ZONTA CLUB OF QUABOAG VALLEY

THE ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

2024 Dates—Mark your Calendar

September 7—Zonta Golf Tournament

September 9—Business Meeting at Keough-Huff home 5:30 Social 6:00 Pot-luck Dinner Business Meeting—Goals, Committee brainstorming, Women Making a Difference nominations, Convention Report.

September 29 Sheriff's Shuffle—Tabling event See flyer for registration info

October 3 Sneaker Soiree for Girls on the Run Springfield CC—See flyer for registration info

October 14—Business Meeting at Ludlow CC 5:30 Social 6:00 Dinner *RSVP Info@ZontaQV.org* PROGRAM – Allison Berman from Girls on the Run Entrepreneur – Erin Kraus Induction of Cherie Braun and Andreea Rotaru

October 20@ 1pm Domestic Violence Awareness Walk at Veterans Park, Ware MA

November 11—Business Meeting at Ludlow CC 5:30 Social 6:00 *RSVP Info@ZontaQV.org* PROGRAM – **Liz Dineen**, ED YWCA Western MA Gender-based Violence/Trafficking Entrepreneur – T.B.A.

November 25—December 12 Zonta Says NO! and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

December 9—Holiday Meeting at Keough-Huff home 5:30 Social 6:00 Pot-luck Dinner Bring a guest and share

***********Guests are always welcomed!!! ******* Email info@zontaqv.org to RSVP Dinner cost \$28pp cash or check; \$30 for online purchase at www.zontaqv.square.site to cover fee.

> Best wishes to Marge Cavanaugh 8/27 Lisa Foster 8/31



Hello fellow Zontians & Friends,

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is roaring into our 2024-2025 program year! We have many events coming up which I hope you will attend and please bring your friends and colleagues. Growing membership is everyone's responsibility. We have finalized details or are close to it for several programs



even into the new year so you will have plenty of lead time to update your calendar and extend invitations to folks in your networks who might be interested.

Registration for our Annual Golf Tournament on September 7th at Cold Spring Country Club ends on September 1st. You can get more information at www.ZontaQV.org/golf. It's a great way to have a fun day of golf and support projects that help women and girls in Western and Central Massachusetts. Many thanks to Debbie Wood, Kris Goold, Kerry Chenausky, Karen Keough-Huff, Marge Cavanaugh, Dana Burton and Mary Knight who have worked so hard to put together this terrific event.

Looking forward to seeing you at our September meeting at Chris and Karen Keough-Huff's home for a pot-luck dinner and busy agenda.

- Review Club Calendar (page 7 & 8)
- Organize Service, Advocacy, Membership, Scholarship Committees. Outline a visibility and communication plan (page 6)
- Discuss Women Making a Difference nominations for March meeting
- Review opportunities to support YWCA of Western MA (Sheriff's Shuffle 9/29*), Girls on the Run (Sneaker Soiree 10/3), DV Awareness (Walk in Ware 10/20) and Girls Inc (Liz has schedule)

Finally, please take a look at the following two websites: **www.convention2024.zontadistrict1.org**— Mary was our Delegate at the 2024 Zonta International Convention in Australia in June. She has published highlights of the event and outcomes of business meetings. If you have questions on anything that was covered, Mary is happy to respond.

www.ZontaDistrict1.org— The District website contains a lot of information and resources. Click through the tabs to see what you might be missing.

Best, Cyd Melcher President

Welcome to Andreea Rotaru



Andreea was unanimously voted in as a member by email vote over the summer and is ready to engage actively in the work we are doing to make the world a better place for women and girls.

In her work life, Andreea is a Principal Data Market Analyst at ISO New England, an organization committed to ensuring reliable and efficient electricity delivery across the region. She integrates a competitive drive with a strong belief in collaborative efforts, shaping an environment that celebrates collective achievement.

Originally from Romania, Andreea graduated with a BS in Environmental Economics from the Academy of Economic Studies Bucharest and a MS in Resource Economics from UMass Amherst. Her academic background and professional journey reflect her commitment to sustaina-

ble development and the betterment of community infrastructure.

A staunch advocate for personal growth and cultural diversity, Andreea enjoys photography, literature, outdoor activities, and global travel. Her extensive travels have deepened her appreciation for the interconnectedness of our world, inspiring her to apply these insights to her advocacy work. This November, she looks forward to exploring Korea and Japan, continuing her journey of cultural immersion.

Andreea is driven by a desire to contribute meaningfully to Zonta's mission. Growing up in an environment free from gender discrimination, she is acutely aware of the challenges faced by many girls and women today. This awareness fuels her commitment to Zonta's initiatives, particularly in advocacy and educational programs aimed at empowering women and girls.

Our two newest members—Andreea and Cherie Braun will be formally inducted at the October 2024 meeting.

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

President: Vice President	Cynthia Melcher : Karen Keough-Huff Chris Keough-Huff
Treasurer:	Susan Seaver Joanne Turner-Chiacchia
Secretary:	Mary Knight
	Kerry Chenausky Patricia Pupek 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 Dobra Wood,
Spring Fundraiser: Chair Joanne, Mary

Nominating: Joanne, Trish, Dana

ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER

Info @ zontaqv.org Zonta of Quaboag Valley ~ PO Box 1034, Belchertown, MA 01007

ZQV Business Meeting Minutes — May 13, 2024

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: Abigal 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. After dinner, **Zonta Service Grant Awards were given out to the following organizations by Cyd and Service Chair Joanne Turner-Chiacchia**

Safe Passage - \$2000 for their <u>Survivor Anthology Project</u>. 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**.

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.

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 <u>ZontaDistrict1.org/news-events</u> – 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

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Knight, Secretary

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024 ~~ Submitted to Governor Donna Sroka in June 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 helped 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.

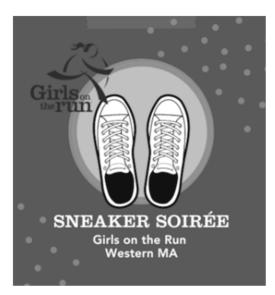
We are making the club stronger with fund-raising and fund-giving.

- 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 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 and use everyone's time wisely to avoid burnout.



Sneaker Soirée Celebrating 10 Years!

Girls on the Run (GOTR) will be hosting its 2nd Annual Sneaker Soiree this October! Grab your favorite sneakers and join in for a night celebrating the council's 10th year. The evening will include a silent auction, wine pull, appetizers and drinks, and an opportunity to hear from GOTR participants and coaches.

Date: Thursday, October 3, 2024 Location: Springfield Country Club 1375 Elm St., West Springfield, MA Time: 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. EST Pricel: \$40 per ticket / 2 tickets for \$75 | \$300 for a table of 8

Six members of the Quaboag Club met Girls on the Run director **Allison Berman** through **Lisa Bakowski** last spring. We were inspired with the impact GOTR is having in Western MA helping girls achieve their limitless potential. We have invited Allison to our October meeting and would love to support this fundraising opportunity to ensure **that every girl has the tools she needs to be joyful, confident and healthy.** Let Mary K know if you are interested in getting a table. Anyone have an item to donate to the auction?



Sheriff's Shuffle

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley will have a table at this event on September 29th at the Ashley Reservoir, Elks Lodge, 250 Whitney Ave, Holyoke, MA

In light of the recent surge in domestic violence incidents across our region, Sheriff Nick Cocchi is once again teaming up with the YWCA of Western Massachusetts. Together, they're on a mission to raise awareness, fight this disturbing trend, and provide much-needed support to victims. Lately, we've seen some heartbreaking domestic violence cases in Western Massachusetts, with tragic outcomes that have shaken our community. The upcoming 2024 Sheriff's Shuffle race/walk is dedicated to benefiting the YWCA, with a clear focus on empowering victims and stepping in before situations turn fatal.

Join us on Sunday, September 29, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at the beautiful Ashley Reservoir - Elks Lodge in Holyoke for a day that's about more than just a run or walk—it's about making a real difference. Your presence matters whether you're up for the 5K run or prefer the 1.5-mile walk. Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. inside the Elks Lodge, and we'll kick things off with a brief ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley - Visibility and Communication Survey

Zonta's strategic plan for this biennium is to make Zonta's voice credible and visible in our communities and the world; to welcome more members and continue to build fellowship; to create a leadership path for succession at the club and district levels; and engage audiences and allies to grow support and funding that can be used to bolster membership projects and internal scholarship grants.

At the heart of this strategic plan is visibility and communication. And there is a lot we COULD do. But attempting all these goals and strategies at once is not feasible, so narrowing our initial focus could help us be more effective. The Club needs your input on prioritizing our efforts at the September meeting.

For each of the following 'categories', please identify the top one or two things we should focus on to get the most results on our investments of time and effort.

Thank you!

Andreea Rotaru, Cyd Melcher, Mary Knight, and Karen Keough-Huff

Communication Goals:

- **Boost General Awareness:** Are our efforts primarily aimed at increasing general awareness about Zonta's mission and activities?
- Membership Recruitment: Is our goal to attract more members through targeted visibility efforts?
- **Event Promotion:** Are we focusing on promoting specific events or projects to garner support or participation?
- Advocacy and Influence: Do we aim to leverage communication to influence policy or public opinion on key issues?

Target Audience:

- **Local Community Members:** Are we looking to engage more deeply with individuals and groups within our community? Which age groups or demographics should we focus on?
- **Potential Volunteers and Members:** Are we targeting specific professional fields, students, or particular age groups for recruitment? Which demographics are most likely to engage with our mission?
- Local Businesses and Sponsors: Are our efforts aimed at attracting support and sponsorship from local businesses? What types of businesses align best with our goals?
- **Policy Makers and Influencers:** Are we aiming to reach decision-makers for advocacy purposes? This might be challenging, but it could be beneficial if aligned with our goals. What levels of government or sectors should we focus on?

Preferred Communication Platforms and Their Audience Suitability:

- Facebook: Best for reaching a broad demographic, useful for community engagement and event promotion.
- Instagram: Ideal for a younger audience, great for visual storytelling and event highlights.
- LinkedIn: Suitable for professional networking, attracting volunteers, and engaging with local businesses.
- Local News Outlets: For reaching a wide local audience, especially effective for promoting large events or advocacy initiatives.

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley Calendar 2024-2025

July		Get organized for the busy year.
/August		 Assess club goals and activities to ensure that they mirror the long-term and
	Board Meeting	biennium goals of ZI and inspire club commitment to tangible and
Newsletter	0	attainable projects and activities.
Goals:	Summer Picnic Meeting	 Create club calendar – meeting dates, events, deadlines, etc.
		Include 1 or more programs on International projects
Leadership succession	8/12/24 @ home of	 Ask members to download <u>Zonta Connect App</u> for ease in communicating.
Succession Membership+	Trish Pupek	Determine committee chairs
Fellowship	Pampered Chef	 Review accountabilities in <u>Club Manual</u> for Board, Committee Chairs
Fellowship	Fundraiser	
September	9/7 Golf Tournament	Introduce members to ZI Site Map
Sebremper	an oon roumanian	Introduce Leadership Resources exclusively for Zonta Members
Newsletter	9/9 Business Meeting	
110 11 010 1201	@ Keough-Huff home	AGENDA: Calendar review; Treasurer Report; Committee brainstorming -
Guesta	9/16 Board Meeting	Membership, Advocacy with like-minded organizations like YWCA and other DV
welcome	or to board mooting	groups, Service with Girls Inc + Girls on the Run, Scholarship; Women Making a
	9/29 Sheriff's Shuffle	Difference nominations, ZI Convention Report
	Table 9:30 set up	
October	10/14 Business	11 th Int'l Day of Girl Child
	Meeting @ LudlowCC	VISIBILITY
Newsletter	10/21 Board Meeting	24 th United Nations Day
	10/3 Sneaker Soiree	
Guests	Girls on the Run 5:30	PROGRAM – The Girl Child – Allison Berman from Girls on the Run
welcome		Entrepreneur – Erin Kraus
	10/20 DV Awareness	Induction of Cherie Braun and Andreea Rotaru
	walk – Ware 1:00	
November		8th - Zonta International Day Fall Conference will be held in odd year (2025)
Neuralatter	11/11 Business	25th - Dec 10th 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence / Zonta Says No
Newsletter	Meeting @ Ludlow CC	VISIBILITY
Guesta	11/18 Board Meeting	PROGRAM – Gender Based Violence /Trafficking topic – Liz Dineen, ED YWCA – Partnership with Hampden Sherriff's Dept.
welcome		ENTREPREUR to share holiday gifts
Welcollie		Plans for holiday giving
		riane for honday giving
December		1 st – World AIDS Day
200011001	12/9 Business Meeting	2 rd - Int'l Day for Abolition of Slavery/Suppression of the Traffic in Person
Newsletter	@ Keough-Huff home	
Guests	12/16 Board Meeting	AGENDA: Member: Guest, Social - Potluck dish from different countries.
welcome	IF NEEDED	
January		11 th AE Day; Amelia Earhart Month –
	1/13 Business Meeting	
Newsletter	@ Ludlow CC	PROGRAM - Strong Women - Mary working on getting one or more AE Fellows
Guests	1/20 Board Meeting	to join us -IF UNABLE TO ARRANGE IN PERSON, WE WILL DO ZOOM
welcome		
February		2/22 PERIOD PROJECT - Venture Way in Hadley 10-12 noon. We will go out to
	2/10 Business Meeting	lunch after with all volunteers
Newsletter	@ Ludlow CC	
Guests	Board Meeting	PROGRAM - ?
welcome		

3/10 Rusiness Meeting	10 – 21 st Commission on the Status of Women NYC and virtual 8 th – Zonta Rose Day/International Women's Day VISIBILITY
	Issue invoices to members as reminder for club, district and international dues
3/17 Board Meeting	payment
	YW in Leadership Award - select club's winner to forward to for District Chair <4/1
	PROGRAM – WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE –
	Cyd exploring possibilities: Tanisha Arena (Arise), Liz Wills-O'Gilvie (Gardening the Community), Liz Dineen (YWCA), Emcee: Vanessa Pabón-Hernandez (Women's Fund)
	22 nd – Earth Day – Climate Action VISIBILITY
4/14 Business Meeting	Schedule Club Annual Meeting and Elections (if applicable)
@ Ludlow CC	Request reports of officers, club Board Meeting, committees to help you prepare a
4/21 Board Meeting	written report for club's Annual Meeting and the Club Annual Report
	30th Deadline for contributions to ZIF for Foundation Annual Report recognition
	PROGRAM – CLIMATE JUSTICE & PREPAREDNESS - Melissa Marshall will
	speak on inclusion of disabled in disaster plans
	Complete a side project on raising awaress – hand out the start of a kit with
	brochure. https://zontasaysnow.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/20240206-
	02-ls-your-household-disaster-ready.pdf
5/40.D	1st – Club Officer Contact Information Report due to District Governor and ZI
	(online) 31 st Deadline for Club Dues. Both ZI + ZD01 dues should be submitted electronically
	with Officer changes
on te board meeting	the one on age
Spring Retreat ?	PROGRAM – Young Women in Leadership Award speaker & Cyd looking for Representative from KeyBank on Women Entrepreneurs
	Club Annual Report due to your Area Director
	Odd Year: North American InterDistrict Meeting (NAIDM) –Detroit Michigan – June 20-22, 2025
6/16 Board Meeting IF	Even Year: Zonta International Convention – Vancouver British Columbia 2026
NEEDED	IF Board Meeting is changing; hold joint meeting of incoming/outgoing Board Meetings
	to ensure smooth transition. Complete appropriate paperwork with the bank to change
	signatures, etc.
New Zonta lyear starts	Distribute a survey to members – assess what worked and didn't this year; get input for next year.
	4/14 Business Meeting @ Ludlow CC 4/21 Board Meeting 5/12 Business Meeting @ Ludlow CC 5/19 Board Meeting Spring Retreat ? 6/9 Business Meeting @ Keeyugb Buff home 6/16 Board Meeting IF