



Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley

Member of Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

Important Dates for your Calendar

February 8th Dinner Meeting *
Fill A Bag with Hope Project

March 8 International Women's Day

March 14 Dinner Meeting *
Advocacy and International Project Updates

April 11 Dinner Meeting *
Elections

April 16 Area 2 Workshop
Save the Date

May 2 Silent "No More!" Auction
First Monday of the month
SAVE THE DATE NOTICE TO GO OUT!

June 13 Dinner Meeting *
Year End Report, YWPA Award

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

* 5:30 Social and 6:00 Dinner.
Call Lisa at 335-7722 or email her at
ldsedelow@gmail.com with guest count
and any regrets by the prior Wednesday.

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

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



Greetings Sister Zontians,

We started out the second half of our Zontian year without skipping a beat. January's dinner meeting was not only productive but also a lot of fun, thanks to Dana's Amelia Earhart challenge game. Karen Fontaine's experience as a pilot may have given her team an edge!



Our friends from Soldier On worked with us to create 25 yarn dolls to donate to the Women and Children's program at the Chicopee Women's Correctional Center. We will have the dolls on display at our February meeting and hand them off to Phyl Grondolski for delivery.

And that brings me to all the work Zontians and community members have done to collect items for our Fill A Bag with Hope project! What an incredible outpouring of support we have seen—we have hundreds of bags! Many guests are expected to be at the February 8 event for dinner and/or to help us with this hands-on project. Please join me in making them feel welcomed and appreciated. We will set up the assembly line before eating and begin filling the pocketbooks about 6:30ish. We are working on plans for a smooth workflow.

At our March meeting we celebrate International Women's Day and identify an organization which will benefit at this year's Silent "no more" Auction. Please give it some thought and submit proposals. It is not too early to start collecting baskets, items, services and gift certificates for the May 2nd Auction. Also help us spread the Save the Date message—we need good attendance at this important event.

Finally, I am looking for your input on awarding a Zontian of the Biennium at the June meeting. If you support this, what criteria would you recommend? Email me your thoughts.

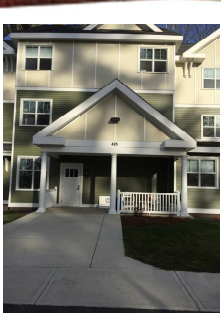
Thanks for all you do,
Lisa Sedelow

P.S. A thank you note was received from the **Helping Hands Cupboard Food Pantry in Belchertown**. It reads "I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your donation to the Helping Hands Cupboard. Your donation has allowed us to continue our mission of feeding the less fortunate in our community. Your generosity has made an immediate difference in the lives of the many families we serve."

Bob Stephens, Coordinator

SOLDIER ON

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



In January, 25 Yarn Dolls were made with love by the women of soldier on for the women in Chicopee Correctional center to decorate with their children on visiting day.

The ladies at Solider On moved into their new housing on December 15th. The space is filled with light and the design is practical and beautiful! Pictures above are of the building, the Activities room and the Fitness room (which we are furnishing). Open House will be in the spring, but the women are so proud to show off their new home whenever you can visit!!

February: Lisa is planning to take the women to Magic Wings. Details to come

March: Tentative plans for baking sugar cookies

April: Dana has offered acupunctre sessions

Ideas for May and June needed. Craft project, Game night, Manicures, Chocolate making? Tina has the event calendar.

Soldier On Women Veterans’ mission is preserving the dignity, independence and quality of life of women veterans and expanding transitional housing for female veterans who have found themselves homeless since leaving military service.

“When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.”

Helen Keller

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

January 11, 2016 Zonta of Quaboag Valley Dinner Meeting

Ludlow Country Club

Present: Pam Albertson, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Lisa Sedelow, Marge Cavanaugh, Mary Ann Rubis, Tina Guinasso, Kris Goold, Liz Reeves, Dana Burton, Debbie Wood, Dianne Kidd

Absent: Ann Cormier, Mary Knight, BJ Bourdon, Trish Puppek, Janet DaSilva

Guests: Kim Stege and Karen Fontaine

Introduction to Amelia Earhart: Dana read information about the life of Amelia Earhart prior to starting dinner.

Minutes of Dec. 14th meeting: They were reviewed as listed in the newsletter and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Pam shared the profits so far of \$1,835.75 from the Poinsettia Sale and the available funds of over \$7000 for service. She also explained and entertained questions concerning a possible **application for 5013C status** with the IRS. The initial one time fee would be \$400 and thereafter there would be a \$35 annual filing fee with the state. The advantages would be that all our donations and those we solicit would be tax deductible. She explained that donors would keep records for their purposes and we would only need to provide receipts for items over \$250. We would be able to advertise our status in any appeals for donations and acknowledge it in any thank you letters. A motion was made and approved to proceed with the application process.

Silent Auction Committee: Dianne reported on Trish's behalf (Trish is the Chairman) that the auction is scheduled for Monday, May 2nd. Dianne has already received some nice items from Mary Reardon and reminds members that any items we may want to donate are welcome any time. Holiday and baby items, event tickets, etc. are all welcome. Lisa is able to store the items and assist with the assembly of the baskets, etc.

February Fill A Bag Project: At the February 8th meeting we will be filling new and gently used pocket books with toiletries and other items which women residing in shelters might need. Lisa is working with the Ludlow Boys and Girls as a drop off location. The middle school age service club called the Torch Club is also assisting with the Bag of Hope Project. The Membership Committee will be meeting to review the contents so far collected to see what additional items we might need. We hope that we will all invite guests to make it a membership recruitment event.

Soldier On: Joanne, Mary and Marge reported that they enjoyed the tour of the new residence. The exercise room is not fully furnished but will be before the spring when the room and facility will be dedicated. We will be invited to the Open House in the spring. Lisa will pick up a bench in Palmer to deliver to the VA

which our club is purchasing for \$40 for the exercise room. For January there are plans to visit the residence and make yarn doll kits for the Mother/Child visitation program at the Women's Correctional program. Marge, Mary and Mary Ann have most of the materials and other members are bringing some snacks. On Saturday, February 27th there is a planned trip to Magic Wings in Deerfield. The March activity will likely involve making sugar cookies and Dana has offered acupuncture sessions for April.

Nominations for 2016-2018: Candidates for most of the offices have been identified except for the Nominating Committee which still needs at least 2 members.

Bylaws: Mary Knight had shared the proposed Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley Bylaws with members prior to this evening. Questions or concerns were solicited. In response Mary Ann Rubis proposed a change under Section 2 **Election to Membership** on page 2 recommending that we strike (d) as written and add "(d) Shall be accordance with the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley Procedures for Working with Prospective Members." She provided the rationale. The Club both approved the change and the adoption of the of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley Bylaws.

Amelia Earhart: Dana offered a game played by two teams to test our knowledge of Amelia Earhart's life. In a sudden death bonus question the team headed by Karen Fontaine won the final round. Thank you Dana. We added to our aviation knowledge information that guest Karen Fontaine provided as she is a pilot for American Airlines. We were all interested in her experience in a field dominated by men and hope she will give some consideration to becoming a member of our club.

Raffle Winners: Kim Stege (Debbie's sister) and Dianne

Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Wood, Secretary

Finance Committee

Pam Albertson, Chairman

The final payment for the poinsettias has been received and the profit was \$1905.75; almost identical to last year's profit of \$1937. Over the past five years this fundraiser has resulted in profits of \$10,289 to be distributed as service funds! We are closing in on year-end and are very close to exceeding the profit on all activities last year. The final big fundraiser will be the auction so let's make a push for donations and guests so we can beat last year!



FEBRUARY 8TH FILL A BAG WITH HOPE

Fill a Bag with Hope Project

Membership is organizing a hands-on event for February 8th where we will fill new or gently used pocketbooks / backpacks / totes with toiletries, snacks, and other personal items, along with notes of encouragement.

The filled bags will be distributed by representatives from Dress for Success, the YWCA, Women's Shelter Companeras, HAP Housing programs working with women in transitional situations. Other suggestions are welcomed.

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. Remember, the flyer for this event is on Facebook so feel free to share with your circle of friends.

The outpouring of support has been amazing. We have already surpassed expectations! Please join us in thanking the many individuals, businesses, programs and groups who have contributed to this effort. Special thanks go out to:

Kathy Picard, Pat Whitney, Julie Gamache, Gale Lemanis, Karen Fontaine, Steve McDaniel DDS, Susan Plourde
Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club at 91 Claudia's Way, Ludlow
So Cool Gifts & Accessories, 345 Holyoke Street, Ludlow
AJE Financial Services, 588 Center Street, Ludlow
Our Town Variety, 259 Fuller Street, Ludlow
Hubbard Memorial Library, 24 Center St, Ludlow
Palmer Public Library, 1455 N Main St, Palmer
In Vogue Salon, 898 Prospect St, Chicopee
South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal Street, South Hadley
The Hair Shop, 8 River Drive, Hadley
Total Body Yoga & Pilates Fitness Studio, 185 W. State Street, Granby
Making Waves Salon, 8 Jabish Street, Belchertown
 Eastern Hampshire District Court, Belchertown
Eastfield Mall Springfield
The United Church of Ware
Jazzercise Studio 116, Amherst
Western MA Chapter of AORN
Longmeadow High School
Springfield Marriott Hotel

Please let Mary Knight know of any other special recognition needed, so that we have a more complete list on 2/8 and to share on the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley website: zontaqv.org

Scholarships Committee
Dana Burton, Chairman



APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR TWO AWARDS

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is accepting applications for two local awards, with the possibility of winning District and International honors as well.

The **Young Women in Public Affairs Award** recognizes young women for their demonstrated leadership skills and commitment to public service. We are looking for women in the Quaboag Valley and surrounding towns who are high school juniors or seniors and have an active commitment to volunteerism, experience in local or student government, demonstrated leadership skills, and dedication to advancing the status of women throughout the world. The club offers an award of \$1000 to be used however the recipient chooses, to the most outstanding YWPA applicant. The application is available at the club's site: www.zontaqv.org. The return date is **March 19, 2016**

The **Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship** is open to women in Western MA enrolled in at least the second year of an undergraduate program through the final year of a Master's program in business, leading to a business management career. The program is designed to encourage women to enter careers and to seek leadership positions in business-related fields in their communities and throughout the world. The club offers a \$1000 scholarship to the most outstanding Klausman applicant. The application is available at the club's site: www.zontaqv.org. The return date is **May 27, 2016**.

For both leadership awards, the local winner's application will then be submitted for competition at the Zonta District 1 level (New England states of the U.S. and Nova Scotia, Canada). The District 1 winner goes on to compete internationally. District and International awards are funded by the Zonta International Foundation.

Applications can be downloaded at zontaqv.org/resources. Completed documents should be mailed to the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley c/o: Dana Burton, Scholarship Committee Chair, 118 Jensen St., Belchertown, MA 01007

Advocacy Committee
Tina Guniasso, Chairman

President Obama Announces Rules for Closing Gender Pay Gap

by Erik Ortiz

In his final year in office, President Barack Obama is returning to an issue that was at the heart of the first piece of legislation he ever signed at the White House: closing the gender pay gap. Obama on Friday unveiled new rules that would compel companies with more than 100 workers to provide the federal government annual data for how much they pay employees based on gender, race and ethnicity. That information would be used to help public enforcement of equal pay laws while giving more insight into discriminatory pay practices, he said from the White House.

The proposal would cover more than 63 million employees — potentially providing a new wealth of data for understanding the pay gap issue and determining whether certain workers are getting short-changed. In addition, Obama renewed his call to Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would potentially close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and require employers to prove that pay gaps are due to legitimate business reasons, not discrimination.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/01/29/fact-sheet-new-steps-advance-equal-pay-seventh-anniversary-lilly>

Women in US lagging behind in human rights, UN experts report

New York, Dec 12 (Just Earth News/IBNS): While praising the current United States administration for its commitment to women's equality, United Nations experts warned on Friday that the extreme polarization of US politics is "profoundly" affecting the Government's ability to guarantee women's human rights, and even to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. As regards the women's anti-discrimination convention, the experts noted that the US is one of only seven countries which have not ratified the treaty, widely known as CEDAW. We are of the unreserved opinion that ratification of CEDAW is crucial, on both the domestic and the global levels, in order to confirm the US commitment to substantive equality for women in all spheres of life, they underscored.

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/2015/fullnews-161716.html>

These comments make it all the more urgent for us to get onboard by joining or organizing Cities for CEDAW campaigns, according to Bobbee Cardillo, Zonta International Advocacy Committee



Silent "no more!" Auction

.... Because victims need to be heard

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, MAY 2 6:00 – 9:00

Ludlow Country Club, Ludlow MA

Proceeds for this year's *Silent "no more!" Auction* will go toward international projects aimed at stopping violence against women and children, and two local organizations:

Soldier On Women Veterans ~ Preserving the dignity, independence and quality of life of women veterans who have found themselves homeless since leaving military service.

&

An Organization to be determined.

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- Bid on a large array of valuable items and themed baskets donated by Zonta members, supporters, and local businesses.
- Take part in a sumptuous buffet of salads, veggies, pasta dishes, a carving station, plus appetizers, desserts, coffee/tea. Cash bar
- Network with like-minded women and support causes that need attention.
- Enjoy a relaxing atmosphere and beautiful view at this private country club - a convenient, handicap-accessible location with free parking.