



The Bridge

District 15
Zonta International

Issue 2 of 8
www.zontadistrict15.org

The Official Newsletter of District 15

District Insights from your Governor Carole Calvert-Baxter

The Zonta International District 15 Fall Conference, held in Detroit, was deemed a success by the Zontians who attended. Ellen Logan, Vivian Washington and the members of the Zonta Club of Detroit II are to be commended for selecting such a wonderful venue in which all could experience this year's "Visions Lead to Legends" weekend. The hospitality we experienced throughout the weekend was outstanding.

The Friday night opening session was a tribute to the long-standing traditions of Zonta as well as an opportunity to hear from two of the most well known and respected women business leaders in the city of Detroit. Ella M. Bulley Cummings, Chief of Police for the City of Detroit, and Janet Lawson, Director of the Ford Volunteer Corps both gave dynamic presentations that were very well received. Carlita Kirkpatrick, first lady of the City of Detroit, also attended. Saturday saw less formality but equally dynamic presentations by Sonca Nguyen, an International Amelia Earhart fellow, and Delois Whitaker Caldwell, CEO of Goodwill Industries of Detroit.. Delois brought two wonderful young women who provided inspirational testimonies on how women can make a difference in the lives of others.

Sandra Vosper, Lt. Governor and Julie Close, District Parliamentarian introduced "**Zonta Rocks**" at the Delegate/First Timer workshop. Glenda Stephens, District Foundation Ambassador was unable to be in attendance but was instrumental in securing a wonderful presenter who became our guide to focusing and energizing through Yoga and Tai Chi.

Saturday workshops were outstanding. Jackie Gudmunsen, Zonta International Leadership Chair provided insight and wisdom into how one can transcend "Herding Cats" and begin to implement **sustainable leadership skills**. Wendy Kanar, Zonta Club of Midland, enhanced our knowledge of what "**Advocacy in Zonta**" means at a club level. Sandra Vosper and Amy Fraser Maple, District Secretary, hosted a panel of District Zontians who shared the importance of knowing what our newer members are looking for in their volunteer experience and why. They also shared their secrets on retaining these members. All left focused on bridging the gap and supporting age diversity within our clubs.

A special note of appreciation goes to the two Co-Chairs for the Conference, Ellen Logan and Vivian Washington from the Zonta Club of Detroit II. Coordinating the many pieces that comprise a meeting of this magnitude requires a great deal of planning and teamwork. Thank you, and all the many members of your team, in presenting another successful Zonta International Fall Conference in the City of Detroit.. Thanks as well to all the many Zontians who contributed time and talent to preparation of reports for business sessions.

As we head into 2007, each of us in Zonta will be given opportunities to advance the status of women in our place of work and in our communities. As you meet special young women in the 16-20 year age bracket I would like you to give consideration to encouraging these future leaders to submit applications for the Young Women in Public Affairs Award (YWPA). The awards presented at the District level are from applications that have to be submitted to the District Governor by the first of April. The District Evaluating Committee then selects the award recipients. The applications of the District award recipients are then sent on to Zonta International for consideration for the International YWPA awards. Applications are available on the Zonta International web site.

Also, a reminder to those clubs who have not yet taken the opportunity to submit their quarterly club reports. These reports are important at the District level as well as to Zonta International. Therein each Zonta Club relays the many important activities that they perform to promote Zonta and the status of women within their club area. District and International leadership can then make decisions on the impact of current policy and share with other clubs and districts the many successes.

ZONTA CALENDAR

<u>2006</u>	
25 November – 10 December 1 December	16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence World AIDS Day
<u>2007</u>	
11 January 15 February	Amelia Earhart Day US Districts and Clubs: IRS Group Subordinate Update Form due to Zonta International
8 March	Zonta Rose Day/International Women's Day
1 April 28 April 29 April 30 April	YWPA club candidates due to District 15 Area 1 workshop—Sault Ste Marie Area 2 workshop—Big Rapids Emma Conlon award applications due to Zonta International
1 May	Club Officers Report form due to Zonta International and District 15
1 May	YWPA district candidates due to Zonta International
5 May 6 May 31 May	Area 3 workshop—Metro Detroit Area 4 workshop—Bay City Jane M. Klausman club candidates due to District 15
1 June	Club dues payments due to Zonta International and District 15
22-24 (?) June	Interdistrict Membership Seminar, Detroit

Member Kudos:

- **Juliann Binienda** (Past District XV Governor/Southfield) recently received her doctorate
- **Governor Carole Calvert-Baxter** completed her Masters in Counseling degree work just prior to Fall Conference.

DISTRICT 15 BOARD MEMBERS 2004-2006

Governor

Carole Calvert-Baxter
carole.calvert-baxter@chartermi.net

Lieutenant Governor

Sandra Vosper
Sandra.vosper@shaw.ca

Treasurer

Karen Armaly
karen@benepro.com

Secretary

Amy Fraser Maple
afrasemaple@comcast.net

Parliamentarian

Julie A. Close
jclose@ccdplc.com

Area 1 Director

Linda DeGrow
degrow@localnet.com

Area 2 Director

Denise Quarles
dequar2@att.net

Area 3 Director

Bonnie Odom
odomb@sbcglobal.net

Area 4 Director

Paula Somerville
Paula.Somerville@Arvinmeritor.com

Newsletter: Phyllis Clark
pclark@gfn.org
810.664.1445

Webmaster: Sue Eareckson
see-tsi@att.net

Remember to get your Roses ordered (<http://www.zonta.lapeer.org/2007Rosesale.html>)
Proceeds provide funds for the District XV Klausman award. Get your orders
placed early for selection and availability:

Deadlines: Send articles for the "Bridge" to editor Phyllis Clark at: pclark@gfn.org; or mail: 2447 King Rd.; Lapeer, MI 48446. For questions contact her at: 810/664-1445. *Please add Phyllis to your Club's newsletter mailing list (email preferred).*

August 1 for Summer Issue; November 1 for Fall; February 1 for Winter; May 1 for Spring
Planned publication by the first of the following month (September, December, March, & April).

Area 1 News

(Each issue will feature one of our Areas)

Clubs (in order of charter)

Traverse City (4/1/56)—50 years in 2006
Alpena (11/1/63)
Petoskey (12/1/71)—35 years in 2006
Marquette (10/1/72)—35 years in 2007
Gaylord (3/1/76)—30 years this year
Saulte Ste Marie (3/1/78)
Rogers City (4/1/80)
Iron Mountaun-Kingsford (12/1/81)—25 years in 2006
Roscommon County (5/1/84)
Benzie (1/1/86)—20 years in 2006
Leelanau County (5/1/88)
Alpena-Tri County (7/1/88)
Charlevoix (5/1/89)

Area Director : Linda DeGrow/ Charlevoix--degrow@localnet.com

Other District Officers from Area 1: Lt. Governor--Sandra Vosper/ Sault Ste. Marie--sandra.vosper@shaw.ca
I haven't put my hand on the committee Chairs list but will see if I can find it

District Chairs from Area 1:

- Sandra Vosper (Sault Ste Marie)—Organization, Membership & Classification Committee
- Carol Curtis (Iron Mountain/Kingsford)—Bylaws

Area one Spring Workshop: Sault ste Marie April 28,2007

Other News:

- Fall Conference 2007 : Hosted by the Petoskey Club
- We are in the throws of setting up a new club in the Cadillac area. A membership tea scheduled for November 21 and we are excited about the response so far.

District Features

www.zontadistrict15.org

Awards (Martha Belfour)

- **Amelia Earhart 2006**: Wow!! There is an Amelia Earhart fellowship winner who is researching a method to produce hydrogen, a renewable energy, through plasma dissociation of water at the University of Michigan. Sonca Nguyen awed 2006 District 15 Fall Conference attendees. Yes, she is brilliant, well spoken, a teacher, mentor, and will be a legend. But most of all she wants to be a Zontian. How about that? She believes that young women must be well prepared to enter the competitive world of careers that require a background of math and science.
- **2007 Young Women in Public Affairs**: The 2007 YWPA information is now available on the Zonta International website. There are a couple of slight wording changes that are important. Question number 3 has been simplified. Questions 5 now includes the word Zonta to encourage applicants to read and understand more about Zonta. We are trying to encourage future membership and more local public relations. Please make sure you use only the **current** forms and instructions. All clubs are encouraged to include this worthwhile scholarship program in their club goals and club budget, and actively recruit outstanding young women. Again, this program is an excellent opportunity for great PR and a recruiting tool for new club members. Who knows, the mother of your club winner could be a prospective Zontian.

Minutes: See minutes from the Fall Conference attached to this newsletter. Please note proposed dues increase to be discussed at the 2007 Fall Conference. More on this in future issues of "Bridge".

International Feature: Advocacy (Sue Eareckson)

On December 6, Canadians will observe the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. This marks the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal; young women who died simply because they were women.

It's worth remembering as well, that it was not until October 18, 1929, that a court decision finally declared that women were included as "persons" under Canadian law – a decision made not in Canada, whose Supreme Court had ruled that women were excluded, but in the British Privy Council, which at the time was the highest court of Canada.

Those of us who live in the US can take little comfort. Our country has failed to acknowledge women's equality via the Equal Rights Amendment, and refuses to ratify CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979, and ratified by 184 countries, including Canada 25 years ago).

We still have much work to do to advance the status of women in two countries that are among the most "advanced" in the world. Recent events on both sides of the border have only increased the challenges ahead of us.

Status of Women Canada is a federal agency whose objective is "to achieve the full participation of women in the economic, social and cultural life of Canada." That might sound just fine if you don't know that until this fall, SWC's mandate included the words "women's equality." Renewal of the program in September took away not just those critical words, but almost 40% of the funding. In addition, grants funded through SWC will no longer be made for purposes of advocacy.

The Court Challenges Program was abolished completely. Court Challenges has provided funding for test cases brought by minority, women's, or other disadvantaged groups challenging laws that may violate equality rights, or the language rights of official language minorities, under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; its purpose was to ensure that key cases found their way through the courts even if plaintiffs did not have financial means to pursue lengthy appeals. A long list of Court Challenges cases, some won and some lost by the plaintiffs, have clarified the status of women and minorities under Canadian law. Now many such cases will never get through the appeals process.

In Michigan, November 7 saw the passage of Proposal 2, an amendment to Michigan's state constitution to eliminate affirmative action in government hiring, contracts, and education. Similar proposals have passed in the states of Washington (Initiative I-200, 1998) and California (Proposition 209, 1996), where it has taken just a short time for minority enrollment in state universities to plummet. We know this only because a follow-up proposal (California Proposition 54, 2003), which would have outlawed the collection of such statistics, failed.

Campaign season discussion of Proposal 2 focused on the immediate effects of affirmative action on individuals – who gets a job next week, or who gets into university next fall. But the indirect effects of affirmative action have been much larger. For example, most of us in Zonta can remember when domestic violence was not taken seriously by law enforcement or the judiciary. Not until there were significant numbers of women in those fields did the situation change.

Women, especially white women, have been the primary beneficiaries of affirmative action. We know that there is much left to do before women achieve true equality. Persons of color and other minorities have benefitted less. The United States is headed toward a future, perhaps 50 years away, where there will no longer be a racial majority. That future will be much brighter if we can find ways to embrace more diversity in all of our institutions and to ensure educational and employment opportunities for all members of society. Ending affirmative action will severely handicap Michigan's efforts toward those goals.

Zontians have a proud history of service to our communities. We have, in general, been not particularly vocal in advocating for our mission. At the Melbourne convention we just added the word "advocacy" to our mission statement. Advocacy, in all arenas, not just legislative, is an excellent way to get our name known, and to work toward our mission – all at very little cost. Those who attended Wendy Kanar's workshop at Conference should be fired up already. If you missed the workshop and need a little help getting started, please contact me via e-mail at see-tsi@att.net, or via telephone at (517) 484-2461.

In closing, I have just become aware of a new book that will be available in January 2007. Author Megan Seely gives a young woman's perspective on U.S. feminism in *Fight Like a Girl: How to be a Fearless Feminist*. The author has a website, www.fightlikeagirl.org, which is worth a look.

Zonta International District XV Fall Conference Minutes

Opening/First Business Session:

Carole Calvert-Baxter, Governor of District 15 opened the first business session at 7:30 p.m. Conference called to order.

Detroit Police Department Cadets presented the colors. Vocalist Celeste Headlee sang the national anthems. Suzanne Pfeiffelman, Zonta Club of Grand Rapids, gave the invocation.

Officials past, present, and in some cases incoming were recognized from the floor:

- International Leadership and Development Committee Chair, Past International Director, Past District Governor - Jacquie Gundmundsen
- Past International ZISVAW Chair – Past International Director, Past District Governor - Susan Noakes
- Past International Nominating Committee Member, Past Governor, Shirley Edwards
- Past International Nominating Committee Member, Past Governor, Juliann Binienda
- Past International Foundation President – Past District Governor – Barbara Geil
- Past International Director, Past Governor – Sonia Parks
- Past International Committee Chairman – Legislative Advocacy and Awareness – Jan Williams
- Past International member of the Finance Committee and Past District Governor – Carol Curtis
- Past International Treasurer – Jackie Pulford
- Other Past Governors: Sue Eareckson, Gerri Gesaman, Jane Rhodes and Sylvia Vukmirovich

District Secretary, Amy Fraser Maple conducted the roll call.

Ella Bully-Cummings, Chief of the Detroit Police Department officially welcomed us on behalf of the hostess club. Club President of Detroit II, Julia Breidenstein, followed. Governor introduced President of next year's host club, Patti Utter, from the Zonta Club of Petoskey.

Shirley Edwards presented the Credentials Committee Report. (Complete report appears later in this document.) Cathie Martin (Delegate, Traverse City) moved and Michele Glozier-Pepatheodore (Delegate, Fenton) seconded to accept the credentials report. Motion carried.

District Parliamentarian, Julie Close presented the Conference Rules. Linda Smith (Delegate, Milford) moved and Deb Manker (Alternate, Petoskey) seconded to accept the Conference Rules. Motion carried.

Conference Chair-Ellen Logan presented the Conference Program. Ellen indicated changes to the program. Mary Wolfinger (Delegate, Muskegon) moved and Sally Randall (Delegate, Northwest Wayne) seconded accepting the Conference Program. Motion carried.

Janet Lawson, Director of Ford Volunteer Corps delivered the keynote address. Janet spoke on volunteerism and women in service. The six C's: change, create, connect, commit, collaborate, and celebrate.

- First Business Session of the conference recessed at 9:10 p.m.

Second Business Session:

Governor reconvened business meeting at 9:05 a.m. by introducing the District Committee Chairs:

- Sandra Vosper, from the Zonta Club of Saulte Ste. Marie, Ontario Canada, Chair of the Organization, Membership & Classification Committee
- Martha Belfour, from the Zonta Club of Leeland, Status of Women and Service Committee
- Jodie DeKuiper, from the Zonta Club of Newaygo County, Finance Committee Chair.
- Charlene Bramble, from the Zonta Club of Farmington/Novi, the Public Relations and Communications Chair
- Sue Eareckson, from the Zonta Club of Lansing, Chair of the Legislative Awareness & Advocacy, plus United Nations Chair and District Web Master
- Carol Curtis, from the Zonta Club of Iron Mountain, Chair of the District By-Laws committee.
- Lynn Wyatt, from the Zonta Club of Mt. Pleasant, Nominating Committee Chair.

Past International Director and Governor, Susan Noakes from the Zonta Club of Traverse City, presented the Foundation goals for the 2006-2008 biennium. (Our Foundation Ambassador Glennnda Stephens, Zonta Club of Saginaw, was unable attend.)

Shirley Edwards presented the Credentials Committee Report. (Complete report appears on the last page). Deanna Cannon (Delegate, Traverse City) moved and Suzanna Pfeiffelmann (Delegate, Grand Rapids) seconded to accept the credentials report. Motion carried.

Immediate Past Governor, Sue Eareckson from the Zonta Club of Lansing updated the District on the 2006-2008 International Service Projects that were adopted at the 2006 International Convention held in Melbourne, Australia.

Lt. Governor Sandra Vosper from the Zonta Club of Saulte Ste. Marie serves as Chair of the Organization, Membership and Classification Committee. Sandra shared updated International and District membership information. There are currently 32,400 Zontians in 68 countries. District 15 has 1151 members in 44 clubs.

Governor introduced the workshops:

- § Membership – Sandra Vosper/Amy Fraser Maple
- § Advocacy Workshop – Wendy Kanar
- § Leadership Workshop – Jacquie Gudmundsen

Business recessed at 10:10 a.m.

Third Business Session:

Reconvened at 2:55 p.m.

Jean Golden, Zonta Club of Lansing provided update on the microcredit project in Ghauna, first presented at the 2005 Fall Conference.

Shirley Edwards presented the Credentials Committee Report. (Complete report appears on the last page). Rae Deane Middleton (Delegate, Flint II) moved and Karen Kamyczek (Alternate, Alpena) seconded to accept the credentials report. Motion carried.

District Treasurer, Karen Armaly presented the Treasurer’s Report. The District Board recommends a District Dues increase from \$11.50 (USD) to \$15.00 (USD). Clubs are asked to discuss this matter and be prepared for a vote at the 2007 Fall Conference.

Recognition of Zontians with 30 years of service:

JoAnn Dembinski Steinmayer from the Zonta Club of Pontiac North Oakland

Joyce Mahachek, from the Zonta Club of Flint I

Gwen Lang, from the Zonta Club of Midland

B. Susan White, Zonta Club of Gaylord

- Business session recessed at 3:30 p.m.

Closing/Final Business Session:

Invocation provided by JoAn Dale from the Zonta Club of Chatham-Kent.

Lt. Governor Sandra Vosper introduced guest, Toc Dunlap, Executive Director of Creating Hope International. The agency houses the Afghan Learning Institute in the United States. Sandra presented Ms. Dunlap with a donation from the Zonta Club of Sault Ste. Marie.

The final session of the 35th fall conference reconvened at 8:40 a.m.

District Treasurer, Karen Armaly, presented the total pledges to the Zonta International Foundation.

Foundation Financial Support Goals								
Int’l Service Projects	Amelia Earhart Fund	Eva Mowbray Fund	WHPPI	ZISVAW	Jane Klausman	Rose Fund	YWPA	Other
15,892	5548	1037	1255	11,180	1752	3071.81	2660	628
Total Goals:								
\$43,023.81								

Shirley Edwards presented the Credentials Committee Report. (Complete report appears on the last page). Michele Glozier-Pepatheodore (Delegate, Fenton) moved and Lisa Poma (Delegate, Owosso) seconded to accept the credentials report. Motion carried

Conference Credentials Daily Report				
	Friday Session October 20	Saturday AM Session October 21	Saturday PM Session October 21	Sunday Session October 22
District Board	7	7	7	7
Delegate and Proxy Votes	45	47	47	48
Total Number of Votes	52	54	54	55
Final Credentials Report Presentation				
Total Number of Clubs in District 15	Clubs Represented by Delegates	Clubs Represented by Proxies	Clubs not Represented	
44	38	6	-0-	

Conference Registration Report			
	Friday October 20	Saturday October 21	Sunday October 22
District Board	9	9	9
Past District Governors	11	12	11
Delegates	38	42	38
Other Members Registered	96	120	96
Guest Registered	3	14	5
Total Conference Attendance	157	197	159

The following Zontains received the Yellow Rose Award:

1. Jean Golden (Lansing) sponsored six new members
2. Pam Kauppila (Marquette) sponsored three new members
3. Cathie Nichols (Lenawee) sponsored three new members
4. Carol Vernam (Traverse City) sponsored three new members

Southfield Area recognized for highest percentage of membership at conference, 64%.

Clubs recognized for increases in membership:

1. Flint II (67%)
2. Milford (25%)
3. Charlevoix (17%)

In the program on page 18 is a list of workshop dates and hostess clubs.

- § Area 1 – hosted by the Zonta Club of **Sault Ste. Marie**
- § Area 2 – hosted by the Zonta Club of **Big Rapids**
- § Area 3 – hosted by the Zonta Club of **Metro Detroit**
- § Area 4 – hosted by the Zonta Club of **Bay City**

Sally Churchill of the Zonta Club of Lansing presented the courtesy resolutions. Other contributing Zontians were, Jackie Pulford, Zonta Club of Lansing and Judy Lombardo from the Zonta Club of Farmington/Novi

Janice Smolinski, Zonta Club of Petoskey and Co-Chair of the 2007 Conference Committee gave the official invitation to attend the 36th Fall Conference, October 19-21, 2007 at Boyne City.

The 35th annual District Fall Conference “Visions Lead to Legends”, hosted by the Zonta Club of Detroit II, adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Submitted by,
Amy Fraser Maple, Secretary