

Dorothea Radusch Fund History

In January 2003, an Ad Hoc Committee was appointed by Governor Kerry Dixon-Fox to make recommendations on the use of the Dorothea Radusch Fund held in District 7. The committee was chaired by past District Governor Cathi Christopherson (Jamestown) and included District Treasurer Barb Zapp (Fargo-Moorhead), past District Treasurer Jane Miller (Kansas City I), and Kay VanBuskirk (Mankato). The committee compiled the history of the fund and made recommendations to be acted upon at the October 2003 Fall Conference.

The Dorothea Radusch Scholarship Loan Fund was established in 1969 as a District VII project to honor the memory of Dr. Dorothea Radusch, a charter member of the Minneapolis Zonta Club and International President, 1954-56.

Dorothea, a Minneapolis dentist, believed that the association in a classified service club composed of members from all fields of activity widened a woman's horizons and broadened her background and understanding.

The fund, with the purpose "To Promote the Status of Women through Education" was implemented with a \$1,000 contribution from the Minneapolis Club and continued its growth with contributions from individuals and clubs throughout the District. The monies were handled by a District appointed committee until they were transferred to the District treasurer in 1987.

During its life as a loan fund the following loans were awarded:

Susan Norman	7/20/72	\$ 500
Patricia Moscray, Omaha	11/13/78	\$ 1,000
Cathryn Berntson, St. Paul	3/81	\$ 1,600
Nedra Connelly, Mankato	4/15/82	\$ 1,800
Beverly Soluntjes, Mankato	9/7/82	\$ 1,200

All were repaid except a \$277 balance on the Soluntjes loan that was written off in 1994.

In 1993 a committee was appointed to review the fund because of its inactivity inflation's effect on educational costs and the difficulty of managing a loan repayment program with recipient relocation and Zonta member turnover. Their recommendation to convert the fund to a scholarship fund and annually award \$500 to the District's Young Woman in Public Affairs winner was adopted at the October District Conference (1993).

As a scholarship fund the fiscal year activity is as follows:

- 1996 – Two \$500 scholarships paid
- 1997 – Received \$500 from Int'l
- 1998 – Paid One \$500 scholarship
- 1999 – Received \$500 from Int'l and paid one \$500 scholarship
- 2000 – No District activity-ZI paid recipient directly
- 2001 – No District activity-ZI paid recipient directly
- 2002 – No District activity-ZI paid recipient directly

As of 7 December 2002 the fund was invested in conjunction with the District's operating and reserve funds in a certificate of deposit and checking account and had a balance of \$15,542.36.

The Ad Hoc Committee recommended the following:

- Provide clear information regarding the history and availability and awarding of the scholarship to all District clubs. (Some clubs have budgeted annually and continue to make contributions to the Radusch Fund).
- Under no circumstances return to a "loan" fund.

At the October 2003 Fall Conference the following District Rule of Procedure was adopted as a result of recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Dorothea Radusch Fund is a district scholarship that is awarded in addition to any International Funds provided to the District 7 winner of the Young Women in Public Affairs scholarship competition with the amount based on the interest earned annually on the account. Clubs will be notified by **February 1** of the amount of the award to be given by the district for that year. Clubs and individuals are encouraged to contribute annually to the Fund. Any profits made on district conferences and seminars will be added to the Fund until such time as this fund is determined by the District 7 Board to be endowed

At the October 2005 Fall Conference Board Meeting the fund was discussed and it was decided to award all the interest from the fund, \$390.83, to the 2005 YWPA winner.