



# District 7 Newsletter



March 2006

Volume 2, Number 3

## *In Memoriam*

### Past International President (PIP) France de La Chaise Mutin

On Monday February 13 2006 our beloved Zonta International Past President France de La Chaise Mutin passed away. There was a memorial service in Paris on Friday February 17 2006.

From 1976 till 1978 France was our International President. She was a well known name in Zonta. France de la Chaise created the first club in 1950 in France. She was a truly dedicated, beloved and very active Zontian. To many of us she was a very good friend.

Our thoughts are with her husband and her family.

We will miss her.

Regina Smit, Governor D29

## Coming into Spring...

As we move into spring, it is time to set aside extra time to grow Zonta from within. Please take time to register and attend your Area meeting this spring.

**Area meetings are for EVERY ZONTIAN**, not just officers or delegates. An area meeting is a more relaxed, informative gathering, where everyone can go home with new ideas, new energy, and new friends and contacts. It is a great way for members considering running for higher office in Zonta to get a look at what it's all about, find some mentors, and ask questions. It's a terrific way to introduce your newest members to the greater world of Zonta. Host clubs put a lot of thought, time, and energy into preparing with your Area Directors to create events worthy of your time and talent! Come and see what your sisters are up to in your area, and take time to visit with them, share ideas, successes, and continue to build Zonta long into the future. The women of the world need us!

## Club Updates...

**Area 1** has quite a delegation going to convention in Melbourne. Anyone attending convention should let Governor Linda know, so we can all meet during the D7 meeting slot on the convention program.

**Fargo Moorhead** Club successfully completed a 19th annual Thanksgiving Basket Project in November 2005.

The committee solicits funds from organizations, clubs, private citizens, and businesses to raise approximately \$10,000.00. 550 Thanksgiving baskets are assembled and distributed to needy families in the Fargo-Moorhead

### Area Meetings 2006

**Area 1: April 29** in  
Aberdeen, SD

**Area 3: April 8** in  
St. Cloud, MN

**Area 5: April 22** in  
Kansas City, MO

**Area 6: March 25**  
in St. Charles, MO

**HAVE YOU  
REGISTERED  
FOR:  
International  
Convention  
June 24-29, 2006  
Melbourne, Australia**

**D7 Fall Seminar 2006  
Atchison, Kansas  
October 6-8**

Community. The Salvation Army organizes the list of recipients and donates time to help with the project. Other organizations help with deliveries, assembly, and distribution. The local newspaper and television stations broadcast this event.

#### Greetings from **Area 3**

The **Brainerd** Club will be hostesses at the Brainerd Lakes Area Women's Expo at the Civic Center on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. The club's Style Show which is the major fund raising event will be at the Grandview Lodge on Gull Lake April 18<sup>th</sup>. The theme, "Putting on the Glitz." Women of Excellence in the Brainerd Area will be honored at the program meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The **Rochester** Club completed decorating two rooms at the Rochester Women's Center. Paint, curtains and bed linens were provided by this active group who are not yet chartered.

The **Minneapolis** Club celebrated Rose Day by volunteering at the International Women's Day Celebration at the University of Minnesota on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity to increase awareness of Zonta International. Club members had a Zonta table at this free event which can draw as many as 700 participants. The purpose is to celebrate diversity of women and advances in women's human rights and equality.

From Pat Will:

**Mankato** just finished a fund raiser for our club where we ride the flower delivery trucks on Valentine's Day for a florist and they pay our club for our time. It is fun and an easy fund raiser. We will be having our European Market which is an internal club fund raiser in March. We have held a couple of evening coffee socials for prospective new members and as a result of that and individual club members helping to encourage new members we will have five new members this year so far. We are getting ready to hold our SILS Bingo/Dinner party in April and will soon be holding meetings for our upcoming Blooming Pretty Garden tour which is in July.

Governor-elect Carol Pasanen came down and did the Personality test for our club's social meeting in February, which was fun and entertaining.

From **Area 5**:

The **Zonta Club of Kansas City II** is hosting a Discover Nigeria evening March 25<sup>th</sup>. Their successful annual Amelia Earhart luncheon January 21<sup>st</sup> included a Woman of Achievement award to Cheryl Smith, who is CEO of Sunflower House, a center for abused children. Zonta's own Louise Davis (D7 YWPA Chair) was also honored with a Status of Women award for her surgical mission work in a remote province of Romania.

From **Area 6**:

Check out [www.mowomensconference.org](http://www.mowomensconference.org) to see that **Zonta St. Louis** is a supporting sponsor of the Business Journal Conference for Women to be held April 4. We were able to obtain this publicity by inserting information about the conference to our members in our February and March Zest, without any financial cost to the Club. Zonta will also be listed in the program book. It looks like a smashing program for any who attend. Thanks to Member Robyn Kestler for alerting us to this opportunity.

"Resurrected" St. Charles is delighted to be hosting this year's Area 6 meeting,

**Take time to cut out articles on leading women and get them to your club membership chair!**

**Send out press releases on every new member, every club accomplishment, and invite the public to come and see what your Zonta club is all about!**

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We're on the Web!  
[www.zontadistrict7.org](http://www.zontadistrict7.org)

and wishes to share that its membership has now reached 15. They are delivering roses and Zonta information to leading women in the St. Charles County area on March 8 and are hoping for a super turnout at the Area meeting. They are anxious to meet all their sisters!

The Zonta Club of **Jefferson City** reported that since 2000, \$34,000 has been awarded to their Second Chance Scholarship recipients. The club also plans to have a tent up at their local Relay for Life June 2-3.

Clubs, keep sending in your announcements and newsletters! Thanks to those who do so monthly!! ☺

## **District 7 Communications Chair asks:**

### **Is your club taking advantage of all opportunities to gain publicity?**

There are certain natural events in your club's calendar that might attract the attention of local news organizations if you alert them in a timely and helpful way.

Here are a few ideas:

- Installation of new officers: Write a news release with background information on each officer and provide that to the newspaper, along with photos of officers.
- Meeting programs: If you're having a particularly important speaker, invite the media to cover the program. Or, write a news release highlighting the remarks and submit it to the newspaper immediately after the program.
- Club service projects: Announce them locally with a news release, especially when you need the community's involvement, such as fundraisers. Always think photo potential! If you're planting flowers in a local garden spot, it might be just the colorful picture the newspaper photographer – or maybe the television station – needs that day. Call them in advance.
- Convention trips: Report on your members' attendance, along with convention highlights. Maybe a local radio talk show would be interested in talking with the members upon their return.
- Special events: Consider the news potential in award luncheons, Rose Day events, etc.
- Honors: If you award scholarships, Students of the Month or membership awards, submit that information to your local news media.
- Anniversary: Is your club celebrating a key anniversary? It's time for a feature story explaining what Zonta is all about.

It's very helpful if your publicity chairman understands your local media, including the types of stories that would attract their attention, as well as their deadlines and policies on accepting news items and photos (by e-mail, fax, phone). Good luck!

*Nancy Vessell*

Has your club given a third of service funds raised to the ZIF for the year yet?

Have you given to the ZIF?

## From our ZIF Ambassador:

Laurel Haroldson, International Foundation Ambassador- District 7

Just recently I read a book written by Mende Nazir (Sudan). She is the author (with Damien Lewis) of the number one international bestselling book *Slave*, that tells the story of her capture and forced enslavement and her dramatic escape to freedom. Of particular interest to me, because of Zonta's past project in Burkina Faso, is her description of the custom of female genital circumcision and how it affected her life. She is now in her early 20s, and lives in London.. She has become an international spokesperson on the issue of slavery, trafficking and abuse of children .

About the same time, our local newspaper included an editorial by Kathryn Lopez She feels the priority for women on International Women's Day, March 8, should be to use our public voices to fight for those who can't. She sites examples of Nazanin, an Iranian woman and her 16 year old niece who were about to be raped last year. Nazanin stabbed two of their three attackers, killing one. She was sentenced to death for her crime, (killing a man in self defense).

She also writes about a Nigerian woman named Amina Lawal's whose life was spared in 2003, most likely because Westerner's were paying attention. Divorced, she was charged with adultery. She testified that she had been raped. A court ordered her stoned to death, but she was ultimately allowed to live on appeal.

These are just two examples of basic human rights issues in our contemporary world. Many more exist. Stories like these make the commitment of Zonta International to "advance the status of women worldwide" important to me, my club, my district and to the Zonta International Foundation. We, as Zontian's, can and do make a difference. Zonta International's voice is made up of individuals, clubs, districts and ZI. **Contributions to our clubs help raise our voices locally and contributions to the Zonta International Foundation help make our choir of voices sing worldwide.**

The Zonta International Foundation – Ways to Give- website - is our resource for giving to the 501c3 Foundation.

*Thank you to all in District 7 who have generously given to the Foundation, enabling Zonta International to advance the status of women worldwide. Your continuing support helps to make a difference in the world.*

## Have you registered for convention yet?

Register online at [www.zonta2006.com](http://www.zonta2006.com) and use your credit card for faster processing. Take time now to reserve your preferred hotel, and do select the prepaid lunch option during convention as it's a busy week in Melbourne with school holidays and many visitors. Restaurants will be very crowded, and your Zonta days will be very full! Talk to your club about selecting a delegate, and anticipated costs for convention. If you are planning to redeem airline miles for

Zonta clubs everywhere should be recognized as the expert voice for women's issues. What is your club doing to assure this?

your travel to Australia, reserve your flights now! If your club doesn't have a line item in its budget for convention, do raise the subject soon. In 2008 the convention goes to Rotterdam, Netherlands, and in 2010 we shall meet in Bangkok, Thailand. Plan ahead to support your club delegates to attend conventions long into the future..

## **Advocacy is Every Zontian's Job: We are action for women everywhere!**

At the last St. Charles club meeting, a guest came to talk about an emergency housing project she pulled together on behalf of a single mother of two. One of the club members, Rhonda Brocius, brought this single mother's plight to the attention of the club, which immediately swung into action. The guest, Zara, had a son who'd befriended a classmate at school. One day he came home and reported that his classmate's mom had lost their home, and they were living temporarily in the Salvation Army shelter in town. They had 30 days to find a new home. Zara made some calls, found out what was going on, what was needed, and began to take action. Because of Zara's determination, others, like Rhonda of the St. Charles club, came to assist her. That single mother of two now resides in a newly renovated mobile home and her children can stay in the same school. Zonta played a modest role, but we were there for that concerned citizen, as she was there for her son's classmate and family. This is Zonta. We have invited Zara to consider membership in Zonta. She lives the mission... **Why are you a Zontian?** ☺

## **Your D7 Board in Action**

The District 7 Board is working hard to support upcoming Area meetings. If you are lucky enough to have a D7 committee chair in your Area, why not find her and speak with her at your meeting? Be sure to ask your Area Director and the local host committee who's who at your Area meeting!

Early in June, the incoming Area Directors will meet the incoming and outgoing D7 officers in Minneapolis, and spend time learning about serving the clubs in their areas. Sitting Area Directors are now sharing information and beginning to prepare for a seamless and supportive transition for their successors.

Treasurer Barb Zapp reminds us all that **District 7 dues are due by 31 May. Dues for D7 are \$21 per member.** Great news!! Our paid D7 membership is now at 604. This is HIGHER than 2005 figures by TWO PRECIOUS MEMBERS!! Way to go, Zontians. Let's keep getting the word out, and bringing the new members in!!

**YWPA:** it's that time of year. Many clubs are getting out local press releases and other publicity to encourage local young women to apply for the YWPA scholarship available through their local Zonta club.

Club presidents, along with their committee chairs, will be starting to compile their annual reports. Find forms on the D7 website, and get them where they need to be, everyone! Thanks for getting right on these.

**Register on the ZI website, and have your member number handy:**  
[www.zonta.org/register](http://www.zonta.org/register)

## Dates to Plan by...

**15 March:** Footprint of Service due to Kerry Dixon-Fox, with copy to Governor

**31 March:** Early Bird ZI Convention Registration Last Day!!

**1 May:** Club Officer Report Forms due

**1 June:** D7 and ZI dues must be paid

**24-29 June:** ZI Convention in Melbourne, Australia

**15 August:** Jane M. Klausman D7 recipients due to ZI HQ

**6-8 October:** District 7 Fall Seminar in Atchison, Kansas

**10 October:** JMK international recipients announced

**24 October:** United Nations Day (plan ahead and plan your PR!!)

Check out the District 7 website to download forms, photos, and other information all year long at [www.zontadistrict7.org](http://www.zontadistrict7.org)

