



# Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley

## Member of Zonta International

*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*

ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015

### Important Dates for your Calendar

**November 8th Zonta International Day**

**November 9th Dinner Meeting \*  
Founders Day Award**

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

**December 14th Dinner Meeting \***  
Club Holiday meeting with entertainment  
and Toy Collection for Women's Shelter  
(No MarketPlace this year)

**January 11th Dinner Meeting \*  
Amelia Earhart Month**

**February 8th Dinner Meeting \*  
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.

**Collecting Toiletries** (Debbie) for local  
Cupboard and **Magazines** (Marge) for hos-  
pital waiting rooms.

### Greetings Sister Zontians,

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley has been successful in many ways. This year has built upon the stunning success of the past several years and the commitment of members to participate in working the activities. I would like to highlight one of our clubs significant accomplishments: The Soldier On Project.



Our workshops and activities with the Women Veterans are enriching to all and truly appreciated by these ladies. The variety of activities has been outstanding, ranging from our most recent horseback riding trip in September to the Greenhouse tour in October. The group enjoyed the relaxing greenhouse atmosphere, conversation, refreshments and live plants to bring home to their newly built residence in Leeds, MA. Please join us for our next Soldier On activity on Saturday November 21 in Leeds for a pie making workshop. Please also keep the creative ideas coming so we can plan a fun and interesting year of activities with our Veteran friends. This is a wonderful way to reach a high point in service as well as fundraising.

We are a small but impressive club. My goal is to have us become even stronger and larger. This is a goal shared with Zonta International. Please help us spread the word about the difference we are making locally and globally; invite a friend or two to our November Founders Day meeting and December Holiday Celebration. Share that are meetings are interesting, the dinners delicious, and the fellowship could not be more welcoming.

Thank you for your commitment to Zonta!

Lisa Sedelow  
Ldsedelow@gmail.com 413-335-7722



**Are you proud to be a Zontian?  
Spread the Word!**

## Mary Reardon Johnson honored with Founder’s Day Award



YWCA’s Mary Reardon Johnson has been chosen by the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley to receive its 2015 Founders Day award. She will be 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.

**The Founders Day award is given annually** to a woman in the greater Quaboag area who exemplifies the ideals of Zonta International, a global organization of professionals working together to advance the status of women and girls worldwide through service and advocacy. Past recipients of the Founder’s Day award include Kathy Picard, Yoko Kato, The Honorable State Representative Anne Gobi, Bonny Rathbone, Nancy Fletcher, Gertrude (Trudy) Canterbury, Kathleen Conley Norbut, Janice Marciniac, Mary Ann Rigali, Tess Pelissier and Janice Kuceszcz.

*"Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead." - Louisa May Alcott*

### 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](http://www.zontaqv.org)

### Committee Chairs 2015—2016

**Finance & Audit Chair:** Pamela 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:** Dianne Kidd  
**Archives Chair:** Marge Cavanaugh  
**Nominating:** Dana Burton, Mary Knight

## October 12, 2015 Zonta of Quaboag Valley Dinner Meeting

### Ludlow Country Club

**Present:** Pam Albertson, BJ Bourdon, Dana Burton, Ann Cormier, Janet DaSilva, Tina Guinasso, Dianne Kidd, Mary Knight, Trish Pupek, Liz Reeves, Mary Ann Rubis, Lisa Sedelow, Debbie Wood  
**Absent:** Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Marge Cavanaugh, Kris Gould  
**Guests:** Maria Maloney, Deliris Trabal, Regina Sanderson, Teresa Case, Melissa Weyant and Loretta Dansereau

### Meeting Called to Order: 6:10 P.M. by President Lisa Sedelow

**Introduction of Regina Sanderson:** Regina explained that she has been a Probation Officer for 29.5 years in the Eastern Hampshire District Court. She provided some information regarding the Womanhood Program which she introduced this past spring. There are currently 11 members attending the second session of the 10 week program. She provided an outline of topics covered at each session which includes many professionals who offer their advice. Regina explained that the program strives to bring women some of whom are involved with the Probation Department together to learn and help support one another. She explained the culmination of the program involves a graduation ceremony which can include as many as 75 people. Besides refreshments and certificates which are offered to the graduates and guests they would like to offer the Alex and Ani Path of Life bracelets to each of the 11 women. Funding in the past has been from private and limited sources. They would appreciate our financial support. Regina also mentioned that we are all invited to the November 17th graduation at the courthouse in Belchertown which starts at 2 P.M.

**Guest Speaker Phyllis Grondalski:** Due to illness Phyllis could not attend this evening. In her place Mary Knight delivered the information Phyllis intended to share in person. She explained that the Mother-Child Visitation Program at the Hampden County Correctional Center at one point in Ludlow and now in Chicopee began back in 1991 and continues every Saturday. Caregivers of the children (currently age 7 weeks to 8 years) bring the children for visits with their mothers at the jail's visitation area. The rooms offer games, books, toys and a kitchen set and areas for coloring and talking with the children. Phyllis has witnessed many tearful separations both from the caregivers and the mothers who have to say good bye to their children. Many holidays are celebrated during these sessions. Phyllis has found her work as the longest serving volunteer for Mother-Child Visitation Program at the Western Mass Regional Correctional Center very rewarding. She expresses her regret that she could not attend this evening and appreciates our interest in her program.

**Minutes of the September 15th meeting:** Approved as published in the newsletter

**Treasurer's Report:** Pam informed us that we currently have \$12,423 in available service funds. \$1876 will be presented at District

Fall Conference as our annual 1/3 donation from our club. Pam also announced that the Golf Tournament earned an even \$4,000 thanks to 2 additional donations. Mary read a note from the donor of an additional \$100 who could not play in the tournament but wanted to provide his support.

### Service Committee:

1.) Debbie presented a summary of some of the items that were being requested to furnish the new Soldier On residence for the female veterans. Although there is a need for household items a motion was made and seconded that our club concentrate our support on furnishing the yoga/exercise room. The motion was approved as well as a second motion to donate \$1,500 to dedicate the room for the new residence. The time frame for completion and opening of the residence have yet to be determined. Debbie will inquire about the date for the women to move in and when there might be a dedication and opportunity for us to see the furnished yoga/exercise room.  
 2.) Since it was not appropriate to vote on a donation to the Womanhood Program while Regina was present at the dinner meeting an E Mail vote was taken. 14 members responded in favor of \$500 to be provided to the program for materials and graduation.

**Poinsettia Committee:** Order forms will be going out soon and Liz will bring a list of some of the businesses for follow up to the next meeting.

**District Fall Conference:** Lisa reiterated that we would be selling T-Shirts in the Zonta Store. We are collecting items for a "Date Night" themed basket that will be part of the Silent Auction for donation to the Zonta International Foundation. Some members of our club are assisting with credentialing as well.

**Founder's Day:** Mary Reardon will be our honoree and Dianne will introduce her. Dianne and BJ will work on obtaining a list of guests that Mary would want to invite. Ann will help with the invitations and programs. RSVP's will be to Lisa. It will be a sit down dinner with a similar menu as last year. The charge will be \$25.00 which will help with the cost of the meal and any other associated expenses. Lisa has offered to help with floral centerpieces.

**December 14th Meeting:** It was determined that the marketplace would not be held this year and instead we would have a holiday celebration. Dianne suggested that we might want to consider inviting Debra Deschamps who is now part of a trio to provide the entertainment. Although she has donated her services in the past it was raised that the group would appreciate a fee of \$200. After a brief discussion a motion was made,

## Committee Activities

### Poinsettia Fundraiser



The order forms have been sent out! I will bring the list of all of the recipients of the order forms and members can pick people to contact. We can start calling right away. I will also be looking for people to do deliveries and also to help with getting the orders ready. We are also going to advertise on Facebook to see if we can get some sales that way. The order form is on our website. [Zontaqv.org](http://Zontaqv.org)  
Thanks so much for all of your efforts! Poinsettia Chair Liz Reeves

### Soldier On Women

**October** Liz Reeves hosted the women of Soldier On at R&C Floral on Saturday. The women roamed the greenhouses and each found a plant to decorate their home. After, we had cider, goodies and lots of laughs watching the little greenhouse kitty, Stanley, ham it up!

**November** Pie Baking! Tina Guniasso will bring ingredients and expertise. JoAnne and Lisa will assist—more welcome! Tina will send details in an email.

**December** The ladies will be invited to our Holiday meeting. In the past, they have enjoyed going with us to Look Park to see Santa's Trains and the holiday light displays, then sharing hot chocolate and desserts back at the houses. If any of you is interested in organizing this trip, please notify Tina and Stephanie [sesdale@wesoldieron.org](mailto:sesdale@wesoldieron.org)

**January** We would like to invite 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.



### *October 12, 2015 dinner meeting minutes continued*

seconded and approved to allocate the \$200 from our program funds. Dianne will invite Debra to the December meeting. We invite members to bring unwrapped toys to the meeting. The Soldier On Women will be invited as well.

**UN Report:** BJ provided some information concerning: 1.) monitoring of gender equality 2.) the Commission on the Status of Women that convenes March 14-24th with a theme of Women's Empowerment 3.) Girls Not Brides program.

**Soldier On:** Ann reported that the women had a good time horseback riding and being around the Wooden Horse Farm last month. On October 31st at 10 A.M. Liz has invited the women to the R & C Greenhouse to learn plant care and prepare and pot some plants. She does not know the # yet but will keep us informed. Tina is planning a pie making event for November 21st but is waiting to see if the date is convenient for the women. For December a visit to Look Park to see the light display will be planned in addition to inviting the women to our December 14th holiday party.

### **Announcements:**

Trish mentioned some booklets of coupons to be used for Bonton Community Days November 11-14th which can be purchased for \$5.00 to benefit the AFSP. Mary Knight informed us that over 2,000 diapers were collected for COSA. She is collecting good condition shoes to be given to the Tailored for Success Shoe Drive, a nonprofit run by a Zontian in the Malden Club. Mary Ann told us that Mary Kathryn Kraver expressed her gratitude for our purchase of her books which she signed and will be provided to the Links to Libraries program for distribution to local libraries. Debbie continues to collect toiletries for the Helping Hands Cupboard and Marge is collecting magazines for Wing Hospital.

Raffle Winners: Teresa Case (guest), Liz Reeves and Mary Knight

Meeting adjourned: 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by Debbie Wood, Secretary

## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10



As most of you know the Zonta says No Campaign/ 16 Days of Activism is fast approaching, **November 25 - December 10**. The Zonta International vision is for a world where no woman or girl lives in fear of violence.

We as a club have a couple things in the works.

Marge would like to do something very visual with the **Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force** and is looking for some ideas. If any of you have any suggestions **please contact either Marge or Tina**.



Also, we would like to do a **Facebook Campaign** for this. We will be taking pictures with a Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women banner and post them on each day of the event. If we could get at least **16 pictures** that would be great and I think the more the merrier as we could do collages with them. Also, I think that it would be powerful if we can have men who support ending violence against women to take pictures with us. We can do this at upcoming events before/after or if you would like I can meet up with you to take a picture with the banner. The Zonta Says No website has some great picture examples: [zontasaysno.com/zontiansinaction/](http://zontasaysno.com/zontiansinaction/)

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](mailto:tinaguinasso@gmail.com)).

### Specific Dates of Advocacy during the campaign:

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

This is incorporated into our Zonta says No Campaign and the UN's theme this year is "**Orange the World**". So please remember to wear orange and support women everywhere. We are encouraged to put orange on our social media pages and spread the word.

#### **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.

## 2015 Zonta District 1 Official Fall Conference October 23—25, Burlington VT



District 1 Fall Conference was a weekend filled with renewing friendships, Zontians dancing to West African bongo drums, learning, and leaving with new ideas and inspiration to carry us into another Zonta year.

Our keynote speaker was Dr Adrie Kusserow who spoke about education for refugee girls in South Sudan. She helped co-found AFRICA ELI, a South Sudanese and American nonprofit that supports girls education in South Sudan. Part of the Africa Eli mission statement reads, "Educated women will lead in developing a peaceful, civil society offering equal opportunities for all its citizens". Dr Kusserow's story began with her meeting the "Lost Boys" of Sudan who resettled in Bur-

lington, Vermont and progressed to building a girls school in Yei, South Sudan with a grant from the World Bank. It was an amazing story.

Population Media Center: Acting for Change - this was the topic for our speaker on Sunday. I'll confess that I had no idea what this was about, but came away duly impressed! PMC uses entertainment – education or serial dramas to get the message out about topics such as domestic violence, reproductive health, AIDS and women's rights. These dramas are on radio and TV with a goal to promote behavior change. ([www.populationmedia.org](http://www.populationmedia.org))

### Other Highlights of the Conference

- Skype with International President Maria Jose Landeria Oestergaard
- Pleased to meet Bridget Masters, ZI Treasurer/Secretary and District 1 Liaison and listed to her message from Zonta International.
- Zontians check out - [www.advocacy.zontadistrict1.org](http://www.advocacy.zontadistrict1.org)
- Our District 1 conference raised \$5,879 for Zonta International Foundation! Currently the Rose Fund is at 400% of its goal. Therefore, it is recommended that donations be made to Amelia Earhart, ZISVAW, Jane Klausman or International Service.
- Congratulations to the newly elected officers of District 1 for the biennium 2016-2018. Joanne Puopolo, Governor; Elizabeth Hart, Lt. Governor; Pam Albertson, Treasurer; Christine Hunt, Area2 Director; Nominating Committee Kathryn Patterson, Sharon Leavitt and Donna Raycraft. **Special congratulations to Pam!**
- A template for Club Bylaws is available on the ZI website, just fill in the blanks!
- Conviction – Commitment – Courage
- Every Member Every November – ZIF is asking all Zontians to make an individual donation to the Foundation in November when Zonta will be celebrating its 96<sup>th</sup> birthday!
- Kudos to the Burlington Club for the outstanding entertainment on Saturday evening! UVM Jazzbaa, Jeh Kulu Dance and Drum Theater and Feenan and McKenzie

There were nine members of our Quaboag Valley Club who attended the Conference. These Conferences provide a great opportunity for learning, re-energizing and for fun with sister Zontians! Let me know if you have any questions.

The next District Fall Conference will be in Nova Scotia Canada!

Joanne Turner Chiacchia  
Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley Delegate

