



Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley

Member of Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

Important Dates for your Calendar



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 10am—3pm
"Walk in My Shoes" Register Now!
Springfield Sheraton

May 2 Silent "No More!" Auction
First Monday of the month
SPREAD THE WORD!

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.



Greetings Sister Zontians,

The "Fill a Bag Project" in February exceeded all expectations! We collected and filled over 350 new or gently used pocketbooks / backpacks / tote bags with donated toiletries, snacks, make-up and other personal items, along with notes of encouragement. The filled bags were distributed by representatives from Dress for Success, local domestic violence shelters and homeless shelters. The outpouring of support from individuals, businesses, programs and groups was amazing. Women recipients have been sending



An additional 50 bags were collected AFTER the February event—all were filled and distributed!

us heartfelt thank you's for the generosity. The media exposure has heightened awareness for Zonta and we have several inquiries from women interested in possible membership. Check out pictures and accolades at zontaqv.org/fill-a-bag-with-hope-project/

Our March meeting will be an important one. We will celebrate Zonta Rose Day and International Women's Day; we will finalize nominations for 2016-2018 biennium.; we will have a formal business meeting with committee reports; and we will identify an organization which will benefit at this year's Silent "no more!" Auction - please come prepared with proposals. Also, please bring baskets, items, services and gift certificates for the May 2nd Auction and help us spread the Save the Date message—we need good attendance at this important event.

This month I will be receiving the official Club Convention Mailing which will include all of the information we need to prepare for the Zonta International Convention in Nice, France: credentialing information, information on candidates, report of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee and more.

Thank you for all that you do to make Zonta a great place for wonderful people to connect, advocate, serve and make a difference in the lives of women.

Lisa Sedelow
Club President

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.

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.

To our members from the Women of Soldier On:

To the Zonta Women, We thank you for all you do for us, more words could never express the depth of our gratitude for your generosity and all your continued support and blessings. For all of us you will never know how humbled we are. We thank you for taking the time to share your knowledge with us so that we can be a blessing to others. God Bless and love to all of you.

March: Tentative plans for baking sugar cookies

April: Dana has offered acupuncture 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.

“You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing which you think you cannot do.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt

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 Pupek, 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 en-

joyed 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

Editor note—As we did not have a formal meeting in February, the January meeting minutes will be taken up at the March meeting.



WALK IN MY SHOES

AREA 2 WORKSHOP SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2015

Sheraton Springfield
One Monarch Place, Springfield, MA 01144

~Area 2 Service Project~

****Please collect and bring new or gently used shoes which will be donated to those in need****

Learn more about what it is like to walk in the shoes of your fellow Zontalans and those in the communities we serve

Time:
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Cost \$30.00 per person

Price Includes lunch and workshop materials

PLEASE RSVP TO KAREN DUFFY AREA 2 DIRECTOR

By April 9th

4 Andrew Circle
Hampden, MA 01036
413-478-4467

AREA 2 WORKSHOP

Please get your registration forms in to Karen, along with the \$30 fee. Car pooling will be available.

This is a great opportunity for guests to join us and learn more about how we operate on a more global fashion.

All clubs in Area 2 will be represented. In addition to Quaboag, they will have a chance to meet with members of Springfield, Northampton Area, Quinnebaug and Berkshire clubs!

And bring shoes! Check with neighbors, friends, family members to see if they have gently used women's shoes to donate.

If we have extra handbags that you have collected, we will donate them as well.

Zonta District 1 website—Check out what's new zontadistrict1.org

- From The Desk of the District Governor
- 2016 International Women's Day
- NYC CSW Dinner with Maria José
- 2015 Fall Conference—highlights in pictures
- advocacy.zontadistrict1.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

International Women's Day March 8, 2016



The theme for 2016 is "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It UP for Gender Equality." This is a time to recommit ourselves to the abolishment of gender inequality all over the world. The first International Women's Day was celebrated in 1975. It initially began through labor movements but has since expanded for women inside and out of the workforce in both developed and undeveloped countries. This is a time to call for a change in women's roles and celebrate our accomplishments!

There are several activities going on through our region. On or around March 8th many areas will be having International Women's Day parties. We have some in our backyard:

March 6 – 1 Salem Sq. Worcester, MA - Dianne Wilkerson, Former State Senator, will be the keynote speaker on "Sisters Rise UP – Time to Bite the Bullet". There will be other Workshops as well. Free event from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

March 8 – 675 Main St Middletown CT – Art Exhibit, Live Music, Women share with Women – Refreshments to be served. Free Event starting at 5:30pm

March 8 – Framingham State University, Christa McAuliffe Center, 100 State St – Congresswoman Katherine Clark to speak Free Event from 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

For more information on these and other events please go to: <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/Events>

Silent "no more!" Auction Committee
Trish Pupek, Chairman



8th Silent Auction Approaching!

We are quickly approaching our 8th annual Silent "no more!" Auction to be held on Monday, May 2nd!

This is such an enjoyable evening of fun, camaraderie, good food and, most importantly, raising much needed funds for Zonta International, Soldier On and a community program (tbd)

Since our group is smaller now and time is of the essence, we are looking for ways to streamline our auction preparation process.

Please bring whatever auction items you have to the March & April meetings so we can start getting a handle on what we have and need. We will spend part of our April meeting assembling baskets. Liz will have cellophane and ribbon to decorate our baskets and "non-basket" donations.

Please also consider donating or soliciting some larger items which could go into our live auction. Joanne will have a laptop available so that she can enter the donations into the auction spreadsheet.

I will be working out the details with Lisa from the Ludlow Country Club about set up the day before or the day of the event and hope to have some information for you at our meeting.

The most important thing, right now, is to talk up the auction with your family, friends, coworkers, business owners, colleagues and anyone else who may want to donate an item and/or attend this wonderful event. A ticket to the Silent no more Auction also makes a great gift!!

I am confident that, with everyone's participation, we will again have a very successful and enjoyable auction!

Financial Committee
Pam Alberetson, Treasurer



Financial Update

We're heading into the final quarter of the fiscal year in good shape. Fund raising has been strong and we still have the auction to add to our coffers! Net income this year is only slightly less than the same period last year. Even with fewer members, our club continues to raise quite a bit of money for our beneficiaries.

There are a couple of major expenses yet to be paid this year - the purchase of QuickBooks and the stipend for our delegate to the International Convention in Nice France. There is \$11,392 in the checking account and \$6,658 in service funds available. I've heard from the IRS regarding our tax-exempt application and they are asking for more documentation.

I'll send out dues invoices later this month, which I'd like paid by May 1 so that I can get all the paperwork to Zonta by the due date.

Lastly, I'm working on the budget for next year, which I'll send out to everyone this month so we can vote on it in April. Send me any ideas or suggestions for spending - membership, speakers, postage, etc.



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.



- 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.