



ZONTA

CLUB OF QUABOAG VALLEY

THE ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

2023 Dates—Mark your Calendar

Thank you for working so hard to sell Calendar Raffle tickets!

June 19 (3rd Monday)

Ludlow Country Club Reservations required *

Year end wrap up and Awards, Installation of Officers and Induction of 4 new members.

June 30—July 2 2023 NAIDM Indianapolis

North American Inter-District Meeting includes US and Canadian clubs—all welcome!

September 9—Zonta Golf Tournament

September 11 Business Meeting (TBA)

October 9 Business Meeting (TBA)

October 27—29 District Conference Nova Scotia

So many reasons to attend!

- Direct flight from Boston to Halifax
- Financially favorable to the US dollar
- Fabulous speakers and workshops
- Amazing places to explore
- Zonta spirit at its best—fun event!!
- Great food—including a lobster dinner

2024

**June 27—30 Zonta International Convention
Brisbane, Australia**

* Email info@zontaqv.org to RSVP

Dinner cost \$25pp cash or check; \$28 for online purchase at www.zontaqv.square.site (Donate button)

Stay in the Know about all things Zonta

Go to Zonta.org and click on News & Events

Visit ZontaDistrict1.org for local news.

Hello fellow Zontians & Friends,

I'm excited to begin my term as president of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley.



During that time I hope we can focus on a few things to move the club forward in achieving our goals. First of course is membership and working to increase our numbers. Every current member can help this in a fairly simple way by inviting friends and colleagues to attend meetings. Share newsletters and emails about upcoming events. Post on social media and link to our pages on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, etc. We can also ensure that our programs are of interest to a diverse audience and spread the word as effectively as possible.

We also need to work on growing leadership and succession planning so that new members learn how our club works by participating in committee and other volunteer work, then take on increased responsibilities first as chairs and organizers, then board members and then as officers. This helps ensure that everyone is prepared to step up and everyone has adequate support to avoid burnout.

We have an extraordinary mission and are doing truly radical work to support women and girls literally around the world. Many in Central and Western Massachusetts are impressed with our service projects and appreciate our role in the community and I'm sure many of them will want to join us as they learn more. Thank you for having confidence in me to serve as president and thank you for continuing to do this work.

Sincerely,
Cyd Melcher

PS. To stay relevant during the next 100 years and do the work that needs to be done, Zonta is focusing its strategic efforts on visibility, building leaders, and celebrating each other. Let's continue to support this effort.

PPS. By email vote, Trish Pupek was voted to serve on the ZQV Board. Thanks for stepping up, Trish!

Best wishes to

Mary Ann Rubis 6/15

Christine Chartier 6/19

Kerry Chenausky 6/26



2023 Young Women in Public Affairs awarded to Elizabeth Jordan Mickens!

Elizabeth Jordan Mickens is a 18-year-old AP & Honors Senior attending the Springfield Renaissance School in Springfield, MA. She is the youngest of 5 siblings and the daughter of Dr. Cory & Laverne Mickens, educators in the City of Springfield. Liz is an accomplished artist and dancer, Vice President of the National Honor Society, and a tutor/mentor with Project Coach at Smith College.

Elizabeth will major in dance, illustration, digital art, and design and desires to attend Trinity College in Hartford, CT or Bard College in the Hudson Valley of NY. She will be a dancer/choreographer, visual artist, and commercial graphic designer. We expect this young woman will make a positive global impact with her artistry.

Elizabeth is unable to attend the June meeting so we took and her Mom to lunch on May 7 and presented Elizabeth with a yellow rose, a certificate and a check for \$1000 to use toward college expenses.



LAST CALL—Deadline for the Women in Business (JMK) and Women in STEM scholarships is June 17th. If you know of any eligible candidates, please ask them to get those applications in. Details at www.zontaqv.org/scholarships.

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley District I, Area II, Charter 1317 of Zonta International Club Officers 2022—2024

President: Cynthia Melcher
Vice President: Karen Keough-Huff
 Chris Keough-Huff
Treasurer: Susan Seaver
 Joanne Turner-Chiacchia
Secretary: Mary Knight
Directors: Kerry Chenausky
 Patricia Puppek
 Dana Burton

Committee Chairs/ Members 2022—2024

Finance/Audit: Chair: Pam Albertson,
Membership: Chair
Visibility: Chair Mary Knight, Dana
Advocacy/UN: Pam Albertson, Chris, Karen, Debbie
Climate Action: the Keough-Huffs, Mary, Dana
Service: Chair Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Kerry, Chris, Liz, Mary Ann
Scholarships: Chair Dana, Pam, Karen, Mary Ann, Kris
Poinsettia Fundraiser: Chair Liz Reeves,
Golf Fundraiser: Chair Debra Wood,
Spring Fundraiser: Chair Joanne, Mary

Nominating: Joanne, Trish, Dana

ZQV Business Meeting Minutes — May 8, 2023

Keough-Huff residence

Present: Dana Burton, Karen Keough-Huff, Chris Keough-Huff, Mary Knight, Mary Ann Rubis, Liz Reeves, Cyd Melcher, Susan Seaver, Debbie Wood, Trish Pupek, Bethany McLaughlin-Maynard

Absent: Gloria Caballero Roca, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Kerry Chenausky, Kris Goold, Marge Cavanaugh, Pam Albertson,

Guest: Heidi Gutekenst, Girlscout connection in Belchertown, stopped by to get acquainted hgutekenst@yahoo.com

Program

Our own Dr. Mary Ann Rubis, Zonta Foundation for Women Development Committee Chair provided an update on International Service Projects. Highlights included:

- 100% of donations to the Foundation for Women from individuals, clubs and supporters go directly to program support,
- There are three major fund categories at the Foundation: International Service, Education, and Special Funds, including Endowment Funds and the Rose Fund, where gifts are used where best needed.
- Since 1923, Zonta International has provided more than US\$46.3 million to empower women and girls and expand their access to education, health care, economic opportunities and safe living conditions. Through donations to the Zonta Foundation for Women, Zonta improves women's lives, their children's lives and the communities in which they live and work.
- International Service Fund supports programs that have provided training, education, health, sanitation, agricultural and micro-credit assistance to women, primarily through projects implemented by agencies of the United Nations and other recognized non-governmental organizations.
- The international service projects are chosen based on the following criteria: alignment with Zonta's mission and vision; impact (must be measurable); sustainability (must be able to continue when Zonta funding ends); partnership (implementation by recognized NGO); and feasibility (achievable with budget and resources). Other factors might be urgency, diversity and geographic location.
- Our focus in 2022-2024 - we have pledged \$3,200,000 to the following four projects:
 - Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection in Peru - we are helping UNICEF in responding to the health needs of adolescents—especially girls—in a timely manner and preventing violence in schools in Peru.
 - Her Health and Dignity, Our Priority: we are helping UNFPA in strengthening services for survivors of GBV. ensuring that all women and girls in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste live life free from violence and providing quality services to those who experience violence.
 - Engaging Girls on Climate Change in Madagascar - we are helping UNICEF enable children, particularly girls, to learn in a safe and inclusive environment and empowering them to take actions to build climate-resilient communities.
 - Ending Child Marriage - in phase 2 of this project we are helping UNICEF USA in protecting the rights of millions of vulnerable girls and putting an end to this global violation of human rights in 12 countries in Africa and Asia.

Mary Ann shared highlights of a site visit to India by President Ute Scholz where one-third of all marriages are child marriages.

Members are encouraged to visit zonta.org and learn more about current International Service projects and visit [youtube.com/@ZontaInternational/videos](https://www.youtube.com/@ZontaInternational/videos) to view videos about the projects we have undertaken in the past.

Thank you, Mary Ann, as always for a very informative program!

Dana called the business meeting to order at about 6:50

Dana thanked our hosts Chris and Karen for opening their home and yard – it was a beautiful night for a picnic!

April Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of April 10

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made and seconded to file the April report for audit. The vote was in favor. Members were thanked for getting dues payments to Sue in a timely manner; only 1-2 are outstanding. A donation in the amount of \$465 was made to the Rose fund in honor of our Woman of the Year, Dr. Christina Royal. Thanks to Trish, Liz and Mary Ann for the raffle baskets that earned that tidy sum!

Slate of Officers for 2023-2024 announced. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the slate as presented:

President: Cynthia (Cyd) Melcher | Co - Vice Presidents: Chris & Karen Keough-Huff |

Secretary: Mary Knight (serving one more year) | **Treasurer: Susan Seaver** (serving one more year)

Board Members: Kerry Chenausky, Gloria Caballero Roca (each serving one more year) and **Dana Burton**, past President

We would like 1 or 2 more to join please.

Nominating Committee: Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Dana Burton and Patricia Pupek (serving one more year)

Thank you to all these leaders for stepping up! An installation ceremony for Cyd, Chris and Karen will be at our June 19 meeting.

Committee Reports

Fundraising – The May Calendar Raffle sales raised a profit of \$4425 (an additional \$25 donation was made tonight)! Thanks to Trish for doing the daily drawings each day of the month! Videos of the winners being picked are posted at www.facebook.com/ZontaQuaboagValley and names are listed at zontaqv.org/may2023.

Golf Fundraiser (9/9/23) – Debbie shared that the committee is hard at work. The cost was increased to \$120 (Cold Spring CC increased their fees). Sponsors are being solicited. A poster and player forms are ready and will be posted soon at zontaqv.org/golf. Members were asked to start gathering contributions for the prize and raffle tables, and start asking golfing friends to save the date!

Service – Mary Ann announced that the Service Committee received a grant request from Susan Jaye-Kaplan – founder of Links to Libraries, and a long-time friend of Zonta – for a sum of money to purchase items for residents (95% women) of Ruth's House, Assisted Living Residence. The committee has recommended we give \$750. A motion was made to second this recommendation and the vote was in favor. Mary Ann will get the contact name and address to Treasurer Sue Seaver and notify Susan of the vote.

Bylaws – Zonta has published an updated bylaw template, based on changes made at the 2022 Convention. Mary volunteered to review and update our club bylaws and to share those changes with the club members. A 2/3 vote is required to approve bylaw changes.

Scholarship – Dana, Mary, Sue, and Trish had a lovely lunch with our YWPA winner Elizabeth Mickens and her mother, Laverne, who actually won this award herself 30 years ago from the Springfield club! Laverne has been invited to join Zonta! Women in Business (JMK) and Women in STEM scholarship applications have been sent to fiscal offices at all the area colleges, a press release and Facebook post were made, and all members are asked to pass the word. The deadline for submissions is 6/17

Membership

Three new members have been voted in to membership: **Christine Chartier** bacipapa@hotmail.com, **Lisa Foster** Lisagfos-ter@comcast.net, and **Bethany McLaughlin-Maynard** rbah@charter.net They will be inducted on 6/19.

We will also be joined by **Heather Oatis** (Currently a ZI Supporting Member) heather.oatis@gmail.com. Heather is transferring her membership to ZQV while starting to build a club in Hartford CT. We will be the sponsoring club and a mentor to Heather and others as they grow to at least 15 members.

District 1 e-Club of Atlantic Northeast is now forming. The District Club Creator team is holding informational sessions for interested individuals and recording the sessions for all Zontians and friends to watch. Please share names and contact information of any one who you think would be a good candidate for Zonta so we can share with the amazing work being done locally and globally.

Recruit and Retain Younger Members - membership.zontadistrict1.org/recruitment – PLEASE WATCH this 40 min video. There is information that all of us can learn from!

Bethany – one of the new members to be inducted in June – has turned out to be a powerhouse. She and her partner Kim Cruz from California have created a 3 minute video that all of us can use as a recruiting tool! At the meeting tonight, Bethany had each of us put the video on our phones. The video is posted at membership.zontadistrict1.org/, zontaqv.org, and ZontaDistrict1.org. Bethany will be joining the Membership Committee – which really is all members – and is anxious to help us develop a strategy for the year ahead.

Upcoming Events**June 19 (3rd Monday) Ludlow Country Club Reservations required ***

Year-end wrap up and Award for YWPA, Induction of New Members, Installation of new Officers

June 30 – July 2 North American InterDistrict Meeting in Indianapolis - <https://www.zontanaidm.org/> Check It out!

September 9 Golf Tournament fundraiser**October 27-29 Zonta District 1 Fall Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia CA - Call to Conference coming soon!**

Biannual meeting of District membership with ZI Liaison Fernanda Gallo Freschi and an address from Ute Scholz. Unveiling of strategic plans for the future of Zonta International. Voting for next biennium's District leadership and other business, speakers and workshops on Climate Change, Human Trafficking, and more. Lobster dinner on Friday (complimentary of Halifax), banquet on Saturday night, excursions before and after meetings being planned.

Dana thanked everyone for attending and we adjourned

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Knight, Secretary

A warm welcome to the newest members of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley



Christine Chartier
bacipapa@hotmail.com

Christine was born in Poland and immigrated with her family to the USA at age 5. She is fluent in Polish and can understand some German and sign language. Currently retired, she had a varied 45-year career as a caregiver working with the Belchertown State School, BHN, and Western MA Elder Care; she has also fostered teenage boys and cared for two adults. Christine raised 5 children with her husband Leon – a mechanic and race car enthusiast who has since passed (2018). She currently lives next door to her daughter Charlotte and son-in-law Guy who raise Texas Longhorns – CoteCattleCompany.com in Granby MA. In her spare time, Christine enjoys cooking, baking, gardening and playing the piano. She learned about Zonta from Karen, Chris and Debbie and knew that she wanted to be part of this amazing movement supporting women and girls.



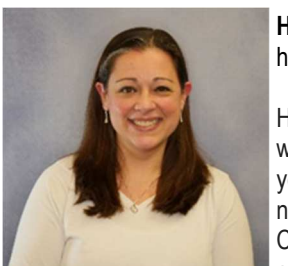
Lisa Foster
Lisagfoster@comcast.net

Lisa should look familiar to many – she has attended several Quaboag Valley events with Kris over the years. Lisa graduated from Mt. Holyoke College, received her Master of Social Work from Bryn Mawr, and had varied positions in medical settings – most recently as an outpatient mental health therapist. She also had long periods out of the workforce. Lisa's 2nd son was born prematurely and severely disabled. While challenging and emotionally draining at times, caring for her medically fragile son for 23 years was a profoundly rewarding experience for Lisa, her late husband and her older son. He taught them about patience, love and resilience. Today, Lisa is a grandmother of three (her first son works at UVA), a new retiree, and is newly engaged! She is looking for new energy and decided it is time to take the natural next step to join an organization that supports and empowers women. She is excited to get involved in our mission.



Bethany McLaughlin-Maynard
rbah@charter.net

As a mother of two amazing humans and a very special son-in-law, a devoted wife, and a loving sister and daughter – family is at the heart of everything Bethany does. She is passionate about meeting new people, RVing, hiking, her plant-based lifestyle and exploring the beauty of the world we live in. She is a woman of great faith, who believes in the power of human connection and relationships. But what really drives her is her commitment to helping others succeed. With years of experience as a strategic marketing and brand consultant, she is a digital implementation and social media expert who has worked with large corporations and small businesses alike. She takes great pride in her expertise in personal development and ability to help people achieve their goals. As a strong advocate for mentoring women, she believes that collaboration is key to success and is always happy to work with others to make a positive impact in the world. She is so thankful to Karen for inviting her to learn about Zonta and to members for welcoming her into our community. She looks forward to connecting with all of us and learning more about our journey.



Heather Oatis—founding member of the Zonta Club of Greater Hartford, now forming
heather.oatis@gmail.com

Heather comes from a long line of strong women active in volunteering with civil organizations dedicated to advancing women's education and female empowerment. Heather has worked in local municipal public health for the past 16 years. She received a Masters of Public Health in 2021 and works as the Supervising Sanitarian at the Central Connecticut Health District. In this role, Heather leads the environmental team of sanitarians in enforcing the Public Health Code in the four towns served by the health district. This includes restaurant, septic, cosmetology, lead, daycare, hotel, and complaint inspections and licensing.

Professionally, Heather was a board member for the Connecticut Environmental Health Association for 4 years and is a current member of the board of the Connecticut Association of Housing Code Enforcement Officials serving as the secretary. Outside of work, Heather is a single mother raising her two daughters, Lydia and Gracelyn, in Tolland, Connecticut. Team Oatis, as they affectionately call themselves, keep busy with tennis, dancing, hiking, cooking, and love to travel together to new places.

2022-2023 Committee Year-end Reports

Advocacy Committee Report—Pam Albertson, Chair

The Advocacy Committee's most important goal this year was to emphasize the issue of domestic violence. Most of our efforts and many of the speakers at our meetings addressed gender-based violence. Other important issues were menstrual equity and ending child marriage in Massachusetts.

A postcard campaign was held where members were given postcards and stamps, with instructions on how to find their state legislators so that the postcards could be sent to the correct office in the state house. Sample messages were also included. The bill to ban child marriage in Massachusetts was signed into law in September, 2022! This will protect many children in this state who are under 18 from being married at such a young age.

The Committee developed a program for the 16 Days of Advocacy in which a specific topic and our actions were highlighted on the club's Facebook page. The topics included:

- Knowledge - what our club has done to highlight these issues to our community
- Listening - hosted our Founder's Day honoree, Community Legal Aid, who spoke to us on gender-based violence
- Advocacy - the postcard campaign to end child marriage
- Tribute - to honor a person who has been a leader in the fight against gender-based violence we highlighted Kathy Picard, who was instrumental in changing Massachusetts' statute of limitations on prosecuting sexual abuse
- Community - one member interviewed the chief of police in Palmer to learn about his department's efforts to prevent domestic violence, how the cases are handled by the police and what resources are available for the victims
- Service - we agreed to make an additional donation to the speakers at our September meeting, Alianza and the Ware Domestic Violence Task Force

Other advocacy activities included participating in the annual walk against domestic violence in Ware, participating in the Sheriff's Shuffle road race to raise funds for the YWCA, providing some funding for the R.A.D. program (Rape Aggression Defense System) which was run by the Belchertown Police Department, and the Period Project. In addition, there is a bill being introduced by Representative Mindy Domb in the Massachusetts house. This bill would make menstrual products free on public higher education campuses in the state.

Scholarship Committee Report—Dana Burton, Chair

The scholarship committee was able to award the Jane M Klausman Women In Business Scholarship for \$1,000 to Felicya DeCicco in September of 2022. I believe she was the only applicant.

This spring the Young Women in Public Affairs Scholarship went to Elizabeth Mickens. We had 3 applications for YWPA, which was low.

There are already a few applications coming in for the 2023 JMK and STEM scholarships which are due 6/17 and will be awarded in September.

2022 Golf Committee Report—Debbie Wood, Chair

On September 10, 2022 78 players participated in our 28th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown. Players enjoyed boxed lunches provided by Tables at the Farm and snacks, water and Gatorade provided by Zonta members. Sponsors contributed \$2475 to our profits. Thanks to the generosity of Zonta members and donors we offered 50 items for the chance raffle providing \$1472 in profit. The mulligans, 50/50, registration and donations boosted our total profits to \$7,700.

Kerry offered her home for committee members, Karen, Dana, Kris, Marge and Debbie to review and assemble items for the raffle. Mary collected and managed the registration of players. Several members were on hand to set up tents and tables on the day of the event, dispense lunches, pull raffle prize winners, monitor and distribute raffle items and prizes to the top winning 3 teams. Overall it was another successful event for our club.

2022 Poinsettia Fundraiser Report—Liz Reeves, Chair

We surpassed 2021 numbers by \$214.50. Our 2022 profit for poinsettia sales was \$3136.50. The fundraiser went smoothly thanks to the efforts of our membership.

2022-2023 Committee Reports continued

Membership Committee Report—Mary Knight, Chair

With four new members, Quaboag Valley was recognized on the leader board for mid-sized clubs in the 2023 Add Your Voice campaign. We hope to keep up the momentum! We have worked closely with District Membership in developing new tools (new District Brochure, book mark, a series of 30-minute videos about Zonta, etc.) and ideas for increasing visibility (tabling, how to attract younger members, creating a list of people you know would add value to Zonta, etc). We have updated the membership information packet and plan to make MANY more improvements. New member Bethany (and partner Kim) already started by creating a 3-minute video along with training opportunities on how to use this tool in meet-ups with people who ask 'what is Zonta' and on social media, even if you don't have any experience. All members are ambassadors for our club, so let's learn how to be the best we can be.

Service Committee Report—Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Chair

We donated \$5309 to the Zonta Foundation for Women (1/3 of the previous year's fundraising profits).

In an effort to be proactive in getting service funds into the hands of like-minded organizations which provide supports for women and girls in our community, we started advertising that we have service grants available. This year we gave out the following grants: Alizanza DV, Ware Domestic Violence Taskforce, Belchertown Police RAD program, Ruth's House. Please share this website with deserving organizations: zontaqv.org/service-grants.

Service funds were also used this year for the Founder's Day honorarium (Community Legal Aid Inc.); Woman of the Year award (Dr. Christina Royal); Holiday donations to Jubilee Cupboard - Ware, Helping Hands Cupboard - Belchertown Palmer Food Share, and Community Survival Center - Indian Orchard; the Palmer Library basket/Top Floor Learning; the YWPA scholarship and Jane Klausman scholarship.

Service Grants Available

About the Awards
2023 Grants ranging from \$100 to \$2000 will be awarded biannually, in May (4/1 deadline) and November (10/1 deadline).

Field Guide

zontaqv.org/service-grant
info@zontaqv.org



Time to Tee Up!

Our 29th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, September 9, 2023 at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown. This year we will be offering coffee and pastries, and boxed lunches will be provided by Leena's Place, the restaurant and bar now on site. Appeals for sponsors are in process and some have been received to date. Members are welcome to solicit both monetary and/or item donations. We generally collect close to 50 items for a chance raffle which we offer prior to the shotgun start time which is 8:30 a.m. Kerry is going to be collecting the items which you can bring to our June meeting or we can arrange to pick them up. Gift cards of \$25 or more value are all welcome. Player forms and on-line payment link can be found at zontaqv.org/golf For questions contact Debbie or a committee member.

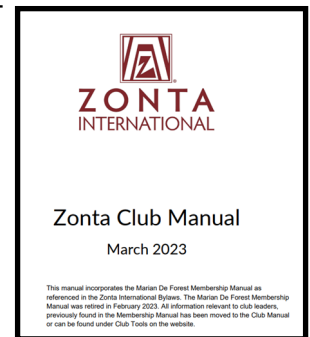
Submitted by Debbie Wood
Chairman, Golf Tournament Committee
Karen Keough-Huff
Kerry Chenausky
Marge Cavanaugh
Dana Burton

Must Read for All Zontians

The Zonta Club Manual and our Club Bylaws are excellent references when we are not sure of how to do things.

The Zonta Club Manual was updated by Zonta International in March 2023 and is available at zontaqv.org/resources.

All members are asked to take a look at the table of contents to get familiar with what is included—everything needed to run the club efficiently and effectively. Officers, Board members and Committee chairs—and those aspiring for those positions—will be interested in the job descriptions.



The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley Club Bylaws need to be updated. A draft of revisions is available at zontaqv.org/resources. Changes to the bylaws must be adopted by 2/3 of our members attending the June 2023 meeting. The changes (in RED) reflect decisions that were made at the International Convention in Hamburg Germany in 2022. Please review and let Mary Knight know if you have any questions that need to be addressed at the June meeting.



ZONTA GOLF TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023
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.

Register and pay online at zontaqv.square.site

Or

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

**Saturday 9/9
8:30 Shotgun**

**\$120 /Person
Includes
Greens Fees, Cart
Coffee & Pastries
Boxed Lunch
Raffles & Prizes
Day of Fun for a
Worthy Cause**

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

