



In this issue:

LAA	1
Area 1	2

Welcome to Volume 1, Issue 1 of **Z-News!**

Z-News is designed to serve as a resource for clubs. Each issue will feature a district committee and an area best practice.

The District Board has finalized action steps for the 2008-2010 biennium based on discussion during the board retreat last fall. Please visit our website to monitor our progress.
www.zontadistrict7.org

Kathy



Legislative Awareness and Advocacy



Sherrill Mulhern
District LAA Chair

It's hard for me to believe that it's only been five s h o r t months since I presented an introduction to Z o n t a ' s Legislative Awareness

and Advocacy goals for this new Biennium at our District 7 Fall Seminar in Jamestown, North Dakota. In that short time, between the historic 2008 national election and the unprecedented economic meltdown of the national and international financial systems, our lives have changed dramatically. I'm sure that I'm not the only Zontian who now finds herself struggling to adjust an already busy schedule to accommodate a whole new series of personal and professional challenges. Understandably, at a time when it's already difficult to keep on top of long-standing service commitments, the idea of looking for, evaluating and undertaking additional advocacy projects may appear to be singularly unrealistic.

In my presentation at the Fall Seminar, after reviewing the various directives and administrative documents that the ZI Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Committee has posted on the international website, I summarized two important, ongoing advocacy projects that have already been

endorsed by Zonta : the CEDAW Treaty <<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw> > and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence <<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>> . Since extensive information on both of these projects is readily available on the internet, they provide a useful introduction to the entire field of advocacy. For example, in addition to the specific initiatives that have been designed for their annual campaign, the 16 Days of Activism website also includes a variety of awareness activities that can be adapted for use with other advocacy projects.

There is another project that is also accessible on the internet : Denim Day <<http://www.denimdayusa.org>>. Denim Day has been celebrated internationally since 1999 in protest of an Italian High Court ruling that overturned a rape conviction because the victim was wearing jeans. Enraged by the verdict, women of the Italian Legislature protested the decision by wearing jeans. As news of the decision spread, so did the protest. Denim Day has been celebrated annually in various cities across the United States since April 1999, when the first Denim Day was established by the California legislature. The website provides links to a variety of projects and materials that are easily adaptable if your club is interested in exploring this advocacy project.

Of course, given the very real time constraints that we are all facing, for the time being, some Zonta clubs may prefer to focus their energy on awareness of what's

Calendar

2009

- April 1**—YWPA club applications due to Governor
- April 4**—Area 2 Area Meeting (Jefferson City)
- April 18**—Area 3 Area Meeting (Brainerd)
- April 25**—Area 1 Area Meeting (Fargo)
- May 2**—Area 4 Meeting (Atchison)
- May 31**—Club Report Form due
Club Officer Report Form due
- June 5-7**—North American Inter district Meeting—(Cleveland)
- July 1**—JMK club applications due to Governor
Club Officer & Committee Chair Report Form due
- September 21**—International Day of Peace
- October 24**—UN Day
- November 8**—Zonta International "Birthday"
- December 1**—World Aids Day
- December 10**—Universal Declaration of Human Rights

2010

- January 11**—Amelia Earhart Day
- March 8**—Rose Day

Best Practice

Best practice is an idea that asserts that there is a technique, method, process, activity, incentive or reward that is more effective at delivering a particular outcome than any other technique, method, process, etc. . Best practices can also be defined as the most efficient (least amount of effort) and effective (best results) way of accomplishing a task, based on repeatable procedures that have proven themselves over time for large numbers of people.



happening in their local area, rather than jumping directly into one of the aforementioned established national campaigns. Here again, the internet is a useful tool. I've done a preliminary search - by States - for web sites that appear to be good sources of information about local legislative initiatives that you might want to discuss at a club meeting and I've included this non exhaustive list here for your convenience. This said, our own Zonta International Advocacy and the Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Committee web pages are excellent starting points for club discussions. One link that I think that you'll find particularly interesting is Bev Morrow's Summary of Action about the Colorado Zontians successful efforts to pass a resolution to Ratify CEDAW. It's an excellent template for awareness discussions as well as eventual advocacy projects.

Finally, if you find something of interest on a web site in your State, that you include as part of a Legislative Awareness discussion at you club meeting, please do let me know by email so that I can put together a summary LA& A report for District 7. Once again, this list is just a sample. I'm sure that you'll soon discover many more and better web sites once you've begun surfing the internet.

NORTH DAKOTA : North Dakota Women's Network <<http://ndwomen.org/?id=1&page=Home>>, Legislative & Policy Committee Updates > , <<http://ndwomen.org/?id=5&page=Legislation+%26+Policy>>.

SOUTH DAKOTA : Women's Political Caucus, Ann Randall, President <<http://www.nwpcsd.org/index.html>>, South Dakota 14 — Commission On Status Of Women

<<http://law.justia.com/southdakota/codes/20/20-14.html>>.

IOWA : <<http://www.lwvia.org>>.

KANSAS : League of Women Voters <<http://www.lwvk.org>>.

MINNESOTA : Women's Political Caucus, Becki Smith, President, <<http://www.mnwpc.org>>,

Office of the Economic Status of Women <<http://www.oesw.leg.mn>>.

MISSOURI : League of Women Voters <<http://lwvmissouri.org>> , Women's Political Caucus,

Rebecca Richardson, President <<http://www.mowpc.org>> , Kansas City <<http://www.gkcwpc.org>> , St. Louis <<http://www.wpc-stl.org>>.

Sherrill Mulhern

Zonta District 7

Legislative Awareness & Advocacy Chair

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Note from Kathy:

Please visit the ZI website for more information about LAA. On the ZI home page: Click on *Advocacy*, then click on *Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Committee page* to take you to the international committee section.

Area 1: Best Practice *Community Service*



Zonta Club of Bismarck members stay connected with each other and the community by actively participating in a number of community service projects. A few highlights over the last few months:

We expanded our traditional "Zonta Birthday Celebration" in October and sponsored a "Thank Heavens for Babies" gift drive. Members, business associates, family & friends donated new baby gift items that allowed us to provide gift bags overflowing with needed baby items to over twenty new mothers served by Catholic Family Services.

In November, the Zonta Club of Bismarck held a food drive in recognition of United Nations Day.

December is busy with our annual Nursing Home Christmas gift presentation where we provided gifts to approximately 60 nursing home residents. We also participate in the Salvation Army Bell Ringing where we ring the bell on Monday evenings starting in late November through Christmas to help support the many important services provided by the Salvation Army.

For our Christmas party we heard from a local agency providing shelter to women and children and supported their cause with donations from club members.

We held a Membership Event in January and we're now planning for a Zonta Park fund drive and a Rose Day Event in March.

Working together to promote Zonta's mission brings us closer as members and helps to retain and recruit new members.

Tamie Aberle, President, Zonta Club of Bismarck



Mary Reed
Area 1 Director

**Zonta Club
of Bismarck**



Area 1 Clubs in Action !



Zonta Club of Aberdeen—Bonnie Clausen, Mindy Hunt, and Jessica Falken discuss the silent auction at the Zonta Rose Luncheon.



Zonta Club of Aberdeen—Rosemary Jira, Linda Dillavou, Shari Phillips, and Dorene Nelson present a table top podium to Aberdeen Senior Center.



**Zonta Club of Jamestown
2009 Chocolate Fever**

Club President Judy Nohrenberg and Jackie Tarpinin celebrating "Chocolate Fever" fundraising!



(Chocolate Fever continued on page 4)



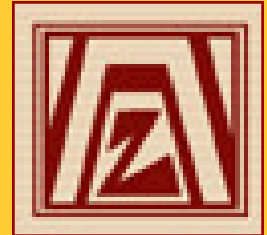
Deb Tomkins



Eunice Sahr & Joan Halvorson



Laurel Haroldson & Linda Mohn



Paulette Ritter



Shelley Nannenga serves treats