



Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley

Member of Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015

Important Dates for your Calendar

November 25 - December 10 Zonta says No Campaign / 16 Days of Activism

December 14th Holiday Dinner Meeting *
Short meeting followed by entertainment. Bring an unwrapped toy for the Women's Shelter and invite a guest to enjoy this casual evening.

December 15th Area 2 Holiday Dinner
Storowton Tavern, West Springfield

January 11th Dinner Meeting *
Amelia Earhart Month

February 8th Dinner Meeting *
Hands on project—see page 3
International Project Updates

March 14 Dinner Meeting *
Advocacy

April 11 Dinner Meeting *
Elections

May 9 Silent "No More!" Auction

June 13 Dinner Meeting *
Year End Report, YWPA Award



July 3—6 ZI Convention
Nice, France
Registration is open!

* Call Lisa at 335-7722 or email her at ldsedelow@gmail.com with guest count and any regrets by the prior Wednesday.



Greetings Sister Zontians,

December is upon us and for many it is the busiest time of the year. Celebrating the holidays with family and friends can be both stressful and rewarding. Some of us have new additions to the family, making this special time even more exciting; others have lost loved ones or are dealing with family illness, making this a time of reflection and changed traditions. Regardless of your circumstances, I encourage you to count your many blessings - open your heart, mind and soul to goodness, gratitude and light. Be proud of your ability to share your time, talent and treasures not only with friends and family, but also with women and children locally and globally who benefit from your generosity.



I recently received a request from Dana A. Brendecke-Carrier, bCRE, Development Manager for Zonta International & Zonta International Foundation asking for our 'success formula'. Cheryl Dorfman nominated us to part of a pilot program because "... as a former Foundation Ambassador and now ZIF Development Committee member, I have been continually impressed by the fact that a small to medium size like yours is able to raise a substantial amount yearly through your fund raising efforts and is most generous in your contributions to the Foundation, exceeding the amounts often given by larger clubs." I am not sure how we will proceed with the request, but the 'ask' is certainly something to be proud of!

The Board has asked Pam and Tina to handle Nomination Committee honors this year, with the goal of presenting a slate of officers for 2016 - 2018 at our March meeting. Pam has been elected to the District 1 Treasurer position and Tina will be moving out of the area next spring - so neither can be a candidate for office. I invite all the rest of you to consider serving as an officer, on the board, or be a committee chair. Our club is small at this time, so we all need to take on a leadership role as we rebuild our ranks. Job descriptions for these positions are outlined on page five (5) of this newsletter. Thanks for stepping up!

On a recent afternoon at Solider On, one of the veterans shared how truly grateful the women are for our friendship and generosity. She shared that "the time that we take out of our busy lives to spend with them" is what makes the biggest difference to them. This heartfelt thank you reminded me of how fortunate I am to be a part of our club and how special and unique we all are. It is truly an honor serving as your President.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday season.
Peace,
Lisa Sedelow

SOLDIER ON

Soldier On – Women’s Veterans Program at the Northampton Veterans Administration Leeds, MA

November Pie Baking! We had a wonderful event on November 21st with baking pies. We had women coming and going through the afternoon. They rolled out pie dough and we baked 7 pies, 2 pumpkin, 2 Banana Cream, 2 Apple & 1 Chocolate Cream. Tina provided the ingredients and expertise; Mary & Lisa brought snacks and drinks for this event. We also took the opportunity to take pictures with our Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women banner in front of the cottage. They are still hopeful to be moving into their new home in the next couple of weeks.



December On Thursday, December 10 Marge and Debbie will be taking the ladies to Look Park to view the light display. After, we will return to the cottages for hot chocolate and cookies and to present the stockings and quilts to the women. The stockings will be filled with shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, make up bags and candy canes. Please let Debbie know if you plan to join this event. The move in-date to the new residence is not yet finalized. Purchase of the furnishings for the yoga/exercise room has not been confirmed but Stephanie will keep us informed.

The ladies have also been invited to our Holiday meeting on December 14th—ready for singing and dancing!

January We have invited the women to help us create yarn doll kits for children visiting their Mothers at the Women’s Correctional Facility in Chicopee. Mary Knight will organize and send details out by email.

Ideas for the next several months? Tina has the event calendar.

*“Good things
happen every day.
We only have to
notice.”
Anne Wilson
Schaefer*

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley District I, Area II, Charter 1317 of Zonta International 2015—2016

President: Lisa Sedelow
Vice President: Tina Guniasso
Treasurer: Pam Albertson
Secretary: Debra Wood
Directors: Ann Cormier
 Joanne Turner-Chiacchia
 Elizabeth Reeves

Website: www.zontaqv.org

Committee Chairs 2015—2016

Finance & Audit Chair: Pam Albertson
Membership Chair: Tina Guniasso
PR /Communication Chair: Mary Knight
United Nations Chair: BJ Bourdon
Advocacy Chair: Tina Guinasso
Service Chair: Debra Wood
Scholarships Chair: Dana Burton
Poinsettia Fundraiser Chair: Liz Reeves
Golf Fundraiser Chair: Debra Wood
Auction Fundraiser Chair: Patricia Pupek
Archives Chair: Marge Cavanaugh
Nominating: Pam Albertson, Tina Guniasso

November 9, 2015 Zonta of Quaboag Valley Dinner Meeting



YWCA's Mary Reardon Johnson—chosen by the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley to receive its 2015 Founders Day award—was honored with a reception and dinner on Monday, November 9, 2015 at Ludlow Country Club.

Mary was born and raised in the Greater Springfield Area. She holds her Masters in Social Work with a concentration in Administration and has worked in Human Services for over 40 years. Since 1983, Mary has served as the Executive Director of the YWCA of Western Massachusetts. **She recently announced that she will retire in January.** Under her leadership, the YWCA has gone from a negative fund balance to its current position of over \$16M in assets. The YWCA has evolved as a statewide leader in the provision of responsive and responsible programs meeting the critical needs of women and girls. They are the state's largest provider of both Domestic Violence Services and Services to Pregnant and Parenting Teens. Mary boasts the diverse YWCA staff of more than 125 employees and the quality of services the YWCA provides. She maintains that Not for Profit is a tax status and not the way to run an organization

with an operating budget exceeding \$6M annually. Currently operating at locations in Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton and Westfield, the YWCA is the region's largest and oldest women's organization.

Mary has served on many statewide and several national committees and task forces. Most recently, she served on the Baker/Polito Transition Team and was appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Homelessness. Mary has received numerous commendations and awards – among them the Pynchon Award for outstanding community service.

Many thanks to Dianne Kidd and her committee for a job well done!

Womanhood Program Graduation

Regina Sanderson, Probation Officer in the Eastern Hampshire District Court, told us about this worthwhile program and she did not exaggerate! The 11 graduates of the 10 week program were very clear about the benefits derived from the practical sessions conducted by volunteer professionals (including our own Loretta Dansereau) and the camaraderie formed as they learned from and helped support one another. The graduation ceremony was attended by over 75 people, including 6 Zontians.

Our club was recognized for its contributions—including the funds to pay for the Alex and Ani Path of Life bracelets (symbolic of the accomplishments of these 11 women), as well as the Women History Books and private donations.

Service Committee

The Service Committee is recommending a donation of \$200 to the Top Floor Learning Program at the Palmer Public Library. The funds are used to provide services such as basic reading, writing and math skills, GED preparation, English language instruction, citizenship preparation, tutoring and basic computer skills. We will vote on this proposal at the December meeting.

A thank you note was received from Regina Sanderson who is in charge of the WomanHood program.

Submitted by Debbie Wood
Chair, Service Committee



Membership

Membership met in November and began discussing many ways that we could increase our numbers. One such idea is a hands-on event where we would fill new or gently used pocketbooks / backpacks / totebags with toiletries, snacks, and other personal items, along with notes of encouragement. These would be put together at our February 8th meeting and then handed out to shelters for women in need. This will take some doing, so please start NOW to pass the word to relatives, friends,

neighbors, co-workers, and organizations who would get behind this effort.* Also, we think this will be a great night to showcase the types of projects that Zonta accomplishes locally and create an interest, so make a list of people we could invite who would be interested in a more hands-on approach.

* Looking for donations of gently used bags, and items such as brushes, tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, loofas, body wash, wash cloths, make-up bags with eye shadow and lipstick, deodorant, cotton balls, q-tips, body spray, magazines, etc.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10



November 25th started our Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women/16 days of Activism. Please



keep an eye out for our facebook campaign on the club's page. We are currently being seen by 100 - 300 people on each post! You can share the posts for each day and you can change your Facebook profile picture to have orange in it. Thank you to all who helped with the pictures and sharing on Facebook! (<https://www.facebook.com/ZontaQuaboagValley/> and www.zonasaysno.com)

If you have any questions or any ideas on what else we can do for this campaign I would love to hear from you (tinaguinasso@gmail.com).

Specific Dates of Advocacy during the campaign:

November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

December 1: World Aids Day

This is a day for the world to come together in the fight against aids which is a plague to global health. Globally it is estimated that 34 million people have HIV and over 35 million people have died from it.

December 2: International Day of the Abolition of Slavery/Suppression of the Traffic in Persons

This day was created to focus on eliminating modern forms of slavery like human trafficking, sexual exploitation, child labor, early/forced marriage and more.

December 10: International Human Rights Day

This year's slogan is Human Rights 365 to reinforce that every day is Human Rights Day.

ZONTA SAYS NO

When you are wearing something orange during this 16 day period and someone asks "What is Zonta?" Here is a good answer:

Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

The color orange is used to symbolize a brighter future without violence. We envision a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.

”Job Descriptions” - Elected Positions

President (currently Lisa Sedelow) - The president presides at all meetings of the club and of the club board; she is the chief executive officer of the club and signs all payment orders and checks in the absence of the treasurer. Subject to approval by the board, the president shall appoint the chairmen of all standing committees and other committees except the Nominating Committee and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Vice President (currently Tina Guniasso) - In the absence of the president, the vice president performs the duties of president. The vice president serves as Chairman of the Membership Committee and may be assigned other duties by the club board.

Secretary (currently Debbie Wood) - The secretary keeps a record of the proceedings of the meetings of the club and of the board, conducts correspondence not specifically assigned to other officers or committees, and performs other duties as assigned by the board.

Treasurer (currently Pam Albertson) - The treasurer is responsible for the funds of the club. The treasurer shall disburse these funds by check or other commonly used means of payment, as directed in accordance with the approved budget. The treasurer shall make monthly reports to the board and the club. The treasurer chairs the Finance and Audit Committee—preparing an annual budget and submitting it to the board before consideration by the club; regularly analyzing and reporting to the Board and Club on project goals; working with the board in providing for an annual audit in line with the Bylaws; reporting at the Annual Meeting.

Directors (currently Ann Cormier, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Elizabeth Reeves) - The Directors can include any member in good standing and are elected by members of the club to work with Club Officers to direct the affairs of the club. The directors contribute ideas, volunteer help supporting the officers, and performs other duties as assigned by the board. .

Nominating Committee (currently Pam Albertson and Tina Guniasso) - The Nominating Committee nominates one (1) or more members for each office or directorship to be filled at the election, and nominates at least three (3) members for the next term's Nominating Committee. No name shall be presented unless the nominee has consented to serve if elected.

”Job Descriptions” - Standing Committees

Membership Committee (current chair Tina Guniasso) - This committee is vital for the future of the club and for the growth of Zonta International. Duties include defining short and long-term goals in keeping with the current recommendations; developing a plan for retaining current members and recruiting new members; encouraging every member to identify and invite like-minded women to meetings and events; identifying and training a mentor for each new member; and evaluating progress toward goals periodically during the year.

Service Committee (current chair Debbie Wood) - This committee recommends action by the club that aligns with Zonta International goals. Duties include promoting local service projects that improve women's legal rights, health, education, economic status, that end violence against women and enhance women's self-esteem; and coordinating programs of ZI and the club to raise awareness of status of women's issues, provide education/development to women and to publicize and raise funds for local and international projects. In addition, the committee may consider offering financial or advocacy support that align with the objects of Zonta, and keeping members informed of the accomplishments of women and the activities of local women's organizations.

Advocacy Committee (current chair Tina Guniasso) - This committee supports improving the status of women and women's human rights, and advocates to influence the laws and attitudes that affect women's lives at the club, district and international levels. Responsibilities include engaging actively in advocacy activities to improve the lives of women locally; developing resources for members to be effective advocates in their communities; reporting on successful advocacy outcomes by other clubs; promoting service projects through linking of outcomes to inform about the status of women; and work in cooperation with other organizations to educate people about legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional issues which affect the lives of women and girls in their community.

Note: Other committees in our club: Public Relations / Communications Committee, Archives Committee, United Nations Committee, Scholarships Committee, and Fundraising Committees for Golf Tournament, Poinsettia sales and Silent Auction.