



District 7 Newsletter



January 2005

Volume 1, Number 2

*Zonta International
President-elect Olivia
Ferry of the Philippines
will join us as our
International Rep at the
D7 Conference Fall
2005!*

- Treasurers, Zonta International dues are \$53.00 per person for 2005-2006. District dues are \$16.00 per person. Get them in EARLY!!



Thinking of Others First...

It is a new year and many thoughts are in our minds. We have so much we want to accomplish, whether it is for our families, our work, or our communities. And Zonta holds a cherished place among all our commitments. With the recent earthquake at sea, and the resulting tsunami that has taken over 100,000 lives across so many nations, we Zontians have a mission, too. We must be firm in our resolve as an organization to remain more committed than ever to **preventing and discouraging the trafficking of young children** into prostitution, a predictable outcome for newly-orphaned children with predators waiting for their hunger, desperation and fear to derail their lives forever. This would be a great time to link with clubs in nations most deeply affected, and reach out to offer whatever help is most needed. You can also work through the reputable service organizations like the Red Cross or Red Crescent, and assure that your dollars and other aid will get where it is most needed. If I may be of assistance to your clubs in making such links, just let me know! I wish you all a year of health, happiness, and care and concern for others in making good things happen!

Area Meetings Set for Spring!

Your Area Directors are already hard at work, meeting with host clubs in each area, and beginning to build programs to strengthen and empower each Zonta club through our annual area meetings. These meetings are a wonderful way to join forces with other clubs, leaders, and communities, and return home recharged and ready to try new things! *If you are interested, reach out even farther, and accompany me to another area meeting in addition to your own.* The cross-pollination of clubs and the mentoring of future Zonta leaders are elements critical to meeting the goals of rejuvenation and retention that every Zonta club needs. The area meetings are as follows:

Area 1: Saturday, April 2, 2005

Area 3: Saturday, April 16, 2005

Area 5: Saturday, April 9, 2005

Area 6: Saturday, March 5, 2005

Watch for a mailing from your respective Area Director early in the year, and let everyone in your club know you want as many members as possible to set aside their valuable time to invest in Zonta's future together. I look forward to seeing you all at your area meetings.

Linda Jacobsen, Governor

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We're on the Web!

www.zontadistrict7.org

Get Your Dues in Early

Zonta International's budget operates on the assumption that 34,000 members will pay their dues on time. I encourage club treasurers to generate invoices and hand them out to members at the January and February 2005 meetings. Clubs not paid up (both ZI and district dues!) will not be in good standing for the District 7 Fall Conference, coming up September 30 through October 2, 2005 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. This will affect your club's right to vote, and its ability to present proposals to amend the ZI Bylaws, for example. Dues to ZI this year are \$53.00 per member. \$41.00 goes toward Member Services, which include *The Zontian* and the ZI website; \$5.00 goes towards Organization & Extension, helping new clubs charter and older clubs rebuild; \$4.00 goes towards the Zonta International Convention; and the final \$3.00 is for U.S. clubs' liability insurance coverage, as required by U.S. and Illinois law, where ZI's charter is legally operational. Treasurers, ZI dues should be sent to: Zonta International, ATTN: Member Services, 1919 Paysphere Circle, Chicago, IL 60674. Let's try to have all our D7 clubs paid up by April 15th, an easy date for us all to remember! ☺ For any questions on the paying of membership dues, you can also email ZI at: zontainterntl@zonta.org for immediate assistance. District dues are set at \$16.00 per member, assuming there will be 680 D7 members in 2005. Let's try for even more members this year, too, and help keep our dues right where they are!

Interdistrict Membership Seminar of the Americas!!

Zontians, save the weekend of June 24-26, 2005 to travel to Denver at the Airport Marriott for ***a gathering of sisters from all over the Americas***, committed to growing our amazing organization and attracting and retaining new members and building on leadership development for the future. Your Area Director has a copy of the official Save the Date announcement, which includes pricing details and other relevant information. Club presidents, contact your AD for more on this second-ever tradition, or visit our D7 website to download and share the document with your club. You can also keep closer track of developing programming and activities by visiting D3 or D12 websites: www.zontadistrict3.org and www.zontadistrict12.org

1. **District 7 Spring 2005 Area Meetings are listed inside. Mark yours down now!**
2. **Membership Seminar of the Americas coming up June 24-26, 2005 in Denver, Colorado!**
3. **D7 Fall Conference will be held Friday, September 30-Sunday, October 2, 2005 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.**
4. **The next Zonta International Convention is set for June 24-29, 2006 in Melbourne, Victoria, AUSTRALIA!**

The D7 Board will hold its annual January teleconference Monday January 17, 2005 at 7pm. Details will follow via email.

District 7 Fall Conference Set

Get ready for some real fun this fall! Our district has been informed that **Zonta International President-elect, Olivia Ferry, will be our honored guest as the official International Representative to our district conference, set for Friday, September 30-Sunday, October 2, 2005, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.** Think about booking a bus, and chartering it to make a run from North Dakota through Missouri, picking up sisters along the way! Or save your miles and book a fare into St. Louis early, and get your pick of travel times. Local sisters will happily share rides south from St. Louis to Cape Girardeau, which is about two hours south of St. Louis by car. If anyone is also interested in stopping over at a sister's home before or after the conference, please let me know, and I will happily put you in contact with a welcoming hostess in Area 6. Details of our D7 Fall Conference will be coming out soon, but you can always check with your Area Director or on our district website for updates, too! Deepest thanks to Past Governor Kerry Dixon-Fox for keeping up with all our communications via her managing the D7 website.

Amelia Earhart Recipient in D7

Zonta International honored Ms. Xiuping Mu (actually written ***Mu Xiuping*** in China, with the family name being first and most important!), a graduate student at the University of Manitoba, in Winnipeg, Canada, the 2004-2005 fellowship in Zontian Amelia Earhart's honor. Ms. Mu is studying Mechanical Engineering, and was awarded her first AE fellowship grant in 2003, and has been granted a continuation for superb work in her field of study. Historically, there was a Zonta club in Winnipeg, but since there is no Zonta club in Manitoba at all anymore (which was part of D7), we wish Ms. Mu well with her studies and every hope for her future. Feel free to get in touch with our honored AE fellow, and welcome her to the world of Zonta!

Membership Moment

In D7 we have several clubs with memberships that are below 15. We know who we are, but that isn't the only issue. Zontians are working together in Rochester, Minnesota to charter a new club there, and they are also concerned with attracting and retaining wonderful Zontians. So, what are some things we can all do to grow and nurture all our Zonta clubs?

First, make a commitment to participate as fully as possible in area and district functions, and encourage other Zontians in your club to come along, too. The most active Zontians tend to be the ones who make time for area and district meetings, and budget dollars and time for international convention attendance!

Second, set aside time to visit with other Zontians, and meet together with potential new members over lunch, while strengthening your ties to your sisters. You may find new business and professional leads, suppliers, and other valuable contacts in the process of getting the word out about your Zonta club!

Third, comb your newspapers and local professional journals, looking for potential Zontians who can enrich and enliven your club! Make a point of

bringing these leads to your membership chair or club president. Gently check that your leads are being followed up on. Work within your club to create an ongoing prospecting and outreach program.

Fourth, plan quarterly membership drives or other public awareness and outreach activities designed to bring in new members, or create public interest in the mission and scope of Zonta. Make one meeting each quarter one that is announced via the media, through press releases, and assure that the speaker and content will be of interest and of use to your audience! Follow up immediately with any who show interest in your mission or your club.

Fifth, shamelessly get to know the local reporters in your community who care about the mission of Zonta. Educate and inform reporters in a timely manner, and always include them in your mailings and other invitations and press releases. Those relationships, built carefully and warmly over time, can prove invaluable when great things are happening with your Zonta club!

Finally, don't just read this message, EXECUTE each item in your club this month, and let me know how it goes! Talk to your Area Director for additional tips and ideas. We are all here to serve you and your club!