



# ZONTA

CLUB OF  
QUABOAG VALLEY

THE ZONTA BOG  
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

## 2025 Dates—Mark your Calendar

**Monday, January 13th Amelia Earhart Tribute ~ Zoom meeting – 6:00 business meeting, 6:30 Program.** Three of the five 2024 Amelia Earhart Fellows from Zonta District 1 will share their journey. More info on page 2

**Saturday, February 22nd @ 10am – noon - Period Project, followed by Luncheon at Venture Way Collaborative in Hadley.** More info on page 5

**Monday, March 10th Women Making A Difference – Ludlow Country Club 5:30 Reception, 6:00 Dinner and program.** In honor of International Women's Day we will celebrate these amazing women:

- Elizabeth Dineen**, ED of YWCA W.Mass
- Tanisha Areana**, ED of Arise for Social Justice
- Grace Makari-Judson**, Oncologist / Rays of Hope
- Elizabeth Wills O'Gilvie**, Director Springfield Food Policy Council and interim ED for Gardening the Community

**March 10—21 CSW69/ Beijing + 30 in New York City** and online. Learn more about the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at [www.zonta.org/csw](http://www.zonta.org/csw)

**Monday, April 14th – Emergency Preparedness – Planning for the Unknown – Ludlow Country Club 5:30 Reception, 6:00 Dinner and program.** In honor of Earth Day we will shine a light on impacts a changing climate has on our communities. Guest speaker, Melissa Marshall, will speak on the need for emergency evacuation plans specific to people with disabilities.

**Monday, May 12th – Zonta and the Foundation for Women – Ludlow Country Club 5:30 Reception, 6:00 Dinner and program.** This is a membership meeting – anyone interested in joining Zonta as a member or supporter is invited to join us at no cost. Learn about the international aspects of Zonta and how clubs in 64 countries work together to make the world a better place for women and girls.

\*\*\*\*\*Guests are always welcomed!!!\*\*\*\*\*

Email [info@zontaqv.org](mailto:info@zontaqv.org) to RSVP  
Dinner cost \$30pp cash or check; \$32 for online purchase at [www.zontaqv.square.site](http://www.zontaqv.square.site) to cover fee.

## Empowering Change:

### The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley's 2024 Impact

Nestled in the scenic and storied landscapes of Massachusetts, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley represents a thriving beacon of advocacy, support, and empowerment. As part of Zonta International, a leading global organization based in 64 countries focused on building a better world for women and girls, our local club strives to mirror this global mission with a strong local footprint, aiming to inspire change and make tangible impacts within our community.

The Quaboag Valley Club has a solid core of seasoned and new members, and a growing number of supporters throughout western MA, while also playing a pivotal role in nurturing the formation of new clubs in Zonta District 1, covering all the New England states in the USA and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia. The club was instrumental in the chartering of the Zonta Club of South County Rhode Island under the leadership of Past District Governor Nadine Salley and is supporting the formation of the District 1 e-Club of the Atlantic Northeast, highlighting our commitment to the broader Zonta community.

Visibility and active participation in community issues are pillars of our yearly agenda. In 2024, we raised our voices and our signs in Domestic Violence Awareness walks; participated in the global 16 Days of Advocacy and "Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women" campaign by collaborating with The Writing Sisters to publish 16 days of poems about women with themes on Empowerment, Survival, Resilience, Mother, and Shero's; and engaged in Zonta International's online summit. Our educational outreach included hosting knowledgeable speakers from Alianza Domestic Violence (DV) Services, the YWCA of Western MA and local DV Taskforces, shedding light on critical issues close to home.

Our commitment to service is exemplified through diverse initiatives. The annual Period Project, hands-on activities connected to our Service Grant program, and informative sessions on a range of topics from gender equity to women's health have broadened our impact and enriched our community's understanding and engagement with these vital issues. Each January, our club celebrates Amelia Earhart – former member of Zonta clubs in Boston and New York – with inspiring speakers, continuing a tradition of highlighting women's achievements in fields as challenging as aerospace and systems engineering.

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Birthday wishes to  
Karen KeoughHuff 1/18  
Debra Wood 1/19  
JoanneTurner-Chiacchia 1/30



**The Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowships** were established in 1938 in honor of Amelia Earhart, famed pilot and member of the Zonta Clubs of Boston and New York.

The fellowships are awarded annually to women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering or space sciences. Zonta International offers the Amelia Earhart Fellowship to ensure women have equal opportunities to pursue education, careers and leadership positions in aerospace engineering and space sciences.

Zonta District 1 is very excited to announce that 5 of the 30 Amelia Earhart winners in 2024 are from **our** District. four are from MIT (MA): **Mennatallah Hussein** – Egypt, **Hannah Tomio** – United States, **Madelyn Hoying** – United States, and **Shion Andrew** – United States; one of the winners is from Brown (RI): **Kierra Wilk** – United States. These women will be honored with the awarding of their \$10000 Fellowship, certificate, honorary Zonta membership, and “wings” at a ceremony on January 16th sponsored by the Malden Club – details and bios for all AE Fellows can be found at Zonta District 1 Event page.



While most of us are unable to attend this in-person event, we are honored that three of the awardees—**Mennatallah, Hannah and Kierra** - have accepted the invitation to meet with us on Zoom at our January 13th meeting!

Please invite students, teachers and anyone interested in seeing women succeed in non-traditional fields to attend—or have them contact [info@zontaqv.org](mailto:info@zontaqv.org) for more information.

**Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley  
District I, Area II,  
Charter 1317 of Zonta  
International  
Club Officers 2024—2025**

- President:** Cynthia Melcher
- Vice President:** Karen Keough-Huff  
Chris Keough-Huff
- Treasurer:** Joanne Turner-Chiacchia  
Pam Albertson
- Secretary:** Mary Knight
- Directors:** Patricia Pupek  
Andreea Rotaru

**Website:** [www.zontaqv.org](http://www.zontaqv.org)

**Committee Chairs/ Members 2024—2025**

- Finance/Audit:** Pam Albertson,
- Membership:** Mary Knight, Cherie Braun
- Visibility:** Mary Knight, Andreea Rotaru
- Advocacy—Zonta Says No, Climate Action:** Karen Keough-Huff
- Service—Hands-on projects, Grants:** Mary Ann Rubis, Liz Reeves
- Scholarships:** Patricia Pupek
- Poinsettia Fundraiser:** Liz Reeves,
- Golf Fundraiser:** Chris Keough-Huff, Debra Wood,
- Spring Fundraiser:** TBD
- Nominating:** Joanne Turner-Chiacchia, Patricia Pupek, Dana Burton

## ZQV Business Meeting — December 9, 2024

Our December meeting was an informal Holiday Potluck at the Keough-Huff home with members of The Writing Sisters— a group of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ women writers who helped us in this year's 16 Days of Advocacy project by submitting poems about women with the following themes: Empowerment, Survival, Resilience, Mother, and Shero's. If you missed any of these treasures they can be found on the zontaqv.org website.

## ZQV Board Meeting – December 16, 2024 @ 6:30pm on Zoom

**Present:** Cyd Melcher, Mary Knight, Chris and Karen Keough-Huff, Trish Pupek

**December donations** – Pam has sent \$100 donation to each of 4 area food banks, and a \$1000 check to Children's Advocacy Center (News Release will go out shortly). Mary collected 18 gift cards and numerous presents from members and delivered to Crystal – Palmer DV Task Force, for children spending the holidays in shelters.

Note: Crystal is in need of men's winter coats, hats, gloves, etc. Please pass the word. Mary can pick up and deliver.

**January 12<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting** – 6:00 business meeting 6:30 Three 2024 AE Fellows will share their journey. (News Release will go out shortly). It was suggested we forward announcement to our non -profit partners, schools with Technology programs, Women in Technology and Technology Hub—help needed in finding specific contacts who will share.

### February 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 10am - noon Period Project, followed by Luncheon at Venture Way Collaborative in Hadley

We will get news release out shortly. Member CTA: Need drop off locations to add to list at [www.zontaqv.org/period](http://www.zontaqv.org/period), names of organizations who will pick up and distribute packets, and volunteers to help put packets together. Let Mary know if anyone needs boxes and/or posters. [Palmer Public Library will collect items and also take finished packets; Springfield YWCA – collect and distribute]

Note: Amazon wish list link is posted on website.

**Ludlow Country Club increases for upcoming 2025 meetings (March, April, May)** - Chris followed up after the meeting:.

From: Chris LaBonte <clab16@comcast.net> 244-3910:- New menu price plus tip will be \$28.74 pp. Room fee - \$25. We will need to collect \$30/per person to break even. Note: If needed, some members are open to donating \$ to allow a reduced rate for guests who can't pay full price.

**March 10<sup>th</sup> Women Making A Difference** – Early January: We need to gather bios for awardees and keynote speaker (Vanessa Pabón-Hernandez or Janine Fondon) create a webpage and online payment link. Create a news release and distribute it widely; ask awardees/keynote speaker to invite colleagues to attend (fill a table). February: finalize menu, table decorations, program, awardee gifts, seating plans. .

**April 16<sup>th</sup> – Climate Action** – Guest speaker, Melissa Marshall, will speak on need for emergency evacuation plans specific for people with disabilities. We are also considering a project of collecting and packaging items to donate to Stavros Center for Independent Living. Maybe identify items and quantity and make a wish list on Amazon?

**May 12<sup>th</sup> – Membership Meeting** – Ask Mary Ann Rubis to present on Zonta and the Foundation for Women, and ask every member to bring 1-3 guests (no charge).

### Other business

- Cyd and Trish Pupek noted that **Zonta Young Women in Leadership** (formerly YWPA) materials are out and we need to start promoting. Besides high school guidance offices, we also want to reach out to influencers like Girls Scouts, Girls Inc, Orlando Ramos, Ariel Crawford, etc. to ensure we get a good selection of candidates.
- Mary proposed a **membership category - Zonta Ally** – as a way to solicit potential Zonta members. After discussion it was decided that we just need to do a better job of getting supporters involved by personal invite.
- **Northampton club's 90th birthday sponsorship:** Women Making a Difference – Then and Now - on March 9th (2-5pm). It is also a membership event for the District and possibly our club. Mary proposed we donate at least \$50 to this project. After discussion, it was suggested we become a Sponsor (\$100 – half-page ad in program) or Underwriter (\$500 – full-page ad in program) for the event. We will share event details and proposal at the January meeting and take a vote.
- Trish reported that the **District fundraiser with Pampered Chef** has netted a profit of \$500 so far and the cart will stay open through August 2025 with hopes that the amount will double. The links are on the District Website. Good news – clubs will be able to request grants from the District from this pocket of money to subsidize membership events. So please continue to consider Pampered Chef for birthdays, weddings, etc. during the year.

**Zonta Bog newsletter deadline is 12/30.**

**Next Board meeting (1/20) – we will invite Cherie to join us and share ideas for streamlining meetings**

Mary Knight  
Secretary



**Empowering Change: The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley's 2024 Impact Continued from page 1**

Our celebration is a nod to Earhart's enduring spirit and a clarion call to young women in our community to dream and achieve boldly.

Our fundraising efforts have been both successful and fulfilling, allowing us to donate significantly to causes that advance our mission. Through golf tournaments, poinsettia drives, and our May Calendar raffle, we raised funds that were channeled into local and international projects.

These initiatives included:

- \$10,400 donated this biennium to the Zonta Foundation for Women to support education awards and international service projects.
- Over \$12,000 in Service Grants donated to a variety of projects sponsored by community partners such as Alianza Domestic Violence Services, Ware Domestic Violence Taskforce, YWCA of Western MA, Belchertown Police RAD program, Girls Inc. of the Valley, Girls on the Run Western MA, Safe Passage, CHD Court Appointed Special Advocates, and most recently to Children's Advocacy Center of Hampshire County.
- During the December holidays, we distributed gift cards to women and families in shelters and sent \$100 checks to local food banks.



One of the hallmarks of the Zonta year is the International Women's Day program. In March 2024 we honored local Women Making a Difference. The program featured Key-note speaker Dr. Christina Royal and Honorees: Anrea Bordenca, Charlotte Chartier Cote, Roxanna Harper, and Lisa Bakowski. These leaders were recognized for their contributions benefiting women and girls, with \$500 donations made to causes of their choosing, reinforcing our commitment to supporting local heroes.

While we celebrate our achievements, we remain acutely aware of the challenges ahead. Our greatest hurdle is sustainability—ensuring that as we grow, we do so in a way that is manageable and mindful of our members' commitments outside Zonta. To this end, we have made strategic decisions about meeting structures and member engagement that honor both our mission and our members' valuable time.

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley stands as a paragon of passionate commitment to the betterment of the lives of women and girls, both locally and globally. We are more than a club; we are a community of advocates, a family of change-makers, and a dynamic force for the empowerment of women. We invite you to join us, support us, and be part of this vibrant journey of empowerment and change. Together, we can continue to make a difference, one life, one community at a time.

*Since 1919, Zonta has been working to create a more equitable future for women and girls. We believe that fostering a diverse and inclusive global community is a powerful platform to bring about the social change needed to make our vision for gender equality a reality. Like-minded women and men are invited to join us in building a better world for women and girls.*

All are also encouraged to learn more about Zonta at the following websites or by reaching out to [info@zontaqv.org](mailto:info@zontaqv.org).

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley and our Service Grants: [ZontaQV.org](http://ZontaQV.org)

Zonta District 1: [ZontaDistrict1.org](http://ZontaDistrict1.org)

Zonta International, International Service, Educational Awards and the Foundation for Women: [Zonta.org](http://Zonta.org)

Details at [ZontaQV.org/period](http://ZontaQV.org/period)



## THE PERIOD PROJECT

Join Zonta in distributing dignity to women and teens in need.

- You can donate items to create monthly menstrual kits for homeless women and to stock supplies at local shelters.
- You can help assemble kits on **February 22, 2025** at the **Venture Way Collaborative, Hadley** 9:30 Set up/ 10:00 – 12:00 Assembly and Pick up Followed by Pizza and Salad luncheon to celebrate **RSVP by 2/20** to **413-219-8260** or **info@zontaqv.org** More info at **www.zontaqv.org/period**

Facts about monthly periods, homelessness, and poverty:

- Basic menstrual hygiene products are costly, especially for women struggling to support themselves and their families.
- Pads and tampons are considered non-essential by the federal government, so are not covered by SNAP and WIC programs.
- Women and teens who are homeless often lack consistent access to hygiene products or to safe sanitary spaces.
- For women living with homelessness or poverty, having a period isn't a hassle, it's a nightmare.

Together, we can make a period just a little easier



**We are back!**  
**Period Project**  
**Assembly will be**  
**on 2/22/25 @**  
**10:00 – 12:00**  
**Venture Way**  
**Collaborative,**  
**Hadley MA**

**DONATIONS**  
**NEEDED by**  
**2/20/2025**

**Sealed boxes of**  
**Pads / Tampons**  
**Cleansing wipes**  
**Hand sanitizers**  
**Soap**  
**Pantyliners**  
**&**  
**Assistance in**  
**filling the kits**

**Collection Boxes**  
**AND Link to**  
**Amazon Wish**  
**List at:**

[zontaqv.org/period](http://zontaqv.org/period)



# 2025



## ZONTA YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

### DESCRIPTION

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



The program operates at the Zonta club, district and international levels. Zonta International offers 37 international awards of US\$5,000. Each district may submit one applicant for consideration for an international award. The five largest districts may submit a second applicant for a total of two applicants.

# 2025

## ZONTA YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

### APPLICATION FORM

SEND APPLICATION AND DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS TO:

<b>Application Deadline:</b> <small>(Deadline set by club applicant is applying to.)</small>	March 1, 2025
Zonta Club/e-Club of: District/Area:	Quabaug Valley
To find a club click:	<a href="#">Club Locator</a>
Attention:	Patricia Pupek
Address:	
City/State:	
Province/Country:	
Telephone:	(413) 626-5656
Email address:	PatPupek@comcast.net



Do you know a high school student deserving of this award? The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley deadline is March 1, 2025 for the Club award of \$1,000. The winner will then be eligible for a \$5000 award from Zonta International.

The Application is at [www.zontaqv.org/scholarships](http://www.zontaqv.org/scholarships).

More information on this award can be found at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)—click on Our Programs, then select Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award.

Patricia Pupek, Scholarship Chair