



## THE BRIDGE

# THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF DISTRICT 15

DISTRICT 15

Issue 6 of 8

December 2009

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

[www.zontadistrict15.org](http://www.zontadistrict15.org)

### Governor's Communiqué



#### **OF BUTTERFLIES AND STARFISH: CAN ONE PERSON REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

*"If many little people, in many little places, do many little deeds, they can change the face of the Earth."—African proverb*

It is often at this time of year that I find myself contemplating the world order and asking myself if one person can indeed make a difference. It occurred to me that the Chaos Theory perfectly illustrated what was on my mind. In other words, it is possible that a very small occurrence can produce unpredictable results by triggering a series of increasingly significant events. A common example of this is known as the *Butterfly Effect*—the concept that small events can lead to big changes. This is often illustrated by the premise that a butterfly flapping its wings in one part of the world changes the moving atmosphere in ways that could later trigger a tornado in another part of the world. How might this apply to Zonta?

Perhaps that young Afghani woman who learned to read thanks to ZI Programs at the Afghan Institute of Learning will one day lead her country out of violence and despair—stranger things have happened. Oprah Winfrey is a stunning example of a child who came from very humble beginnings to become, according to some assessments, the most influential women in the world. I listened to a woman thank a District 15 Zonta Club for turning her life completely around. She had no future down the tumultuous path she was heading. With Zonta's help, she is pursuing a career in nursing. I cannot begin to imagine the difference this will make to her family and in her children's lives—and the generations to come. I find myself thinking of her simple testimony often.

(cont. p.2)

### DISTRICT 15 BOARD 2008-2010

**Governor:** Sandra Vosper; Zonta Club of Sault Ste. Marie Area; H/W: 705-254-1566; US C: 313-949-9990; CDN C: 705-542-7416  
[sandra.vosper@shaw.ca](mailto:sandra.vosper@shaw.ca)

**Lieutenant Governor:** Denise Quarles; Zonta Club of Michigan Capitol Area; [ltgovernor@zonta15.org](mailto:ltgovernor@zonta15.org)

**Treasurer:** Karen Armaly; Zonta Club of Detroit 1  
C: 313-701-0684; [KJA1951@aol.com](mailto:KJA1951@aol.com)

**Secretary:** Amy Fraser Maple; Zonta Club of Southfield  
C: 248-346-5262; [afrasermaple@comcast.net](mailto:afrasermaple@comcast.net)

**Parliamentarian:** Hilary Henley; Zonta Club of Chatham-Kent;  
W: 519-436-6100 x341; [hhenley@cmhakent.com](mailto:hhenley@cmhakent.com) or  
[queenforaday@cogeco.ca](mailto:queenforaday@cogeco.ca)

**Area 1 Director** Patty Johnson; Zonta Club of Gaylord  
[johnsonpc2007@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnsonpc2007@sbcglobal.net)

**Area 2 Director:** Joanne Lose; Zonta Club of Meridian East; C: 517-294-6912; [jlose@fnba.com](mailto:jlose@fnba.com)

**Area 3 Director:** Sally L. Randall; Zonta Club of NW Wayne County; [rsrand521@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsrand521@sbcglobal.net)

**Area 4 Director:** Connie Dutcher; Zonta Club of Saginaw  
[c.dutcher@dowcorning.com](mailto:c.dutcher@dowcorning.com)

**Deadlines:** Send articles for the "Bridge" to Editor Phyllis Clark at: [pclark@gfn.org](mailto: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).*  
February 15 for Winter; May 1 for Spring  
Planned publication by the middle of the month consistent with deadlines.

## Governor's Communiqué (cont.)

Something as easy as your donation to the ZI Foundation has:

- Lifted many a Liberian woman suffering Obstetric Fistula out of a life of pain and humiliation
- Educated parents in Burkina Faso to refuse to allow genital mutilation to be performed on their young daughters
- Saved women's lives in Latin America by way of The Safe Cities for Women Project in San Salvador and Guatemala
- Spared one innocent baby by preventing Mother-to-Child transmission of HIV in Rwanda

Any single one of these women *could* well be the catalyst that changes the world.

### ONE PERSON, MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"A man was walking down a deserted Mexican beach at sunset. As he walked along, he began to see another man in the distance. As he grew nearer, he noticed that the local native kept leaning down, picking something up and throwing it out into the water. Time and again he kept hurling things out into the ocean. As the two drew closer, he noticed that the man was picking up starfish that had washed up on the beach, and, one at a time, he was throwing them back into the water. He was puzzled.

He approached the man and said, "Good evening, friend. I was wondering what you are doing." "I'm throwing these starfish back into the ocean. You see, it's low tide right now and all of these starfish have been washed up onto the shore. If I don't throw them back into the sea, they'll die up here from lack of oxygen." "I understand," my friend replied, "but there must be thousands of starfish on this beach. You can't possibly get to all of them. There are simply too many. And don't you realize this is probably happening on hundreds of beaches all up and down this coast. Can't you see that you can't possibly make a difference?"

The local native smiled, bent down and picked up yet another starfish, and as he threw it back into the sea, he replied, "Made a difference to that one!" -- Author Unknown

Embrace the possibility, perhaps that ever-so-small act of kindness or generosity may just change the course of history in a way that we cannot begin to comprehend until all is said and done. So when the winter has passed and you see April's first butterfly, ponder the promise of spring, *The Butterfly Effect* and the fragile strength of our actions. *Nothing* is impossible

This holiday season, may you,  
Think Good Thoughts,  
Say Good Words,  
Do Good Deeds.

Sandra G Vosper, District 15 Governor

"Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

The White Queen, Through the Looking Glass, Lewis Carroll

## DISTRICT XV & CLUB CALENDAR

### 2010

- Jan 11**—Amelia Earhart Day (January is Amelia Earhart Month)  
**Feb 15**—USA Districts and Clubs: IRS Group Subordinate Update form due to Headquarters  
**Feb/Mar**—UN Commission on the Status of Women Meeting  
**April 1**—Young Women in Public Affairs Awards: Club candidates due to District  
**24**—Area 4 Spring Workshop, Saginaw  
**25**—Area 3 Spring Workshop, Chatham/Kent  
**30**—Emma Conlon Award (Z and Golden Z Clubs): applications due to Headquarters  
**May 1**—Club Officers Report Form 2010-2011/2010-2012 due to Headquarters  
**1**—Area 2 Spring Workshop, Mt. Pleasant  
**2**—Area 1 Spring Workshop, Marquette  
**June 1**—2010-2011 International dues payment and Official member lists due to Headquarters (dues payment transmittal form sent in March 2010 club dues billing and available for download at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org))  
**25-30**—2010 Convention, San Antonio TX, USA

### CONGRATULATIONS! AND THANK YOU! TO THE DISTRICT OFFICERS ELECTED 10/09 FOR THE 2010-2012 BIENNIUM.

### DISTRICT 15 NEEDS AND APPRECIATES YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE

#### GOVERNOR

**Denise Quarles**  
Zonta Club of Michigan Capitol

#### LT. GOVERNOR

**Karen Armaly**  
Zonta Club of Detroit I

#### TREASURER

**Patricia Johnson**  
Zonta Club of Gaylord

#### AREA 1 DIRECTOR

**Christine Myers**  
Zonta Club of Marquette

#### AREA 2 DIRECTOR

**Cheryl Hall**  
Zonta Club of East Lansing

#### AREA 3 DIRECTOR

**Joy Smith**  
Zonta Club of Lenawee

#### AREA 4 DIRECTOR

**Linda Nabers**  
Zonta Club of Southfield

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

#### **Hilary Henley, Chair**

Zonta Club of Chatham/Kent

#### **Joanne Lose**

Zonta Club of Meridian East

#### **Hilda Odom**

Zonta Club of Sault Ste. Marie

**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR  
DISTRICT 15 TREASURER**

Seventeen months into our biennium shows the Board hard at work managing the District funds. As of 11/31/09:

Our cash position is \$19,710.04 in CDs, \$5,336.47 in Fifth Third Checking, and \$5,204.56 in Fifth Third Savings for operations (total - \$10,541.03).

We have set aside from those funds \$17,600.00 in Conference / Workshop / Convention Reserves, \$2,500.00 in Organization/Revitalization and \$1,157.05 in Club President Leadership training. We look forward to our membership numbers growing to help meet our 2008-2010 budget requirements.

Thank you for all your good work for Zonta.

*Karen Amaly*, District Treasurer

**District 15  
Service Committee Report**

As we approach the end of 2009, District 15 Zonta clubs and their members have reason to be very proud of their accomplishments to improve the status of women.

But, how will the people in your community know about your club's accomplishments? Go out and toot your own horn. Stand up and be proud. Spread the word about your club's service to women. First share your club's accomplishment(s); second, use it to pat yourself on the back; third, weave in member recruitment; and lastly, tell Zonta International's story.

The Midland club has the perfect opportunity to shout from the mountain top. Their club's Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship recipient, Marcy Gilstad, received the District 15 scholarship and also was one of 12 International JMK recipients.

**Amelia Earhart**

January 11 is Amelia Earhart Day. Invite the ZI AE Fellowship recipients to your club's January program meeting. Bonnie McArthur, D15 AE coordinator, will be happy to contact Erin Farber and Anosheh

Niavaranikehr. Also, Bonnie would like to know how your club honored Amelia Earhart. Please email Bonnie at [bmcarthu@kettering.edu](mailto:bmcarthu@kettering.edu).

**Young Women In Public Affairs (YWPA)**

Everything you need to know is available on Zonta International's website, [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org). Click on Member Resources, next click on International Scholarships and Awards.

The District 15 Service committee YWPA coordinator, Jodi DeKuiper, must receive your club's award recipient's application by April 1, 2010. Jodi's e-mail address is:

[jodilondekuiper@hughes.net](mailto:jodilondekuiper@hughes.net). Her mailing address is: 510 N. Croswell Ave., White Cloud, MI 49349 – Phone: 1-231-924-5397.

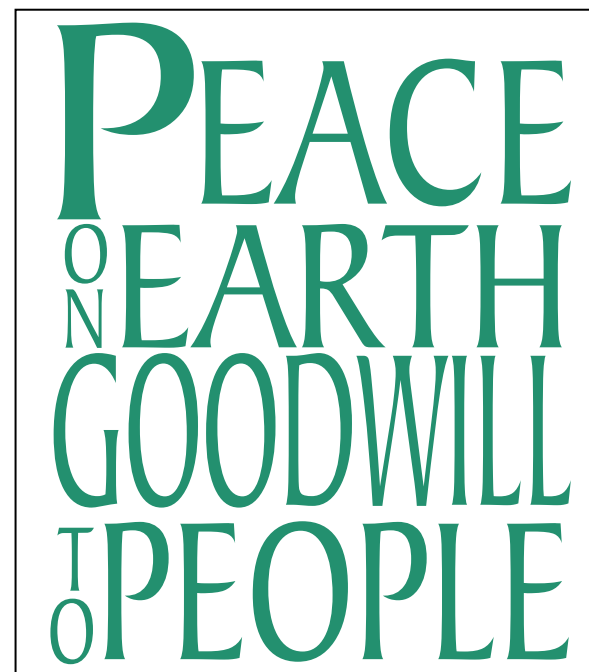
**Jane M. Klausman Women In Business  
Scholarship (JMK)**

The program information on Zonta International's website will be updated January 2010.

Here is one housekeeping item. The current email address for June Schaefer, District 15 Z Club & Golden Z Club coordinator, is [jschaefe@nmu.edu](mailto:jschaefe@nmu.edu)

Happy Holidays to Zontians and your families.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Belfour, Service Committee Chair



**DISTRICT 15 CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WOMEN OF THE WORLD  
AT FALL CONFERENCE IN LANSING**

**THANK YOU, ZONTA CLUB OF EAST LANSING  
MISSED FALL CONFERENCE? SEE THESE HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Friday, October 16, 2009**

Zontians arrived at the beautiful Lexington Hotel in a steady stream, and it was a hive of activity as members set up the Zonta store, renewed friendships and settled in for a weekend of district business, reports, workshops and, of course, fun and fellowship as we anticipated the celebration of Zonta's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. **FIRST TIMERS AND DELEGATES** were indoctrinated at the capable hands of **LT. GOVERNOR DENISE QUARLES** and **PARLIAMENTARIAN HILARY HENLEY**. A spirited competition ensued as 24 First Timers vied for the coveted first place award. Friendships were forged that will remain long after Fall Conference is a faint memory.

**THE 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DISTRICT 15 FALL CONFERENCE** was called to order by **GOVERNOR SANDRA VOSPER**. The colours were presented by Girl Scout Troop 598, Willow Ridge Elementary and we sang the national anthems of Canada and the U.S. The business meeting must also include the Roll Call of Delegates, Credentials Report, Conference Rules and Program. Conference Co-Chair Joy Wiseman introduced her committee and let everyone know that they were available to make D15 38<sup>th</sup> Fall Conference in Lansing a weekend to remember. The Delegation was warmly welcomed to Lansing by **THE HONOURABLE JOAN BAUER, STATE REPRESENTATIVE; DR. JOAN JACKSON JOHNSON FROM THE CITY OF LANSING; AND ZONTA CLUB OF EAST LANSING PRESIDENT, LEIGH KRAUSHAAR. PEGGY JONES OF IRON MOUNTAIN/ KINGSFORD** thanked everyone for their gracious welcome. **KATHIE DUNBAR**, of Lansing City Council entertained us with her unconventional wisdom and good humour as she talked about **"POLITICS, PARENTING AND PROZAC"**. **ZONTA INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE LYNN GOODHUE** took us on a stroll down memory lane as she reminded us ever so poignantly of Zonta's origins in a meaningful address to the assembly. The candidates for District Office for the 2010-2012 biennium had an opportunity to address the delegates and members as they generously let their names stand for office in their bid to serve D15. Each business meeting ended with **A CANADIAN MOMENT OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE** in deference to

District 15's first Canadian Governor, **SANDRA.**

**GAYLE MANLEY** shared many Canadian anomalies and reaffirmed that Canada and the U.S. are indeed two countries separated by the same language.

**FRIDAY FUN NIGHT** was hosted by the **ZONTA CLUB DETROIT I** where we celebrated the club's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a party that brought out the kid in us all, with games (including pin the tail on the Governor), singing (sort-of) and of course birthday cake and party favours.

**Saturday, October 17, 2009**

Elections were held before the second business session which was called to order by **GOVERNOR SANDRA.**

**THE GOVERNOR'S REPORT** which, in a nutshell, stated that communication may be the single most crucial element for continued vitality and growth in our Zonta World. The assembly was encouraged to regard each report, speaker, and workshop in the conference as the board's way of communicating with every Zontian and keeping all informed about the important issues at all levels in Zonta. In the immortal words of George Bernard Shaw "The single biggest problem with communication is the illusion that it has already taken place", quoted Vosper.

**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DENISE QUARLES** brought everyone up to date on the activities of her dynamic OMC Committee and all that entails (*Please see Membership Matters pg.8*)

**PAST GOVERNOR AND FOUNDATION**

**AMBASSADOR CAROLE CALVERT-BAXTER**, reported on Foundation activities and invited everyone to visit her in the Zonta Store to support the Foundation.

**PLENARY SPEAKER CAROLE LAPIDOS** was at once funny, riveting and painfully accurate as she outlined many of the issues that impact on **"WOMEN IN THE MEDIA"**. Everyone agreed that we could have happily listened to her for hours.

**THE DISTRICT 15 MEMBERSHIP PLAN** was unveiled by **OMC CHAIR DENISE QUARLES** and her **NOT-READY-FOR-PRIMETIME AREA DIRECTORS** who entertained us, while, at the same time giving us very valuable tools to cope with membership issues. They have created a well-developed plan to strengthen membership. The end result is a blueprint for your club to easily implement and recreate locally to increase and retain membership in Zonta. Our thanks to thespian ADs **PATTY**

**JOHNSON, JOANNE LOSE, SALLY RANDALL AND CONNIE DUTCHER** for their commitment to membership.

**WORKSHOPS** followed that included **OFFICER'S TRAINING FOR PRESIDENTS, VICE PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS, PAST GOVERNOR'S BRAIN TRUST, "NEW DIMENSIONS IN CREATIVE THINKING" WITH ELLEN DOLSEN, AND STEP BY STEP 501(C)(3) WITH MARI MCKENZIE.**

**STATUS OF WOMEN LUNCHEON** was hosted by the **ZONTA CLUB OF MERIDIAN EAST** and we were welcomed by **PRESIDENT DELORES MAY.** We enjoyed a fine lunch and the company of sister Zontians before **D15 SERVICE CHAIR MARTHA BELFOUR** conducted the awards portion of the program and updated us on strides made by **DISTRICT 15 SERVICE COMMITTEE.** The winners were: **YWPA: BRIANNA ACKER; AMELIA EARHART: ERIN FARBER** (unable to attend) and **ANOOSHEH NIAVARANIKHEIRI; JMK** winner **MARCY GILSTAD** was surprised by the announcement that she was also one of 12 Zonta International JMK winners. It was with great pleasure that we were able to make the announcement at the SOW Luncheon that she would be the recipient of the \$5000 award in addition to the \$1000 District award.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER CAROLE LAPIDOS** spoke eloquently and shared her vast insight on **RAISING STRONG & CONFIDENT DAUGHTERS & RAISING STRONG & GENTLE SONS.** Again she left everyone wanting more of her sensitive wisdom.

The **THIRD BUSINESS SESSION** was called to order by **GOVERNOR SANDRA.** The **TELLER'S REPORT** was presented by **NICOLE EVANS.** (See page 2)

The **TREASURER'S REPORT** was presented by **KAREN ARMALY.** **KAREN CLARK** presented the **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT** and the **2010-2012 BUDGET** was approved as presented.

**DISTRICT PR CHAIR LINDA DEGROW INTRODUCED "APPRENTICE" BILL RANCIC: PR GURU, AUTHOR, & MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER.** He spoke dynamically about **"HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS AND IN LIFE"** and encouraged us to embrace change, to "fish where the fish are" and to employ innovative marketing techniques to attract members. We are presently attempting to make the recording of his presentation available to members on our website. The session was adjourned.

**THE GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION FOR INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE LYNN GOODHUE** preceded the banquet and we had some well earned down-time after an information filled day. Members had an

opportunity to chat with Lynn and visit with old and new friends

**THE SATURDAY BANQUET** was, as always, a lovely event. The conference gift was a Commemorative pin designed to honour our 90-year history and our U.S./Canadian partnership. It was designed by **GOVERNOR SANDRA** (with the technical expertise of Conference Co-Chair **STEPHANIE SPENCER.** After a delicious dinner **GOVERNOR SANDRA** and **LT. GOVERNOR DENISE** had the distinct pleasure of resurrecting the Governor's and Lt Governor's Awards. The Governor's award which was presented with "Gratitude for a Record of Exemplary Service on behalf of Zonta International District XV to Advance the Status of Women" The first recipient of this award was **PHYLLIS CLARK** (Lapeer) – District 15's incredibly patient and capable Newsletter Editor for many years. She has also been the main mover and shaker for 10 years, of the Zonta District Rose Fundraiser which was the sole support of the JMK award. The second recipient was **MARTHA BELFOUR,** (Leelanau) a woman who quietly goes about her tasks and was instrumental in expanding the



**Governor's Awards are presented to Phyllis Clark (L) and Martha Belfour(R) by Governor Sandra Vosner(centre)**

District Service Committee from 1 to 5 members. She has since mentored and trained the coordinators of **AE, YWPA, JMK AND Z AND GOLDEN Z CLUBS.** She is always available with her sage advice and complete understanding of all the moving parts involved in Zonta's awards programs. The **LT. GOVERNOR'S AWARD** was presented by **DENISE QUARLES** with "Gratitude for Dedication to

Zonta International District XV and Commitment to Club Mentoring & Revitalization” to **SANDY WEIMER** (Midland) for all her help with the revitalization of the Zonta Club of Bay City. Sandy was unable to attend and the award was accepted by Past Governor Carole Calvert Baxter. Sandy is truly a dyed in the wool Zontian whose sincere goal is to build a stronger Zonta sisterhood.

On the occasion of **DETROIT I’S 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** a framed “Service Tree” was presented to **PRESIDENT SYLVIA VUKMIROVICH** as a gift from the district.



**Zonta Club of Detroit I am presented with a framed “Service Tree” to commemorate their 90 years of Service to Women of the World.**

In honour of all the **CLUB MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES**, **GOVERNOR SANDRA** made a donation to the ZI Foundation and encouraged all Clubs and Zontians to consider this option. In addition, to commemorate Zonta’s Anniversary **GOVERNOR SANDRA** named and dedicated a star to Members of Zonta International. It is officially known as the **STAR OF ZONTA**, the slogan chosen for our star is Chinese proverb which states **“Women Hold Up Half the Sky”**. See full details and star chart at [www.zonta15.org](http://www.zonta15.org)

**Sunday, October 18, 2009**

A touching **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE** that honoured dearly departed Zontians was presented by **PAST GOVERNOR CAROLE CALVERT- BAXTER**. A sensitive selection of musical tributes accompanied the service and was beautifully rendered by soloist **ANGELA NADER**.

We enjoyed the fellowship of our old and new Zontian friends during our Sunday brunch. Members eagerly checked their raffle tickets as the lucky raffle winners were announced.

The final business session was called to order. **PAST GOVERNOR AND DISTRICT UN CHAIR SUE EARECKSON** introduced our Breakfast Speaker **HANNAH BRENNER, JD, LECTURER IN LAW, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW** who enlightened us on the issues and ramifications of **CEDAW**

**BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS CHAIR JULIE CLOSE** presented a proposal that District 15 support **CEDAW** and encourage the U.S to ratify it. The motion was carried.

A motion was proposed by the **ZONTA CLUB OF SAULT STE MARIE** and recommended for approval by the District Board to replace the word “Chairman” with the gender neutral term “Chair” in all Zonta International Bylaws, Rules of Policy and Procedure, meetings and correspondence. The motion was carried and the proposals have been forwarded to the Zonta International Bylaws and Resolutions Committee to be presented in San Antonio. See page for details

**DISTRICT TREASURER KAREN ARMALY PRESENTED THE FOUNDATION GOALS** as follow:

Rose Fund	\$ 3,395
Amelia Earhart Fellowship Fund	\$ 6,100
Jane M. Klausman Women	
In Business Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,405
YWPA Fund	\$ 3,190
International Service Fund	\$14,640
ZISVAW Fund	\$10,060
WHPPPI Fund	\$ 755
Endowment Fund	<u>\$ 600</u>
Total ZIF Support	<b>\$43,615</b>

**LT GOVERNOR DENISE QUARLES** announced the **BEST PRACTICES WINNERS**. Please check out full details on the District Website and in the *Best Practices Report on Page 9*.

**LT GOVERNOR DENISE QUARLES & PARLIAMENTARIAN HILARY HENLEY** also presented the **ATTENDANCE, YELLOW ROSE, FIRST TIMERS & LONG SERVICE AWARDS**. Please see **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS** on page 8 for complete details. **GOVERNOR SANDRA** presented **ZI REPRESENTATIVE LYNN GOODHUE AND CONFERENCE CO CHAIRS JOY WISEMAN AND STEPHANIE SPENCER** with small Inukshuks as tokens of appreciation. These Inukshuk figures have a truly poignant meaning, a Canadian

history and marry beautifully with Zonta's philosophy.



**Inukshuk** (pronounced (in-ook-shook), is a stone monument erected in the image of a human. One of their purposes was to serve as direction markers in the harsh and desolate Arctic. They were a tool of survival and a symbol of unselfish acts of the Inuit people. The Inukshuk symbolizes co-operation, balance and unselfishness; the idea that teaching and group effort is greater than individual effort. Each stone is a separate entity, yet each supports, and is supported by the one above and the one below it. No one piece is any more or any less important than the other. Its strength lies in its unity. Its significance comes from its meaning as a whole. The Inukshuk reminds us of our interdependent responsibilities to invest our efforts today, to direct a better way for all of us tomorrow.

Literal translation: "Friends have passed this way before"

**COURTESY RESOLUTIONS CHAIR ALLISON REUTER** captured all our foibles and those things that keep us humble with humour and keen observation. Everyone looks forward to this portion of FC and she "caught" many Zontians unawares and showed no mercy.

**ZI REPRESENTATIVE LYNN GOODHUE** delivered **ZI PRESIDENT BERYL STEN'S MESSAGE**, her conference impressions and warmly invited everyone to San Antonio, June 2010.

**ZONTA CLUB OF IRON MOUNTAIN KINGSFORD** invited all to the **39<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT 15 FALL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2010**. The committee promised a fulfilled weekend of learning, fellowship and fun.

**GOVERNOR SANDRA** bid us adieu, asked us to drive carefully and in the immortal words of Dr. Seuss advised us "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

The colours were retired by **GIRL SCOUT TROOP 598, WILLOW RIDGE ELEMENTARY**. The girls were adorable and their presence was greatly appreciated.

Our thanks and congratulations to **CONFERENCE CO CHAIRS JOY WISEMAN, STEPHANIE SPENCER AND THE STEERING COMMITTEE** for all their attention to detail and dedication to delivering a successful Conference to District 15 Zontians.

**\* FALL CONFERENCE 2009 RESOURCE MATERIALS ARE NOW AVAILABLE at [www.zonta15.org](http://www.zonta15.org) \***

**PHOTOS COURTESY OF GRACE CHANG WITH THANKS CHECK OUT THE PHOTO STREAM GALLERY ON THE D15 WEBSITE**

***ADVANCING THE STATUS OF WOMEN WORLDWIDE***

## **District 15 Membership Matters December, 2009**

Submitted by Lt. Governor Denise Quarles

### **DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP PLAN**

At the fall conference the Organization, Membership, Classification (OMC) Committee unveiled its new and innovative Membership Plan to assist clubs in addressing membership growth and club vitality. Each club was given a computer disc containing a Recruitment, Retention and Revitalization Manual developed by the OMC Committee as well as a Leadership Manual developed by the Area Directors. These manuals may also be viewed on the District website, [www.zonta15.org](http://www.zonta15.org). The disc is full of information about various methods for strengthening membership such as recruitment tools including a power point presentation specific to our district; retaining members through professionalism, mission focused projects and program meetings, new member orientation; revitalization through a club self assessment checklist, fellowship, etc. The disc is a single source aid which will supplement, not replace, the considerable Zonta International information available for clubs. The OMC Committee (Lt. Governor and Area Directors) initiated this Membership Plan project due to the decline of District membership. Unfortunately following some gradual, moderate growth last club year, we are again experiencing a decline in membership. In addition to the usual factors, the problem economy has also affected membership numbers. Also, the 60-year-old

Muskegon Club decided to disband in the summer after unsuccessful growth attempts. There are currently 44 clubs with 1005 members which is a decrease of 255 members since 2004 and most clubs have less than the optimum 25 member minimum.

We are however, optimistic. Use of the information on the disc will considerably help clubs. Also, two former members of the Ann Arbor Club, disbanded several years ago, have expressed interest in re-establishing a club. This is a great opportunity for an existing club to promote District growth by serving as a sponsor for this effort. The District OMC Committee will also provide the necessary coordination. Additionally, the International Board has recently reversed its decision made earlier this year to require 25 members to charter a club. The minimum number is now 20 members.

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

As Lt. Governor I was pleased to join the Governor in giving special recognition to members and clubs who have had a long term commitment to Zonta and to those who have made a concerted effort to recruit members and participate in the District conference.

### **YELLOW ROSE AWARDS**

These awards were given to members who recruited 3 or more new members.

Jeanne Bergelin Murphy, Big Rapids Club - 3  
Corrinne Kennedy, Chatham/Kent Club - 3  
Katie Wiebusch, Downriver Wayne County Club - 4  
Kay Johnston, Leelanau County Club - 3

Rose Houk, Michigan Capitol Area Club - 3  
Mary Ann Peters, Milford Club - 4  
Gladys Austin, Mt. Pleasant Club - 3  
Joanne Atkinson, Sault Ste Marie - 3

### **MEMBERSHIP LONGEVITY**

Membership for 30 or more years

#### **50 years** –

Lucile Belen, Lansing Club  
Marian Crossman, Traverse City Club

#### **40 years** –

Kathleen LaCross, Alpena Club  
Elleen Roth, Flint I Club  
Mildred Richardson, Lansing Club

#### **30 years** –

### **BEST PRACTICES WINNERS CHOSEN!!**

Submitted by Lt. Governor Denise Quarles

### **DISTRICT WINNERS**

With difficulty, the District Organization, Membership, Classification (OMC) Committee chose the winners for the Best Practices contest from the creative and diverse entries submitted by eleven clubs. Projects which are meaningful and focused on the Zonta mission are a critical element of membership recruitment and retention. Such projects keep members engaged and attract the attention of potential members.

### **THE JUDGING CRITERIA**

- 1) Alignment with the Zonta mission
- 2) Originality
- 3) Cost effectiveness
- 4) Efficient use of members' time
- 5) Multi-faceted nature of project
- 6) Impact on club and community

Jane Rhodes, Michigan Capitol Area Club  
Vickie Maurer, Traverse City Club  
Sharon Miller, Midland Club  
Sylvia Vukmirovich, Detroit I Club  
Carla Boyes, Farmington/Novi Club  
Barbara Mansfield, Helen Jeter,  
Evelyn Mundy - Northwest Wayne County Club

#### **Highest % of First Timers Attending Conference:**

1<sup>st</sup> - Downriver Wayne County Club &  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Owosso Club

**Highest % of Members in Attendance:** (Note: The host club - East Lansing - was ineligible for recognition.): Downriver Wayne County Club - 71%  
Meridian East Club - 59% Michigan Capitol Area Club - 45%

### **WINNING CLUBS AND CATEGORIES**

Most of the projects were submitted for consideration in multiple categories, so the OMC Committee made judgments based on what was believed to be the primary category each project represented.

**Service** - Marquette Club

**Membership** - Sault Ste. Marie Club

**Fundraising** - Farmington/Novi Club

**Public Relations** - Charlevoix

**Fellowship** - Metro Detroit

Marquette Club - worked with their Golden Z Club in organizing multiple activities with girls serviced by the Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan. It is an agency for troubled children and families with the goal to enhance self esteem, skill development and interpersonal relationships.

Sault Ste Marie Club - conducted the Zonta Speaker Event – “The Power of One”- with renowned speaker, Sally Armstrong who is a human rights activist, film maker and author. The goal was to attract potential

members while having a positive impact on the community.

Farmington/Novi Club - partnered with a major department store to organize their "Steppin' Out in Style" fund raising event. The evening of food, fashion and fun also focused on strengthening community awareness about domestic violence.

Charlevoix Club - conducted a AZ Tea@ seeking to familiarize young girls and their parents with the Zonta name to provide information about Zonta scholarship and award programs for young girls/women and to attract potential members now and in the future. Various public relations methods were used for this event.

Metro Detroit Club - organized a A Zumba with Zonta event to promote member fellowship and physical fitness. It was also an opportunity to attract new members.

## PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNER

At the District conference one delegate from each club could cast a ballot to choose one overall People's Choice winner based on what they believed was the submission which: **1)** best aligned with the Zonta mission and **2)** had the greatest impact on club and community. For those clubs with more than one delegate, the delegates could confer with each other to determine the vote and who would cast the ballot. To facilitate judging and to share project information with all conference attendees, the eleven contest project entries were exhibited on display boards.

**WINNING CLUB - DETROIT I I** for its service project to link women who are victims of abuse or trafficking with existing agencies which can be of assistance to them. A brochure was developed and, to start, translated into 12 of the 27 languages spoken in the very ethnically diverse target community - the enclave of Hamtramck. Brochures are being distributed to various locations such as the police department and businesses.

*May Peace be Your Gift at Christmas*

*&*

*Your Blessing All Year Through.*

*~Author Unknown*



**Zonta International District 15 Proposed  
Bylaws and Resolutions  
Fall Conference 10/09 Lansing, Michigan**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1:** Pursuant to Article XVII of the Zonta International Bylaws, the Zonta International District 15 Board recommends that the Zonta International District 15 Conference approve the following Resolution for submission to the Zonta International Bylaws and Resolutions Committee for consideration by Zonta International at the 2010 convention:

**Resolution**

**Zonta International District 15 supports the ratification by the United States of America of the United Nations Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).**

**Rationale:** In this, the 30th anniversary of the International treaty known as Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), members of Zonta International District 15 hereby endorse this Convention and recognize it as the most comprehensive international agreement on the basic human rights of women, in that it addresses women's right to equality in education, health care, employment, economics, law, property, family relations, marriage and political participation. Since it came into force as an international treaty in 1979, it has been used effectively throughout the world to advance the status of women as well as end abuse and discrimination against women in ratifying countries. These rights are the focus of Zonta's Objects.

Proposed by Zonta International District 15 Board of Directors  
Recommended for adoption by the Zonta International District 15 Board

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2:** Pursuant to Article XVII of the Zonta International Bylaws, the Zonta International District 15 Board and the Zonta Club of Sault Ste Marie Area recommend that the Zonta International District 15 Conference approve the following Resolution for submission to the Zonta International Bylaws and Resolutions Committee for consideration by Zonta International at the 2010 convention:

**Resolution**

**The presiding officer of a meeting or a committee shall be called the chair. The term chair shall replace the formerly used term chairman in all Zonta International bylaws, Rules of Policy and Procedure, meetings and correspondence.**

**Rationale:** Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition (2004) states, "While actually presiding, the presiding officer is called the chair." (Pg.32-Rules of Order in Brief). While Chairman has long been in use, it is also stated that several variations, one of which is chair, are now frequently used. Furthermore, one readily finds reference to chair throughout Robert's Rules of Order, which is the guiding document for Zonta International.

The use of Chairman is considered gender-specific in many English-speaking countries, although in most languages other than English, the gender-specific term chairman is a non-issue as the language itself eliminates gender bias.

NOTE: This resolution was proposed by District 15 and a similar one by District 24 at the last biennium. The Zonta International Board did not recommend it be adopted and it was not approved by the delegates. Its stated reasons were: (1) The use of the word "chairman" is not a gender issue; (2) Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10<sup>th</sup> edition (2000) (RONR) explains that the "chair" is the official place or station of the presiding officer (RONR p. 21), and, when used as a verb, to the act of presiding (as in "to chair a meeting"), but the individual is a chairman. It is a distinction we want to continue to make. (2) Discussing this proposed change is not the best use of the convention's time and changing the wording of all Zonta International documents would be very costly.

In response to the Zonta International Board's position, in addition to those reasons already stated above, District 15 believes that to change the wording on all Zonta International documents would not be costly as most organization documents, if not all, are in electronic format. Those documents that are in hard copy and need to be maintained in hard copy can be modified as they are replaced.

Proposed by Zonta Club of Sault Ste Marie Area  
Recommended for adoption by the Zonta International District 15 Board.

## ZONTA INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

### IRINA Bokova chosen by UNESCO Executive Board as candidate to the post of Director-General

23-09-2009 (Paris)



Irina Gueorguieva Bokova  
© UNESCO/Niamh Burke

The 58 members of UNESCO's Executive Board on 22 September designated Irina Gueorguieva Bokova (Bulgaria) as candidate to the post of Director-General. On 15 October, the nomination will be submitted for the approval of the General Conference, which brings together representatives of the Organization's 193 Member States. Once confirmed, she will be the first woman Director-General of the Organization.

At the end of the fifth round of voting, the Chairman of the Executive Board, Ambassador Olabiyi Babalola Joseph Yaï (Benin), announced the outcome of the vote. "Irina Bokova, the candidate presented by Bulgaria, was designated by the Executive Board with the majority of the ballots." Her candidacy obtained 31 ballots.

Born in Sofia in 1952, Irina Gueorguieva Bokova is the Ambassador of Bulgaria to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. A career diplomat and politician, she studied at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and at the School of Public Affairs of the University of Maryland (USA). She served as deputy minister of Foreign Affairs (1995-97) and Minister of Foreign Affairs (1996-97). In 1996, as candidate to the post of Vice President of Bulgaria, she advocated her country's membership in NATO and the

European Union.

UNESCO's Executive Board made its choice from among nine candidates who were interviewed on 15 September: Ina Marčiulionytė (Lithuania); Mohammed Bedjaoui (Algeria); Irina Gueorguieva Bokova (Bulgaria); Farouk Hosny (Egypt); Sospeter Mwijarubi Muhongo (United Republic of Tanzania); Alexander Vladimirovich Yakovenko (Russian Federation); Ivonne Juez de A. Baki (Ecuador); Benita Ferrero-Waldner (Austria); Nouréini Tidjani-Serpos (Benin).

### Honorary Zontian Catherine Hamlin

**Wins**

**"Alternative  
Nobel Prize"**



Dr Catherine Hamlin has received the 2009 Right Livelihood Award "for her fifty years dedicated to treating obstetric fistula patients, thereby restoring the health, hope and dignity of thousands of

*Africa's poorest women*<sup>nd</sup>. The Award includes a cash donation of EUR 50,000.

Dr Hamlin was made an Honorary Zontian in 1996. The Safe Hands for Mothers film 'Fistula Pilgrims', shown at the District 29 Conference in Tours, featured Dr Hamlin and her Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. On Sunday morning, Susanne von Bassewitz, District Foundation Ambassador, during her presentation on the Zonta International Foundation service project in Liberia, also gave us more insight into Dr Hamlin's reasons for opening the hospital in Addis Ababa. Susanne quoted from Dr Hamlin's book 'The Hospital by the River', in which Zonta International's donation to the hospital was graciously acknowledged.

It was during 1959 that Catherine Hamlin came with her husband Reginald to Ethiopia from Australia. They were shocked by what they saw. Experienced obstetricians and gynaecologists they knew about obstetric fistula but had never seen one. This condition occurs in developing countries but has been more or less eliminated in industrialised ones.

Women are treated free of charge at the hospital built by Dr Hamlin and her husband in 1974, and where they pioneered a surgical treatment which now has a success rate of 93%. As the hospital's reputation spread, women travelled long distances in search of a cure. Today regional centres have been established making treatment more accessible, and to prevent the condition happening in the first place a midwifery school provides specialist training.

2,750 women are operated on every year bringing the total treated to over 32,000 women.

More information on Dr Hamlin can be found by following the links:

<http://www.rightlivelihood.org/hamlin.html>

<http://www.fistulatrust.org/>

You can also view an excellent film made on behalf of the Fistula Foundation by Engel Entertainment by scrolling down to the bottom of the Right Livelihood Home page. It is well worth watching.

The Right Livelihood Award was founded in 1980 and Awards are presented annually in the Swedish Parliament and are often referred to as 'Alternative Nobel Prizes'. They were introduced "to honour and support those offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today".

#### References

1. [www.rightlivelihood.org](http://www.rightlivelihood.org) Home Page