



ZONTA

CLUB OF
QUABOAG VALLEY

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

**ZONTA CLUB OF
QUABOAG VALLEY
BOG NEWSLETTER**

MAY 2021

2021 Dates for your Calendar

May 1 –31 Calendar Lottery

Daily picks published on Facebook!
Details and Sponsors at
zontaqv.org/may2021

May 10 Program—Kerry Chenausky, NP will join us at 6pm to speak about women's health issues in this time of Covid.

**Guests welcome!!
Business Meeting**

June 14

Business Meeting

**June 25—27 Cincinnati NAIDM
North American Inter-District Meeting**
zontadistrict4.org/category/naidm-2021/

**September 12 Zonta Golf Tournament
Fundraiser**—Cold Spring Country Club

October 22-24 District 1 Fall Conference

We **expect to see all of you on Zoom**; if you are unable to attend, please let Dana know. **P.S. Guests are invited to our virtual meetings. If you know any one who is interested in joining us, simply contact us by email to get a meeting link: info@zontaqv.org**

Have you completed the District Membership Survey?

Wherever you are in the Zonta family—new, experienced, taking a break—your opinion is critical to the health of this organization. Contact Mary Knight if you need a link.

Hello Fellow Zontians and Friends,

I am so excited that we are about to kick off the drawings for our first calendar fundraiser. I knew we could surpass our goal. **What a huge success, \$7,450 raised!** I am so proud of all our hard work. Special thank you to Trish and Mary for going above and beyond to organize this event and everyone that donated prizes. Also congratulations to Trish, Kris, and Chris for being the top 3 raffle ticket sellers!! I can't wait to see who wins the Mother's Day Basket.

Our May business meeting will be the second Monday of the month like usual since there's no auction. So, I will see you all on Zoom 5/10 at 6pm. May is Women's Health month so we are going to have a great speaker to talk to us about female specific concerns with Covid-19. Our speaker is Kerry Chenausky, NP. Kerry is also a sexual assault nurse examiner and will tell us a little about her role with that.

Please make sure you get your dues to Andrea as soon as possible if you have not done so already. It is also a great time to get into My Zonta on the Zonta International page and check over your personal information. While you're in there take advantage of some of the awesome resources that are available.

In June we are skipping the formal meeting for a picnic! New members Chris and Karen have offered up their yard for a Zonta end-of-the-year picnic. It will be "bring your own food and drink" as we continue to be Covid conscience. They have plenty of parking and some chairs available but you're free to bring your own. More details to follow.

I am excited that even with all the craziness students must have gone through this year we still received four applications for our Young Women In Public Affairs Award. The winner, Jacqueline Dugay from Ware is an impressive young lady. Congrats Jacqueline! The J.M. Klausman scholarship is due soon and hopefully we'll get a few applications for that as well.

June will be our last meeting until September. Throughout the summer please spread the word for our annual golf tournament and see if you can solicit any donations. They would be much appreciated.

In Zonta Friendship,
Dana Burton



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2021 YWPA Winner: Jacqueline Dugay



Jacqueline Dugay is this year's Young Women in Public Affairs Scholarship Award Recipient. Miss Dugay attends Ware Junior Senior High School where she is a student excelling in many areas of academic achievement and leadership. Miss Dugay has a 4.05 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, and National Art Honor Society. Miss Dugay also collaborated with her peers on the Domestic Violence Task Force to educate peers and her community.

Ms. Dugay demonstrates leadership ability through participation in Student Council and Student Government as well as being her Class Treasurer. She is also the captain of the girls' varsity soccer team and an MIAA Student Ambassador. Additionally Ms. Dugay has been a volunteer in her community for several years. She volunteers with her church to deliver meals to the elderly through the Take and Eat Program, as well as volunteering for Dance and Walk of Champions. Miss Dugay will be continuing her studies next year at Washington and Lee University in Virginia. She plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in

Business and Finance and plans to pursue her MBA in the future.

Because Zonta International believes that young women are the key to women's advancement in the field of public service, it offers the Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award, which recognizes young women, ages 16-19, for demonstrating leadership skills and commitment to public service and civic causes, and encourages them to continue their participation in public and political life. In addition to receiving \$1000 from our club, Jacqueline is now eligible for District recognition US\$1,500. 10 international recipients are selected from the district/region recipients to receive awards of US\$5,000 each.

"Taking care of yourself doesn't mean me first, it means me too." L.R. Knost

"When women take care of their health, they become their best friend." Maya Angelou



Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley District I, Area II, Charter 1317 of Zonta International 2020—2022

President: Dana Burton
Vice President: Danielle Petrangelo
Treasurer: Andrea Bordenca
Secretary: Mary Knight
Directors: Patti Matthieu
Patricia Pupek
Susan Seaver
Chris Keough-Huff

Website: www.zontaqv.org

Committee Chairs 2020—2022

Finance/Audit Chair: Joanne Turner-Chiacchia
Membership Chair: Danielle Petrangelo
PR /Communication Chair: Mary Knight
Advocacy/UN Chair: Pam Albertson
Service Chair: Joanne Turner-Chiacchia
Scholarships Chair: Maria Maloney
Poinsettia Fundraiser Chair: Liz Reeves
Golf Fundraiser Chair: Debra Wood
Auction Fundraiser Chairs:
Patricia Pupek and Dianne Kidd
Nominating:
Trish Pupek, Kristin Goold, Janet DaSilva
Bylaw Revisions: Suz Tiranno

Zonta of Quaboag Valley— April 12, 2021 Business Meeting

Present on Zoom Call: Pam Albertson, Andrea Bordenca, Dana Burton, Marge Cavanaugh, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Kris Goold, Karen Keough-Huff, Chris Keough-Huff, Mary Knight, Patti Matthieu, Danielle Petrangelo, Trish Pupek, Liz Reeves, Mary Ann Rubis, Susan Seaver, Mike Wallace, Debbie Wood

Absent: Nancy Ayers, Dianne Kidd, Janet DaSilva, Luz Rivera, Maria Maloney, Suz Tiranno, Stacy Troy

President Dana Burton welcomed everyone and announced we are celebrating our 30th Club Anniversary. Attached is a letter from Zonta International President Sharon!

Our program tonight was Service and Advocacy Updates:

Zonta Foundation for Women Projects – Mary Ann Rubis is Zonta Foundation for Women Development Committee, Chairman 2020-2022. She shared a PowerPoint that reviewed the 4 International Service Projects and 4 Education Program we are supporting this biennium. Visit **Zonta.org** and click on Programs to see a great overview of each. For this biennium, our fundraising goal is US\$4,800,000. To date, we have raised more than 1.4 million dollars, \$400,000 more than this time last biennium. The primary needs for funding are the Service Projects and the Amelia Earhart Fellowship. We were encouraged to donate club funds as well as individually. Zonta.org – Donate or complete a form for that purpose.

Commission on the Status of Women – Mary Knight reviewed some of the key take-aways that were published in the April Zonta Bog. Many of the workshops were recorded and are available on the CSW site. Contact Mary if you have a particular subject you want to learn more about and she will try to find resources.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month – Daniele Petrangelo who works at the YWCA of Western MA shared what her organization is focusing on during this pandemic April – primarily on Facebook and Instagram. The Clothesline Project is a visual display of statistics and experiences of domestic and sexual violence. The Body Keeps the Score is a book that brings awareness to healing of trauma which can affect our body, brain, and everyday lives. No-cost ideas on how to support survivors. Chalk it Up Wednesdays, and so much more.

Equal Rights Amendment and Ending Child Marriage – Pam Albertson gave a legislative update on these two bills. As Pam mentioned in the April Bog, removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment was passed in the House and is currently in the Senate. In Massachusetts, legislation for raising the marital age to 18 has been refiled for this session, after time ran out in the last. She will keep us informed on advocacy opportunities.

Following the Program, the business meeting was called to order at about 6:40 by President Dana Burton

March Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes published in the Bog. The vote was in favor.

Treasurers Report: Andrea did not have a current report to vote on. We are asked to get dues of \$129 to her by May 1st so she can submit them timely.

Vote on Michael Wallace – Members voted unanimously to accept Mike as our newest member! Welcome! He will be sworn in at a later time and be presented with badge, pin and introductory materials from Membership Chair Danielle.

Committee Reports

Calendar Fundraiser – Sales of ‘chances’ are going extremely well – we expect to exceed our goal of \$5000! Trish thanks all members and supporters for the generous gifts on the calendar that make it so attractive. Sales end on April 30th. Names of all the participants will be added to a very large container and the first name gets picked by Trish (videotaped) on May 1st. The ‘seller’ will be notified so she/he can share the good news with the winner; the videotaped announcement will be on Facebook at 6pm that night. The winner’s name goes back in the drawing. Repeat x 31.

Service – A request was made to donate \$100 toward Billboards to advertise the Child Marriage project. The Committee has approved the request and it was voted in affirmative by members. Andrea will be asked to send the check forthwith.

Scholarships – Dana announced that the YWPA has been won by **Jacqueline Dugay** from Ware. Applications for the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business scholarship will be accepted until May 28th. A flyer and application have been added to the zontaqv.org website under Resources and the news has been posted on Facebook. Maria can be contacted for questions.

April Business Minutes continued

Other Business

Spring Workshop will be held virtually on April 24 @ 8:45-noon. It will be filled with valuable and inspiring information, so please plan to attend. Our club put together a PowerPoint of accomplishments made in the last year; Trish "volunteered" to narrate as a reporter.

The North American Inter District Meeting (NAIDM) will be held in person in Cincinnati in June!

District 1 Fall Conference (a formal event held every two years in an odd-year) is scheduled this year in Concord NH the weekend of 10/22-24. Based on feedback from a member survey, it will be virtual, held over two half-day sessions.

Future Meetings

May 10th – Women's Health Month speaker: Kerry Chenausky, NP will speak on women's issues during this time of Covid. We will have a write-up and picture for the May newsletter. Guests are welcome and encouraged.

June 14th – Zoom or in the Park – perhaps a picnic?

Dana thanked everyone for attending. Next Newsletter deadline is 4/27.

Meeting Adjourned 7:30

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Knight, Secretary

ZQV Board Meeting April 19, 2021 6:00 PM on Zoom

Present: Dana Burton, Mary Knight, Patti Matthieu, Danielle Petrangelo, Trish Pupek, Chris Keough-Huff

Absent: Andrea Bordenca, , Sue Seavers

President Dana called the meeting to order at 6:08.

Minutes: The minutes from March 2021 were moved and voted to accept as written.

Treasurers – The Board discussed its fiduciary duty to oversee fiscal matters and decided it needs to get updates from Andrea on several items at the next business meeting. We are willing to get her assistance if needed. Specifically:

Ensure the following checks are issued: Billboard donation approved in April; YWPA check announced in April

Ensure order, delivery and payment for four name tags for our newest members (Susan, Chris, Karen and Michael)

Report on Calendar Fundraiser deposits

Update on status of membership dues – please let Dana know right away if you learn of anyone NOT renewing

Receipt for online payments and paperwork to ZI for our three newest members (Chris, Karen and Michael) 16 months

Present latest Treasurers Report to be voted on and approved for Audit

Present 2022 Budget to be voted on and approved.

Provide a list of year end activities that will be completed for 5/31.

Calendar Fundraiser – This fundraiser has already raised a \$4900 profit with 12 days to go. All members are encouraged to continue selling and promoting.

May 2021 – Women's Health Month speaker: Kerry Chenausky, NP will speak on women's issues during this time of Covid. Kerry is an Adult Primary Care and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner at Belchertown Internal Medicine. She prioritizes patient-centered, respectful care and looks forward to partnering with patients to achieve their health and wellness goals. In addition to primary care, Kerry offers a range of women's health and sexual health services to patients. We will have a write-up and picture for the May newsletter. Guests are welcome and encourage.

We will also induct Michael Wallace. Mary Ann Rubis will do the honors. In advance of the meeting we will present Michael with a pin, badge, yellow rose and packet of information on Zonta.

June 2021 – YWCA winner will be invited, but we can also provide her with a check, rose and gift in advance. Weather permitting, we will have a Picnic at the home of Chris and Karen. Everyone will be asked to bring their own food and drink. More to come.

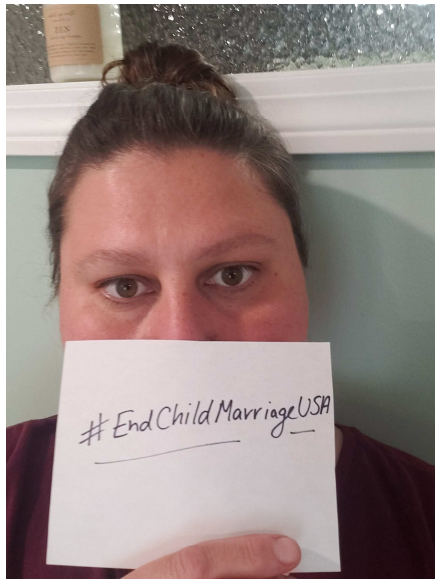
Other Business

Spring Workshop – April 24 from 8:45am to noon – 9 members of the club are registered to attend. Quaboag put together a PowerPoint of accomplishments made in the last year; Trish "volunteered" to narrate as a reporter.

Fall Conference – October 2021 – a survey to presidents indicated a preference for a virtual conference over two half-days.

Next board meeting 5/17/2021 at 6:00

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 Respectfully Submitted, Mary Knight, Secretary



Let's raise our voices!
#EndChildMarriageUSA!
Visit: unchainedatlast.org

Ending Child Marriage in Massachusetts

By Pam Albertson. Advocacy Chair

Child marriage has been labelled a human rights violation by the United Nations and the U.S. Department of State. Yet within the U.S. child marriage is an on-going practice in 46 states.

According to data from the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, 1,231 children younger than 18 were married in Massachusetts between the years 2000 and 2016. Of those, 84% were teenage girls married to adult men. Most of the girls were 16 and 17, but 57 of them were under age 16, which means under state law, they were not even old enough to consent to sex. The youngest was 14.

Massachusetts law currently allows children under 18 to be married with parental consent and judicial approval. When those conditions are met, there is no statutory minimum age. Even if a girl objects to the marriage in front of a judge, her voice won't be taken into consideration. At present only Delaware (2018), New Jersey (2019), Minnesota and Pennsylvania (2020) ban marriage for anyone under 18 with no exceptions. New Hampshire has had an age limit of 16 since 2019. Advocates wanted it to be 18 but a compromise was made so that the bill would be passed.

Children subjected to child marriage face difficulties in retaining a lawyer, filing for divorce, or even seeking shelter. Massachusetts law limits how long children can stay in homeless shelters without parental consent, and several domestic violence shelters told Human Rights Watch that they do not admit children unless they are accompanied by a parent seeking shelter. Of girls married under age 18, 50% drop out of high school. The pandemic has made the situation for these girls much worse as they are unable to seek services, or even leave their homes, resulting in a dramatic increase in domestic violence. Approximately 70%-80% of underage marriages end in divorce, but many minors trapped in a marriage must wait years until they are old enough to legally end the marriage.

Human Rights Watch is working with a coalition of about 40 organizations and individuals to end child marriage in Massachusetts. The groups include more than 40 state and national based organizations and individuals. The Massachusetts End Child Marriage Coalition is leading the efforts on strategies to advocate for the new law.

Massachusetts most recently in 2019 attempted to pass a law banning marriage for anyone under 18 but it didn't pass. Now the 192nd legislative session is trying again, with Bill SD.292 and HD.718, presented by Senator Harriette L. Chandler and Representative Kay Kahn. To contact your own legislator to ask for their support for these bills, here is the search tool you can use by entering your home address. www.malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator

Child Marriage in the U.S. Statistics ~ Girls who marry before the age of 18 are:

- Three times more likely to be beaten by their spouses than women who wed at 21 or older.
- More likely to describe their first sexual experience as forced.
- 31% more likely to live in poverty when they are older.
- 50% more likely to drop out of high school and four times less likely to graduate from college than their unmarried peers.
- At a 70 - 80% chance of divorcing. Teen mothers who marry and then divorce are more likely to suffer economic deprivation and instability than teen mothers who stay single.
- More likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression.
- At a 23% higher risk of heart attack, diabetes, cancer and stroke than women who marry between ages 19 and 25, partly because of the added stress and forfeited education.

Convinced that young girls should have a chance to mature? Let's raise our voices! Share this info, contact your MA Legislators!.

**Kerry L. Chenausky, NP
Belchertown Internal Medicine, Primary Care**



Kerry Chenausky will join us at the May business meeting to speak about women's health issues in this time of Covid. A graduate of UMass Amherst and the MGH Institute of Health Professions, Kerry is a Women's Health and Adult Primary Care Nurse Practitioner currently working at Belchertown Internal Medicine. She prioritizes patient-centered, respectful care and looks

forward to partnering with patients to achieve their health and wellness goals. In addition to primary care, Kerry is a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and lectures in Maternal-Newborn Nursing at American International College.

Among other things, we will speak with Kerry on stable insurance coverage, access to telehealth and mental health services, and the availability of safe in-person services to support women in obtaining needed health care for the remainder of the pandemic and beyond. Please bring your questions and invite guests to join you.

**The ZONTA Club of Quaboag Valley
27th Golf Tournament Fundraiser**

Sunday, September 12, 2021
Cold Spring Country Club, Belchertown, MA

7:30 a.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start - 18 Hole Scramble with Boxed lunch, Raffles and Prizes
Cost: \$100 per person

As we continue to deal with the uncertain times of COVID-19, you can expect the same protocols established last year at this annual fundraiser to offer a safe and fun outing for all to enjoy. All related activities will be held outdoors, boxed lunches will be offered, masks are required before and after play. Registration will be expedited to encourage social distancing.

Please start spreading the word to:
**Participants—forms at zontaqv.org/golf and
Sponsors—forms at zontaqv.org/golf
Keep an eye out for raffle gift ideas and start collecting or soliciting.
Contact Committee Chair **Debbie Wood** for more info.**



**Applications Open for
JMK**

The 2021 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business (JMK) 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. **Completed applications are due by May 15th. Download at www.zontaqv.org/resources.**

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, funded by the Zonta International Foundation for Women.



**ZONTA GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021
COLD SPRING CC BELCHERTOWN**

8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start - 18 Hole Scramble

Your support helps strengthen our organization, allowing us to continue providing the important community and worldwide service projects that further Zonta's vision of a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.



Mail Registration AND Payment by
September 1st to
Zonta of Quaboag Valley
PO Box 1034, Belchertown MA 01007
Questions: (413) 219-8260
Email: info@zontaqv.org

As we continue to deal with the uncertain times of COVID-19, there will be necessary changes to this annual fundraiser to offer a safe and fun outing for all to enjoy.

\$100 /Person
Includes
Greens Fees, Cart,
Boxed Lunch
Raffles
and Prizes
Day of Fun for a
Worthy Cause

Registration Form,
Online payment,
and Details:
zontaqv.org/golf



TAKE A PICTURE!

This fundraiser—thanks to most members of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley who contributed and sold chances—has been a great success. 298 Chances = \$7450 in profits, Well Done, Zontians! Thanks and best wishes for everyone who donated to this important project. Daily picks for the month of May will be notified by the person who sold the chance. Arrangements will be made for delivery and the winner will be announced on Facebook.

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley

Empowering women through service and advocacy

Lottery Calendar Fundraiser **\$25 Donation**

May 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Total value of the gifts donated for this fundraiser: \$2,084 . Sale of chances ends 4/30 at 10pm.						1 \$100 Gift Card Talbot's
2 \$100 Gift Card Center Square Grill	3 \$25 Gift Card Dunkin	4 \$50 Gift Card A.W. Brown Pet & Garden	5 Cinco de Mayo \$25 Gift Card On the Border	6 \$25 Gift Card Dick's Sporting Goods	7 \$25 Gift Card I Hop	8 \$50 Gift Card Big Y, Fresh Acres, Table & Vine
9 Mother's Day \$400+ Pampering Package *	10 \$25 Big Y & Fast Pot Jr. Multicooker	11 \$25 Gift Card Starbucks	12 \$25 Gift Card L.L.Bean	13 \$40 Gift Card Applebee's	14 \$25 Gift Card Randall's	15 \$200 Samsonite Laptop Backpack
16 \$100 Gift Card Johnny's Bar & Grille	17 \$50 Gift Card Barnes & Noble	18 \$25 Gift Card Esselon Cafe	19 \$50 Gift Card Sixteen Acres Garden Center	20 \$25 Gift Card Lowe's	21 \$50 Gift Card Atkins Farm	22 \$50 Gift Card Bass Pro
23 \$100 worth of Scratch Tickets!	24 \$25 Gift Card Rosewood Home & Gifts	25 \$60 value Houseplant +3 RescueWicks	26 \$50 Gift Card Stop & Shop	27 \$25 Gift Card Atkins Farm	28 \$50 Gift Card Applebee's	29 \$100 Gift Card Center Square Grill
30 \$25 Gift Card to Gardening Supply Hadley & \$50 Basket of Items	31 \$100 Gift Card Delaney House	<p>* Mother's Day – Picture and itemized list at zontaqv.org/may2021</p> <p>Rules: Starting May 1st, an announcement of the winner for that day will be posted at 6pm on www.facebook.com/ZontaQuaboagValley. The winner will be notified by phone or email, with arrangements for delivery. Then, that name will go back into the pot for the next drawing.</p>				

Drawings will be on each day of the month in May. Winning names will be re-entered into the remaining drawings. Proceeds from the sale of this fundraiser will be used to support the work of Zonta, locally and globally.

Please fill out information below and return it with your \$25 donation to a Zonta member **or mail with check** to Zonta of Quaboag Valley, P.O. 1034 Belchertown MA 01007 **or register and pay online at** <https://zontaqv.square.site/>

Thank you to our Zontian members for their generosity and to our special sponsors: Steve Chiacchia, William Ploran, Kathy Picard Jillian Knapp–Rosewood Home & Gifts Dawn Nooney–Renew Calm Day Spa Carrie Neffinger–Woodland Massage Therapy

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Seller: _____



Very Successful event! Highlights:

The Zonta District 1 Spring Workshop was held on Saturday, April 24th, 2021 via zoom. There were 56 attendees and guests for the morning session..

It was indeed a fast-paced agenda that covered many topics, so everyone came away with exciting ideas and resources to take back to their club. The program covered membership, leadership, advocacy, service and our impact on women in the world. Speakers and fun activities helped raise awareness about how other Zontians in District 1 are engaged in women's issues. Advocacy updates offered easy and effective ways we can act locally; Member updates shared how to inspire and engage members

when we can't meet face-to-face; and Service updates generated ideas on how to give back to our community during these unprecedented times. Attendees really appreciated the spotlighting of members and clubs throughout the event. Kudos to the Berkshire Club who sponsored the District Workshop for all Areas!

If you would like to view a recording of the 3 hour event or just peruse the PowerPoint slides that were used to keep us on track, visit www.ZontaDistrict1.org for links.

Early bird winner: Cheryl Dorfman won a packet of 8 Mandala-themed notecards created by Lynn Goodhue of Northampton

1st timer winner: Janice Tatarka, Chelsea NS (packet of notecards)

Attendee winners: Patricia Pupek, Quaboag Valley (packet of notecards) and Debbie O'Neil, Berkshire Area (basket)

Club winner: Concord (Liz Hart will join a meeting to speak about the UN)

2021 District 1 Spring Workshop April 24th

8:45 a.m. Zoom Start, Welcome and Networking

9:00 a.m. Welcome From Governor Beatrice

9:15 a.m. Human Trafficking: What You Need to Know **Amber Estelle**, Director of Human Trafficking Services at YWCA
Handout coming—will be posted at zontadistrict1.org

9:45 a.m. Advocacy and You CA Advocacy Chair Kathleen Naylor & US Advocacy Chair Donna Raycraft
Slides are posted at zontadistrict1.org

10:05 a.m. Our Role in the World: ZI spotlight Donna Clifford, ZI Foundation Ambassador
Slides are posted at zontadistrict1.org

10:40 a.m. Membership / Leadership Panel
Slides are posted at zontadistrict1.org

11:00 a.m. Wellness Break

11:10 a.m. Service Project Breakout ` Small Room Discussions

12:00 p.m. Take-aways. Action items, Closing Remarks

Members of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley argue that service clubs can provide constructive and positive engagement even in the pandemic.

It's a great time to join a service club

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley

Are you thinking to yourself, "Really, what's the point of joining a service club? I don't have a lot of money. I don't have time for weekly meetings. I want to do hands on stuff — not go to meetings. I am not a leader in the community."

Even before COVID, membership in service clubs was on the decline. They can be quite mysterious and often misunderstood. Unless a person is a member of a service club, they might not even know what one is all about. How many times have we heard, "What is Zonta?"

Zonta, an international organization focused on empowering women and girls at home and around the world, is looking to attract younger members. Zonta, like so many other service clubs, has experienced a drop in membership. Our club's average age is well north of 50 and many have been members for more than 20 years. So, what do we have to offer a "younger" person?

In speaking with possible candidates, one woman put our problem into perspective — "Why would I pay to join a club to do what I can do for free?" She isn't wrong. Before COVID, there were lots of opportunities to volunteer in our community. Service clubs were often seen as elitist and expensive. They didn't meet the desires of younger people.

Yet we in Zonta are volunteers — helping to address the needs of others in our community. We just happen to volunteer through our club and empower women through our service and advocacy. Ask a current member why they joined Zonta and they will likely say: for friendship; business connections; opportunities to do good; and to be a part of a larger international mission.

This hasn't changed, and the majority of our members are still "seasoned." So why join now?

More than ever, we need connections to our communities. We need to feel useful and be with people. If we can do something to help someone else, then that is a bonus. Service clubs now, as always, can provide this connection.

They say that necessity is the mother of invention. This is definitely the trend in service clubs, expedited because of the global pandemic. The old ways have given way to: Online meetings; Online fundraising events that are smaller, more intimate and more accessible financially; Greater understanding that meetings need to be short to avoid Zoom fatigue; Appreciation and acceptance that it's OK if members don't attend every meeting; Age is irrelevant — whether older or younger — as long as you are willing to learn; More emphasis on hands-on and committee engagement to the extent members can participate; Working in partnership with service delivery organizations (supporting their events or activities) rather than creating their own; Acknowledgment that post-COVID, we can't go back to the old ways; We need a hybrid model of in person and online; We need to be flexible and nimble; **Members need to be accepted on their terms, no judgment; Not everyone will be a lifer. Change is OK.**

The one thing that hasn't, and won't, change is the closeness that members feel for each other. Find the right group, and you will have friends for life, even if you aren't a member for life. As one new member of Zonta Quaboag Valley recently wrote: "When I asked to join Zonta I thought it was just a service club, but over the short time I have attended the meetings, I have realized it is much more. It is also a lovely group of women supporting each other through the happy and painful times in life."

What better time to begin a new connection, with like minded individuals, causes that you can be passionate about, people who are interesting and a chance give back to the community. You will get a great feeling knowing that you are part of something that goes beyond the local area. You will be connected to individuals from around the world who share common interests. This is what a service club can offer.

Join us for a meeting, chat with one of our members, interview a recipient of our good works. Now is a great time to join!

Adjusting On The Fly

Even a Pandemic Won't Hold this Club Back!