

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley

Member of Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER MAY / JUNE 2016

Important Dates for your Calendar

June 13 Dinner Meeting *

Year End Report
YWPA Award to Olivia Murray
Year-end Committee Reports
ZI Convention Voting Q & A
Zontian of the Biennium

July 3—6 ZI Convention

Nice, France

Summer Picnic—TBA

September 10 Golf Tournament at Mill Valley Golf Links

September 12 Dinner Meeting *

Date may need to be changed

October 10 Dinner Meeting *

Date may need to be changed

October 21-23 District 1 Fall Conference in Truro, Nova Scotia

* 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.

Collecting Toiletries (Debbie) for local Cupboard and **Magazines** (Marge) for hospital waiting rooms. We are also considering collecting feminine hygiene products for local shelters. Your thoughts?

Congratulations to the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley on its 25th Anniversary!



Dear Sister Zontians,

Heartfelt thanks go out to donors and guests who made the 8th Silent “no more!” Auction on May 2nd at the Ludlow Country Club a resounding success. The auction raised awareness and nearly \$7000 funds this year for projects aimed at stopping violence against women and children; assisting youth programs of Ludlow C.A.R.E.S.; and preserving dignity and quality of life for women veterans. Please show support to donor businesses for their generosity: zontaqv.org/silent-no-more-auction-heroes. Congratulations to the winners of over 120 auction items. Be proud of the difference all of you are making locally and globally by supporting this annual event.



At our meeting on June 13th we will be honoring Olivia Murray of Palmer—this year’s YWPA award winner. Committee Chairs will be providing their year-end reports and I will be asking each member to share one highlight for her during this biennium. Pam encourages your questions, discussion and guidance as she prepares to represent us at the 2016 Convention. We will also be voting for the Zontian of the Biennium for the Quaboag Valley Club—the award recipient will be honored with a \$100 gift that will be donated to the charity of her choice. You might consider such factors as enthusiasm for our mission, participation in club events and fundraisers, committee work, leadership roles, longevity and other criteria important to the work of the club.

As I wind down my tenure as President, four highlights stand out for me.

1. Teamwork—each of you brought your “A game” to the forefront; your attitude and hard work helped us to pull off a year of amazing accomplishments for a small club!
2. Momentum—we have peaked interest among the many guests who were eager to work on our projects this year. I hope we can capitalize on that enthusiasm to grow this club in the new biennium.
3. Impact of our Signature Project—we have made a lasting impression on the women of Soldier On by being there for them month after month for the last several years—they treasure our personal attention as well as financial support. Thank you to everyone who took lead on an event and for everyone who participated in them in the past year. Please be thinking about the types of activities that you would like to participate in with the ladies going forward.
4. Leadership—we are all leaders of this club and many of us have stepped up to take leadership roles in the District and on the International level. Pam Albertson is the latest, taking on the role of District Treasurer for 2016-18. Congratulations!

Thank you one and all for your dedication! Lisa



ZQV 2016 Young Woman in Public Affairs Award winner: Olivia Murray

The YWPA award committee, made up of Kris Goold, Marge Cavanaugh, Trish Pupek, and Dana Burton, Chair, reviewed submissions from 7 applicants from surrounding schools, (2) Belchertown, (2) Palmer, Pathfinder, (2) Ludlow. The things that stood out about Olivia were her confidence and level of involvement in everything she does.

Olivia Murray is the Valedictorian of the Palmer High School class of 2016. While in High school she developed a passion for learning, community service and leadership. She is a three-year member of The Hampden County District Attorney's Youth Advisory Board and this year served as its President. While on the board, she has presented internet safety programs to the community and also helped to create a Public Service Announcement which depicts the dangers of substance abuse and wrong decisions. Olivia is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Student Advisory Council and serves as class historian. She is co-editor in chief of the yearbook staff, an active member of blood bank, a four-year member of track and field and 5-year member of the soccer team where she was named a captain her senior year. She was chosen as a Massachusetts Girl's State Representative and was the recipient of The 2016 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Academic Excellence Award. In her free time, she enjoys running and spending time with family and friends. In the fall, Olivia will enter the highly competitive 6-year Doctorate of Pharmacy program at The University of Rhode Island.

The goal of the Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award Program is to encourage young women between the ages of 16 and 19 to participate in public affairs by recognizing a commitment to the volunteer sector and evidence of volunteer leadership achievements in their community.

*"If you are always
trying to be
normal, you will
never know how
amazing you can
be." Maya
Angelou*

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

April 11, 2016 Zonta of Quaboag Valley Dinner Meeting

Ludlow Country Club

Present: Pam Albertson, Dana Burton, Marge Cavanaugh, Janet Da Silva, Kris Goold, Tina Guinasso, Mary Knight, Trish Pupek, Liz Reeves, Mary Ann Rubis, Lisa Sedelow, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia

Not Present: BJ Bourdon, Ann Cormier, Dianne Kidd, Debbie Wood

Guests: Karen Fontaine, Kathy Picard, Laura Rooney, Shanique Spalding

President Lisa Sedelow called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed members and guests. She introduced guests Karen Fontaine, Kathy Picard, Laura Rooney from Ludlow Cares, and Shanique Spalding, prospective new member. Dinner followed the Zonta Blessing.

Lisa introduced guest speaker Laura Rooney from Ludlow C.A.R.E.S., one of the organizations that will be a recipient of the funds raised at the "Silent no more! Auction" in May. Laura explained that the focus of Ludlow Cares is on the things that are preventing Ludlow youth from succeeding. The initial focus of the group was the increasing presence of drugs in Ludlow and what could be done to combat it. The focus has expanded and now includes issues such as preventing dating violence, preparing 3-6 year olds for kindergarten, and preventing distracted driving. Ludlow Cares is totally funded by business donations, and has just filed for 501(c)(3) status. Laura took questions from the audience and closed by thanking Zonta for the opportunity to be a recipient of the Auction. Laura's email address is ludlowcares@gmail.com.

Tina Guinasso, Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officer candidates for the next club year. They are: President, Mary Knight; Vice President, Trish Pupek; Treasurer, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia; Secretary, Kris Goold; Directors, Dana Burton and Debbie Wood. Lisa called for nominations from the floor. There were none. A voice vote was called and the slate was elected as presented.

Pam Albertson, Treasurer, presented the budget for the coming year. There were no questions. Joanne made the motion to accept the budget and Tina seconded it. The budget was accepted.

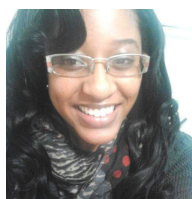
The Minutes for the March meeting were passed as published in the newsletter.

Pam Albertson, Treasurer, reviewed the current financial statements as sent to each member. There is \$11,392.23 in the checking account; \$6,658.49 in Service; \$225 in Membership; and \$39 in postage. Pam stated that funds are available if needed and that the fund-raising profit is down by only \$1,000 from last year and that is not too bad as membership is down this year. Question was asked regarding whether or not the club had ordered the bags with our Zonta name that had been discussed previously. Pam responded that they had not as we still have a large number of T-shirts left. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented to be filed for audit.

Trish spoke about the upcoming Silent "no more!" Auction. Members brought items to the meeting to make into baskets. Trish has tickets available tonight and Marge distributed them to the members. Let Marge know the names of the people you give tickets to and whether or not they have paid. Joanne will keep a spreadsheet of the items and all pertinent information. She will email to all by Friday. Let her know if you donate or receive any more items. Trish asked that whoever wants to help set up the auction tables arrive at the country club by noon on 5/1.

Tina reported on Soldier On activities. She and Debbie made cookies with the women last month. On April 18 at 5:50 pm Dana will do a session of acupuncture. The May activity will be attending the auction. For June's activity, Debbie has offered a camp fire at her house.

Lisa presented Shanique Spalding's application for membership.



Her bio was sent to all members. Lisa called for a vote and Shanique was accepted as a new member. Lisa congratulated her and welcomed her to the club. Shanique's installation will be at the June meeting. "She is a bright and enthusiastic women who will bring spirit and charm to our wonderful club. I hope everyone gets a chance to get to know her at our next meeting, if you haven't done so already!" noted Membership Chair, Tina Guinasso.

Lisa asked if there was other business. There was none. The raffle was drawn and Marge was the winner.

Lisa adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm. The members then spent the rest of the evening assembling baskets for the auction.

Respectfully submitted
by Kris Goold filling in for Debbie Wood.

Golf Tournament Committee Report
Debbie Wood, Chairman

September 10th Set for the Quaboag Valley Annual Golf Tournament

Our 22nd Annual Golf Tournament will be Saturday, September 10th at Mill Valley Golf Links.



Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley
Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Prices will be the same as last year.

Sponsor Solicitation and Player Registration forms will be available at our

June meeting and on our website. We

ask members to keep the tournament in

mind as you seek donations for the Auction.

The funds from this event help to support Zonta International and the many local service projects we fund.



Our club delegate, Pam Albertson, has reviewed and summarized on these two pages some of the decisions to be made at the 2016 Convention.

BUDGET: Stable membership numbers have enabled ZI to fashion a conservative budget for 2016 – 2018 with no increase in membership dues. However, unless membership numbers increase significantly, it will be difficult to maintain for the next biennium. A loss of \$10,950 is budgeted for the next two years. In order to keep ZIF's promise to its members that 100% of donations go directly to support programs and projects, ZI is providing a grant to cover administrative costs of the Foundation.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS: There are four projects proposed in the 2016 – 2018 budget, each for \$1,000,000 in funding. In addition, \$700,000 is proposed for the Amelia Earhart Fellowships, \$232,000 for Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarships, \$144,000 for Young Women in Public Affairs Awards, and \$300,000 for the Rose Fund.

A brief summary of the projects proposed (along with pictures from the Area 2 Workshop):



Liberia Fistula Project – This project has been supported by ZI since 2008. The goal is to eliminate fistula and reduce maternal mortality, while improving the health and socio-economic status of women in Liberia. More than 1,000 women have received treatment however the Ebola outbreak overwhelmed their fragile health system. Cases of fistula have increased as a result. Some of the goals of continued funding is to provide surgical and non-surgical treatment for 500 women and girls, reduce the incidence of fistula by 25%, and train eight specialist doctors.



Let Us Learn Madagascar – This is the only program which addresses issues of gender parity in education in Madagascar. More than 25% of children are excluded from formal education; as school fees are very expensive many families can only send one child to school and girls are expected to drop out. About one third of girls under 18 will become pregnant. Some of the expected outcomes are that over 1,000 teachers will receive training, 600 girls will receive catch-up classes, four classrooms will be constructed with appropriate facilities, and 1,000 households will receive cash assistance to support them while their girls go to school.



Delaying Early Marriage in Niger – The goal of this project is to reduce early marriage and pregnancy. Niger has the highest child marriage rate in the world (77% married by age 18) and 73% of girls aged 15 – 19 are illiterate. Girls who have already completed the program say they want to marry at 19, have their first child at 21 and have only six children (compared to the average woman wants over eight). This is accomplished by creating safe spaces where girls can receive non-formal education provided by trained mentors. Mentors visit the girls' homes to educate their parents.



Addressing Human Trafficking and Unsafe Migration in Nepal – Nepal has long been a country of origin for labor migration and trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation. Since the earthquakes a year ago, there has been an increased risk of trafficking and violence. Intervention by this project is projected to benefit directly 600 survivors of trafficking. The Government of Nepal has made a commitment to combat trafficking and this project will provide operational assistance by increasing public awareness, promoting women's economic empowerment, educating government officials on the issues of foreign employment and trafficking among other planned strategies.

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DETAILED summaries of all of these decisions can be found at: zontaconventionnice.com/resources/clubmailing/

There are 24 proposed amendments to the bylaws of Zonta International. The proposed amendments pertain to how Zonta functions at the international, district, and club levels and that these amendments were brought forward by the districts, the ZI Board, and the ZI Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. The proposed amendments at this year's convention pertain to the duties of the nominating committee, creating new standing committees, convention, officer qualifications, terms, removal, Z and Golden Z Clubs. I will try to summarize the ones that I think would have an impact on our club/district or how it functions. If you're interested in reading all of them, they can be found at: zontanice2016.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/zi_brcreporttoconvention.pdf.

There is a proposal to insert wording regarding the nominating committee to the effect that "The District Nominating Committee is an autonomous committee and is empowered to make all decisions regarding the nomination process and candidates....without explanation to" anyone. The rationale in support of this is to "preserve the integrity and transparency of the election process....it is necessary to make decisions independent from "all those that may seek nomination". This proposal is not supported by the ZI Board because "If the additions proposed carry, then the Nominating Committee has all the powers regarding the nominating process and selection of candidates", effectively giving the three members of the Committee absolute control over the nomination process. There are several proposals brought forward regarding the Nominating Committee at the international, district, and club levels. These proposals were brought forward by districts in North America, New Zealand, Australia, as well as the ZIBRC.

Proposal 3.a is a request that the ZI budget be presented at the convention for approval. The rationale for this is that presently clubs have no possibility to ask questions or propose changes to the budget. The ZI Board approves the budget. The ZI Board is not in favor of this for two reasons. The Board has the legal and fiduciary responsibilities for ZI which includes approving the budget. Also, if the budget is to be approved at convention, ZI would be operating without a budget from June 1 until the convention (year end is May 31).

Proposal 4.a is proposing that a daily fee be charged to Zontians who are unable to attend the entire convention. The rationale stated is to be more fair to "motivated" members who have work or family responsibilities that prevent them from attending the entire convention. ZI Board doesn't recommend adopting this because of the administrative costs associated with monitoring daily registrations. Should the proposed bylaw amendment regarding convention fees be defeated, voting members at convention would discuss a proposed resolution regarding these fees. See below for the Resolution.

The proposal (4.d) to allow larger districts more than one vote at convention is not supported by the ZI Board because democratic representation is already guaranteed by allowing larger clubs to have more delegates than smaller clubs. Giving extra votes to larger districts will give those districts an extra advantage.

Resolution 1 is proposing a daily registration fee be offered to members who cannot attend the full convention. It is not recommended for adoption by the ZI Board because it is difficult to estimate daily attendees (to determine what they should pay) and that there are additional administrative costs associated with monitoring daily registrations.

Resolution 2 proposes that the "Zonta Says No to violence against women" Campaign be continued in the next biennium.

Resolution 3 proposes that ZI "seek out an international project with the purpose of providing education to women to prepare them for a natural disaster". While women and girls are affected more than men and boys by natural disasters, the ZI Board is not recommending this be adopted because there are many other organizations with skills and resources that can provide disaster services more effectively than ZI can.

Resolution 4 is to create a new club classification, "Youth Membership Category". If this passes, it will create a pilot project for a new club membership category called, "Youth Membership Category". Youth membership is defined as individuals younger than 30 years of age. This project would be used to not only encourage former members of the Z and Golden Z Clubs and recipients of ZI educational programs to join Zonta, but also any person under the age of 30. The period for this membership would be until the end of the Zonta fiscal year when an individual reaches their 30th birthday, after which the membership transitions to a club membership. These individuals would pay 50% of the international dues and full district and club dues unless the districts or clubs decide otherwise. Since North America continues to lose members, this project may be a way to more proactively increase membership. In addition, Asia has the largest number of ZI/Golden Z Clubs in Zonta.

Pam encourages your questions, discussion and guidance as she prepares to represent us at the 2016 Convention.

Accomplishments of Zonta club of Quaboag Valley over the 2014 - 2016 biennium

As you heard during MaryAnn Rubis' presentation at the Silent "no more!" Auction, we are a mighty club. Below are just a few of the highlights for this biennium:

We lost members and still achieved a great deal locally and contributed generously to ZIF.

For the 2014 – 2016 biennium we have again reached the goal of 100% individual member contribution to Zonta International Foundation and the highest donation amount per capita by a District 1 Club.

Our ongoing fundraisers were, as always, very successful. In the past 2 years the golf tournament and poinsettia sales have brought in over \$10,500, allowing us to continue with our yearly contributions to Ware Christmas for Kids, local food banks, The Survival Center, the Palmer Library, a Womanhood Program at our district court and to financially support Zonta International's ongoing programs.

We continued our Silent "no more!" Auction – because victims need to be heard. We raised nearly \$13,000 during the biennium – one third of which went to ZIF; one third to Soldier On to support homeless women veterans; and one third to two different local like-minded organizations: Ludlow C.A.R.E.S. and the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force.

We have had two YWPA and two Klausman scholarships awarded during the biennium.

Synergy projects that we are proud of this biennium:

Purchased 25 books from children's author Katherine Mary Kraver (speaker at our June 2015 meeting) and donated them to Link to Libraries for distribution to schools with high refugee populations.

We created 30 yarn dolls with the women from Soldier On and donated them with decorative material to the Mother/Child Visitation program at a local Correctional facility.

We collected over 500 pocketbooks/bags and hundreds of personal items with the help of local communities; the bags were filled and distributed to women in need by organizations running domestic violence and homeless shelters.

We continue our monthly visits with the Vets. Activities included horseback riding, campfire, greenhouse visit, pie baking and cookie decorating. The women look forward to our ongoing visits and the friendships we have formed with them. The Soldier On women moved into new housing in 2015; we furnished their new Yoga/Workout room with a \$1,500 donation.

Thanks to our Advocacy Chair, we have had educational programs at just about every meeting. We purchased a new Zonta Says No banner and posted daily pictures/messages of Zontians and Supporters holding the banner during the 16 Days of Activism.

We got great publicity and exposure for Zonta with Founder Day programs honoring the retiring ED of the YWCA of Western MA and a woman who spearheaded new legislation extending the statute of limitations for victims of child abuse. The Fill a Bag with Hope hands-on project also heightened awareness of Zonta and our mission. We are hoping that these efforts will turn into membership growth for the next biennium.

Finally, we updated our Bylaws in 2015 and we have been granted 501(c)(3) status effective February 2016.

Zonta District 1—Area 2 Workshop—Walk in My Shoes—April 16 at Sheraton Springfield

Karen Duffy - Area 2 Director - led an amazing and fun event for Area 2 clubs—filled with inspiration, information and new insights. Each club shared best practices for Membership, Service and Advocacy. We broke into groups and tackled the four ZI projects being proposed for the next biennium at this year's convention. Our own MaryAnn Rubis and Lt. Governor Elizabeth Hart brought us news from the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women CSW60 and its themes on women empowerment and the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, as well as other international and district updates. We saw videos and played games that helped us think outside the box—especially when tempted to jump to conclusions about what is seen and said. We laughed a lot and enjoyed the company of new and former acquaintances. All in all a memorable time—well spent. Thank you Karen and all who participated!



Another amazing Silent no“more!” Auction event! The nearly \$7000 raised will be shared by ZIF, the women veterans from Soldier On and Ludlow C.A.R.E.S. Please join us in thanking all of our donors and participants. More info on zotnaqv.org

