

ZONTA

CLUB OF
QUABOAG VALLEY

THE ZONTA BOG
NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024

Mark your Calendar

June 10 @6pm Zonta Field Trip! Please join us at the home of Chris and Karen Keough-Huff. It will be a pot luck, so please bring a dish to share. .Guests welcome!

In preparation for Convention....

Review the information and links in the Zonta District 1 June newsletter. Let Delegate Mary Knight know your thoughts, opinions on the voting decisions—especially choosing the 3rd Service Project.

June 27—30

Zonta International Convention Brisbane, Australia
www.zontaconvention.com/registration

September 7—Zonta Golf Tournament

Stay in the Know!

Zonta.org and click on News & Events

Tour of the new ZontaDistrict1.org website.
And more!

The ZQV Board will be working this summer to create a strategy and calendar for the 2024-2025 Zonta Year.

Please email your responses on the following questions to info@zontaqv.org.

- **What Committees are you interested in? Try something new perhaps. (see page 2)**
- **What leadership opportunities might you aspire to? We have leadership training and mentors to help prepare you. (see page2)**
- **Global common action is requested by Zi in the fall—International Day of the Girl Child, Zonta Says NO and in the spring—International Women’s Day, Earth Day. Which do you want to focus on in the fall and spring, and what activities would give us the greatest visibility?**
- **Any specific speakers—in person or virtually— to recommend?**

Hello fellow Zontians & Friends,

Our final meeting before the summer will be at Chris and Karen Keough-Huff's home at 357 Stebbins St., Belchertown on Monday, June 10th @ 6pm. Please bring a dish to share. While this will mostly be an informal get together we will also hear from Mary Knight on the key issues to be discussed at the International Convention.



Sadly, we are losing a few members this year including **Kerry Chenausky** who has served as a board member, valued committee member, and has brought particular expertise in helping us plan programs on women's health care; and **Sue Sievers** who has served as Treasurer and Zonta historian. We are also sad that **Bethany McLaughlin-Maynard** is not continuing. We are grateful for her help in creating the 3-min.video about Zonta.

We are excited to welcome **Cherie Nordstrom Braun** who was elected to join unanimously by the membership. Please read and share Cherie's bio (page 2) and support her with a warm Zonta Spirit welcome.

Growing our membership needs to remain at the forefront of all of our minds. It is the key to all we want to achieve including realistic succession planning for leadership roles. If you know someone who you think might be a good fit for Zonta, please think about getting them on our mailing list and inviting them to attend events in the fall.

I'd like to close by thanking Dana Burton personally as she steps down from the board. She has gone above and beyond for many years, shouldering the duties of president and chairing various committees well beyond her expected terms. I know everyone joins me in gratitude for her service and commitment to the club and the ideals of Zonta.

Thank you for all you do!!!
Cyd Melcher

Birthday wishes to
Mary Ann Rubis 6/15
Christine Chartier 6/19
Kerry Chenausky 6.26





Welcome to our newest member!

Cherie Nordstrom Braun was born in New Jersey where she lived until 21 years of age (with some time in Kentucky and Arkansas as well). She moved to Pennsylvania, and then to North Carolina where she spent 22 years and married her current husband, Charles Brown. They moved to Granby, Massachusetts in October 2023 to be near Cherie’s daughter and granddaughter (daughter’s husband too) in Brookfield.

Cherie has a BS in Behavioral Sciences, specializing in Organizational Management from the University of Maryland, and attended Duke University’s Master of Liberal Studies program.

She was a member of General Federation of Women’s Clubs in both PA and NC for 24 years, active on the local, district and state levels, serving as club and County President, International Affairs Chair, and District Director for GFWC PA, and Environmental Affairs Chair for GFWC NC. For the Woman’s Club of Raleigh, she chaired their first Designer Showhouse fundraiser.

She went to work full time in 2008 for smart Center Cary in NC selling the “smart fortwo”, the small two-seater Mercedes-Benz microcar, first as a sales representative and then as Brand Manager of the dealership. In 2016 she was the only woman and only non-General Manager appointed to the National smart Advisory Board. In 2017 when Mercedes-Benz decided to discontinue the sale of the smart fortwo in the U.S. she moved to the Internet Sales Department for Leith, Inc. as Co-Manager, and retired in 2021.

She has traveled throughout Europe, cruised the South American coast and the Amazon as well as most of the islands in the Caribbean, and made a trip to China in 2004. Cherie has studied Spanish, German and Italian and speaks a bit of each.

Cherie will be inducted at a future meeting but is ready to dive in to the work of Zonta. Please welcome her in the true Zonta Spirit!

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:** T.B.A.
Joanne Turner-Chiacchia
- Secretary:** Mary Knight
- Directors:** Patricia Pupek

Website: www.zontaqv.org

Committee Chairs/ Members 2022—2024 Biennium

- Finance/Audit: Chair:** Pam Albertson,
- Membership: Chair:** Karen & Chris Keough-Huff
- 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:** Patricia Pupek, Pam, Karen, Mary Ann, Kris
- Poinsettia Fundraiser: Chair:** Liz Reeves,
- Golf Fundraiser: Chair:** Debra Wood,
- Spring Fundraiser: Chair:** Mary Knight

- Nominating:** Joanne, Trish, Dana

May 13 Business Meeting Minutes

Ludlow Country Club

Present: Cyd Melcher, Karen Keough-Huff, Chris Keough-Huff, Mary Knight, Mary Ann Rubis, Liz Reeves, Trish Pupek, Debbie Wood Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Pam Albertson, Kris Goold, Lisa Foster, Dana Burton

Absent: Kerry Chenausky, Chris Chartier, Marge Cavanaugh, Bethany McLaughlin-Maynard, Heather Oatis, Susan Seaver

Guests: Abigail Sweeney, Deborah Levy, Alma Baumwell, Stephanie Maher, Amy Burdewik, Jean Canosa Albano, Janine Fondon, Ellen Moorhouse, Alex Reite, Jo Strand, Dee Ward, Ruth Roy, Sharon MacDonald, Cherie Braun

President Cyd Melcher welcomed everyone and introduced guests from Safe Passage, Girls Inc of the Valley, and CASA CHD. After reciting the Zonta blessing we enjoyed the buffet.

Zonta Service Grant Awards were given out to the following organizations by Cyd and Service Chair Joanne Turner-Chiacchia



Safe Passage - \$2000 for their Survivor Anthology Project. The project allows survivors to tell their own unique stories through visual art pieces and enables community members to experience a better understanding of what it means to be a survivor.

Alec Reite explained that this award will help fund the 2nd issue of this project. The first ever Survivor Anthology, **Survival & Beyond**, is being released on **May 28th at the Forbes Library**.



Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and boldSM

Girls Inc. of the Valley - \$2000 to fund building supplies needed to support expanded programs to flourish and meet the needs of girls and young women. Dee Ward shared highlights of how the new building space is coming together and how this award will be used by young students and teens in after school programs and the Summer in the Hampden program (the address is 480 Hampden Street, Holyoke). The combination of long-lasting mentoring relationships, a pro-girl environment, and research-based programming equips youth to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers, and grow up healthy, educated, and independent.



CASA of Hampden County - \$2000 for its CASA Literacy Project. The grant money will be used to purchase materials to enhance learning opportunities for Court Appointed Special Advocates and foster work and create training sessions. Debbie Levy shared her enthusiasm for shifting thinking to reading WITH kids, not to them; practicing high-level questioning and reading with purpose; and utilizing retelling as a way to build relationships, literacy skills, & social-emotional strength.



After presenting these local grants, Mary Ann Rubis then presented an interactive overview of Zonta International's commitment to building a better world for women and girls through the Zonta Foundation for Women. It was very competitive!

Business Meeting

Cyd called the meeting to order after the program

Minutes from April 2024 posted in the newsletter. **A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes as is.**

Treasurers Report for April 2024 emailed by Joanne. **A motion was made to file the report for audit, seconded and voted.**

Debbie Wood made a motion to increase designated service fund for the Library/Top Floor Learning basket from \$100 to \$300 in the FY2025 Budget – closer to the actual cost of the basket we donate. The motion was seconded and voted to approve unanimously.

Fundraising – May calendar raffle resulted in profit exceeding \$4000. Next is the Golf event on September 7th. Debbie requested that members each get three gift cards (minimum \$25) for the raffle from local businesses..

Business Minutes continued

Zonta International Convention Business – Links available at ZontaDistrict1.org - Mary

Delegate must be in person attendee. As Mary Ann is not available to be the delegate, Mary was voted unanimously.

Members were encouraged to sign up for the Virtual Program (\$189 until 5/15) and maybe have a watch party. Pre-convention workshops and information sessions are underway. Some changes to be voted on may get pushback at the Convention. Mary will provide an overview in the June newsletter and will be available for questions or clarifications.

Membership - District 1 Member Survey – Link at ZontaDistrict1.org/news-events – Honest feedback needed for planning

Members and guests: Please take 10-20 Zonta business cards to hand out to folks you meet.

Information pamphlets and Member application packets available for the taking – please help yourselves.

2024 YWPA winner Veera Patel will meet Dana and other interested members on 6/3 @ 5:30pm at Frontera Grill

June 10th Meeting –we will meet informally for a potluck dinner at the home of Chris and Karen at 6pm

—————**Summary Report for 2023-2024**—————

Last spring, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley added four members, winning recognition from ZI for mid-sized clubs (20 members). We have 1-2 possible recruits for membership in the pipeline. The District 1 board asked the club to sponsor Clubs in Formation this biennium: The South County Rhode Island club was Chartered on September 2023 with Past District Governor Nadine Salley as founding President; the Zonta Club of Greater Hartford, now forming, is working hard to get the mandatory 15 new members with Heather Oatis at the lead. We also help recruit for a third club in formation - District 1 e-Club of Atlantic Northeast, sponsored by the Berkshire Area Club

We have increased visibility in our communities through media, partnering with like-minded organizations, and programming: We participated in Domestic Violence Awareness walks; promoted Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women on social media and attended ZI's online summit; hosted speakers from Alianza DV Services and local DV Taskforces.

The annual Period Project and hands-on initiatives connected to our Service Grant program help with diversifying exposure.

Amelia Earhart is celebrated with great speakers in January – last year AE Fellow Maya Nasr and this year Aerospace and System Engineering specialist Grace Gerhardt

In other programs this year we learned about the United Nations and Zonta (PDG Liz Hart), Gender Equity in Western MA (Women's Fund), the Foster Care crisis (panel facilitated by Andrea Bordenca), changing the narrative on Women's Health (Jen Belanger, RD), and progress on International Service Projects (Mary Ann Rubis)

The International Women's Day program honored four local Women Making a Difference: Andrea Bordenca, Roxanna Harper, Charlotte Cote, and Lisa Bakowski. Each was awarded \$500 donated to cause they selected.

We are making the club stronger with fund-raising and fund-giving.

We held three successful fundraisers: golf tournaments, poinsettia drives and the May Calendar raffle.

\$10,400 was donated this biennium to the Zonta Foundation for Women

Over \$12,000 was donated to a variety of projects sponsored by community partners, including Alianza Domestic Violence Services, Ware Domestic Violence Taskforce Palmer Food Share, YWCA of Western MA, Belchertown Police RAD program, Girls Inc. of the Valley, Safe Passage and CHD Court Appointed Special Advocates.

During the December holidays we handed out gift cards to women and families in shelters and sent \$100 checks to local food banks. \$1000 scholarships each were awarded to YWPA winners Elizabeth Mickens (2023) and Veera Patel (2024), STEM winner Cadence Elizabeth Loven (2023), and JMK Women in Business winner Felicya DeCicco (2023)

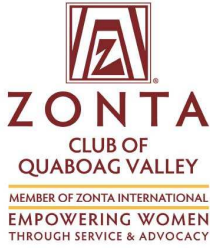
We strive to live the Zonta Spirit - recognizing we are all volunteers with important responsibilities outside of Zonta, we support each other in every way we can. In addition:

We chose to make most of our meetings in person this year at the request of our members. September, December, and June meetings are mostly socializing and fun get-togethers

To provide greater exposure to the networking opportunities in Zonta, we encourage member participation in the North American InterDistrict Meeting, District Fall Conference, International Convention, and online webinars offered on topics of interest; summaries of event highlights and links to workshop materials are shared.

The greatest challenge the Quaboag Valley Club faces is sustainability – we need to get new members onboard and assimilated, grow leadership, and use everyone's time wisely to avoid burnout.

Please share. Or send interested golfers to zontaqv.org/golf



**The ZONTA Club of Quaboag Valley
30th Golf Tournament Fundraiser
Saturday, September 7, 2024
Cold Spring Country Club, Belchertown, MA**

7:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start - 18 Hole Scramble with Coffee & Pastries, Boxed lunch, Raffles & Prizes

Cost: \$120 per person

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.

Space limited – sign up (with payment please) A.S.A.P.

TEAM REGISTRATION: (Note: If you don't have a foursome, we will assign you to one.)

1) Team Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

Specify the choice of sandwich in the box lunches for your team.
Choices:
___ Turkey
___ Ham
___ Veggie
___ Diet Restriction – please call 219-8260 to discuss accommodation.

Pay online at zontaqv.square.site/ or attach a check **payable to ZONTA of Quaboag Valley**

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

- Interested in marketing my business at this fundraiser!
- I/We have a gift to contribute for the prize table

