

Susy Meier of Altrusa International Inc. of Atlanta, GA modified the Rugby-centered installation found on the International web site to give a baseball theme.

Tonight, the Altrusa Club of _____, is installing a new team of players to lead us, their supporters, into a year of fun, games, winning, and competition.

Teamwork is essential to any group accomplishing a common goal. Webster's defines a team as 'a group on the same side, as in a game' and 'a group organized to work together'. J.R. Katzenbach and D.K. Smith, in *The Wisdom of Teams*, defines a team as '... a small number of people with complementary skills who are committed to a common purpose, performance goals, and approach for which they hold themselves mutually accountable.' And Sandra Day O'Connor perhaps puts it best: 'We don't accomplish anything in this world alone... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.'

As you know, each successful baseball team needs a full time coach and manager. This is a person of experience and wisdom. The Coach exhorts all team members to develop the skills and work together as a team, and helps each individual contribute their skills to the best of their ability, so that the team as a whole is strong and fearless in the face of opposition. The coach ensures the well-being of each team member and watches for areas of stress. Our coach, our manager this year, is our Past President, _____. We look forward to your great organizational skills and experience being used once more to support our winning team. Are you ready to accept your role on the team for the new year?

_____, we present you with your team:

The first member of our team is _____, who will be our Treasurer. At First Base, _____ is responsible for a strong defensive role, ensuring that the ball remains in play, which means making sure that we always have enough money in the kitty to carry out our projects. She must keep an eye on the rest of the field to make sure that the bills are paid, the books are in order, and people are reimbursed. If she maintains her base and catches the throws from the other positions, the team will know that our finances are under tight control. _____, are you ready to accept your role on the team?

Joining _____ in the Infield are our Second and Third Base Directors. It is the job of the Directors to maintain the defensive role, and as good Second and Third Basemen, field the ground balls, provoke double plays, and catch the hard hit balls in their directions. _____ and _____ will strengthen the team in these roles and not only field well but also throw strongly to the rest of the team. They will help hold us, the team, when we are under pressure. If they are missing, we have no backbone for the Infield. _____, _____, are you each ready to accept your role on the team?

The shortstop on our team is _____, the Secretary. It is her job to help direct play. She is one of the links between the pitcher, catcher and the rest of the Infield. As Secretary, _____ will keep the minutes, write and receive the letters, and keep the President informed. As shortstop, she will constantly be talking to the rest of the team about the state of the play and what's happening in the game. _____, are you ready to accept your role on the team?

The Pitcher on our team is our Vice-President, _____. As Pitcher, _____ must not only be able to throw the ball but also field and back up any position where it is needed. In order to support the President, she must know where all the base runners are at all times, as well as understand what is coming up next. A successful pitcher is sure-footed, and able to assist in coordinating the efforts of the defensive players. As the pitcher must understand the rules of the game, the Vice-President should know parliamentary procedure and the club's procedures. _____, are you ready to accept your role on the team?

Our final Infield member is our catcher and President, _____. The catcher must be the team's leader. They have the entire field in front of them and are able to read and react to every situation. While the ball is in play, the catcher is the only position that never has their back turned towards the action. As President, _____ will communicate between the infield and the outfield, and direct the play. She is responsible for calling the pitches, keeping up the pace of the game, and also being an on-field psychologist. She must be able to get everything out of the pitchers and teammates. She will keep a careful eye on all her team members to ensure that each member's skill is fully utilized, and will give them support as they develop new skills. As the Catcher cannot be in all positions on the field, the President cannot be in all roles in the club, but will serve as a role model for her team and for the supporters and spectators. _____, are you ready to accept your role on the team?

Our Outfield is an essential component of the team, as with any baseball team. The outfield does not only provide additional defensive action on behalf of the team, but is also responsible for backing up to the wall and making the dramatic catch when it is needed. The outfield must be in proper position for each play, and be ready to 'hustle' when needed whether the player is touching the ball or not. For Altrusa International of _____, our club members who are not currently serving on the board are our Outfield. The game is impossible to win without you and your energy. This is your team, your club. Being in the Outfield does not mean that you will not see action! You are responsible for remaining focused and 'in the game'. Are you ready to accept your role on the team?