

THE BRIDGE

Winter 2012

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Denise Quarles

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Our Greatest Resource

An organization can only accomplish its mission with adequate resources; the biggest of which is its membership and their commitment to pursue the mission. Zontians have the privilege of membership in a great organization; an organization of which we can be proud because it accomplishes a very valuable mission - improving the lives of women worldwide. We can certainly be proud of our collective impact. With membership growth we can significantly increase the depth of that impact. While all members are aware of the need for each of us to do our part for membership growth, we all should occasionally evaluate our individual efforts to ensure the health of our organization through membership recruitment. Is your elevator speech ready to give to prospective members? If questioned about the value of our organization, are you prepared to share information about the benefits of membership, the outstanding service projects at the international, district and local levels and funding opportunities to assist young women in their educational pursuits?

Each District 15 member recently received a district email asking for your help with the District initiative to diligently pursue new club development. I was pleased that several individuals very quickly submitted ideas and offers of assistance for the District Organization, Membership and Classification Committee. I encourage those of you who have yet to respond to the survey to do so quickly. Your ideas and assistance will be invaluable as organizational efforts are currently pursued in Ann Arbor. There has already been some interest expressed in

Zonta by potential members in that city. I'm sure that with your help new club development can be realized there and in many other cities in our district.

Being of Service

We can already be proud of the service involving approximately half of our clubs for the district initiated mastectomy comfort pillow project. Over 600 women who have had breast cancer surgery will benefit from the handmade mastectomy comfort pillows donated to the American Cancer Society, hospitals and other organizations during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Additionally, subsequent to the approval given at the district conference for the district to have a cooperative affiliation with the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, the District Board has embarked on an initiative to increase the public awareness of the national human trafficking hotline phone number. The importance of this phone number for trafficking victims and the public in general was discussed at the conference by the Task Force Executive Director Jane White. In the near future the details of this new district project will be unveiled. Action will also be taken to continue to keep members informed about trafficking. Included in this newsletter edition is an article by the District Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Committee Chair with important current information about the extent of human trafficking in the United States. Also, you can view on the district website US President Barack Obama's proclamation of January, 2012 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. ☺





MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Lt. Governor Karen Armaly

Great News!!!! District 15 is holding informational meetings in Ann Arbor! The move is on to create the new clubs that International Vice-President Maria challenged us to do. The dates for the meetings are March 21, 2012 from 5:00 – 6:00 and March 23, 2012 from 12:00 – 1:00 at Benz Insurance 3101 East Eisenhower Parkway, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. Formal invitations will be sent soon to potential members. If you have a friend or relative in the Ann Arbor area let us know and we will send them an invitation. You are also invited to attend. Other locations that are being discussed are in Area 1.

District 15 is slowly growing in number thanks to all of you. The numbers internationally are also growing. In order to achieve our goals we need to keep our membership strong.

Again, if you have an idea for a new club location, please let me or your Area Director know. ☺



PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION: NATIONAL SLAVERY & HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

Glenda Stephens, Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Committee Chair

President Obama proclaimed January 2012 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, culminating in the annual celebration of National Freedom Day on February 1. He called upon the people of the United States to recognize the vital role we can play in ending modern slavery, and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities. Fighting modern slavery and human trafficking is a shared responsibility. The president urged all Americans to educate themselves about all forms of modern slavery and the signs and consequences of human trafficking.

The victims of modern slavery have many faces. They are men and women, adults and children. Yet, all are denied basic human dignity and freedom. Victims can be abused in their own countries, or find themselves far from home and vulnerable. Whether they are trapped in forced sexual or labor exploitation, human trafficking victims cannot walk away, but are held in service through force, threats, and fear. All too often suffering from horrible physical and sexual abuse, it is hard for them to imagine that there might be a place of refuge.

Authorities say human trafficking has become the second-biggest and second-fastest-growing criminal industry in the world, behind drug trafficking. In recent years, the number of cases has skyrocketed -- from 300 in 2008 to 2,515 in 2010. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, human trafficking has become the second-fastest-growing criminal industry -- just behind drug trafficking -- with children accounting for roughly half of all victims. Of the 2,515 cases under investigation in the U.S. in 2010, more than 1,000 involved children. The United Nations estimates it's a \$32-billion industry, with half of the money coming from industrialized countries. Eighty-three percent of victims in confirmed sex trafficking cases in the U.S. in 2010 were American citizens.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center hot line gets 1,000 calls a month about suspected trafficking victims. Call volumes have more than doubled in recent years, from 5,700 calls in 2008 to nearly 12,000 in 2011. Hot line calls (when the state was identified) coming from Michigan also have doubled in recent years, from 87 in 2009 to 173 in 2011.

Report suspected human trafficking to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hot line at 888-373-7888. ☺



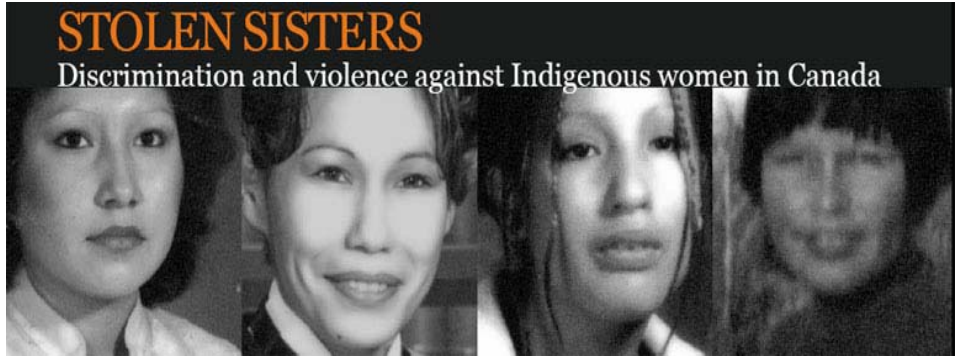


NO MORE STOLEN SISTERS: ABORIGINAL WOMEN

Sandra Vosper, UN Committee Chair

"Every woman who has gone missing is someone's daughter,

someone's mother, someone's aunt or someone's sister. We must never lose sight of the fact that they were loved and deserve to be valued." The families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women deserve answers and we deserve justice," says Sandra Gagnon, whose sister Janet Henry went missing in Vancouver in 1997.



NO MORE STOLEN SISTERS

I was doing some research on missing and murdered Aboriginal Women in Canada and found myself watching testimonials by family members of these missing daughters, mothers, sisters and aunts, - I could not hold back the tears. Go to www.amnesty.ca/stolensisters/ There are about 25 Zonta Clubs in Canada and I feel that this crisis addresses every facet of Zonta's mandate.

It is not uncommon to hear racist comments and slurs against indigenous people in Canada. A shameful chapter in Canada's history includes Indian Residential Schools, which was mandatory for many Aboriginals and over 150,000 Aboriginal children were separated from their families and communities because of Canada's policies. Canada and various churches operated Residential Schools across the country for over a century. Approximately 80,000 former students survive today. I witnessed this first hand as several of these students were in my class. They were as a rule profoundly shy, sad and homesick. Many were as young as 12 years old.

I recently reconnected with a women I knew back in the day. She was assigned the last name Nothing. At the time, I thought it was odd, the true irony of it never struck me until years later.

Statistics show that young Aboriginal women in Canada are at least five times more likely than other women in Canada to die as a result of violence. **The Native Women's Association of Canada** says more than 600 aboriginal women have gone missing or have been murdered since 1990, and it believes there may be many more. Not enough is being done to ensure that these crimes are adequately investigated, or to address the discrimination and impoverishment that put so many Aboriginal women in harm's way. The Native Women's Association of Canada has been urging the Government of Canada to work with Aboriginal women and Aboriginal peoples' organizations to develop a national plan of action to stop violence against Indigenous women.

This plan of action must:

- o Recognize the high levels of violence faced by Aboriginal women because they are Aboriginal women.
- o Ensure effective, unbiased police response through appropriate training, resources and coordination.
- o Improve public awareness and accountability through the consistent collection and publication of comprehensive national statistics on violent crime against Aboriginal women.
- o Reduce the risk to Aboriginal women by closing the economic and social gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada.

SHAME ON CANADA: U.N. TO PROBE MISSING AND MURDERED NATIVE WOMEN

A United Nations committee has initiated an inquiry procedure into the alarming number of missing and murdered Native women across Canada, human rights groups are hoping that an on-the- ground investigation by the international body will finally help stem systematic violence against Native women.

Status of Women Minister Rona Ambrose says a United Nations committee has written to the Canadian government about the issue of murdered and missing aboriginal women, but denied reports that the committee has begun an official investigation.

"At this stage we've received a letter from the committee at the United Nations and we're responding to that," Ambrose said. "I understand from Foreign Affairs that two civil society groups have made a request to a United Nations committee, the committee is looking into it and they'll be discussing it in February "We're hoping that by having this inquiry, it will come up with some positive initiatives, like support services for the families who have lost a relative, a daughter or a sister," explained Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, the president of the Native Women's Association of Canada "We're hoping that this violence will stop, that the police will be more aware and that the perpetrators will realise that they can't continue (to target Native women) because they won't be able to get away with it," she said. o



ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION REPORT

Jacquie Gudmundsen, District 15 Foundation Ambassador

Have you ever imagined your life completely destroyed in a matter of moments? That is what happens to a woman who has acid thrown at her face because she has “displeased” some man in her life. Perhaps she refused unwanted sexual advances from her boss. Perhaps she turned down a marriage proposal. Perhaps she bested a man in a business deal. It doesn’t really matter what she did, she angered someone who can punish her for life by destroying her looks and leaving her permanently marked for life. And the person who does this? He is rarely brought to justice.

Or, are you afraid to go out to school, or work, or to shop because you could be accosted and abused just because you are a woman? That is what happens to far too many women and girls in San Salvador and Guatemala City. It is unsafe for them to go about their normal business.

Zonta International Foundation Fights for Justice for Women

These are just two scenarios of the radical injustice that face women in other parts of the world. And these are injustices that the Zonta International Foundation (ZIF) is committed to eliminate with our ZISVAW (Zonta International Strategies to Eliminate Violence Against Women) and International Service projects.

Our International Board Liaison, Vice President Maria Jose Ostergaard visited our Foundation supported Safe Cities for Women project in San Salvador and Guatemala City this January. Working with the UN Women organization, she was there to assess the status of this international service project. She posted daily on Facebook and will have a longer report for us soon. Watch the international website and the monthly E-Newsletter from Zonta International.

You can also find updates on our Comprehensive Strategy to End Burns Violence in Cambodia, Nepal, and Uganda on the website. Read all the updates on our international service projects so that you can tell others what you are supporting as a Zontian. Often, it is our service, both local and international, that attracts potential members.

Update on District Goals

We are three quarters through the 2010-2012 biennium and 38 clubs have made contributions to the ZIF, including three of the four clubs that have disbanded.. At the 2011 Fall Conference in Dearborn, three other clubs that had not contributed to the Foundation as yet indicated that this was an oversight and that they planned to contribute. One club had contributed but its contribution was credited to a different club, so we were able to correct that. We look forward to the additional contributions to reach our goal of having 100% of District 15 clubs contribute to the Foundation.

As of December 31, 2011, District 15 has contributed \$62,291.10 to the Foundation. That includes \$7, 512.65 from 69 individuals — many of whom have donated more than once. Our District membership is 933 so 7.3% of our members have made individual contributions to the Foundation so far this biennium. Our goal is to have 10% of our members make an individual contribution in addition to the contributions of time, talent, and treasure they make through their club’s donations. Thank you to all! Let’s make District 15 a leader in supporting our international programs and projects.

Continued next page...



ZI Foundation report (continued)

Remember, making an individual contribution allows you to select a particular fund that you would like to personally support. You can make this donation to honor someone living, or to memorialize someone who has died. This is a very special way to acknowledge Zontians who have made an impact on your life. You can make your donation online, or simply send a check to Zonta International Foundation at ZI Headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois. (1211 W. 22nd street, Oak Brook, IL 60523). Mark what fund your donation is for and whom, if anyone, it either honors or memorializes.

2010-2012 Foundation Program and Projects

These are the international programs and projects that we support to advance the status of women worldwide.

- ∅ Amelia Earhart Fellowships for women graduate students in the aero-space sciences
- ∅ Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships for women studying business on the undergraduate and masters level
- ∅ Young Women in Public Affairs Awards for a secondary school-aged women for their contribution to their community in service and public affairs
- ∅ International Service Projects: this biennium we are working to:
 - ∅ Prevent transmission of HIV/Aids between mothers and children in Rwanda
 - ∅ Eliminate obstetric fistula and reduce maternal and infant death in Liberia
 - ∅ Create safe cities for women and girls in El Salvador and Guatemala
- ∅ Zisvaw Projects (Zonta International Strategies to Eliminate Violence Against Women):
 - ∅ Development of a comprehensive strategy to eliminate burns violence against women in Cambodia, Nepal, and Uganda
 - ∅ Fair and Equal Recovery relief for women in Haiti
- ∅ Rose fund --the unrestricted funds that help assure that Zonta makes its commitments to the amount promised in our education programs and what we contracted for when we selected the projects and United Nations organizations that we will work with to achieve the project goals. ∅

“ YOU CANNOT HOPE TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD WITHOUT IMPROVING THE INDIVIDUALS. TO THAT END, EACH OF US MUST WORK FOR OUR OWN IMPROVEMENT AND, AT THE SAME TIME, SHARE A GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL HUMANITY. OUR PARTICULAR DUTY BEING TO AID THOSE TO WHOM WE THINK WE CAN BE MOST USEFUL. ”

~ *Madam Curie, scientist*



Service Committee Report

Bonnie McArthur

Rose Day March 8: Remember Rose Day is March 8. Has your Club planned a Rose Day Project to celebrate International Women's Day? What a better time to focus on Zonta's mission of advancing the status of women.

Consider one of the projects on our District website www.zonta15.org (Member Resources). Or look into helping the S.O.A.P. project to combat Human Trafficking at major sporting events like the Detroit Auto Show, Superbowl and PGA Tournaments. Governor Denise sent an email to all club Presidents recently –ask about it.

Questions about the projects on the website Contact District Service Project Coordinator: Darcie Clapp, Zonta Club of Grand Rapids dclapp@walshenv.com

Young Women in Public Affairs Award: The goal of the Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Program is to encourage more young women to participate in public affairs by recognizing a commitment to the volunteer sector, evidence of volunteer leadership achievements and a dedication to the advancement of the status of women.

In order for more women to be represented in key decision making positions worldwide, we must encourage young women to pursue careers, or seek leadership positions in public policy making, government and volunteer organizations and further their education with these aims in view. Public Affairs refers to all aspects of community life where decisions have to be made about issues which relate to and affect communities in which they work and live.

Last year our District had 9 YWPA applications submitted for this \$1,000 District award, an increase over 2010. We are hopeful that there will be even more applicants this year.

Materials and applications are available at www.zonta.org (see Member Resources/Tools/Awards, Scholarship and Fellowship Tools.) **YWPA applications are due to Governor Denise Quarles by April 1, 2012.**

Questions? Contact YWPA Coordinator: Penny Boldrey, Zonta Club of Alpena, boldreyp@alpenacc.edu

Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship: The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship program operates at the club, district and international levels of Zonta International. Some clubs have a competition at club level while other clubs just send a worthy nominee in to the district committee. Applicants must be nominated by a local Zonta club and then applications are sent to the District JMK Coordinator, by July 1. Applications for the 2012 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship are available on the Zonta International website at www.zonta.org. More information about how a club can facilitate an application and where to send it will be available in the next District newsletter.

Questions? Contact current JMK Coordinator: Gayle Manley, Zonta Club of Sault St. Marie, gmanley@shaw.ca

Z & Golden Z Clubs – Remember to consider sponsoring a Z or Golden Z Club at your local high school or university. Information is available at www.zonta.org or from our District coordinator Julia Miller.

Questions? Contact Z & Golden Z Coordinator: Julia Miller, Zonta Club of Lansing, jrmiller@msu.edu

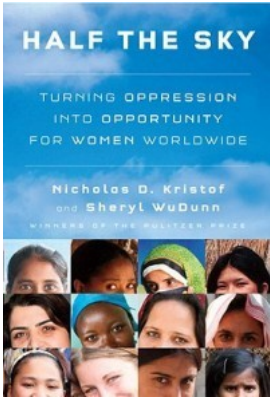
Reminder: Our Zonta purpose is to **enhance the Status of Women worldwide**. Please be sure you consider that when planning local service to be sure your club's projects are aligned with our overriding goal. One third of Service monies raised should be targeted for International Service projects while two thirds stay in the local community. Let's all keep these ideas in mind as we work hard to touch lives with our service.

Questions? Contact District Service Chair: Bonnie McArthur, Zonta Club of Pontiac N. Oakland, bonsmca@comcast.net @



For Your Attention

- o Membership is only official after dues payment is made to Zonta International (ZI) headquarters and the District Treasurer along with a completed Member Form containing the name and contact information of newly inducted members. The form which is available on the ZI website under Member Resources, should be completed by the Club Membership Committee.
- o To ensure members receive all member communication from ZI and the District, when a member's contact information changes it is very important that this information is provided by the club Membership Committee to Zonta International and the District OMC (Organization, Membership, Classification) Committee Chair Karen Armaly via the Member Form. Members need to notify District Webmaster Joanne Lose who manages the District mass email member contact listings and update their profile in the Member Directory of the ZI website for the benefit of other members who may wish to contact them.
- o A club's web page is its public face. Clubs should send timely updated information to District Webmaster Joanne Lose such as new club board member names.
- o To avoid confusion and to ensure the appropriate person handles matters, the appropriate line of communication is member-Club President-Area Director-District Governor-ZI Liaison for District 15-ZI President. o



Half The Sky
By Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

District 15 Book C
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This book is a must read for anyone who wants a comprehensive review of violence against women and girls throughout the world. Authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn not only provide important statistical data but they enhance the readers understanding by sharing information about specific heart wrenching cases of violence against women and young girls throughout the world. Whether describing human trafficking, acid burning, beating, stoning, rape or other violence, the authors provide valuable information about how the lack of equality for women drives the acceptance of victimization of women during war, for cultural practices and for economic benefit.

The authors make a clear and compelling call for equal treatment for girls and women in education and economic status. Their message is also hopeful for addressing violence as they describe the wonderful work of organizations as well as individuals whom they call social entrepreneurs. There are many examples given of heartwarming cases of male and female social entrepreneurs whose bravery and commitment in very difficult circumstances have saved countless lives and substantially improved the lives of women and young girls. As importantly, the authors give a clear challenge for anyone to do their part to combat the crux of the problem—the oppression and lack of equality suffered by millions of girls and women throughout the world.

“ It is impossible to realize our goals while discriminating against half the human race. As study after study has taught us, there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.”

Kofi Annan, Then UN Secretary General, 2006

2012 District Calendar

3/1/12	Register Delegates & alternates for ZI Convention	Clubs/Members
3/8/12	International Women’s Day & Yellow Rose Day	Clubs/Members
4/1/12	Contributions due to ZI Foundation & YWPA applications due to District Governor	Clubs/Members
4/28/12	Area 4 Spring Workshop / Midland	Clubs/Members
4/29/12	Area 3 Spring Workshop / Milford	Clubs/Members
5/1/12	Officer Report form due to ZI, District Governor, Area Directors	Club Presidents
5/5/12	Area 2 Spring Workshop / Grand Rapids	Clubs/Members
5/6/12	Area 1 Spring Workshop / Alpena	Clubs/Members