

A Message from the President



Dear Zontian's and Friends:

We returned from summer break running with our feet on the ground and ready for action. In August we had a table at the Belchertown Farmer's Market and held our 32nd Golf Tournament in September. Many thanks to all the sponsors, prize donators, and golfers who made this year's tournament a success. It was a beautiful day!

We have a very busy fall with participation in many local events, including the first ever Alianza Cider Donut Road race on September 26. We will have a table at the Sheriff's Shuffle on October 4 at Ashley Reservoir. Both events provide funding for local organization's that serve women and girls in western Massachusetts.

Our fall meeting schedule will feature guest speakers in October to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness and Domestic Violence Prevention. We will have a special Founders Day Program in November to honor the 35th year of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley. Honoree's for Founder's day will be Debra Wood, Marge Cavanaugh, and Liz Reeves.

During the winter months we will stay busy collecting gift items for children over the holidays. Our annual February period project is slated for February 21 at the Venture Way Collaborative. Collection boxes have already been posted. Contact a Zontian to donate to this much needed project that supports women and children who are unhoused.

As the snow begins to melt, we roll into March with our annual Celebration of Women. Stayed tuned to find out who the honoree's will be! If there is someone you want to nominate, please let us know. In April we will be bringing in a guest speaker to talk about Women's Health and Climate change.

It's looking like a busy year with volunteering for local projects, giving out service awards and scholarships. If you are interested in getting more information, contact a Zontian.

Looking forward to a busy and eventful year in support of women and girls.

Sincerely,
Karen Keough-Huff

P.S. Do you know what committees you are on? Everyone is asked to participate in one or more of the standing committees; all are asked to support the fundraising committees. Descriptions for each are posted at zontaqv.org/members-only.

Fall Fundraiser

For many years we have been taking orders and delivering our beautiful poinsettia plants – just in time to celebrate the holidays. **We are no longer able to do the Annual Poinsettia Fundraiser due to a loss of our distributor.** We thank all of the businesses and individuals who have supported us. We will miss seeing you.

We do have another fundraiser, however, and we hope you might consider sharing this opportunity.

Between now and October 19th, we are selling 'tickets' for a pair of Adirondack Chairs donated to us by the Sheriff's Department. As is noted in the poster we will take cash in person, accept checks by mail, and offer an online option by credit card. \$10 for one chance / \$25 for three. All we need is your name and either email or phone number, along with payment.

A drawing will be held at our monthly meeting 10/19th at 6pm. The winner will be notified at that time. Thank you again for your ongoing support. You have played an integral part in our 35 years of service.



ZONTA QV SPECIAL RAFFLE

\$10 A TICKET

\$25 FOR THREE TICKETS

DRAWING 10/19 @ 6PM



A PAIR OF ADIRONDACK CHAIRS



BUY A TICKET FROM A ZQV ZONTA MEMBER
SEND A CHECK TO ZONTA QV @ PO BOX 1034 BELCHERTOWN MA 01007
OR PAY ONLINE USING QR CODE.

WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED AND MUST ARRANGE PICKUP
BE SURE TO INCLUDE PHONE OR EMAIL

Upcoming Events

On October 19th at the Ludlow Country Club, our featured speaker will be **Dr. D. Joseph Jerry**, a prominent breast cancer researcher and Professor Emeritus of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at UMass-Amherst. He serves as Co-Director of the Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research and Science Director at the Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute.

He will share information on Rays of Hope, the history of breast cancer awareness, and ongoing research into the causes, treatments and prevention of breast cancer.



The 10/19/26 dinner meeting will begin with 5:30 Social, 6:00 Dinner (\$30), followed

by the speaker. RSVP is required - email info@ZontaQV.org. More info will be posted as available on www.ZontaQV.org.



SAVE THE DATE!!

On November 16th at the Ludlow Country Club, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley will celebrate 35 years of service and advocacy, making the world a better place for women and girls. The celebration working theme is **Legacy in Motion: Empowering the next generation**

We would be honored to have you join us to learn more about Zonta and its work, and listen to poetry readings from The Guerrera Writers about women that have been an inspiration. **The 11/16/26 dinner meeting will begin with 5:30 Social, 6:00 Dinner, followed by the presentations and speakers. Registration information will be posted as available on www.ZontaQV.org AND be sent by email or postal mail.**

Golf Tournament 2026 is a Wrap

Thanks to the efforts of club members, donors and sponsors, we experienced another successful golf tournament on September 12th. Preliminary efforts starting with Debbie soliciting Sponsors and Donors resulted in a record amount of responses totaling \$2,725. Karen maintained and updated a list of anticipated raffle donations which exceeded the ideal # of items generally offered to players. It was determined by the Golf Tournament Committee that some of the gift cards could be held for the lottery calendar fundraiser to be held later. Several members gathered at Karen and Chris's home to review the list of items and creatively and attractively assemble them for display at the tournament. We are grateful that Mary maintained the list of registered players, collecting from most players prior to the day of the event with only 2 outstanding reliable players paying on the day of the tournament.

An enthusiastic group of Zonta club members showed up bright and early to erect a tent, a display of over 50 raffle prizes and arrange tables to sell mulligans, 50/50, chance and special raffle tickets. Some brought coolers, tables, signs, pastries, snacks and beverages.

All went smoothly for 42 players to start on the course by 8:35 A.M. Meanwhile Chris K-H and many Zonta members organized the drawing and posting of the raffle and 50/50 winners. Boxed lunches prepared by Cold Spring CC were distributed by club members.

[More](#)



Important Announcements

Mark your Calendar for Meeting Dates

October 19 ZQV Meeting—Ludlow Country Club * Recognizing Cancer Awareness and Day of the Girl Child.

November 16 ZQV Meeting—Ludlow Country Club * Program: Celebrating 35 years and recognizing those on whose shoulders we stand.

December 14 - TBD Holiday celebration

January 11 - Zoom Meeting Amelia Earhart program

February 21 Period Project and Luncheon meeting Venture Way Collaborative

March 8 35th Anniversary highlighting Women Making A Difference
Ludlow Country Club **

April 12 ZQV Meeting—Ludlow Country Club *

May 10 ZQV Meeting TBD

June 14 ZQV Meeting TBD

* RSVP required Dinner is \$30 - 35. Please see a board member if help needed.

[Add text and link it](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

11th Annual!!!
Domestic Violence
AWARENESS
Walk &
COMMUNITY Gathering
Sunday, October 18th, 1pm
Veterans Park, Ware, Massachusetts
(If it rains we'll be across the street, in the Town Hall)

Join us for a community gathering and a short walk
through downtown Ware

*There will be speakers, a child's bike raffle (free), music,
hot dogs, face painting, and more!*

Sponsored by the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force
www.waredivtaskforce.org * wrvdivtaskforce@gmail.com * Facebook



ZontaQV.org Updates

Education Awards (link)

- Women in Business
- Women in STEM
- Young Women in Leadership

Please review and share widely. Connie Mahoney is the Committee chair if you have questions.



Cherie will share the password when she sends out the September meeting minutes.

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International Goals set at the 2026 Convention in Vancouver:

- The Biennium Motto: S.H.A.R.E.:** Sustainability and Human Rights through Accountability, Respect, and Empowerment.

Zonta District 1 Goals set by Goven Lynn Currier

- Encourage media exposure to Zonta's events and activities with a strong emphasis on communicating Zonta's mission and goals.
- Provide clubs with communication tools, PR advice, best practices, and templates.
- Build awareness for Zonta scholarships, fellowships, and awards among eligible candidates and academic institutions.

- Focusing on recruiting young professionals and diverse community leaders.
- Fulfilling the formation of the Vermont Club and EClub.
- Shift from pure growth to stabilizing numbers by addressing why members leave to promote stabilization.
- Involving newcomers immediately in meaningful tasks, projects, or event planning.
- Build loyalty through clear communication, collaborative team building, and strong interpersonal connections at the club and district levels.

Leadership & Sustainability

- Clubs within the District will share successes, challenges, and lessons learned build a stronger network of information.
- Conference planning will be accomplished through representation from each club within the district.
- Continue succession planning for local leadership regardless of the district governance structure.
- Actively participate in blueprint brainstorming, governance structure development and implementation.

See also the District 1 goals for the Zonta Foundation for Women

Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley = Draft for review by members

1: Credible and Visible Voice (Public Engagement)

- Goal 1.1 (Media Exposure): Increase local media presence by securing a minimum of 4 feature mentions or press releases per year in local Western MA regional news outlets (e.g., The Republican, The Reminder, or local community town pages) highlighting club service grants and advocacy activities.
- Goal 1.2 (Scholarship Pipeline): Expand the applicant pipeline for updated education awards (like the Zonta Women in STEM Award and Women in Business Leadership Award) by distributing promotional toolkits to at least 5 academic institutions or vocational programs across Hampden and Hampshire counties annually.

2: Club Success (Recruiting & Retention)

- Goal 2.1 (Young Professional Recruitment): Induct at least 3 young professionals or emerging local community leaders under the age of 40 into active club membership over the next 24 months.
- Goal 2.2 (Membership Retention): Maintain an annual member retention rate of 90% or higher by formalizing a structural onboarding mentorship framework and conducting exit interviews to address gaps.

3: Leadership & Sustainability (Resource Management)

- Goal 3.1 (Foundation Support): Build upon Quaboag Valley's historically high-performing fundraising record by sustaining an annual club contribution of at least \$4,500 directly to the Zonta Foundation for Women and encouraging individual donations of \$10 or more.
- Goal 3.2 (Succession Blueprint): Establish a leadership pipeline by ensuring 100% of executive board roles have a documented transition playbook, with incoming committee chairs paired with past leaders for shadow training by mid-biennium.

4: Engagement of Audiences & Allies (Partnerships)

- Goal 4.1 (Advocacy & Activism Collaboration): Form strategic partnerships with at least 2 local domestic violence shelters or women's advocacy organizations in Western MA to execute synchronized events during the annual 16 Days of Activism (Zonta Says NO campaign).
- Goal 4.2 (Corporate Sponsorship): Diversify revenue streams following the loss of the historic poinsettia distributor by securing at least 3 new corporate sponsors

Important - Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports are distributed in an email by the Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. If you miss the email, you can find these records on the ZontaQV.org/members-only site. Please review in advance of the next meeting.

**Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley
District 1 Area II
Charter 1317 at Zonta International**

Club Officers 2026-2028

President: Karen Keough-Huff
Vice President: Connie Mahoney
Treasurer: Patricia Hallberg
Joanne Turner Chiacchia
Secretary: Cherie Braun
Directors: Debra Wood
Cynthia Melcher

**Nominating
Committee:** Mary Knight
Patricia Pupek
Mary Ann Rubis

**Committee Chair Assignments
2026-2028**

Membership: Cherie Braun
Service: TBD
Advocacy: TBD
Education Awards: Connie Mahoney
Publicity: Mary Knight
Golf Event: Karen Keough Huff
Debra Wood
Calendar Event: TBD

Website: ZontaQV.org
Email: Info@ZontaQV.org
Mailing: PO Box 1034, Belchertown MA 01007

Zonta Bog Newsletter

Zonta District 1 | PO Box 1034 | Belchertown, MA 01007-1034 US

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