

Conference Report - 2010 Sandie St. Onge - Conference Chair



With a theme of *Celebrate Altrusa by Telling our Story*, 17 Altrusa International of Longview-Kelso club members, including 3 first-time conference attendees and 1 guest did just that May 20-23 at the 55th Annual District Twelve Altrusa Conference in Canyonville, Oregon. There were 161 attendees present this year representing 21 districts.

- We made new friends and reconnected with friends from previous conferences while we expedited and participated in a plethora of educational and networking opportunities;
- We dined at the Grand Victorian and sat through a marvelous full costume presentation of *“Let Us Entertain You”*;
- We heard a passionate presentation on the impact of vision problems and their affect on reading and learning for children and adults from Dr. Barbara Wagner;
- We took part in business sessions where three changes to District Bylaws and Regulations were discussed and later past;
- We elected a nominating committee to search out the best candidates to run for district offices next year;
- We heard about fund raising projects, the pros and cons of setting up a club foundation, membership retention strategies, synergy and how individual efforts can be beneficial to countless others and we participated in a town-hall meeting;
- We had first timer recognition, training, and an award which was won by our own Beverly Coryell;



- We spent an interesting evening with our Zebra-Tailed Tiger flies *walking with the animals* as we bussed through the wild-life safari and then had an excellent BBQ dinner and sampled local wines;
- We listened to an inspirational musical tribute by Lauren James, narrated by Edwin Miller Jr., which was inspired by Tom Brokaw’s best-selling book *“The Greatest Generation”*. Highlights included such well-known songs as *“Swinging on a Star,” “The White Cliffs of Dover,” “With A Song in My Heart,” “I’m Shooting High,”* and their own version of *“Thanks for the Memory”* with a round of applause for those attendees 80 and over from that great generation, and;



- We learned who the annual award recipients were - *Gwladys Brewster* (Mary Marshall from Roseburg), *Dr. Nina Fay Calhoun* (South Pierce County #1, Longview-Kelso #2, Hermiston #3), *Letha H. Brown* (Roseburg #1, Eugene #2, Nanaimo #3), and *Mamie L. Bass* (Yaquina Bay #1, Longview-Kelso #2, Eugene #3).
- Between all the business and reconnecting, we also took a little time to remember those Altrusa members who have passed during the last year - Lil Brown, Dolores Snyder, Leota McKnight, Molly Saul, Elly Jung, Florence Orivk, and Clemie Schwarz;
- We heard from our international visitor, Donna C. Johnson;
- We had spa treatments, gambled *just a little bit*, ate too much;
- We viewed some terrific club display boards and participated in endlessly wonderful raffles which raised about \$4,000 to be divided out for district and international; and



- We were asked to assist in the branding of Altrusa by finishing this statement in twenty words or less - *“Altrusa is ...”*

If you missed this district conference, remember to mark your calendar now for the next district conference at Chelan, Washington - May 20-22, 2010 - at Campbell Resort on Lake Chelan where our own Sara Burt will be installed as District Governor. A few brochures will be made available at our next meeting.

