



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gail Gramarossa Named Founder's Day Recipient for 2017



Western MA ~ In November of each year the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley celebrates its **Founders Day** by giving an award to a woman in the greater Quaboag area who exemplifies the ideals of Zonta International. Recent past recipients include Marge Cavanaugh, Mary Reardon Johnson, Kathy Picard, Yoko Kato, Anne Gobi, and Bonny Rathbone. **This year the club has chosen to give this honor to Gail Gramarossa of Belchertown.**

Gail is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES®) with a Master of Public Health degree (MPH). She is Program Director for the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance and a prevention specialist at the Collaborative for Educational Services. According to Club President Mary Knight, "Gail is known locally for her service and advocacy. She is a former 18-year member of the Belchertown Board of Health; a member of the Belchertown Opioid Awareness Task Force; a founding member in 2009 of Belchertown Community Aid Network (CAN) which provides assistance with heating fuel and food to vulnerable citizens; a member of Belchertown Voices for Justice; a volunteer with Belchertown Community Television and a judge and demonstrator in the Belchertown Fair Exhibit Hall. Gail is a great organizer, dedicated advocate and passionate defender of equal rights.

She is most deserving of the coveted Founders Day Award recognition."

The public is invited to join us in celebrating Gail Gramarossa on Monday, November 13th starting at 5:30 with a reception and dinner at the Ludlow Country Club, Ludlow MA. **RSVP by November 6th is appreciated. Either send a check (\$30/pp) payable to Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley, with names of all attendees to ZQV, PO Box 1034, Belchertown, MA 01007-1034 or email info@zontaqv.org with names of all attendees and pay \$30/pp at the door – cash, check or credit card.**

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley, a member of Zonta International, was chartered in 1991 with a small group of women who wanted to volunteer their time, talent and support to local and international service projects, as well as scholarship programs aimed at fulfilling Zonta's mission and objectives. Since that time, the club has contributed to improving women's lives and empowering them so they can develop to their full potential. They've also worked on projects to raise awareness on issues of domestic violence, homeless women veterans, trafficking of women and children, and suicide prevention in Western Massachusetts. For additional information visit the club's website at zontaqv.org or email: info@zontaqv.org.

Zonta International is a leading global organization of nearly 30,000 professionals in 1200 clubs in 67 countries empowering women through service and advocacy. Since 1919 Zonta International has contributed to the advancement of the status of women and, internationally, has distributed more than US\$19 million in service projects, fellowships, scholarships and awards. The NGO proudly celebrates that it has changed the lives of more than 2 million women and girls in more than 34 countries.