



The Bridge

District 15
Zonta International

Issue 1 of 8
www.zontadistrict15.org

The Official Newsletter of District 15

District Insights from your Governor

Carole Calvert-Baxter

As I approach all of the aspects of this new role as your Governor, I want to let you know here how I plan to use "The Bridge" newsletter to update you on happenings of interest. Wherever possible I hope to direct you to resources on the District website, International website and other tools that you can use. The components of the newsletter will be a) this note from me on issues, reminders of deadlines, answers to FAQ received; b) a calendar, c) the list of officers with e-mail addresses, d) Area News of club successes from each Area Director, e) District News, f) a featured International Service project or issue; and g) a special Tip of the Bridge section to pass along something to simplify or improve your life: health, education, websites, etc. I hope to keep it quick and easy to read. I'll plan to get better at that in this column with experience.

Although the convention was held in the down under Australian winter season, the warm reception by the host country made all of us feel welcome and glad to have arrived after the "short hop" over the Pacific. Pictures of the city and events during the convention can be viewed and purchased at www.onlinepix.com.au/zonta. Full coverage of convention activities can be viewed at the Zonta International website: www.zonta.org Another convention initiative with which you will want to become familiar is the Zonta Club Data Report Form under Club Administration on the Member Resources page. The information gathered from this report will help Zonta International keep up-to-date on the progress of each club towards reaching its individual goals in a standardized reporting format. This detailed report can serve as an excellent recruiting tool when demonstrating club initiatives and successes to potential new members. The report format has been distributed to each of the four area directors of District 15 and will be filtering down to the individual club presidents and members in the very near future.

The Zonta Club of Detroit II will be hosting the Fall Conference October 20-22, 2006. The call to conference has been sent to all members via individual postcards. The weekend will be informative and inspirational and all members are strongly encouraged to attend. Time is running out on registration. All information on the Fall Conference is available on the District 15 website at: www.zontadistrict15.org under "Events".

This is the first newsletter in the 2006-2008 biennium. The District 15 Board as well as the District Committee Chairs are committed to making these quarterly newsletters concise and informative. Feedback on our success in reaching these goals is encouraged and can be sent to me personally or your Area Director (see next page for e-mail addresses).

ZONTA CALENDAR

2006

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|---------------------------|---|
| 31 August | US District financial statements due to Zonta International for group 990 filing |
| 30 September | Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship international recipients announces |
| 16 October | US Clubs form 990 due to IRS if gross receipts exceed \$25,000 |
| 20 – 22 October | District Conference, Detroit (hosted by Detroit II) |
| 24 October | United Nations Day |
| 8 November | Zonta's birthday |
| 15 November | Amelia Earhart applications due to Zonta International |
| 25 November | International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women |
| 25 November – 10 December | 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence |
| 1 December | World AIDS Day |

2007

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| 11 January | Amelia Earhart Day |
| 15 February | US Districts and Clubs: IRS Group Subordinate Update Form due to Zonta International |
| 8 March | Zonta Rose Day/International Women's Day |
| 1 April | YWPA club candidates due to District 15 |
| 28 April | Area 1 workshop |
| 29 April | Area 2 workshop |
| 30 April | 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 | Area 3 workshop |
| 6 May | Area 4 workshop |
| 31 May | Jane M. Klausman club candidates due to District 15 |
| 1 June | Club dues payments due to Zonta International and District 15 |

DISTRICT 15 BOARD MEMBERS 2004-2006

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Roses are now available for order to support the Klausman award from District XV. Get your orders placed early for selection and availability:
<http://www.zonta.lapeer.org/2007Rosesale.html>

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 middle of the month consistent with deadlines.

Area News

(Let your Area Director know what is happening in your club so she can submit it for this section)

Area 1—Marquette has been recognized on the International website for getting 100% registration of membership on the website. They are one of only 8 in the world to have accomplished that and the only one in District 15.

Area 2—Fund raiser ideas/links): Parade of Home homesitters (<http://zontadistrict15.org/meridian/#fundraising>); book club fundraiser (<http://www.zontagr.org/fundraiser.htm>); BBQ sales at Gus Macker (<http://zontadistrict15.org/ludington/#fund>) ; Applefest (<http://www.zontadistrict15.org/mtpleasant/fundraisers.htm>)

Area 3—Several months ago someone put out a request for past issues of “The Zontian”. **Chatham-Kent** while purging old records came across a box of old issues. If you are looking for back issues, please contact E. Marilyn “Lyn” Allison (mallison6@cogeco.ca) before the end of November, at which time any remaining will be discarded.

Area 4— Southfield Area Club member since 1991, Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson was hired in a 5-2 vote of Southfield Board of Education as its newest superintendent. Cook-Robinson had been serving as interim superintendent since March. Former Superintendent Beverley Geltner resigned in February. Cook-Robinson and Charles Coleman, superintendent for Battle Creek Schools, were the finalists.
(Other news from Southfield: Maybelle Fraser, mother of Amy Fraser Maple, was the oldest walker in Michigan's Breast Cancer 3-Day. At 75 years "young", she walked 60 miles to raise awareness and funding for research and a cure!)

District Features

www.zontadistrict15.org

- Most important: get registered for Fall Conference. Find forms at www.zontadistrict15.org. Registration deadlines: Hotel 9/15 (for conference rates); Conference 10/6. If you can't spend the weekend, can you come for Saturday?
- **Roses** for delivery at Spring workshop are now available for order. Visit district website under “projects” (or events or wherever it ends up) for selection. Order soon for best choices and guaranteed availability. The proceeds fund the District's Jane Klausman award annually so sell, sell, sell.
- Get the latest on info and action need on defeating Michigan Civil Rights initiative at: **Legislative/Advocacy** on Member page of website



Don't ROLL BACK Progress

Zonta International District 15 Endorses One United Michigan in their opposition to the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (Proposal 2) See: For more information, including how to order a lawn sign, visit www.oneunitedmichigan.org or contact them at: One United Michigan, P.O. Box 81156, Lansing, MI 48908, (877) 482-1438.

International Feature: Convention

1. **Bylaws adopted: see highlights attached** (The final should be on the ZI website (www.zonta.org) in October)
2. **Survey of Violence against Women** requested by International UN Committee Chair, Jackie Shapiro. These are due to District UN Chair (Sue Eareckson) from each Club by October 30 (form attached)
3. **What Is CEDAW? [The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#)** adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. The US signed but the signature has never been ratified. Every other country that signed has ratified, and there are a total of 184 countries (out of 192 not including Vatican City or Taiwan) that have ratified it. Many of them ratified with objections or reservations regarding certain provisions, but they did manage to ratify it. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>
4. **Register:** Go to www.zonta.org/register and get all of your members registered.

Tip of the Bridge

Tips for Handling Telemarketers (*Andy Rooney, CBS Newsman*)

1. The three little words are: "Hold On, Please..."
 - a. Saying this, while putting down your phone and walking off (instead of hanging-up immediately) would make each telemarketing call so much more time-consuming that boiler room sales would grind to a halt.
 - b. Then when you eventually hear the phone company's "beep-beep-beep" tone, you know it's time to go back and hang up your handset, which has efficiently completed its task. These three little words will help eliminate telephone soliciting.
2. Do you ever get those annoying phone calls with no one on the other end?
 - a. This is a telemarketing technique where a machine makes phone calls and records the time of day when a person answers the phone. This technique is used to determine the best time of day for a "real" sales person to call back and get someone at home.
 - b. What you can do after answering, if you notice there is no one there, is to immediately start hitting your # button on the phone, 6 or 7 times, as quickly as possible This confuses the machine that dialed the call and it kicks your number out of their system. Gosh, what a shame not to have your name in their system any longer !!!
3. Junk Mail Help:
 - a. When you get "ads" enclosed with your phone or utility bill, return these "ads" with your payment. Let the sending companies throw their own junk mail away.
 - b. When you get those "pre-approved" letters in the mail for everything from credit cards to 2nd mortgages and similar type junk, do not throw away the return envelope. Most of these come with postage-paid return envelopes, right? It costs them more than the regular 39 cents postage "IF" and when they receive them back. It costs them nothing if you throw them away! The postage was around 50 cents before the last increase and it is according to the weight. In that case, why not get rid of some of your other junk mail and put it in these cool little, postage-paid return envelopes.
4. The Andy Rooney twist is to send other ads, or nothing back in these prepaid envelopes so they have to pay for it and, if enough of these are sent, maybe they'll rethink their approach. Just don't send anything with your name on it.

Convention 2006 Action on Bylaws – Highlights *as of 27 July 06*

The following provides selected summaries and highlights only. Not all changes are listed here. For complete revision and wording consult the 2006 Bylaws Booklet sent in the October 2006 Club Mailing and available on the ZI Web site in October.

- Articles of Incorporation – **Mission Statement** reworded to read as follows:
 - Zonta International is a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.
- Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Article II – **Objects** (a) and (b) reworded to read as follows:
 - The objects for which it is formed are: (a) To improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health, and professional status of women through service and advocacy;
- Bylaws Article II – **Objects** (a) and (b) reworded to read as follows:
 - (a) To improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health, and professional status of women at the global and local level through service and advocacy.
- Article IV Section 2 – Amended to clarify that all clubs shall adopt **club bylaws** in accordance with ZI bylaws, to read as follows:
 - (a) Bylaws. Upon being chartered each Zonta club shall adopt club bylaws in accordance with the Zonta International bylaws. The initial adoption of the club bylaws shall be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the club members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided that notice of the proposed bylaws shall have been given to each member at least ten (10) days before the meeting. Each Zonta club shall be bound by the bylaws of Zonta International except that, if any provision of the bylaws is contrary to the laws of the country, state, or province in which a club is organized, that club shall notify the Zonta International Board in writing of the need to conform to such laws.
- Article XII – Revised descriptions for three **international committees**.
- Article XIII Section 5 (and Section new 11) – Added section on **area dues**, allowing this practice if the district conference authorizes it and under certain conditions as follows:
 - (i) If the district authorizes area dues, the district shall specify in the district's rules of procedure, the date on which area dues are payable, the purposes for which such area dues may be used, and the appropriate accountability procedures.
 - (ii) Area dues shall be determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates at an area meeting
- Article XIII Section 8 (new) – Added section clarifying that the district office of **Vice Area Director** is optional, but if the office is established in a district, vice area directors must be elected. A vacancy in the office of area director must be filled by the vice area director, in those districts that have elected vice area directors.
- Article XIII (new) Section 11 – Clarified that at **District Conference** a club delegate may carry more than one of the total votes to which the club is entitled.
- Article XIII (new) Section 15 – Each district shall adopt **District Rules of Procedures** and the adoption shall be by a 2/3 vote of the district conference voting members.
- Article XIV Section 12 – Clarified that each club shall adopt a **recognized parliamentary authority** to guide the conduct of club business in matters where specific guidance is not provided by the ZI Bylaws, the Rules of Procedure of ZI, the district bylaws, or the club bylaws.
- Article XIX Section 1 – **Bylaw amendment proposals** from the ZI Board must be received 30 days prior to the pre-convention meeting of the ZI Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. (**Note: this does not change the requirement for bylaws amendment proposals from district conferences, which must still be sent by the district to the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee within 30 days after the conference.**)
- Glossary – Good Standing – Club clarified to read as follows:
 - Good Standing.**

A club that has paid international dues and fees, has provided to Zonta International Headquarters a current and complete official club member list with the information requested by Zonta International Headquarters, has paid district dues and area dues (if applicable), and whose organizational activity is in accordance with bylaws provisions is a club in good standing

Survey on Violence Against Women

Please complete the following survey and **return it BY 30 OCTOBER 2006 to your District UN Chairman: Sue Eareckson (see-tsi@att.net)**

Name of person completing survey:

Contact information:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Name of Club and District:

1. *Does your club have a project or projects related to the elimination of violence against women?*

YES NO

If yes, please describe:

2. *Have you received any recognition in your community for this activity?*

YES NO

If yes, please describe:

3. *Do you have access to recent studies done in relation to violence against women?*

YES NO

If yes, please cite the study or studies and briefly describe the findings in this section. You may attach additional pages if necessary.

4. *Are there persons in your club who have an expertise in the area of violence against women?*

YES NO

If yes, please give name, area of expertise, and contact information below. You may use additional pages if necessary.

5. *Please describe "promising practices" related to the elimination of violence against women that can be found in your community, whether or not they are supported by your Zonta club:*

6. What areas of the UN do you promote in your club that address violence against women? Please check all that apply. Feel free to attach further information about anything you would like to elaborate about.

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- UNIFEM (UN Fund for Women)
- UNFPA (UN Population Fund)
- UN International Observance Days, i.e. International Women's Day, World AIDS Awareness Day, UN Anniversary, etc.
- 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence
- UN Commission on the Status of Women
- Other: (please specify) _____

7. In September/October the UN will release the Secretary General's study on the elimination of violence against women. Zonta clubs are asked to work in coalitions or partnerships as a follow up to the study. In your community, which partners are you working with, or will you work with, to implement this project:

- Soroptimists
- Business and Professional Women
- University Women
- National Council of Women
- Rotary
- Other: (please specify) _____

8. Please attach any additional information you would like to share about this issue.

Thank you for your help.