



# District 7 Newsletter

## Governor's Message

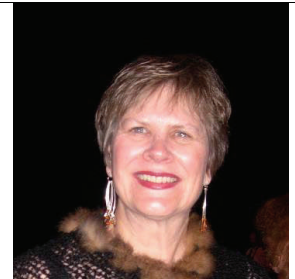
Wasn't it wonderful to renew Zonta friendships at our Fall Seminar? Thank you, Atchison, for your warm hospitality. We will not forget our tour of Amelia's birthplace where we saw our District 7 quilt right on top of the bed where Amelia was born!

Believe it or not, we are already beginning to plan our Fall Conference for the weekend of October 5—7, 2007, in Minneapolis. It will be a first-rate event as well. The International Liaison scheduled to attend is from Bangladesh. I am sure she will have much to share with us!

I had the privilege to participate in a program that rec-

ognized Irina Kansakar who received one of Zonta International's Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships. The Mankato Club nominated her. Irina is from Nepal and attending college in Mankato. Irina is a delightful young woman!

The Jamestown Club is excited to announce that Lynette Patrick, one of their club members, received the prestigious Milken National Educator Award—the only North Dakotan to receive the award and is one of 100 outstanding educators in the country. Lynette is a third grade teacher in Jamestown. Congratulations, Lynette!



**Dr. Carol Pasanen**  
Governor, District 7

Have a blessed holiday season!



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**Special points of interest:**

- Find out what's happening in every Area!
- Learn about our District 7 JMK winner!
- Learn about advocacy—what does this word mean to us as Zontians?
- Learn how to write an effective press release!

## Irina Kansakar—Jane M. Klausman Scholarship Recipient!



Irina Kansakar is currently a junior at Minnesota State University – Mankato. She maintains a 3.9 (out of 4.0) grade point average while pursuing an ambitious double major in Finance and Public Relations, with minors in Business Administration and Accounting. She indi-

cates a desire to become certified as a Chartered Financial Analyst and eventually pursue a master's degree in business administration.

Her resume shows an impressive level of involvement in the university community. She is a member of the Finance



## Irina Kansakar continued...

Club, the Business Leadership Program in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, the MSU Habitat for Humanity team, an orientation peer advisor for incoming international students, a mentee in the e-mentoring program, a news reporter for the campus radio station, and has served as vice president of the International

Student Association.

Remarkably, Irina indicates that she joined these organizations, not because she was a natural leader, but because she recognized involvement as a way to develop her self-confidence. She is also a member of two honor societies. She has also shown initiative in

applying for scholarships in order to fund her education.

Ms. Kansakar clearly articulates that her goal is to do well in her studies so that she can serve her native Nepal in its business development. Her accomplishments so far give us every reason to believe that she will be successful in her goal.



## News from Area 1—Joan Wrolstad, Director

*News from Aberdeen, Bismarck, Breckenridge-Wahpeton, Fargo-Moorhead, and Jamestown.*



*From Fargo-Moorhead-* A wine tasting and silent auction was held to raise funds for the Thanksgiving Basket project and for ZI funds. Thanksgiving Baskets for Needy Families will be assembled and distributed to 500 families on Monday, November 20. A guest speaker from the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center attended the November meeting. A new member will be installed in December. *Stephanie Strand, President*



*The Hub City - Aberdeen SD -* Our main fund raiser selling See's candy ended in October; delivery of the orders will happen after our November meeting. In mid-November, the president will be taking a Christmas wreath to a museum in Aberdeen, SD. There is a Christmas tree/wreath display until Christmas. This gives Zonta some free publicity. We are busy planning our January Rose Luncheon. *Dorene Nelson, President*



*Breckenridge-Wahpeton -* The club has included a literacy quiz in the monthly meetings that pertains to the Zonta calendar as well as parliamentary pearls. Our first meeting included a program on how to access the Zonta website for both new and old members. The Breckenridge-Wahpeton Zonta club proudly accepts the Silver award for Organization, Membership and Classification committee as well as the Bronze award for the Status of Women /Service committee. Our club is working on our major fund raiser; the Baked Potato Feed in December that supports Literacy and Prevention of Violence against Women. *Patty Lies, President*

No report this newsletter: Bismarck and Jamestown

## News from Area 2—Brenda Myers, Director

When Governor Carol reviewed my newsletter responsibilities with me earlier this year, she gave me the idea of featuring one of the four Area 2 clubs each quarter. In September, I was proud to share information about the rapid and continuing growth of the club in St. Charles. For this issue, I am pleased to tell you about the exciting activities happening in Cape Girardeau.

In November, the Zonta Club of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, hosted nearly 300 people at its third annual Women of Achievement Luncheon. In addition to honoring six women from the community, they recognized Broadway vocal coach and renowned opera singer

Judith Farris with their Celebration Award. Although final proceeds have not been tallied, the Club expects to raise about \$15,000 through this event! Congratulations to our Cape Girardeau Zontians!

Also this fall, the Cape Girardeau club sponsored the Southeast Missouri Model United Nations team. Comprised of SEMO students who believe in the premise of the UN, the teams participate in three United Nations simulations each year. The simulations not only increase the awareness of international issues, they also enable Zontians to reach out to the community and serve regional high schools.

Cape Girardeau Zontians have also supported and participated in other community activities this quarter including the public library book sale, the Safe House for Women's Walk, and the Boys & Girls Club Academy Awards.

This active club is an inspiration to all of us as Zontians. They are strong in membership, service and educational activities. We are proud to be able to watch and learn from them in Area 2!

*Happy Holidays to All!*

Brenda Myers  
Area 2 Director



## News from Area 3—JoAnn Hanson, Director

Minnesota's Zonta clubs continue to be busy fulfilling Zonta's objective on a local and international level. In several cases the clubs conclude their major fundraising efforts and expand their giving to encompass an even greater number of community needs. This update will focus on our St. Paul, Minneapolis and Mankato clubs.

The St. Paul club is working to grow its membership which is an objective of all our clubs. The blankets made by the St. Paul club offer members an opportunity to socialize with each other, but more importantly they fill a significant need of the Home Visiting Nurses Organization. The Home Visiting Nurses Organization has been a recipient of St. Paul club support for multiple years. The club also provides funding to the North West Youth and Family Services.

Our upcoming Area meeting will be hosted by the St. Paul club so club members are busy planning this event. It promises to be an experience you will not want to miss. An agenda will be distributed early next year, so look for it and make plans to attend.

The Minneapolis club just concluded its major Holiday Event held at International Market Square. The Holiday Event featured a silent auction in addition to select boutiques and a delectable lunch. The Mankato club participated in the event selling pins and other jewelry. This is the main fundraising opportunity for the Minneapolis club. Proceeds will go to Women Achieving New Directions. Women from several other clubs attended this function. It was wonderful to see the support offered by other club members through their participation in this occasion.

The District 7 conference is scheduled for October 2007 and it will be hosted by the Minneapolis Zonta Club. Like their sister St. Paul club, the Minneapolis club is busy planning the details of the conference. Watch for more information and mark your calendars!

The Zonta Club of Mankato is installing three new members this month with more to come! Mankato also hosted the International Jane Klausman Scholarship winner, Irina Kansakar this past November. Governor Carol Pasanen was on hand to award the scholarship.

The Open Door Health Center received the proceeds from the Mankato Club's annual fashion show. The Club has supported this entity since 1994. Other service projects include: Kids Against Hunger, Echo Food Shelf, Cada House and Theresa House.

## News from Area 4—Sharon Stark, Director



Greetings from Area 4!

The **Atchison** Club is having some exchange students from Germany, Portugal, Netherlands, and Sweden at their November meeting. They will have a potluck at their December meeting and bring toiletry items for DOVE's, their local battered women's shelter. In January they will be meeting at the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum.

The **Central Iowa** Club will be having a membership event the first week of December.

The **Johnson County** Club will meet at Cynthia Yin's home. Members are to bring items and donations for the Safe-Home. In December they will have their Holiday Brunch at the Doubletree Hotel. All of the Zonta Clubs in the Kansas City area will have the Amelia Earhart Inter-City Meeting and Luncheon on January 20<sup>th</sup> at the Doubletree Hotel. The speaker is Michele Stauffer from Angel Flight.

The **Kansas City 1** Club - Cynthia Yin from the Johnson County Zonta Club will report on the International Convention. December is their Christmas Social. January is the combined Amelia Earhart Inter-City Meeting and Luncheon.

The **Kansas City 11** – The November meeting will be held at Ten Thousand Villages in Overland Park. Their Christmas potluck will be held in December. January is the combined Amelia Earhart Inter – City Meeting and Luncheon.

The **Kansas City, Kansas** Club had a brainstorming session on how to get new members at their November meeting and will have a membership event in the spring. December is their Christmas Social. January is the combined Amelia Earhart Inter-City Meeting and Luncheon.

The **Topeka** Club will present their Woman of Achievement Award at their November meeting. In December they will meet at Linda and Rich Hayse's home for their annual Christmas Brunch. January - Susan Marchant of the Topeka and Shawnee County Library will speak on "New Developments in the saga of Amelia Earhart".

## OMC—Kathy Swan, Lt. Governor, Chair



Our lofty goal of promoting an active and diverse membership involves recruitment, orientation, retention, and rejuvenation of members. In addition, we are to strive for increasing each club's membership by two new members (net) per year! During this biennium we will study club membership activities, collect best practices, and share them across district. In the coming months, please watch for communication asking for your best ideas! It might be worth a special District 7 Award!

Many thanks go to Leslie, Mindy, Janelle, and Cathy who participated in the "Attracting Younger Members" panel discussion at Fall Seminar. The following is a summary of the discussion:

- 1) **What attracted you to Zonta?**  
"Friends, family members, club programs, networking, I'm a joiner, my family history of community service, the issue of domestic violence, opportunity for personal contribution"
- 2) **How can we keep you coming and interested in your club?**  
"Have a fun night separate from the club meeting night, take a bus to a winery, football party, have organized 1-hr business meetings, follow up meetings with social time at the bar, constantly recruit – follow up a couple of days later with prospective members"
- 3) **How can we recruit more of YOU?**  
"Need more mentoring by older members, we like to associate with successful professional women, have a local club website, more networking opportunities, more programs from the community, have informative programs – legislative & professional, better orientation, not hearing "we've already tried that" from other members, recruit from college/grad schools, renew membership in the month a new member joins to help with dues payment, need more time notification regarding details of cost/location of area/district meetings"
- 4) **Other?**  
"Better Recruitment/ Better orientation, Get more members to tell the public who we are!!"

## Public Relations and Communications—Mindy Primm, Chair



### How to Write an Effective Press Release

One of my goals as your Public Relations and Communications Committee Chair is to improve external communications with the various Zonta Clubs and their communities. Don't let Zonta be a secret! The more the community is aware of Zonta and our mission to advance the status of women worldwide, the more support we will receive in attaining our goals. A critical tool for improving external communications is knowing how to write **effective** press releases in **proper form**, so your message gets disseminated to the masses. Here are some guidelines and tips to follow:

Include the date of release at the top. Write "FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DECEMBER 1, 2006." The media now knows it is fresh information.

Include a contact name and telephone number on the top right corner of the page.

Make every effort to limit the press release to one page.

Title the press release with a headline that is intriguing and makes the reader want to know the content of the release.

Every press release should answer the questions who, what, where, when, why and sometimes how in the very first paragraph. Capture the reader first and follow up with details later.

It is a good idea to include a quote from a club spokesperson and include her full name and title.

Proof everything a minimum of two times.

At the bottom of the page you should designate it is the end of the press release by typing -30- or ####.

By following these simple guidelines you will have written an effective press release that is in proper form and have dramatically heightened its chances of being published.

## Foundation Ambassador—Linda Mohn, Chair

Do you and your fellow members ask what is the International Service fund or the Rose fund or the ZISVAW fund to name a few? Do you need to educate yourself and your fellow members on why we support the Foundation? We can all read about the Microcredit and Health Education for HIV/AIDS-Affected Women in Niger. They often say a picture is worth a thousand words—the Foundation has a short 12-slide Power Point presentation on it. How about a refresher on ZISVAW? There is a 7-slide presentation on this fund.

The Foundation also has Power Points on a lot of other topics. I also have some longer presentations from International if someone is interest in a longer program on the Foundation. Further information can be obtained on the Zonta International website or by contacting Linda M. Mohn at [lmohn@csicable.net](mailto:lmohn@csicable.net).



# Status of Women/Service—Joan Halvorson, Chair

With a new year beginning, and new faces in political positions, we need to advocate on issues that will positively advance the status of women national or internationally. Zonta International, its districts and its clubs are encouraged to support legislation which advances the implementation of the Objects of Zonta.

Suggested women’s issues that can be addressed:

- All forms of violence against women such as domestic violence and trafficking
- Working conditions, employment practices, gender discrimination in wages, child care

services

- Women’s education
- Women’s health, HIV/AIDS
- Any other issue that improves the status of women

Local clubs can advocate for change in their areas and states while Clubs and districts can work together and in partnership with other like-minded organizations to address critical issues on the national level

- Get familiar with the Zonta’s

advocacy definitions and policies (you can find them in the district manual or in Zonta’s website under member resources

- Share this information with clubs in your districts
- Encourage them to get involved in advocacy projects.
- Promote and publicize Zonta’s advocacy work.
- Enter the Zonta website at [www.zonta.com](http://www.zonta.com), go to Zonta action and share your advocacy stories!



# Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Anne McCleery, Coordinator

## SIXTEEN DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

Zonta International has supported a global campaign against gender violence since 1991. The days of November 25 through December 10 this year have been designated as Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Violence. The campaign began with the first Women’s Global Leadership Institute in 1991 (sponsored by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership of Rutgers University). The Zonta website contains a wealth of information on statistics about gender violence and provides several ideas for clubs to raise community consciousness on this subject. The Kansas City II Club devoted a major portion of its monthly newsletter to the sixteen-day campaign. There must be more clubs in the district who are involved with activities generating awareness or taking direct steps to help end gender violence. This is a year-round issue with us; it’s not just limited to sixteen days. Please share experiences your club has had in efforts to end gender violence.



Kansas City hosted its fourth biennial conference on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The conference addressed women and girls’ empowerment in their quest for human rights, trafficking of women and children, poverty and hunger, and juvenile justice and incarceration of women.

The International Awareness and Advocacy Committee is currently drafting a position paper on trafficking of women and girls. Part of the paper highlights how Zonta clubs have contributed to combatting trafficking through legislation, public awareness, and employment opportunities. The paper is undergoing review and comment at this time.

## Z-Club—Laura Burton, Coordinator

The Zonta Club of Cape Girardeau met with local schools but did not get the response that they had hoped for. They are not discouraged but plan to continue working to establish a Z-Club in the area. The Zonta Club of St. Louis finally received a plan of action from the school district that we had contacted last spring, but the plan did not an implementation date. We plan to contact other school districts and to explore options with local youth organizations.



## ZISVAW—Sherrill Mulhern, Coordinator

### The Importance of Advocacy

Less than three months after delegates to the 2006 International Conference in Melbourne resolved to add the word advocacy to Zonta International's mission statement, newspapers first in Australia, and then across the world carried a story that dramatically illustrates why this change is so important. In a Ramadan sermon, ostensibly devoted to the subject of adultery, Sydney-based Sheik Taj Din al-Hilali alluded to a series of brutal gang rapes that had recently been perpetrated in that city, and suggested the attackers were not entirely to blame. At one point, the Sheik compared women who appear in public without the hijab to "uncovered meat" and the men who prey upon them as cats who helplessly follow their instincts. Later he described women as "weapons" used by "Satan" to control men.

(<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,20646437-601,00.html>)

I bring up this story for three reasons. First, although Sheik Hilali appeared to suggest that rape could be prevented by the wearing of the hijab, it would be a mistake to think that this was his central point. His remarks are best understood as a cultural variant of a theme that is familiar to women in all societies across the world. The sometimes subtle, sometimes overt theory of rape and sexual violence that blames the victim and/or excuses the perpetrator.

Second, in our world, where one quarter of all women are victims of rape, we, who would advocate for them can take an example from our Australian, Muslim sisters. As soon as the media began to report the Sheik's comments, they spoke out vigorously, on the one hand carefully analyzing the social and psychological dynamics of rape and on the other, effectively directing public attention to the real issue, i.e. the fact that blaming the victim is wrong.

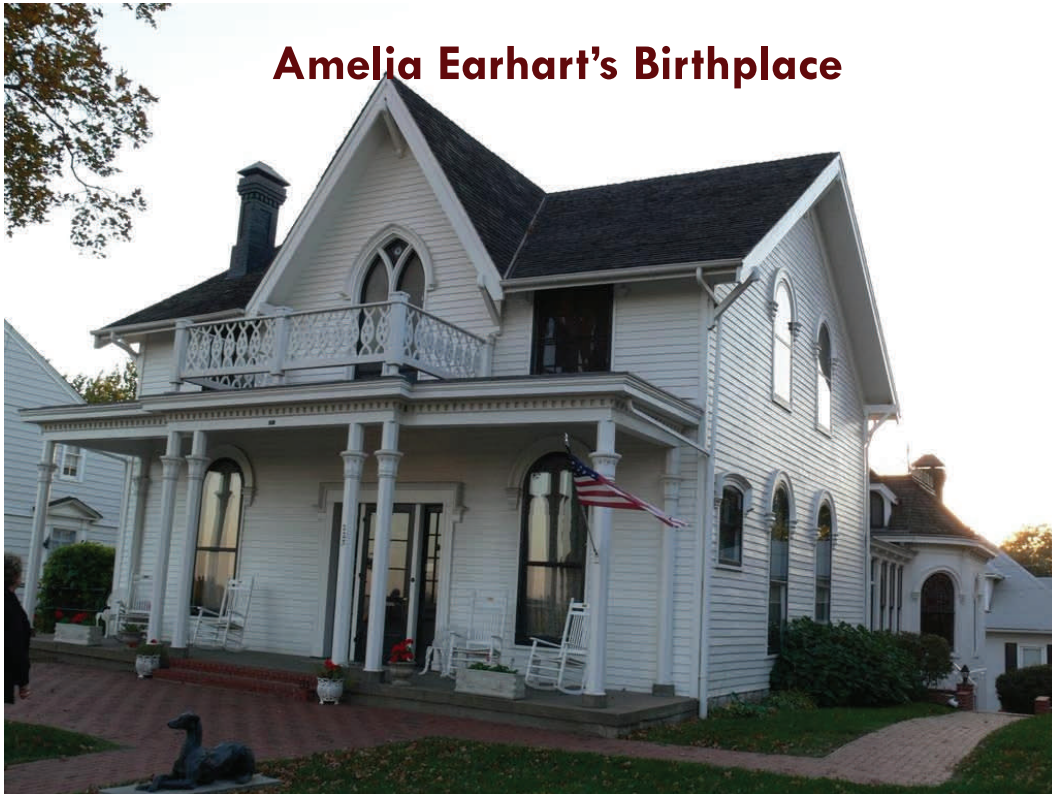
Although theories of rape that blame the victim are rarely expressed publicly in our district, ask any counselor or lawyer who works with victims of sexual violence and you'll quickly discover that they still fester outside of the media spotlight. This brings me to my third point. As you all know, 2006 marks the 16th year of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign 2006. In keeping with our revised mission statement, all members of Zonta have been invited to become pro-active, vocal advocates for women. On the Zonta International website you will find a detailed description of this year's campaign, a list of suggestions of concrete actions that you can undertake to further public awareness of the pervasive problem of violence against women, and a sample petition that your club can adapt with local information. Every action suggested is important. I urge each Zonta Club in District 7 to choose one.

## Amelia Earhart Fellowship Update Marie Kolich, Coordinator

After Amelia Earhart's disappearance in 1937, the Zonta Club of Bakersfield, CA, suggested honoring this Zontian with a scholarship in her name that would help to continue her interest in science and aeronautics. The Zonta International Board established a committee to gather information on the subject. The committee used many sources including commercial aviation companies, airports and flying schools. As a result of their research, in 1938, Zonta established the Amelia Earhart Fellowships. Very few women were active in

aeronautics at the time and in fact no qualified applicants were even found the first two years the Fellowship was offered. But Zontians did not doubt the success of the program and faithfully supported it. In 1952, the Amelia Earhart Fellowship became Zonta's first continuing international service program. And today, since its inception, Zonta has awarded over \$6,000,000 to 803 fellows in 57 countries. Currently, there are 35 awards given annually which is up from one award given in 1940.

In addition to the Amelia Earhart Fellowship program, Zontians have shown their admiration for Amelia in many ways. Clubs from all over the world honor her spirit every January. January 11 is designated Amelia Earhart Day, commemorating the day she became the first woman to fly solo over the Pacific Ocean. How will your club be honoring Amelia this coming January? To share your experiences/events please e-mail me at [mkolich@iac-intl.com](mailto:mkolich@iac-intl.com)



**Amelia Earhart's Birthplace**

**Don't forget to check out our District 7 website at**

**[www.zontadistrict7.org](http://www.zontadistrict7.org)**

**Resources, contacts, links, newsletters, and more... Kerry Dixon-Fox, Webmaster**

ZONTA DISTRICT 7

# Fall Seminar Photos

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## Young Women in Public Affairs—Linda Linn, Coordinator



**YWPA**..... What does this mean to *YOUR* Club???

**YOUNG** = being in the first early stage of life or growth

**WOMEN** = female human being

**PUBLIC** = pertaining to or affecting a population or a community as a whole

**AFFAIRS** = something done or to be done: business

**YWPA Outcome** = OUR FUTURE!

It is time for each of your clubs to be submitting applications and procedures (found on our International web-site) to each of your local high schools for application to this very beneficial opportunity. Do not deny these women their chance to receive the benefits we have to offer! After receiving your applications back from your initiative.... evaluate your club's candidates and forward the successful applicant to me by the end of March.

We want to have a successful YWPA candidate from each club to compete at our district level. I thank you in advance for your support in promoting this wonderful opportunity to young women. If there is *anything* I can do to help, support or encourage your club to participate in this program for young women.... Please.... Contact me at:

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