



ZONTA

CLUB OF QUABOAG VALLEY

THE ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

2023 Dates—Mark your Calendar

September 9—Zonta Golf Tournament

September 11 Business Meeting at Ludlow CC
5:30 Social 6:00 Dinner RSVP info@zontaqv.org
Speaker: Cadence Loven—Women in STEM 2023 Business Meeting—Goals, Committee Updates

October 9 Business Meeting on Zoom
Details T.B.A.

October 22 @ 1pm Domestic Violence Awareness Walk at Veterans Park, Ware MA

Get ready to be inspired, and have fun doing it!

October 27-29, 2023
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Soar in Zonta Spirit

Enjoy Friends Old & New

Build Renewed Energy

Learn Amazing Things

Get Inspired

Explore this Beautiful Canadian Peninsula

Grow Your Knowledge, Connections, and Impact to Build a Better World for Women & Girls

October 27—29 District Conference, Nova Scotia
Early bird price ends 9/15 for both in person and virtual registration. Don't miss the biannual gathering where you will hear what is happening locally and globally, get inspired by fabulous speakers and workshops, and experience the Zonta spirit. Call to Conference invitation and all the details at 2023fc.zontadistrict1.org.

Remaining calendar dates will be published shortly.

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)

Hello fellow Zontians & Friends,

I hope you had a pleasant and restful summer and are energized to start the new Zonta year.



The Board met in August to develop goals for the next several months ([page 4](#)) and start identifying program speakers. We may have been a little ambitious, so we are looking for you to review and provide feedback at the September 11th meeting. Also on the agenda are details for the Fall Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia ([page 5](#)). All of us are urged to register before 9/15 to get the early bird rate. Details at 2023fc@zontadistrict1.org. The September meeting is at the Ludlow Country Club and guests are welcome to join us and see this amazing group at work. RSVP info@zontaqv.org.

Cynthia Melcher, President

Debbie Wood has the following report about the Golf tournament on Saturday, September 9th:

For a number of reasons, we are very low on players this year. The increased cost, conflicts and some players aging out explains some of the decrease. We are approaching 60 players. Please urge interested players to sign up as soon as possible. We also have fewer sponsors in spite of follow up with all of them. We are in good shape with raffle and winner prize donations but I urge you all to get them to me or inform me if I can pick them up. I am making the rounds to collect items on Wednesday so I am happy to collect them. We have cellophane, ribbon and baskets but need to receive the items in time to assemble them. If they are fully ready for display kindly send a description and pictures and deliver by 6:45 A.M. the morning of the event. I have lunch orders for Kris, Lisa, Pam and ?Trish so if you plan to stay for lunch please get me your choice of ham, turkey or veggie by Monday, Labor Day. The cost is \$13.00 and you can pay me on the day of the tournament. Don't hesitate to contact me at 413 544-9683 or by e-mail if you have questions or need support.

Best wishes to

Marge Cavanaugh 8/27
Lisa Foster 8/31

Celebrating in September are past members: Maria, Shanique, Suz, Stacy



2023 Woman in STEM awarded to Cadence Elizabeth Loven!

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is proud to announce that Cadence Loven of Easthampton is the recipient of the club's first-ever Woman in STEM scholarship.

In her essay, Cadence notes that she is on her journey to becoming a well-rounded and educated member of her community through the pursuit of an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Massachusetts and plans for graduate school. She has an interest in site planning, septic design, soil evaluation and percolation testing. These services are necessary for developing housing and public spaces for communities. They are also vital to completing projects with care for our environment. She believes that the conscientiousness that she carries through all of her work and hobbies will prepare her to do the job well as she enters the workforce.

During her first two college years at Holyoke Community College, Cadence was a student ambassador for the campus ambassador and mentorship program, was named a STEM scholar in the national science foundation program, and was able to gain practical hands-on experience in her desired field through working with her father's construction company.

Cadence will attend the September business meeting where she will be presented with a certificate and a check for \$1000 to use toward college expenses.

The Zonta International Women in STEM Scholarship encourages women to pursue education, career opportunities and leadership roles in STEM fields. Women of any age and nationality, pursuing a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) degree program at an accredited university/college/institute, who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field and are living or studying in a Zonta district/region, are eligible. This year, one winner from each Zonta District is eligible for a \$5000 award, funded by generous contributions to the Rose Fund from Zontians, Zonta clubs and friends of Zonta.

**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 Pukek
 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 — June 19, 2023

Ludlow Country Club

Present: Dana Burton, Karen Keough-Huff, Chris Keough-Huff, Mary Knight, Mary Ann Rubis, Liz Reeves, Marge Cavanaugh, Susan Seaver, Kerry Chenausky, Debbie Wood, Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Trish Pupek, Chris Chartier, Bethany McLaughlin-Maynard, Heather Oatis, Lisa Foster.

Absent: Pam Albertson, Cyd Melcher, Kris Goold,

Guests: Governor Donna Sroka, Gena Rotas, Mary Vallen

On arrival, Zonta Bingo cards were distributed and we had some fun getting to know one another.

President Dana Burton started the meeting with a tribute to **Juneteenth** and a quote for President Barack Obama

On Juneteenth, we commemorate the anniversary of the delayed but welcome news of freedom reaching the enslaved Black folks in Galveston, Texas. It's a reminder that even in the darkest hours, there is cause to hope — and a reason to keep building a country that lives up to its highest ideals.

She then encouraged us to take that cue and continue to work for Zonta's highest ideals of equality for all. Guests and our newest members introduced themselves, and then we recited the Blessing for Dinner

Governor Donna Sroka conducted the Installation of **Chris and Karen Keough-Huff** (co-Vice Presidents) and **Patricia Pupek** (Member at large). All Board Members (minus incoming President Cynthia Melcher) – were given yellow roses. Dana was given the past president pin. Members also voted her Zontian of the Year (\$100 in her name to the Rose Fund) and gave her a Spa gift certificate in appreciation for her three years of leadership.

Governor Donna Sroka conducted the Induction of **Christine Chartier, Lisa Foster, Bethany McLaughlin-Maynard, and Heather Oatis**. Each was given a yellow rose, Zonta pin, name badges, and binder with information.

Note: Cyd is dealing with some medical issues and will be unable to physically attend meetings for the next several months, but she is committed to working behind the scenes to lead as best she can. Chris and Karen – with the help of the board and all members – will lead meetings.

Karen Keough-Huff called the business meeting to order at about 7pm.

Minutes from May 2023: A motion was made, seconded and voted to accept the minutes published in the June Zonta Bog.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made and seconded to file the May report for audit. The vote was in favor.

Susan emailed and printed copies of the 2024 Proposed Budget. A motion was made, seconded and voted to accept the Budget as is.

Bylaw Amendments: Last month, Mary distributed proposed edits to the Quaboag Valley Bylaws to reflect decisions made at the 2022 Zonta International Convention. A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to approve the amendments as is. The new Bylaws will be emailed to all members and posted to zontaqv.org/resources.

Committees - Karen pointed out the committee descriptions included with the agenda. Each member is asked to choose a committee or two that is of interest to them. Selections should be shared with Secretary Mary Knight so we have a record. President Cyd has asked also that board members and committee chairs mentor someone interested in 'taking their job'. We want all members to be learning, growing and staying engaged; and it would be great to have the start of a succession plan.

Committee Reports

Membership - Bethany shared information on a plan for growing interest in Zonta and ensuring it is no longer the best-kept secret. All members are invited to attend a series of 30-40 minute sessions to learn how to be ambassadors. It starts with sharing the 3 min video she and her partner Kim created – sending it to people you know or suspect are interested in making the world a better place for women and girls. Training will also include tips for using social media to its advantage and practicing an elevator speech. Please respond to Bethany or Mary: What days and times are generally good for scheduling Zoom trainings? Is there any interest in in-person trainings at someone's home?

Golf Tournament – Debbie gave an overview of the September 9th event - how it operates, what we need for prizes, how non-players work in shifts, etc. We all work together to make this happen. The committee will send an email outlining what is needed and asking members to identify how they will contribute.

June 2024 minutes, continued from Page 3

Calendar for 2024 – Karen pointed out the detailed calendar included with the agenda. Mary was asked to share the Board’s thoughts:

- Cyd will attempt to ensure we always have the next 3-4 meeting topics/speakers planned – ideas are welcomed.
- We will meet in person at the Ludlow CC most months. October will be on Zoom as this room is not available. To make it a bit more affordable, we are changing the menu to wraps and salads.
- We would like to do more hands on projects – maybe October, February and another TBD. SUGGESTIONS?
- Fall Conference is once again to be held in person! Registration is open for the event in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Please consider joining us. If this is NOT possible, register for the online portion on Saturday and Sunday morning.
- Finally, we would like to have a summer picnic. SUGGESTIONS FOR WHEN AND WHERE?
- Trish Pupek invited us to picnic at her home in Westfield. She will get back to us with a date, time and what we can bring. Thank you!

Governor Donna was asked if she had any final words. She shared how proud she was of our club for the great Zonta spirit and the amazing accomplishments in fundraising, service and advocacy. She encouraged us to take on leadership roles as we are able and hoped we all attend the hybrid Fall Conference in Halifax.

Karen accepted a motion to adjourn at about 7:50.
Respectfully Submitted, Mary Knight, Secretary

The Quaboag Club Board of Directors met in August to set goals and start planning for the 2023-2024 Zonta year. We started by reviewing Zonta International’s goals in its new strategic plan, focus recommendations from Zonta District 1, and President Cyd Melcher’s vision. Column 1 below is a synthesis of those goals. Then, we did some brainstorming, beginning with the end in mind: How and what will we celebrate about the club’s accomplishments at the June 2024 meeting? Secretary Mary Knight took some liberties with consolidating those ideas in column 2. [Now our members need to review and edit at the September 11th business meeting.](#)

Goals:	Accomplishments:
Be a credible and visible voice in the community on gender equity (especially in November and March) Do whatever works for your club, but make it count.	We increased visibility in our communities and membership interest with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awesome speakers at our business meetings, publicized in local media, social media and by personal invitation. • Special events in honor of Founders Day (November) and International Women’s Day (March). • Advocacy actions for Zonta Says NO (violence against women) and Zonta Says NOW (gender-equal climate action)
Make the club stronger by making membership meaningful and fun.	We focused efforts on making our club stronger by valuing each other’s strengths and delegating the work so everyone had a role to play; enjoying each other’s company inside and outside of meetings; by being willing to try things we haven’t done before; and by adding some fun to everything we did! All members contributed at least the minimum (\$25) to the Foundation for Women and the club donated 1/3 of its fundraising profits to the Foundation.
Be sustainable – using volunteer time and money wisely to avoid burnout	We started to grow leadership through mentoring and in workshops/courses offered by ZI and the District. We welcomed 4 new members who want their voices heard. All of our members are committed to being ambassadors for Zonta in whatever way they are able.
Engage members, supporters and like-minded organizations in the belief that together we can do more.	We invited community members to help with hands-on service projects and fundraising activities, raising awareness and gaining supporters. We have a YWPA winner, and we have made inroads on promoting the Women in STEM and Women in Business scholarships on internet sites and at local universities. We saw a 50% increase in Service Grant requests by actively seeking out like-minded organizations and listening to their needs.

Club Checklist for District Conference

- Share the call to conference with members at the September meeting.** Encourage registration - in-person (if possible) or virtually – before 9/15/23 to get the early-bird rate. 2023fc.zontadistrict1.org/registration.
- Review Business items that will be on the ballot to identify questions or concerns.** Details at 2023fc.zontadistrict1.org/voting. All are invited to submit questions to info@zontadistrict1.org and to attend a Zoom information session on 10/23/23 to meet the candidates for 2024-2026 and to review the District Proposals that need a voter approval.
- Select club delegates and alternates for on-line voting; complete and submit the Conference Credentials before the 10/10 23 deadline.** Note that the forms require both President's and Secretary's signatures. The 10/23 Zoom will include voting instructions.
- Ask members if they are interested in donating a club or individual gift to the online auction.** Donators choose whether the District or Foundation will receive the auction proceeds. Item should be something easily delivered to the winner by mail or in-person. Details about what is needed and where to send it can be found at 2023fc.zontadistrict1.org/auction. The auction link will be live 10/22; bidding ends 10/28 8pm. Let's have fun!
- Ask members if they are interested in donating a club or individual gift for the Fill a Purse service project.** We are looking for 50 each of the following items to fill donated purses: Shampoo, Conditioner, Nail clippers, Short socks, Tampons, Deodorant, Hair-brush, Lip balm, Pen, and Notepad. If there is a club that wants to handle one or more of these items, email info@zontadistrict1.org ASAP; otherwise, an Amazon wish list will be set up.
- Send information on any Zontian who passed away during the biennium.** Details about what is needed and where to send it can be found at 2023fc.zontadistrict1.org/memorial-service/
- Many clubs have a budget line item for a District 1 Governor's gift at the end of her biennium.** We will present a monetary gift to Past District Governor Beatrice Schori (2020 - 2022) at the Fall Conference. Beatrice will decide which fund in the Foundation for Women that she would like to support with this honorarium. Notify District Treasurer Janice Severance if you have that budgeted.




Leadership Development Pilot

Too often in Zonta, we throw people into 'leadership' positions and expect them to know what to do instinctively! At this year's North American Interdistrict Meeting (NAIDM), a new tool was introduced for helping members get a better handle on leadership in different aspects of club life—from learning Zonta basics as an orientation to taking on a committee chair position, and serving on the board to stepping up to club leadership and beyond. Together the [Core Competencies Reimagined](#) are intended to help individuals to be more confident, efficient, empowered and prepared to take on leadership roles in the club and in life.

I will be inviting our newer folks (and other interested members) to work with me on the 1st Track covering the 'big picture' to better understand what Zonta is all about.

I am looking for other individuals or teams to each complete one other track and write a short review of its value. The tracks include goal inspired leadership, people leadership, financial leadership, communication strategies, membership engagement and growth, district leadership and 7 different committee modules.

Each of these tracks consist of reading a section in the Club Manual and watching 6 –8 videos (7—14 min. each). Do I have volunteers? Contact Mary Knight. Thank you!



Core Competency Review Sheet

Name _____

Module reviewed _____

Three most important things I gained from this module
 _____ New? Confirmed?
 _____ New? Confirmed?
 _____ New? Confirmed?

One topic from this module I want to discuss with my
 Board? Committee? President?

This module helped me to _____

Having completed this module, I feel _____

The next module I plan to review is _____
 because _____



FAQs - Framework for Gender-Equal Climate Action

This document is designed to be read onscreen

- Recognizing outstanding approaches to achieving carbon neutrality through our awards, grants, and scholarships.

Q3. What are the ongoing activities of the Zonta Says NOW Working Group on this?

Answer

In 2023, we are focusing on the aspects of disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction of the Zonta International Statement on Climate Change.

- We are currently preparing a survey on the link between climate change and gender inequality that all Zonta clubs can participate in and then will collect and analyze the results to make them available to all.
- We are using the Zonta Says NOW Action Framework to gather ideas from Zonta members around the world for actions that focus on the disaster response element of the Zonta International Statement, adding ideas from our discussions at Think Tank meetings.

Q3. What foundations have we laid for Zonta Says NOW activities?

Answer

- We host **Intercontinental Think Tanks** with members from our global network and facilitate the global exchange of experiences on how to deal with the consequences of climate change and its gender-specific impacts, as well as relevant action ideas and opportunities for local, regional, and national advocacy for gender-responsive climate action.
- With the **Zonta Says NOW landing page**, we have created a communication medium that we are continuously developing as a pool of ideas and instruments as well as an exchange and action platform.

Q1. Zonta Says NOW activities in terms of “Gather the facts” and “Lead by example” deal with the scientifically proven causes and consequences of climate change and their impact on women and girls. Does this mean that Zonta International is transforming into an environmental or disaster response organization?

Answer

- No. Zonta remains a global NGO of service and advocacy for women and girls. Zonta International cannot ignore the global transformation process that global warming requires or the negative impact on women and girls.
- Climate change with its already devastating effects confronts us with the existential task of doing our part to achieve the climate goals. Thus, we must understand the mechanisms of its causes and consequences and identify adequate ways to combat climate change and its impacts. Climate is changing and we need to change too.
- We know that climate change, its causes and consequences are by no means gender neutral. Understanding man-made climate change as a threat to the realization of human rights is central to successfully combating it. This can only be achieved by creating a sustainable, gender-just future.
- In contrast to other players from business, civil society and politics, our core tasks as a global women’s network are as follows:
 - Advocate to close the gender gap and prevent it from being widened by climate change.
 - Raise awareness that gender equality is a prerequisite for climate justice and why.

These approaches are reflected in Zonta International’s [Statement on Climate Change](#). All our actions are aligned with it.

Q2. What does this specifically mean in terms of the “Use our voice”, “Advocate”, and “Collaborate” activities?

Answer

Zonta Says NOW draws public attention to:

- The impact of climate change on the lives of women and girls (increased violence against women and girls, the rise in child and forced marriages, the increase in human trafficking, forced prostitution and slavery, the increase in all forms of gender discrimination that hinder women and girls from realizing their potential, shaping their lives, and contributing to societal development).
- The urgency to implement gender-responsive climate justice, and thus gender-responsive access to education, health, protection, and resources.
- Our activities to end violence against women.
- Our activities on gender equality.
- Our activities against poverty of women and girls.
- Our commitment to human rights.
- Our commitment to climate change related gender-equal problem solving.

In connection with this, we can at the same time “Lead by example” through the following actions, among others:

- Planting trees to keep neighborhoods cool.
- Supporting measures for the protection of animals and plants and the maintenance of biodiversity.
- Cleaning up the environment from plastic.
- Changing our consumption and investment behavior in favor of ecologically sustainable (regional) products and services.
- Supporting green energies and climate neutrality in urban as well as community and public transport planning.
- Switching from cars to public transport and bicycles.
- Using action and campaign tools that are as resource-efficient and climate-neutral as possible (from production to distribution and use).

Q4. What are our goals for 2023?

Answer

- Around COP28 in Dubai, we will share our status i.e., the results of the survey and our ideas for action.
- Although we may not yet be able to make direct recommendations to the representatives of the member states participating, we will at least be able to show how a global women’s NGO introduces the climate issue and encourages action.
- Our model could be adopted by other women’s and service organizations, all of which are struggling to understand how they can participate in achieving climate goals.

Q5. Can I join the Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tank?

Answer

- Yes. Membership is open to Zontians who have an interest and desire to raise awareness of gender-equal climate justice.
- Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at varying times. Here are the dates of the meetings for 2023:
 - July 16 at 12-1.30pm UTC
 - August 20 at 6-7.30pm UTC
 - September 17 at 12-1.30pm UTC
 - October 15 at 6-7.30pm UTC
 - November 19 at 12-1.30pm UTC
 - December 17 at 6-7.30pm UTC
- Please email Carole Theobald at info@zontasaysnow.org.au if you would like to be on the Intercontinental Think Tank mailing list.

Q6. Where can I find the Zonta Says NOW logos?

Answer

The vertical and horizontal versions of the logo can be found on the [Zonta International website](#) under My Zonta, Tools, PR Tools and Logos.



Q7. Where can I find more information about gender equality and climate action?

Answer

- [Zonta International Statement on Climate Change](#)
- [Zonta Says NOW Fact Sheet](#)
- [Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW 66\)](#)
- [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#)
- [IPCC Assessment Report 6—Synthesis Report](#)
- [En-ROADS Climate Simulator](#)—as shown at the workshops in Hamburg.

Q8. Where can I find Zonta Says NOW websites and webpages?

Answer

- [Zonta International Zonta Says NOW](#)
- [District 23 Zonta Says NOW](#)
- [USA Caucus](#)
- [District 12](#)
- [District 25 climate project](#)



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**

