

Zonta District 7 Newsletter

April 2013



Governor's Message

As I write this message, it is March and Women's History Month. This year is the 100th anniversary of the Suffrage March on Washington March 3, 1913. In my family, the first week of March marked a very important date: the 100th birthday of my aunt. Besides being a historical reference point, it

was great fun to see the 245 relatives, friends and neighbors who attended the celebration in our family's hometown. When I think of my personal heroines, Aunt Louise ranks up there with Amelia Earhart, Sally Ride and many other women who have provided inspiration.

We Zontians have an opportunity to inspire the women who benefit from our advocacy, service, scholarships and involvement. Although women today are busy juggling family, career and personal development, opportunities to become involved in our communities and the world give us a sense of purpose and accomplishment. Zonta provides a special kind of bonding with other women in our clubs and around the world. In order to continue our work effectively, we need to attract new members in our clubs. Some clubs are effective in recruiting members and the eClub now has 20 members with plans to complete chartering by June 1. Jefferson City reported 5 new members since January and Aberdeen recently installed three new members. Thanks to all clubs who are adding new members. To inspire us in recruiting and retaining members, Lt. Governor Polly sent a presentation to clubs about membership in March. Please review this information within your clubs. Growing our membership is not always easy, but is essential to continue the important work that we do.

Keeping our members engaged in Area, District and International activities is an important part of membership retention. The combined Area 1 & 2 meeting will be held in St. Cloud on April 19 & 20. Area 4 meeting will be held in Topeka on May 4. This is a good time to gather with members from other clubs and share ideas. I encourage everyone to attend. Area 3 will be holding a meeting in conjunction with District Conference September 20-22. Since we did not hold a Seminar in 2012, this will be our main opportunity to meet with Zontians across the district.

Governor Janet

Save the Date

District Conference:

September 20-22, 2013.

Hosted by the Zonta Club of St. Louis

It will be held at the Frontenac Hilton Hotel.

Suites are \$109 with a King Bed and pullout couch.

Rooms with 2 queen beds are available for the same price.

Area Meetings

A joint Area 1 and Area 3 meeting will be hosted by the Zonta Club of St Cloud on Saturday, April 20th.

The speaker is Dr. Claire Haeg from the Political Science Department of the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University. Dr. Haeg will speak on Advocacy—what it is and what it is not.

See the Zonta District 7 website for more information.

The Area 4 Meeting will be held May 4, 2013 in Topeka, Kansas

Did you Know???

Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program

A Zonta International Program, funded by the Zonta International Foundation, the Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowships were established in 1938 in honor of Amelia Earhart, famed pilot and member of the Zonta Clubs of Boston and New York. The Fellowships are made annually to women pursuing graduate Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace-related sciences and engineering.

Get to know your District Board members

Each newsletter we will spotlight one or more of the District Board members.

Cheryl Retterath, Area 3 Director



In April of 1997, I was asked to be a guest of the Zonta club of Austin. Right after the meeting I was asked if I would like to join the club and consider taking on the job of Treasurer. Not knowing much about this organization, I thought I can do this job! At the Woman of the Year banquet in May, I was inducted

into the club so I could, the same evening, be inducted as the Treasurer for the 1998 year. That was all it took to get me "hooked on Zonta" and the rest is history! Since then, I have held positions of Director on the board, Treasurer, Vice President, President and now as Area 3 Director. Once again, I find myself learning more about the behind the scenes of the wonderful world of Zonta!

I began working for Sterling State Bank in March of 1991 as a teller and in 1999 was promoted to Vice President. I will celebrate my 23 anniversary with the bank on March 12, 2013. Last June I moved to the Lyle, MN location as Branch manager. This was a real plus for me as I am only four miles from my home!

My husband Al and I lived on a small acreage just outside of Lyle since 1973. We just celebrated 43 years of marriage in February. We have two sons and five grandchildren and will become great-grandparents in the fall. We love spending time together with our family and our summer family vacation is something we all look forward to!

My goal as Area 3 Director is to be available to the six clubs in my area and help them to promote the ideals of Zonta International. Our district has a goal set for membership, and I have issued a challenge to our Area 3 clubs to try and get four new members, to help achieve the District 7 goal! I love what is happening in the world to women everywhere and I want to see young girls have a better life for years to come!

Janet Kannard, District 7 Governor



My mother's family came to Kansas in 1871 and my grandfather was born in a sod house near present-day Minneapolis, Kansas. My father's family settled in Kansas after going west on the Oregon trail. I was born in Wichita, Kansas and graduated from Wichita East High School before completing my degree in Accounting at Kansas State University. I later received an MBA

from Rockhurst University.

My working career spanned over 44 years doing accounting, auditing and information technology work in financial services, banking, manufacturing and oil industries.

In 1988, I joined the Zonta Club of KC II, MO and have served as Club President, Area Director, District Service Chair, and District Treasurer before becoming District Governor. My interest in Zonta stems from a long time interest in advocacy based on participation in a citizen's lobbying group and status of women issues based on our campus minister's wife reading to us from *The Feminine Mystique* when I was in college.

I have also been treasurer and board chair for some local organizations, as well as currently serving on the Finance Committee for my AAUW branch.

My favorite pastimes include travel, reading, researching my family history, volunteering, and spending time with my large extended family. On March 7, 2013, most of my mother's family and a large part of my family's "hometown" gathered to celebrate the 100th birthday of my aunt.



News from Around the District

Wahpeton-Breckenridge



Human slavery comes down to money

The Zonta Club of Breckenridge Wahpeton, North Dakota State School of Science and the Three Rivers Crisis Center sponsored Patrick Atkinson from the God's Child Project February 6, 2013. The message he relayed was

how human trafficking is a very real problem in the world

Atkinson spoke about the number of run aways from the Dakota and Minnesota who will go to bigger cities, Fargo and Minneapolis, and from there all the way to possibly even New York City. "There are 100,000 child prostitutes working in the United States right now. It's profit 101."

He talked about how human trafficking affects Americans who travel abroad and people around the world. Atkinson said 16,500 American children and women disappear into the international markets every year. In addition, 21,000 foreign victims are brought into the United States every year.

Patrick is a Bismarck, ND native and a graduate of Moorhead State University. For more information visit

www.itemp.org or www.godschild.org.



Bridget Langseth, left and Sonja Christensen, right with the Zonta Club of Breckenridge and Wahpeton, presented a Yellow Rose Award to Fran Were of Wahpeton. Were was nominated by Christiansen for her many volunteer activities.

The club honors women annually who advance the status of other women through leadership in either their volunteer work or profession. A retired teacher, Were has served as a tutor for the North Dakota State College of Science students, taught English as a second language and has assisted many in attaining their GED.

Kansas City II



On March 8, KC II Zontians Jan Armstrong, Marilyn Curtis and Janet Kannard distributed three dozen roses to the women working at the Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care Services of Greater Kansas City (Family Health CARE). Family Health CARE is a non-profit safety net clinic with services provided on a sliding scale for those who do not have insurance. The clinic's goal is to improve the health of their neighbors by providing comprehensive health care and supportive services, including a fitness center and a legal department to assist clients with legal issues.

During the visit, we got a tour of the facilities and were reminded how much the facility has expanded since our first visit several years ago.

Dr. Sharon Lee, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Kansas and Founder & Director of the Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care clinic, spoke with us briefly after the tour. In 1989, Dr. Lee formed the Kansas City HIV Women's Coalition, as well as the Permanency Planning Project of Kansas City, KS, which provides services and assistance to AIDs orphans.

Dr. Lee is truly an inspiration to the community and KC II Zontians were proud to honor her and her colleagues on Zonta Yellow Rose Day.



News from Around the District

St. Cloud



St. Cloud Club President Sue Kadlec and Jane M Klausman International Award Winner Katelin Weiers..

Jefferson City



Initiation of new members

The Zonta club of Jefferson City continues to recruit new members. In 2012 they added 12 new members. Since January 2013 they have initiated 5 new members.

They also host a 5K Run/walk each year. This past year the club sent \$3,298 to Zonta International from the run.

Jamestown



The Zonta Club of Jamestown again hosted a Breast Cancer Awareness brunch in conjunction with the local Hope for Health and Healing organization. Club members cooked and served a meal for approximately 70 women. The speaker was Meg Spielman Peldo, author of the book, "no lumps, thank you. - a bra anthologie". Her special edition copy has stories from breast cancer survivors along with her artistic bra pictures.

Aberdeen

Congratulations to the Aberdeen Club. They will be celebrating their 60 year anniversary in May 2013.



New members include Lizzie Guiliani, Karen Lane, and Marilyn Kohles with Kathy Knudsen who conducted the initiation ceremony on January 22, 2013.



News from Around the District

International Women's Day Remarks :

March 8 : Zonta Rose Day

by Lillian Pardo at Park University celebration

Thank you for including Zonta in the program and the opportunity to tell you about ZONTA International and its significance in today's celebration. The yellow Rose represents Zonta's emblem and in conjunction with International Women's Day, March 8 has been designated Zonta Rose Day.

In the five minutes that has been allotted for this part of the program, let me give you the elevator talk about Zonta International, since most of you are more familiar with Rotary, the Lions and Kiwanis, most have not heard of Zonta.

* The origin of the word ZONTA is from the language of the Sioux Indian to symbolize the combined qualities of honesty, trust, inspiration and the ability to work together for service and world understanding.

Founded in Buffalo NY in 1919, it was inspired by 5 women after attending a social meeting of the KIWANIS (an all male service club); established for women in business and professions to standardize and disseminate business principles and to provide service to humanity. Charter president was Marian de Forest, a playwright and newspaper critic.

*current tag line adapted by the organization : To uphold the Status of Women Worldwide ; 33,000 members in 64 countries – North America, Latin America, Africa, Europe and Asia.

Although the United Nations established International Women's Day only in 1977 to celebrate the rights of women and international peace; its history stretches back to the early 1900s when women's organizations used the day to rally support for their causes : from the universal suffrage movement to the protest of poor working conditions.

Since 1919, Zonta International has supported international service projects that seek to improve the legal, political, economic, education, health and professional status of women around the world, including among others :

- preventing the practice of female genital circumcision in Burkina Faso
- preventing violence against women in India
- eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus in Nepal
- preventing human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- reducing obstetric fistula in Liberia

Zonta's International Service Funds support the United Nations and since 1923 its has provided more than \$11 million to UN agencies to support projects that have improved the lives of more than two million women in 37 countries.

- UNICEF - \$500,000 - preventing mother –to-child transmission of HIV in Rwanda
- UN Women – \$ 700,000 -for gender equality and empowerment of women
- UN Population Fund - \$ 500,000
- UN Women - \$430,000 UN trust fund to end violence against women (ZISVAW)

Educational Awards Programs

1. To Honor Amelia Earhart, a Zontian from Atchison, KS, an AE Fellowship has been established in 1938 to encourage women in aerospace sciences and engineering.

1,368 Fellowships have been awarded to a diverse group of women representing 68 countries totaling \$8 million.

2. Jane M . Klausman Women in Business Scholarships, established in 1998, for women pursuing undergraduate or master's degrees in business management. 275 recipients from 42 countries (\$ 1000 for each district, 12 International of up to \$5000 each).

3. Young Women in Public Affairs, established in 1990, 637 awards from 50 countries

Local Service Projects by different clubs are also undertaken by each club. Our KCMO II Club has sponsored Sheffield Place, a home for otherwise homeless women with children as they are provided shelter as they learn to get back to society with programs established for work and study. We have taken the mothers out for lunch and leisure (museum, play, library) and sponsored their Thanksgiving dinners for the past two years). We have fund raising activities as well to support the international funds for the programs and collaborate with others for support of CEDAW and violence against women. We are of course, always recruiting members (talk to me after the program).

In conclusion,

Zonta and International Women's Day as established by the United Nations have had strong ties in their history and thus it is appropriate to pay tribute to these two fine organizations that have made a difference in women's lives around the world. Here's to all the women who made these all possible, but more work needs to be done. The challenges are still before us in this increasingly complex world.

THANK YOU !

Advocacy

As many of you will recall, the December 2012 issue of the Zonta e-newsletter featured an Advocacy Alert addressed to all US Zontians that 1. highlighted the essential features of the revised Violence Against Women Act that had passed the United States Senate but that was stalled in US House of Representatives and 2. asked US Zontians to write their representatives and urge them to reauthorize the revised act immediately. Although this advocacy initiative was sponsored by almost all American women's organizations, the effort was unsuccessful. The 112 Congress adjourned without bringing the VAWA to the floor for a vote. Some District 7 Zontians and Zonta Clubs may have acted on the ZI VAWA Advocacy effort that was initiated in the international e-newsletter, however, we will not know until Governor Janet Kannard receives the District Club reports.

Fortunately, the bipartisan sponsors of the revised VAWA remained committed to their goal and on January 23, 2013 the act was reintroduced in the Senate and rapidly passed. Once again, anticipating that there would be resistance to the VAWA in the House, the Zonta International Advocacy committee sent out a VAWA Advocacy Alert to District Advocacy Chairs in the United States to be forwarded directly to their respective clubs by email. Shortly thereafter, when it became clear that – in an attempt to stall and possibly defeat the Senate Bill – the House Republicans intended to put forward a significantly weaker version of VAWA, the ZI Advocacy Committee followed up with an urgent Call to Action, asking Zontians to call or write their Congressmen and demand that they set aside the weaker version of VAWA and vote to approve the version that had been passed by the Senate.

Unfortunately, the movement of bills through the US Congress is very difficult to track. Frequently, bills are brought to the floor with little or no advance warning. This happened in the case of the VAWA. Advocacy chairs received the Call to Action less than 24 hours before the vote was taken. Consequently, it is difficult to assess, just how many US Zontians were actually able to call or email their congressmen before the vote came to the floor. This said, a couple of our clubs in District 7 reported back that some of their members did receive the information in time and did make the call.

Congratulations to everyone who responded so quickly to the VAWA Action Alert. Every single voice counts, and as you know, this time the Advocacy effort was successful and the VAWA that had passed the Senate also passed the House.

During the next few months, the ZI Advocacy

Committee will be reviewing the procedures that were followed throughout the VAWA Advocacy Initiative with the goal of streamlining the advocacy process so that in the future, when important issues come up, alerts and calls to action are disseminated in a more timely manner. In addition, we will be developing a simple procedure that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of future initiatives. If you have any suggestions, please email them to advocacy@zontadistrict7.org.

Shot at Life

Shot@ Life, a campaign of the United Nations Foundation, educates, connects and empowers Americans to help protect children in developing countries from vaccine-preventable diseases. It is a national call to action for a global cause, the campaign rallies the American public, members of Congress and civil society partners around the fact that together we can save a life's child every 20 seconds. The Foundation invited Champions, recruited nationwide, to a 3-day training program in Washington DC that brought 100 participants this year. For more information go to www.shotatlife.org.

Dr. Lillian Pardo, Zonta Club of KC II Missouri member, was one of the Champions trained this year representing the United Nations Assn of Greater Kansas City.



Zonta Says NO Campaign

Zonta Says NO Campaign

In November of 2012, Zonta International launched a campaign to combat violence against women and girls worldwide. Clubs and districts are encouraged to participate in actions to end violence against women through November 2013 and to share those actions on the Zonta Says NO campaign web page as well as official social media pages. In November 2013, one common action will be taken by clubs and districts around the world to show our commitment to preventing and ending violence against women and girls. Several clubs have held programs related to VAWA. For more ideas, see the Zonta International web site for further information.

Zont Service Recognition Awards

2012-2014 Zonta Service Recognition Awards

For the current biennium, the International Service Committee has established these awards to recognize outstanding service projects undertaken by clubs and districts that improve the status of women and prevent violence against women. All projects will be exhibited during the 2014 International Convention in Orlando. Submissions by clubs are due to the Governor by November 30, 2013. District projects are due to International by January 10, 2014. This is a great opportunity to receive visibility for club projects. Biennium goals include increased visibility and credibility. Participation in this awards initiative will increase visibility for local projects. Further information about these awards is available on the Zonta International web site.

Save the Date

**Zonta International
North American
Inter-District Meeting
Niagara Falls,
ON Canada
June 14 to 16, 2013**

- *Network beyond your club and district*
- *Hear great presentations*
- *Share ideas*

*Here is a link to the Zonta District 4 website registration information:
http://zontadistrict4.org/?page_id=1778*

Nominating Committee

The District Nominating Committee is working on putting together a slate of candidates for the 2014-2016 biennium for the following positions:

Governor
Lt. Governor
Treasurer
Area Directors
Nominating Committee

Please contact Carol Pasanen, District Nominating Committee Chair to nominate someone for one of these positions--preferably by May 1.

CPasanen@tds.net
218-839-5158

Prospective Members

Zonta Headquarters gets inquiries from prospective members through the Zonta International Web site. When this occurs, the information is sent to Districts where the prospective member lives. Clubs are expected to contact these members and then complete and submit the attached report to Zonta International using the email memberrecords@zonta.org or the fax number provided on the form. A copy should go to our International Rep (currently Anita Schnetzer-Spranger at schnetzer-spranger@gmx.de), the Governor and Lt. Governor.

Copies of the form are available on the District Website.

