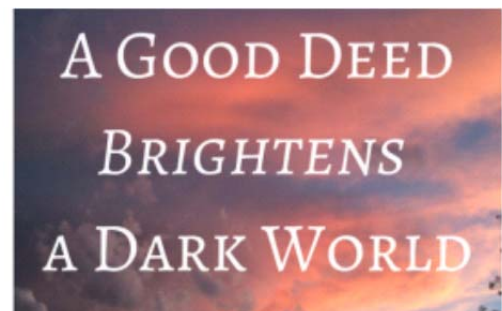
Treasurer Reminder

Membership Renewals Due

Jean Stuart, Treasurer



*June 1st is the beginning
of the new club year.
Check out the club
website for information
and instructions for
renewing membership no
later than May 25, 2017.*



Education Committee
Manners Party

A book selection and Manners Party extravaganza was held on April 4-5 for the four Pre-K classes at Terrace Elementary. On Tuesday, students had the opportunity to select a new book for a friend in their class. Altrusans helped them giftwrap their presents. On Wednesday, each student gave a book gift and received a book gift.

Many "thank you" and "you are welcome" were heard. Actually, there were a number of hugs as well. Then ice cream with a variety of toppings was served along with juice and fruit snacks. This time the words "please" and "thank you" were heard repeatedly. A grand time was had by everyone. We are so thankful to the many Altrusans who helped with this fun annual event.



Pictured on this page:

(upper left) **Nancy Rohm**

(upper right) **Elizabeth DuBose**

(at right) **Gerry Carron**
 and (far right) **Betty Mastick**

(left): Janet McCollouch and **Coralie Miller**

(below) **Betsy Meggs**



Retention Committee
Calling Altrusa Bridge Players



Altrusans who play bridge, college style or the "new" kind gather on the second Monday evening of the month for snacks, dessert and party bridge. Players take turns hosting up to 12 players. If you would like to play look on the calendar to see who the hostess is; call her to see if there is room to play. There will be 8 or 12 players, according to the hostess' available space. Players sign up to be a hostess in June for the year. Any questions contact **Mimi Tanner** at 972-234-4458 or 469-855-1415



Spotlight on Altrusans

Mary Ann Johnston and Mimi Tanner

Interviewed each other for the April 6th Meeting

Mary Ann Johnston Once upon a time there were two little girls, one lived in Iowa; the other lived in Colorado. They were about the same age and loved to hear stories. The Iowa girl's favorite book was *Three Trees*. The Colorado girl liked the books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Each one was named Mary and both were called Mimi because their families said each one called "Me, Me." I am going to tell you about the Iowa girl, who learned to say her name, Mary Ann, and became a member of Altrusa International of Richardson about a year ago. Mary Ann has been retired for several years. She and her husband have an RV and have travelled and camped in all but 8 states; they go for 5 weeks at a time, 2-3 times a year. They are snowbirds! They have 3 children and nine grandchildren, and have been married 52 years. Mary Ann loves to read, especially historical fiction and because she has an eye disease and is legally blind, she gets books from "Overdrive" in the Richardson Public Library and the Texas State Library. Her favorite book is *The Girl of the Limberlost*, about the 1900 hurricane in Galveston by Erik Larson. She really enjoys being an Altrusan and appreciates the way we care about each other and those we serve.

Mimi Tanner has two children and 2 grandchildren. She also has a rescue dog named Rowdy. Her favorite books growing up were the Laura Ingalls Wilder series and her current favorite book is *A Woman of Independent Means* by Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey. She is currently retired after serving as Executive Director of the Richardson Adult Literacy Center. Mimi's favorite vacation spot is the Island of Tortola in the British

Virgin Islands where it is very peaceful and she could just "hang out." She volunteers at her church with the ministry for urgent prayer. Mimi's favorite Altrusa project is Ability House which was started during her year as president. Her favorite Altrusa memory was once when she was at conference and on the way to a ranch for dinner and Mimi and her friend asked the bus driver to let them off at a casino on the way. Employees at the casino were so excited when the bus stopped, but very disappointed when only two women got off! At her Fantasy Dinner Party, Mimi would want everyone to go out to eat! Mimi's favorite quote is "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son." John 3:16



United Nations Celebration

International Day of Families – May 15

The theme of the International Day of Families for 2017 is "Families, Education and Well-Being". The focus is on the role of families in promoting education and the well-being of family members. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of caregivers in families and the balancing of work-family balance for parents.



The day will be used to discuss the importance of knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development and lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, a culture of non-violence, and an appreciation of cultural diversity.



Accent for May
Altrusa Friendships

“Make new friends but keep the old. One is Silver, the other is Gold.” Taking those words from a song you may have learned as a girl scout, make it a point to do just that. One of the parts of the ‘Celebrate’ theme this year is Friendships. As we get busy doing good things in Altrusa, it is important to remember to include our newer members. This can be as simple as speaking to a new member and especially inviting her to sit beside you at a meeting. Perhaps you can ask her to attend a committee meeting with you or help her sign up to do service at the same time as you.

Also reach out to longer term members. A phone call or a greeting card does wonders for someone you haven't seen recently or someone on the TLC list. Perhaps you haven't sat next to a member you used to visit with in the past. You can ask her to sit by you sometime soon. Richardson Altrusa is known for a lot of good things; lets make sure one of them is our friendliness!



Altrusa International News
Conference vs Convention

When you joined Altrusa, you heard many new terms and acronyms. Two of the most confused and misused are Convention and Conference. Both events involve business meetings, fun, learning and interacting with members from other places. But there are differences too.

A Conference is an Annual District event. It is a week-end gathering of members from the district. Our district is the state of Texas. The 2017 Altrusa District Nine Conference was held recently in Waco, April 21 – 23. There are articles and photos at the end of this Tidings about this recent Conference.

A Convention is a Biennial International event held in odd-numbered years. The 2017 Altrusa International Convention will be a four-day event held in Nashville, TN,

July 21-24. Members from around the world attend. The business meetings are different because there are Delegates from around the globe, bringing broad differences of opinions and needs, depending on where members live.



Richardson Public Library Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Lynn Solomon

On March 31, 2017, the Richardson Public Library held a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for its volunteers. Several Altrusans were invited to attend for either volunteering at the quarterly book rotation and/or for other volunteer activities they are involved in at the library. Enjoying the fellowship and lovely catered meal were the following Altrusans (pictured l-r): **Janet Vance, Sandy Martin, Nancy Crowe, Kay George, Dean Burroughs, and Lynn Solomon.** Altrusan Janet Vance is employed by the City of Richardson as Assistant Director of Library Services.



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Senior Committee Update

Auction at Atria Assisted Living in Richardson

Lynn Solomon, Senior Committee Co-Chair

On April 12, 2017, Altrusans facilitated the bi-annual Auction at Atria Assisted Living in Richardson. Atria has a new Activities Director, Amber Parker. There were 16 ladies in attendance and all of them play Bingo on a regular basis at Atria which is how they earn their “play” money. As you know, Altrusa facilitates Atria Bingo on the second Wednesday of each month. It is such fun watching them spend there “Atria” cash on items they want. Atria provides the auction items and Altrusans run the auction.



Thanks to the following Altrusans who volunteered for this event (pictured standing l-r): **Toni Garrett**, **Gloria Sandoval** (auctioneer), **Ann Eisemann**, **Dean Burroughs**, **Carol Ruszkwski**, and (not pictured - photographer) **Lynn Solomon**.



Altrusa International Foundation
Foundation Donations

The Altrusa International Foundation accepts donations throughout the year. District Nine members are very generous to the International Foundation.



Conference is always a time for focus on donations. There were three ways money was raised during conference:

- The Silent Auction where items furnished by clubs were displayed for member bids. Thanks to Ginger Tonne, the Richardson Club offered an overnight package at a hotel.
- Raffle tickets were sold for various items.
- Envelopes with donor forms were on the tables at the Award Luncheon. Members could make a donation to the Foundation or direct their donation (if \$500. Minimum) for a Lamplighter Pin.

At the conclusion of the Conference, it was announced our District had raised \$20,865.00 for the Foundation plus an additional \$2,576.00 for Club 21.



Club Board News for May, 2017

April 27 Board Meeting

The Current and Incoming Club Board Members met together. Past minutes were approved. The Boards heard about Conference and about the May Business Meeting when we will elect 5 Delegates and 5 Alternates to Convention. It was agreed Delegates should be made aware prior to the election that they need to attend the entire Convention in order to be reimbursed by the club and as always write a report. Current members who have lost a name tag and/or pin will be given an opportunity to purchase on before the end of the club year. They “Blessed” Foundation Policies and the New Strategic Plan both of which will be presented to the club at the May 4 Business Meeting for changes and/or approval. They approved moving forward with the licensing agreement with the publisher of the materials we use for Teddy Bear Time. They reviewed the final Status, Remarks and Recommendations of the ’16-’17 Strategic Plan, which will be posted online. Outgoing board members exchanged (or will exchange) information with incoming board members. The May 25 board meeting will be the first meeting of the ’17-’18 board.

Special Tidings Supplement Sixty-First District Nine Annual Conference – April 2017

Sixty-First District Nine Annual Conference
April, 2017

Richardson Club President Article

by Nancy Rohm



The 61st Annual Conference of Altrusa District Nine was held in Waco, TX, April 21-23, 2017. Nineteen Richardson Altrusans

attended the full conference and 4 more joined us for the Award Luncheon.

If you have never attended a Conference, words really can't begin to describe the event. Photos do a better job than words of conveying what it is like. But attending is really an experience every Altrusan should have.

These Special Pages at the end of our May Tidings are partly to show those of you who could not attend what conference was like. **Please mark your calendar now:** the 62nd Annual District Nine Conference will be April 20-22, 2018. It will be hosted by Garland, Rockwall and Greenville Altrusa Clubs. The best news is, it will be held at the Hyatt Hotel in Richardson at the northeast corner of 75 and Campbell!!! Every Richardson Altrusan should plan to attend.

2017 District Nine Conference

All-Star Award – Thank you!

by Nancy Rohm

At conference, registrants are provided ribbons to tape below their nametag indicating “Delegate”, “First-Timer”, “Perfect Attendance”, or whatever is applicable. When I arrived at check-in for conference I received ribbons as usual to go below my nametag. But one of them I didn't know what it was or expect it. I was a 2017 DISTRICT NINE CLUB ALL-STAR. All-Stars were new at the 2016 conference. Since I was unable to attend, I didn't remember it. My sincere thanks to Sue McElveen and the rest of the Richardson Club for bestowing this honor on me. Not only was my photo in the Conference Book as an All-Star, but I was honored at the

Award Luncheon. At the luncheon, I was called forward with the group and given a certificate, a rose and a pin for my blue banner then my photo was taken – it was exciting and it made me feel very special!



An important part of the Conference Opening Session is the Parade of Banners. Club President's or their designee line up and proudly display their club's banner to recognize all the communities throughout District Nine (the entire State of Texas). Altrusa Richardson Club President **Nancy Rohm** (pictured I) is excited to be a part of this great tradition.

As a First-Timer

by Ann Turner

Since I am a relatively new member, this year was my first experience with the District Nine Conference. I must admit I didn't know what to expect. All those chatty, silly women! Not always my "thing". BUT – what I found were friendly, sincere, dedicated, hardworking women who were excited to share their knowledge and their experiences in Altrusa. They were obviously very proud of their clubs and so very supportive of each other and the other clubs in District Nine. Granted, there were some silly moments, but they were so well integrated with the celebration of the year's accomplishments that my skepticism vanished almost immediately. And, I learned so much about how the District functions organizationally and the priorities that drive the goals and accomplishments. It was definitely a "Big Picture" weekend and I came home with a much better understanding of where the day to day operations of the Richardson club fit into District Nine as well as the International organization.



District Nine Governor Sylvia Zamora (l) with International President Silvia Silverman (r)

First-Timer Reflections

by Carol Ruskowski

Altrusa Sisterhood – what it means to me At the conference in Waco this past weekend, I met almost 300 women. Not all at the same time mind you, but throughout the entire weekend. I met them on elevators, stairs, meeting rooms, banquet rooms, etc. Everyone one of them had a smile and a warm greeting or the question, "can I help you". There wasn't a stranger in the group. We all had the same goals and spirit of giving. We all believed in Altrusa and what it stood for. We were a sisterhood!



Now, being a newbie, this can be overwhelming but there was a special session just for us. There were 47 First-Timers in this group.

To help us bond, they organized us into groups. Diane Zaremba and Melody Pierce (pictured above with me, **Carol Ruskowski**, at right) were my partners in crime and we called ourselves the "High Fives". We were sent out on a two day photo scavenger hunt. No one was safe from our camera! We laughed and joked and bonded immediately and have emailed several times since we came home. We know that we will see each other next year and this time we will be the "old timers". We may have come in second on the hunt but we came in **FIRST** on friendship.

My other very fond memory was at the Governor's banquet on Saturday night. **Gloria Sandoval** and **Nancy Crowe** can really cut a rug!!

2017 District Nine Conference Delegate Report

Fun Night

by Nancy Rohm



Fun Night, as always at conference, was an interesting and fun evening. Many clubs arrived dressed alike in attire ranging from poodle skirts to Richardson's denim to diamonds attire. The buffet line was open as Altrusans arrived, featuring a carving station, plus a selection of meat, vegetables, salad and cheesecake.

As most people finished the meal, a couple of ladies did a comic act for the group, bantering back and forth. Shortly after that the Baylor Swing Dancers performed for us. They were a high-energy group, who practice several times a week. They arrived dressed in the style of 40's swing dancers. A few of them stayed and danced throughout the evening. As the dance performance ended, Altrusans took to the dance floor enjoying the music.

During the evening, many photos were taken. There was an area set up with props for some of the pictures. As the event came to an end, there were receptions held in rooms at the hotel to honor various nominees for District offices. **Kimberly Kierce** (pictured below) as treasurer



nominee, greeted visitors in her "MONEY" Boa to Richardson's "Milk and Cookies" party. Those who attended enjoyed white milk, chocolate milk or almond milk with oatmeal raisin and sugar cookies that were baked by our own, Norma Hammerlund.



(pictured l-r) **Cindy Murray**, **Kimberly Kierce**, **Cindy McIntyre** and **Nancy Rohm**



Nancy Rohm (pictured above l) along with **Mary Beth McLemore** (r) hosted a fun memorable reception honoring **Kimberly Kierce** (center) for her nomination to the District Nine Board as Treasurer.



In anticipation of the upcoming 100th Celebration of Altrusa in Nashville July 2017, good ol' Ben Franklin (from the 100 dollar bill) made an appearance at this year's conference and is pictured with District Nine Past Governor, **Peggy Sturrock**

2017 District Nine Conference Delegate Report

Opening Session

by Nancy Crowe

The Opening Session of the conference is always an exciting time because it sets the tone for the entire conference. Sylvia Zamora, Governor of District Nine, called the meeting to order and Shirley Raymer, Director, did the Invocation. Troop 7003, Girl Scouts of Central Texas did the Presentation of Colors and we all did the Pledges to the United States and Texas Flags. It is so invigorating to then see the Parade of Banners where all the presidents from all the clubs in Texas (which make up District Nine) parade in carrying their club banners! Sylvia Zamora then welcomed the 2 District Nine clubs in formation, the Tyler and Montgomery County clubs. The next presenter was Silvia Silverman, the Altrusa International President and she gave a brief greeting. Debby Weber, International Foundation Trustee gave a report on the International Foundation. They are now on Facebook and twitter and last year provided grants totaling \$43,000 to 27 Altrusa clubs, most of them in District Nine! Club 21 raised \$10,000 last year and the money was used to fund selected children's camps. District 55 State Representative Hugh Shine then sung Altrusa's praises and presented Sylvia Zamora with the flag that flew over the State Capitol in Austin on the day he read a proclamation honoring Altrusa. He then talked about the Keys to Success:

- o "If you are alive, your mission is never finished.
- o Continue to unlock the possibilities of hope and transform lives.
- o Teach children to lead, seniors to re-engage and decrease the incidence of family violence.
- o Impact communities and your own hearts.
- o Our mission is not completed, it's only just begun.
- o We are the key to our community's success!"

o

Kathleen Smith, the Credentials Chair, read the credentials for Friday evening:

Delegates – 53, Alternates – 37, District Officers – 7, Past Governors – 8 . **Total - 105**

Barbara Percy, the Registration Chair, then read the registration report for Friday evening:

Clubs Represented – 28
Full Registrations – 227
Partial Registrations – 21
Guests – 14
International Representative – 1
Total – 263

The conference program was then adopted and announcements were made and we were off to Fun Night and the start of a great conference!!



2017 District Nine Conference Delegate Report

Business Session on Saturday Morning

by Sue McElveen

OK, so you decided NOT to go to District Nine Conference. Maybe you are new and felt you did not know enough to sign up. Maybe you are a seasoned member and have never gone and figure why the heck do you need to go, you know tons about Altrusa and figure you won't learn anything new. Maybe you did not have the discretionary funds to make the trip. Well, let me inform each of you in any of the above categories, you must rethink your ideas and start planning now for 2018. The Conference in April of 2018 will be held right here in Richardson at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. As incoming (cont. next page)



Altrusa International of District Nine proudly presents the 2017-2019 Program Team under the leadership of Governor Linda Moore (pictured in front in orange)

President, I would love to have at least 70% of our club in attendance. I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

As a delegate to this year's conference, our President, Nancy asked me to report on the business session on Saturday. One of the most exciting moments is the Live Roll Call. That is where each club is called on by name, your club stands and each person is counted. Richardson came in second only to the host club, Temple. We had 19 in attendance, plus we had four more join us for the Awards Luncheon. After Roll Call we had the usual reports; credentials, registration, adoption of the budget, and presentation of the Long Range Strategic Plan. We learned that we had met the District goals for membership of increasing our District membership by 20%. Next, we had the Governor's report then introduction of the 2017-19 District Board Candidates. Our own Kimberly Kierce was introduced as the candidate for Board Treasurer.

Our International visitor was International President, Sylvia Silverman. She brought us greetings from International and talked about our 100th Anniversary celebration in Nashville this summer. She said she had heard so much about the Mighty Ninth District and was so happy to get to be with us as we prepare for our big celebration in July.

After our International President spoke the keynote speaker was introduced and talked to us about "Leading with Emotional Intelligence." Carol Flowers is with Liberty Seminars and lead an engaging keynote address. Since I am supposed to just give highlights of the morning session I will not go into detail about the presentation Mr. Flowers gave, but it was a powerful and session. To just give a synopsis of his talk he said a "Leader Knows the Way and Shows the Way to Others." As a leader you should always look for the good and own what happens. A leader leads by example, is interested in helping people first, achieving success second. There was much more to his talk and well worth the time listening to his presentation.



2017 District Nine Conference Report Awards Luncheon - Saturday

by Cindy McIntyre

Wow and double wow! I knew we had a wonderful and fun year but look what you did in 2015-2016!



1st Place. Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun Int'l Relations Award

1st Place Edith DeBusk President's Award

1st Place Club Display

2nd Place Letha H. Brown/Governor's Literacy Award

3rd Place Mamie L. Bass Service Award

Special thanks must go to the International Relations Committee, especially **Jane Tucker**, who was able to modify our many and varied activities per the rule changes and come up with a sterling write up. Also to be noted is **Bobbi Klein** for her initiative and write up for the Choose Kind Libraries and her single-handed craftiness and creativity on the Club Display and Scrapbook. You MUST see the book - it's gorgeous! But each of you are part of the President's Award and the Service Award for KAN. It was a terrific group effort. We pulled together and we pulled it off. How nice for the district to notice and appreciate our efforts. We are the Ninjas of the Mighty Ninth. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Turn around and pat yourselves on the back if I don't get there first.

"The amount of information you can pick up at the Conference is amazing."

Governor's Banquet

by Nancy Rohm

This year, the District Nine Governor's Banquet was held at the Baylor Club which overlooks the football stadium. Buses were provided to deliver us to and from the hotel. It was a beautiful, large facility. The ballroom was decked out and the tables reflected incoming Governor Linda Moore's music theme. During the meal, we were entertained by brass ensembles from Baylor University.



The installation conducted by Kathy Folley (at podium) was meaningful and dashed with touches of humor. The highlight for Richardson was when our own, **Kimberly Kierce** (pictured above) was installed as the District Nine Treasurer. Kimberly will sit on the board of District Nine for this biennium. We are so proud of Kimberly!



Pictured left: Linda Moore is installed as District Nine Governor for the 2017-2019 biennium by Kathy Folley (r).

Group pictures below show Richardson Altrusans enjoying the glamour and friendship of the night.



2017 District Nine Conference Delegate Report

Closing Session on Sunday Morning

by Jane Tucker

First on the program was a Remembrance and Devotional Ceremony to honor Altrusa sisters who died during this past year. Among those honored were Richardson club members **Carolyn Swanson** and **Marguerite Anderson**.

The Sunday morning closing session of the Sixty-First District Nine Conference was a great finale for our Richardson club. The program consisted of announcing that 295 members was the final count of attendees. The first timers award was awarded to Chisholm Trail for having four first timers attending the conference. **Bobbi Klein** (pictured below) did an outstanding job on this year's Display Board and her hard work paid off as it was announced that Richardson won First Place.



Shirley Raymer announced that the Conference raised \$20,865 for International and \$2,576 was raised for Club 21. Governor Sylvia Zamora presented numerous Lamplighter Pins to those who had been invaluable to her during her term as Governor. Among those who received a pin was **Kimberly Kierce** for her efforts in developing under charter clubs to bring them to charter strength.

The rest of the session was full of presenting reports and announcing the new program team for 2017-2019. Among those presented to District Nine was **Kimberly Kierce** who will serve as District Treasurer. The new slate of District Nine officers was then presented to attendees and Sylvia Zamora pasted the gavel to Linda Moore, our

new Governor. Linda then challenged all District Nine clubs to "Set District Nine to Music" by: 1. Growing membership of District Nine by 20% and work on attracting younger members, 2. Utilizing at least 80% of its members in service projects and focusing on literacy projects, 3. Enhance the image of Altrusa through the use of marketing and social media, 4. Develop a pipeline of strong Altrusa leaders and encourage every club to develop and implement a strategic plan, 5. Organize the strength of each club through properly managing finances and maintaining assets. She concluded by announcing the Centennial Drink Competition Winner. Garland won with their F.R.O.G cocktail and it will be District Nine's entry at the International Conference's Centennial Drink Competition in Nashville.

The last part of this session had the Garland, Rockwall, and Greenville clubs "Setting District Nine to Music" by inviting everyone to attend the 2018 District Conference on April 20-22, 2018 at the Hyatt Hotel in Richardson



(pictured l-r) **Sue McElveen, Jo Leeper and Ginger Tonne** proudly admire the First Place Display designed by Bobbi Klein.



Congratulations Cindy McIntyre on an outstanding 2015-2016 Club Year!!