



ZONTA
CLUB OF
QUABOAG VALLEY
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

ZONTA CLUB OF QUABOAG VALLEY BOG NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2022

2022 Dates for your Calendar

February 14 @ 6pm on Zoom

Speaker and Meeting

Theresa Nicholson, Director of Homelessness Services at CHD will provide us with her perspective on the status of women and children living in poverty during this pandemic, especially in rural areas of the Quaboag Valley and its surrounding communities. We are collecting feminine products right now, but is there another primary, hands-on need that service organizations like ours can help with?

March 8 Zonta Rose & International Women's Day

March 14 Business Meeting

Commission on the Status of Women
CSW66 March 14—25 Virtual only

April 11 Business Meeting

May 9 Business Meeting

June 13 Business Meeting

Zonta International Convention 2022
Hamburg, Germany

June 25—28

Early registration is open with Virtual and on-site rates!!

**Zonta.org/
convention**



Stories of resilience in
2021 Annual Report
**[www.zonta.org/
annualreport](http://www.zonta.org/annualreport)**

The Zonta Foundation for Women is pleased to share the 2021 Zonta Foundation for Women Annual Report. Read about the impact our do-

ners' gifts made on women and girls all around the world over the last year.

Hello fellow Zontians and Friends,

I hope everyone stayed safe and warm throughout January's blizzard. I personally like one good snow storm and now I guess I'm ready for spring.

Our Period Project is underway and I have already received some donations. I have gotten pads, tampons, a menstrual cup, and some bars of soap. I would say we still need a bit of everything but pads and tampons are always the bulk of the need. The link to the Amazon wish list is posted on our Facebook page and website. You can always go and purchase supplies and drop them off at my house if that is easier for you. Mary Knight is going to have a little get together at her house and put together some kits on 2/12. Our February business meeting is on 2/14 and we will have speaker Theresa Nicholson, director of Homelessness Services at CHD. She will talk to us about the status of women and children living in poverty in the Quaboag Valley area during this pandemic.



In March the focus will be on climate change. Zonta International is hosting a CSW66 (Commission on the Status of Women) parallel event titled: Zonta Says Now to gender equality and climate action. It will be March 15th from 8-9am EST on Zoom. I encourage everyone to attend this event and also to enroll in the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women taking place virtually March 14-25. The theme for this year's CSW is "achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change; environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs". Our club will follow these themes and host Ollie Perrault from Climate Action Now at our March business meeting Monday the 14th at 6p on Zoom. Please invite guests.

By April let us cross our fingers that it may be warm enough and Covid will have receded enough that we may be able to meet in person. The theme for April is leadership! The club is still in need for members to step up and take on some leadership roles. The nominating committee along with the board has been approaching members to encourage their engagement. While we have some nominees considering positions, please do not hesitate to come forward if you are interested. This club is an amazing group and no one is going to be left without support in any leadership position. We all shoulder the work together and that's what makes us great.

Everyone stay safe and healthy. Spring is coming!

In Zonta Friendship,
President Dana Burton

Birthday wishes:

Cyd Melcher 2/3
Susan Seaver 2/5
Danielle Petrangelo 2/8
Patricia Pupek 2/13
Kristin Goold 2/14



Period Project

Period Project Wish List link at www.zontaqv.org/period



For women living with homelessness or poverty, having a period is more than a hassle. It's a financial burden. Basic menstrual hygiene products are costly, especially for women struggling to support themselves and their families. But pads and tampons are considered "non-essential" by the federal government, so they are not covered by SNAP and WIC programs. What's more, women and teens who are homeless often lack consistent access to hygiene products and safe sanitary spaces. You can help by supporting The Period Project!

Please donate an item to create monthly menstrual kits for homeless women and to stock supplies at local shelters. Together, we can make a period just a little easier for women and teens in need.

DONATIONS NEEDED: Sealed Boxes of Pads and Tampons, Menstrual Cups (reusable), Cleansing Wipes, Hand Sanitizers or Soap, Panty Liners, New Pairs of Underwear (Any Size).

Mary is also collecting items purchased and money donated for this cause by Zontians and supporters. **Please be sure to include donor name and address so we can acknowledge with a receipt for tax deductions.**

She will host a gathering to create kits at her home on Saturday 2/12 1-3ish with Pizza and salad to follow. **RSVP.**
Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley c/o: Mary Knight 41 Woodhaven Dr. Belchertown MA 01007 (413)323-4806.

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley District I, Area II, Charter 1317 of Zonta International Club Officers 2021—2022

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

Website: www.zontaqv.org

Committee Chairs/ Members 2021—2022

Finance/Audit: Chair Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Pam, Sue
Membership: Chair Mary Knight, Mike, Andrea
PR /Communication: Chair Mary Knight, Dana
Advocacy/UN: Chair Pam Albertson, Mary Ann, Chris, Debbie
Service: Chair Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Patti, Chris, Maria
Scholarships: Chair Kris Goold, Maria, Marge, Dana
Program: Chair: Cyd Melcher, Karen, Dana
Poinsettia Fundraiser: Chair Liz Reeves, Patti, Danielle, Mary
Golf Fundraiser: Chair Debra Wood, Suzanne, Stacy, Marge, Karen, Chris, Dana
Spring Fundraiser: Chair Patricia Pupek, Joanne, Janet, Sue
Nominating:
Trish Pupek, Kristin Goold, Janet DaSilva

Zonta of Quaboag Valley— January 10, 2021 Business Meeting

Business Meeting – Zoom

Present: Dana Burton, Gloria Caballero Roca, Kerry Chenausky, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Karen Keough-Huff, Chris Keough-Huff, Mary Knight, Cyd Melcher, Liz Reeves, Mary Ann Rubis, Mike Wallace, Debbie Wood, Pam Albertson, Trish Pupek,

Absent: Andrea Bordenca, Marge Cavanaugh, Janet DaSilva, Maria Maloney, Patti Matthieu, Kris Gool, Danielle Petrangelo, Susan Seaver, Suz Tiranno, Stacy Troy

Guests: Speakers Nazifa Safie nazifahassan.r@gmail.com (along with her husband and son) and Dianne Fuller Doherty <dfdoherty@gmail.com>, Donna Sroka (Northampton Zonta), Denise Reed (formerly of Springfield Zonta), Chris Shirtcliff <cfsmain@charter.net>, KC Wheaton <kcandryan@gmail.com>, Elaine Sai, Kerry Jackson, Jean Fisher, Jeanmarie A. Deliso <jdeliso@delisofinancialservices.com>, Lisa Doherty <ldoherty@businessriskpartners.com> and other guests invited by Nazifa.

President Dana Burton welcomed all of our guests and turned the meeting over to Cyd to introduce our guest speakers.

The presentation was recorded. Go to <https://zontadistrict1.org/calendar-of-events.html> to get the link.

Presentation – One family's journey – from Afghanistan to Western MA Nazifa Safie, MBA, had a varied career in Afghanistan, working as a pharmacist, then as a gender specialist and finance and administrative manager for the First Deputy CEO of Afghanistan Government, and finally as Country Operation Manager for Center for Civilians in Conflict. In August, when the Taliban started taking over again with the U.S. withdrawal, her life was in danger. After a harrowing few weeks, she and her family were finally able to get a flight out of Afghanistan and in September of 2021 they came to rest in Western Massachusetts and in the care of Dianne Fuller Doherty with whom they lived before moving into their own home in Agawam. It is quite a story – worth watching and listening if you missed it! Dianne gave credit to several individuals for their support and will get back to us with ideas on how we can help.

Dana called the business meeting to order at 7pm

Mary introduced Chris Shirtcliff, a potential new member from Belchertown.

Dana announced that Kris is having some medical issues. Trish will use Sunshine Funds to send her a small gift wishing her speedy recovery.

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

Treasurers Report: Joann has caught up with all the entries and sent out a report covering the first 7 months of the fiscal year. There being no questions, a motion was made and approved to file the report ending December 2021 for audit.

District Update – Dana and Mary Ann shared that our District is going to change the structure by reducing the number of Areas from 4 to 2. We are the smallest District in Zonta and have not been able to fill 2 vacant Area Director slots this biennium. The consensus was that all the MA clubs should be 1 Area and the rest of the new England states + Nova Scotia make up the second Area. Dana will report that to the Governor as requested.

Committee Reports

Nominations –Please contact a member of the nomination committee (Dana, Trish, Kris or Janet) before you are asked to step up!

You will be mentored and supported. The positions and job descriptions will be posted in the next Newsletter. Nominations are needed before the end of March so voting can take place in April.

Service – We have one outstanding Service Request from *Ankaa Empowerment*. KC gave us an update of activity since last meeting. Joanne's committee will hopefully have a recommendation to membership in February.

Joanne also reminded us that we have a substantial amount of funds for local service donations and will send out a challenge for members to nominate local organizations to receive a communication from the club to submit a Service Request.

In the past, February has been highlighted with our Period Project. After discussing the fact that large groups are not possible right now due to the omicron variant of the pandemic, a couple of suggestions were made:

(1) Pick 4-5 organizations who we have supported with products in the past and use service funds (\$492 already targeted + an unspecified additional amount) to mail each a donation ear-marked to purchase menstrual products.

(2) Small groups of folks might want to meet up and create packets for distribution to some of the smaller

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Zonta of Quaboag Board Meeting—January 17, 2022 on Zoom

Present: Dana Burton, Mary Knight, Patti Matthieu, Chris Keough-Huff, Sue Seavers, Joanne Turner Chiacchia

Absent: Andrea Bordenca, Danielle Petrangelo, Trish Pupek

President Dana called the meeting to order at 6:05.

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

Treasurers – Joanne announced that we have a confirmed profit number for the Poinsettia drive: \$2922 – best ever, thanks in part to generous donations made to the fundraiser. She noted also that we will renew our CD for 6 months when it comes due; while it will get a low interest rate, all the local banks are about the same.

District Update – Dana has notified Governor Beatrice that our club would be in favor of combining our Area (2) with Area 4, covering the other clubs in Massachusetts.

Nominations – Dana noted that we need a slate of officers for the next biennium in March, for voting on in April. With Janet not responding and Kris in recovery mode, Trish may need some help seeking volunteers to step up. Needed: President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary and at least 3 Directors. We also need three members to serve on the Nominating Committee for next biennium. This is a great opportunity to learn and practice leadership skills in a safe environment, with plenty of mentors.

Service – Joanne, Chair of the committee, announced the following

Ankaa – Dana and Mary Ann were added to the committee as ad hoc members. It was decided not to fill the service request at this time, but without prejudice. When they have a clear path to direct service we would like to reconsider.

The committee will send out a Service Grant Challenge, requesting each of our members to contact one or more organizations that serve women and girls in our area and encourage them to apply for service funds for a project that includes a hands-on component for Zontians.

Period Project – We will not have the usual large gathering this year due to continued Pandemic levels, but members do want to continue the tradition of raising awareness and contributing products. Dana will update an Amazon wish list and promote it in Social Media; the products collected will be donated to shelters/foodbanks locally – either in bulk or packets made up by small groups of members. As we have money earmarked in the budget for this project and additional funds we want to donate, 4-5 organizations will be selected to receive cash donations specifically for the purchase of menstrual products. Mary will send out a list of organizations we have worked with in the past and request a ranking. The actual dollar amount to each will be decided at the February meeting.

Upcoming meetings

February 14 business meeting on Zoom March 13 – 25 virtual Commission on the Status of Women

March 14 business meeting – with a speaker on Climate Change **Next board meeting February 21.**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Knight, Secretary

January Business Meeting minutes continued

shelters. Dana has some products already delivered from Amazon and additional products could be solicited.

Mary will include this information in the next newsletter.

Scholarships – Dana reported that the Young Women in Public Affairs Application is on our website (zontaqv.org/resources) and local school guidance counselors have been contacted to encourage students to apply for the \$1000 award by the 3/11 deadline.

Other news _____

SoldierOn Women - Still awaiting word from Casey about the exact number of women moving in and the visiting possibilities.

Upcoming events _____

February 14 Business Meeting @6pm – ZOOM Business meeting

March 13-35 Commission on the Status of Women – virtual and free! More info will be published in newsletter

March 14 Business Meeting @6pm

Dana thanked everyone for attending and we adjourned at 7:43

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Knight, Secretary

Service Grant Challenge

We have been very successful in our fundraising efforts over the last couple of years. One-third of those funds are targeted to the Zonta International Foundation for Women in support of International Service Projects, Education awards and Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women efforts. The remaining money is available for local initiatives!

It has been suggested that we explore giving out community grants from our Service Funds to provide an opportunity for local non-profit organizations to apply for funding for projects that will improve the lives of women and girls. Grants could be funded each year using a Service Grant Fund Application.

The Service Committee has set the following requirements for Grant Applications/Applicants:

- The money will be used for direct services only and not administration
- The proposed project provides services to individuals in the greater Quaboag Valley
- The project includes a hands-on component that Zontians (and supporters, if appropriate) can take part in
- Organizations are tax-exempt under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3)
- Organizations have a non-discrimination policy or an organizational philosophy of non-discrimination
- Organizations have defined goals and objectives

We need your help in identifying non-profits to approach. See list of possibilities below. **We are challenging every member of the club to seek out and invite at least one local organization that serves women and girls in some capacity (i.e. shelters, food banks, etc.) to submit a Service Grant Request** —located at www.zontaqv.org/resources.

Copy Joanne with the organization/s name, contact person invited so we have a tracking record - and avoid duplication.

We could use this as a way of generating publicity and goodwill, as well as fulfill our mission of empowering women and girls locally.

The Service Committee,
Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Chairman

P.S. Suggested cover letter or verbal invitation:

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley has been very successful in our fundraising efforts over the last couple of years. One-third of those funds are targeted to the Zonta International Foundation for Women in support of International Service Projects, Education awards and Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women efforts. The remaining money is available for local initiatives!

We are inviting your organization to apply for a community grant to fund or partially fund a specific project that directly supports women and girls in our service area. The project needs to have a hands-on component for Zontians (and supporters, if appropriate). I have attached the Service Grant Request form that includes the specific requirements and structure for submitting the proposal. I would be happy to get answers to any questions you have. You might also want to visit our club website - zontaqv.org and our international site - Zonta.org for more information

While there is not a specific cut-off date for the Grants, timely responses have the best chance of getting funded.

P.P.S. As you think about Service initiatives for our club, please view this short [Ted Talk](#) by Elizabeth Dunn.

Amherst Survival Center
Mental Health Association
The Gray House
Ware River Valley DV Task Force

The Care Center
Safe Passage
Women's Fund of Western MA
Girls Scouts of Western MA

CHD
Alianza DV
Ludlow Cares
Save Our Kids

YWCA of Western MA
ROCA Springfield
Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force
Women of Color



United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) www.ngocsw.org

NGO CSW/NY organizes the civil society side of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The NGO CSW Forum runs parallel to the official session taking place at the UN Headquarters. This provides civil society the opportunity to engage in the processes and CSW sessions without ECOSOC-accreditation or a UN grounds pass.

<https://ngocsw.org/ngo-csw-66/>

Registration for the Forum is now open! It is virtual and FREE.

The NGO CSW66 Forum will take place from 13-25 March, kicking off with Consultation Day on the 13th. Over the two weeks of the UN CSW, NGO CSW/NY organizes more than 500 events that inform, engage and inspire grassroots efforts and advocacy needed to empower women and girls.

Last year, we had the first-ever virtual Forum with a record-breaking 27,000+ participants and over 700 events!



Zonta Convention 2022 25-28 June

This will be a special convention, as it is the first one of our second century of empowering women through service and advocacy. We are eager to reconnect with Zonta friends and to meet new friends.

Both in-person and virtual!

www.zonta.org/convention

Donation Opportunities to discuss at February meeting:

Top Floor Learning

The Palmer Library will again have its May Basket Raffle to benefit Top Floor Learning's wide range of adult literacy programs and lifelong learning courses, workshops, and computer classes to the residents of the Quaboag Hills region and surrounding areas. We have designated \$100 in our budget for this purpose and traditionally commit to donating a golf-themed basket. If members want to continue this tradition, we need a volunteer to coordinate and members and supporters to donate items in time for the April 11th deadline.

May Calendar Fundraiser

If we want to repeat last year's amazing fundraiser, we need to get pledges during the month of March for 30 days worth of gift cards and prizes (most \$25, but up to \$100 for Mother's Day and weekends), then sell \$25 chances during the month of April. Last year's \$7000 profit success was due to nearly 300 chances sold plus sponsors who stepped up. Can we do this again?

USA Advocacy—Donna Raycraft, District 1 Chair

The ZI USA Advocacy Caucus consists of the following Committees: End Child Marriage, Equal Rights Amendment, Violence Against Women, Education for Women, Human Trafficking, Women and Work, Women's Health and Women and Climate Change. Each of the committees tracks State and Federal bills that will advance each of these issues. It is the policy to be political but not partisan, so generally we look for bills that have bi-partisan support in sponsorship.

Remember that as Zonta members we have pledged to empower women through service and advocacy. Sometimes in our clubs we concentrate on the service part more easily than the advocacy part. However, we might live in a world where if we did enough advocacy, the service wouldn't be necessary. The next time you participate in a service, whether it's providing a scholarship or collecting things for homeless women or a domestic violence shelter, ask yourself what needs to be done to prevent these needs. That's where we roll up our sleeves and stand up for women through.

Detailed updates of four committees have been posted on our District website: ZontaDistrict1.org / Resource Center / Advocacy. Below is a brief introduction to each.

Ending Child Marriage

This is a Zonta issue that is being worked on across the country. District 1 has been particularly active, especially in Massachusetts where the Malden Club worked closely with Zonta in NY State with very effective testimony on bills sponsored by Senator Chandler and Representative Khan. Kudos to the Zonta Clubs in MA, which is being looked at as one of the strongest possibilities for effective change. Watch [End Child Marriage In Massachusetts \(hrw.org/EndChildMarriage\)](https://hrw.org/EndChildMarriage)

Go to the District website to get updates on other New England States

Equal Rights Amendment

As we all know, this January marked the 100th year that we have worked for equal rights for women. This amendment needed 38 states to ratify it in order for it to pass. The 38th state was Virginia. However, at one point in the battle a stipulation was slipped into the bill that put a timeline on when that 38th state ratified. No other amendment has ever had a time limit. So our fight now is to get that time line extended or eliminated so that Virginia's ratification can be counted. Let it be noted that nowhere in the amendment can be found the word "women". It simply states that rights will be equal for all genders.

Read a 1/27/22 statement from President Biden at the District website.

Women and Climate Change

We know that climate change has a different effect on women than it does on men. This newly created committee will focus on those differences. There will be much more coming from this new committee as it begins its work. Meanwhile, two important actions you can take.

1. Read a statement from Zonta International on this topic and a letter sent to President Biden from the women's caucus of the US Senate.
2. Watch for an upcoming event [Zonta Says Now to gender equality and climate action](#) at the CSW66 on March 15th from 8-9am EST.

Go to the District website to read the statement and letter referenced and see the save the date announcement.

ZONTA SAYS NOW
To gender equality and climate action

Join us for the Zonta Says NOW Zoom seminar at the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Save the date!
CSW66 FORUM
NGO CSW/NY Parallel Event
15 March 2022
8am to 9.30am EST

Why should you attend?
Zonta International is a global human rights organization empowering women and girls worldwide. Zonta International acknowledges that climate change is a gender equality issue. Using tools from the Zonta Says NOW pilot program, Zontians from the USA and Australia will share a simple and practical approach that can be used by any group to progress gender equality and climate action. This 'how-to' presentation will inspire you to take climate action at community, national, and global scales—NOW.

Our practical approach
We gather facts about gender inequality and climate change
We reduce our carbon footprint
We add our voice to influence our communities
We advocate for gender equality and climate action
We collaborate with like-minded organisations

Our mission
Zontians say YES to gender equality, NO to violence against women, and NOW to climate action
Zonta Says NOW is creating a gender-equal, sustainable world by
• educating girls
• advocating for women's rights and
• inspiring more female leaders

Our team
Our presenters are Zontians from:
ZONTA INTERNATIONAL USA CAUCUS
ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 21

Violence Against Women Advocacy

Many Zonta Clubs in the US, and, in fact, around the world, are working with indigenous people to secure the rights of women. I would urge you to watch a video produced by the Zonta Club of Billings, Montana with the Montana Native Women's Coalition <https://youtu.be/ZDoVD9AmvMo>. It highlights what they did with the "Red Dress Project", which can be replicated anywhere. This could even be a District project.

Go to the District website to read about other documentaries on indigenous people and a course available on Standing Up to Racism that might be of interest.

Speaker for Monday, February 14th on Zoom: Theresa Nicholson CHD Director of Homelessness Services



The Center for Human Development, Inc. (CHD) provides a broad range of high quality, community-oriented human services dedicated to promoting, enhancing, and protecting the dignity and welfare of people in need. Working in local communities, and partnering with local agencies, we provide focused, personalized services that promote real and lasting change.

We understand the challenges that low-income families face, from holding on to safe housing to keeping everyone healthy. When money is tight, one unexpected emergency can derail everything. Without stable housing, children often go hungry, experience health issues, and miss out on educational opportunities. If someone you know is homeless, in danger of losing housing, or doesn't have enough to eat, please reach out today. We connect people to emergency housing and food assistance programs throughout Western Massachusetts. 1-413-737-2679

Nominations are Open for the Zonta Club of QV 2022-24

Two important documents to review as you consider stepping up to a leadership position can be found at zontaqv.org/resources

Zonta Club Bylaws—operational guidelines for the Quaboag Club
and

Zonta Club Manual—administration guidelines for Zonta Clubs
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Also important is the support you can expect to receive from Zonta International, Zonta District 1 and Club members. Zonta is committed to the ongoing growth and development in knowledge and competencies of Zonta leaders at all levels of the organization to support effectiveness and relevance for today and tomorrow.

Details can be found at zonta.org / MyZonta

Once you sign in, go to Tools / Leadership Development Tools

Please reach out to Trish Pupek, Chair of the Nominating Committee, or any current club leaders for guidance and information.

2022



YOUNG WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARD

Recognizing young women for their commitment to volunteerism, volunteer leadership achievements and dedication to empowering women worldwide



1 APPLICATION, 3 OPPORTUNITIES

Club award
Varies by club

32 district awards
US\$1,500 each

10 international awards
US\$5,000 each

Applications must be received by the applicant's local Zonta club's deadline. To locate a club near you and download an application, please visit: zonta.org/YWPAAward.

CLUB DEADLINE:

MARCH 8, 2022
Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley
www.zontaqv.org

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO:

Kristin Goold
82 Catalpa Ter, Springfield, 01119
413 783-4376
kmgoold@aol.com

The Young Women in Public Affairs Award is a Zonta International program funded by contributions to the Zonta Foundation for Women. Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.