

# ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

www.zontadistrict05.org

JANUARY 2009

DISTRICT 5

EDITED BY MEG HEMINGER - ZONTA CLUB OF FINDLAY

# ZONTA



INTERNATIONAL  
DISTRICT 5

## A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-

Here it is the New Year already! I hope everyone had a restful, safe and healthy Holiday Season! 2009 promises to be just as demanding as the past year; however, as Zontians, we are always up for a good challenge to keep our creativity and resourcefulness at their peak! With the economic situation our communities are experiencing, there may be many more citizens encountering hardship that will be seeking assistance for basic needs. Those of us who rely on other Foundations and/or grants to supplement our programs and projects might notice a tightening of their funds. Our ingenuity will be tested as we ensure Zonta – at all levels – continues to help those in our communities and beyond.

As we begin the New Year, let's renew our commitment to support not only our local community programs and projects, but also ZI's programs and service projects. Our contributions to ZI's many scholarships and service projects enable us to assist women and girls worldwide. Don't forget our Change for Change project as Clubs collect Zontians change that will be donated to ZI's Rose Fund at our October 2009 District Conference. Many Clubs are being creative with this program: Cleveland Club has provided each member with a decorated "change jar" they keep at home in a prominent place, put all extra change into and then bring to their Club meetings to put into a bigger "change jar". Once again, this shows Zontians inventiveness when it comes to giving!

*Amy F. Grubbe*

### ZONTA INTERNATIONAL AND ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Not to summarize the serious situation between ZI and ZIF and to ensure everyone has all the factual information, the memorandum below is a reprint of the communiqué received from ZI President Beryl Sten and ZI Board on November 25, 2008:

On November 25, 2008, the Zonta International Board has acted, in its capacity as Sole Member of the Zonta International Foundation, to remove some of the individual members from the Zonta International Foundation Board. The Foundation's Bylaws permit this action.

This extraordinary action was taken in light of a serious disagreement between the Zonta International Board and Foundation Executive Committee over the handling of Foundation's assets, including:

- the purchase of an "office condominium" **before** selling the current headquarters building;
- choosing office condominium space which, in the opinion of the Zonta International Board, **will**

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- **not suitably house** Zonta International and Foundation operations and our treasured artifacts;
- taking out a **loan** at 6.5% to cover the condominium purchase, and another loan to cover construction, when Zonta International could have made the loan more economically; and
- **pledging restricted assets** of the Foundation.

The Zonta International Board members will serve as the Zonta International Foundation Board members for the time being, until the Foundation's financial matters are well in hand and prudent steps are taken to preserve capital and reduce interest payments.

The Zonta International Board believes that, if the Foundation Executive Committee had included it in decisions as they were being made, this extraordinary action would not have been necessary. We heard from some members of the Foundation Executive Committee leadership that they did not need Zonta International's approval for their actions. This path was leading to dissension within the Zonta family and, in the opinion of the Zonta International Board, leading to a diminishment of resources.

We look forward to moving forward with a strong and united family of Zonta organizations to improve the status of women throughout the world. We thank the members of the former Zonta International Foundation Board for their past contributions and have invited them to continue furthering the cause of women worldwide through their Zonta membership.

ZI heard from most, if not all, District Governors voicing our concerns. As we all requested and were positive of the eventual outcome, an amicable resolution has been reached in the last few weeks concerning this unfortunate situation. Here is the latest communiqué from ZI President Sten and ZI Board received on January 23, 2009:

In early December we told you about the 6.5% Foundation mortgage, whose 59 installments of US\$11,852 began on August 2008. We are pleased to report that the Zonta International Board found a solution to this burdensome mortgage. The mortgage used the condominium at Wacker Drive and the restricted assets of the Foundation, including our Service, ZISVAW, and scholarship funds, as collateral. The monthly payments consisted mainly of interest and a balloon payment on the principal was due in August 2013. (The use of these funds as collateral meant that payments to AE Fellows, YWPA recipients, JMK recipients, or our service projects could be at risk until the loan was paid in full.)

Zonta International made a US\$1,578,742.17 loan from the operating reserve fund to pay this mortgage debt. ZIF will then pay off this internal loan at a rate of 3.25%. The collateral for this loan is the real estate holdings at 557 West Randolph Street and 55 West Wacker Drive. The loan will be paid in full upon the sale of the real estate holdings of the Foundation. We consider this loan within the Zonta family to be short-term.

This internal loan between Zonta International and the Zonta International Foundation was possible because ZI used its reserve funds that are invested to cover multi-year contractual obligations in the event of unforeseen emergencies. This short-term loan will not affect our long-term financial viability.

Benefits of this transaction are:

- Releasing the assets from collateral to be distributed to our service projects, and our scholarship and fellowship recipients.
- Reducing the amount of interest paid by ZIF and allowing more money for service.

Yes, this is “Good News”! The contributions received from the generosity of Zontians and Friends and Families of Zontians make a difference in the lives of women and girls in more than 75 countries around the world. Our District has especially benefitted from ZIF’s annual awards and the generosity of many from around the world:

- Amelia Earhart Fellow – Lena M. Lopatina, Ukraine, Kent State University; studying Chemical Physics; adopted by ABC Club
- Jane M. Klausman Scholarship – Megan Kathleen Garner, University of Findlay; studying for dual bachelor’s degree: economics and international business; sponsored by Findlay Club
- Young Women In Public Affairs District Recipient – Audrey Joy Gillette, Springfield High School, Holland, Ohio; honors student at The Ohio State University; Journalism and Biology double major; sponsored by the Toledo I Club
- Emma L. Conlon Service Award – Z Club – 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Liberty Benton High School Z Club, Findlay; sponsored by Findlay Club

I would like to thank all of you for your thoughtful questions, wise words and patience during this trying time. We are all very grateful that ZI President Sten and the ZI Board worked quickly and diligently to resolve this issue. Now we can totally focus on advancing the status of women and girls worldwide through our many education, service and advocacy programs and projects funded by ZI’s Foundation knowing our contributions are secure and being used wisely. Thank you in advance for your continued support of ZI and ZIF as we move forward as a united Zonta Family and continue changing the lives of women and girls around the world!

## **ZI JMK and YWPA for EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP & YOUTH**

**DEVELOPMENT** – ZIF District Ambassador – Joanne ‘Van’ VanSant/Columbus; District JMK Coordinator – Traci Stotts/Marietta & Environs; District YWPA Coordinator – Phyllis Penick/Newark

The deadlines for applications to the following ZI programs are quickly approaching! These programs provide young women the opportunity to find their place within the business world and encourage participation in public and political life through the volunteer sector. All materials Clubs need for each program are readily available on the ZI website.

### **Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship – Did You Know.....**

- 187 scholarships have been awarded to women in 34 countries since 1998?

- Women hold 10.4% of board seats within 200 global companies? – Forbes Magazine
- ZI's scholarship amount is \$5,000.00 to each of five International recipients?

#### **Deadlines:**

- Students must submit application to nearest Zonta Club by April 1 – Clubs may have a different deadline.
- Zonta Clubs must submit scholarship recipient applications to District Governor no later than July 1.
- District Governor will have independent panel review all club application; one District recipient will be submitted to ZI HQ no later than September 1.
- ZI Klausman Scholarship Subcommittee will select twelve International Scholarship recipients by October 15 from District applications received. ZIF will select five International Klausman Scholarship recipients.

#### **Young Women in Public Affairs – Did You Know.....**

- 498 awards have been provided to women in 49 countries since 1990?
- women account for nearly 50 percent of the workforce, but only 15.4% hold positions in the world's national parliaments? – Inter-Parliamentary Union
- ZIF awards \$1,000 for each District recipient; \$3,000 for each of the five International recipients; Clubs may provide additional awards?

#### **Deadlines:**

- Application materials must be received by nearest Zonta Club by end of February – Clubs may have different deadline.
- Zonta Club must submit recipient application to District Governor no later than April 1.
- District Governor will have independent panel review all Club applications to select one applicant that will be submitted to ZI HQ no later than May 1.
- ZI YWPA Subcommittee recommends five International recipients and awards announced by June 30.

#### **ZONTA INTERNATIONAL NOMINATION PERIOD DELAYED –Olivia Ferry, ZI Nominating Committee Chairman**

The following letter was received from PIP Olivia Ferry, ZI Nominating Committee Chairman. If you and/or a member of your Club are interested in any of the following positions, please advise your Area Director and me. District 5's ZI Nominating Liaison is Sharron Miles. Once the new nomination process is finalized, we will ensure it is forwarded to everyone expressing interest in furthering their leadership role within Zonta.

On advice from ZI President Beryl Sten, the ZI Board plans to review changes to the Nomination form at their January 2009 Board meeting. Due to this, the start of the nomination period will be

delayed; thus, there will be changes to the nomination calendar. Information relating to this biennium's nomination process will be relayed to you as soon as these are approved by the ZI Board.

Meanwhile, the following offices will be open for prospective nominees:

- President-elect – one (1) post
- Vice President - one (1) post
- Treasurer - one (1) post
- International Director – four (4) posts
- International Nominating Committee members - nine (9) posts

ZI Bylaws outline the minimum qualifications and responsibilities relative to office-bearers and directors of the International Board and members of the International Nominating Committee. Please refer to *Article VI Officers and Directors*, *Article VII Zonta International Board*, and *Article XI Zonta International Nominating Committee* for specifics. Additionally, officers and directors of the International Board should demonstrate leadership and executive qualifications such as:

- Dedication and discipline
- Credibility and Integrity
- Experience and knowledge of Zonta gained through interaction with Zontians at a variety of Zonta events and in a range of positions of responsibility
- Outstanding communication skills and a willingness to use new technologies
- Well demonstrated leadership qualities
- Analysis and decision-making ability
- Open-mindedness and proven skills in interpersonal relationship
- A vision for Zonta's future which embraces different cultures, beliefs and needs
- A high level of energy

Nominees for the International Nominating Committee should:

- Be well-respected internationally in our organization
- Be of sound judgment, and global in their thinking
- Understand the concept of “succession planning” for future leadership

Potential board members must be willing to commit to time for travel and attendance at meetings, conferences and convention, as well as time for study, review, communication, liaison work, task force assignment duties and meeting preparation.

Since English is the official language of Zonta International, it is highly recommended that candidates for the Zonta International Board and the International Nominating Committee have sufficient command of the English language to fulfill the responsibilities of office. (Command of English includes the ability to speak, read, study and understand English.)

The specifics of the various components in the nomination process will be relayed to you via e-mail and through the Zonta web-site in February, possibly early March, officially signaling the start of the nomination period. In the meantime, together with the 8 other members of the International Nominating Committee, particularly your respective district liaisons (see attached list), I look forward to working with you on this extremely critical facet of Zonta International's organizational leadership and executive function.

## **ZI DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE ON LINE!**

The ZI Directory is now available in pdf format on the secured leader access area of ZI's website. To gain access to this secured site, Club Presidents and Treasurers must sign the Leadership Access form. Please contact me for a copy of the form. It will be e-mailed to you for your signature. Then return to me – via e-mail or snail mail – and I will forward to ZI. Access to this area provides an abundance of information – especially to ensure that all new Club Members have been registered in a timely manner with ZI.

## **ZI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Janet Halstead resigned as ZI's Executive Director. Judith Johnston, past Governor of District 1, is currently interim Executive Director. A formal employment agency will be hired to conduct a search for a new executive director as has been done the past two times. A timeline has not been established by the ZI Board to initiate this search. The ZI Board wanted to resolve the issues between ZI and ZIF before hiring a new executive director. Hopefully, the timeline and parameters of the search will be announced shortly.

## **DISTRICT 5 - BYLAWS versus RULES OF PROCEDURE**

For those of you who attended District 5's Fall Governor's Conference in Louisville last October, you will recall we updated and amended our Rules of Procedure. In addition, we also changed the name from Rules of Procedure to Bylaws. Since the Conference, we have been advised by Kerry Dixon-Fox, District 5's ZI Director, that Districts may only have Rules of Procedure and not Bylaws. This is because Districts are management operational tools and membership is assigned through the designation of District boundaries by the corporate entity of ZI and its Board. Bylaws are adopted by ZI and Clubs as the primary governing documents at those levels because the members of the ZI organization are the Clubs, who are elected to membership by approval of their charter by the ZI Board; individuals are members of a Club and are elected to membership by the Club. The language of the "Bylaws" is fine. The correction needed during the upcoming October 2009 District Conference is the name – from Bylaws back to Rules of Procedure.

A lot of hard work and time went into updating this language. Again, I would like to thank the ad hoc committee of Kathy Hughes, Shirley Schneider and Julie Griffin for stepping up to review the language and making the proposed changes that were adopted during the October 2008 Conference. This language had not been assessed in some time and should be reviewed on a biennium – if not yearly – basis.

Thus, District 5's Bylaws & Resolutions Committee – chaired by Kathy Hughes, will review this language again to ensure there aren't any updates required due to changes made last June/July during ZI's Convention. The Committee will also review District 5's Instructions to Delegates and Conference Rules to ensure all language is current and relevant for District 5's 2009 Conference.

## **AREA SPRING MEETINGS - MISSION POSSIBLE: AGENTS OF CHANGE**

Your District Board has set the theme and topics for the upcoming Area Spring Meetings. After reviewing the many comments/reviews submitted after the District 2008 Fall Conference, it was determined that Zontians are interested in receiving more information about Legislative Awareness & Advocacy – what is

LA&A, how/why LA&A relates to Zonta, CEDAW and Equal Pay and Ohio's new trafficking legislation will be assessed and evaluated.

We will also have a workshop on Club reporting of new members. The District will be implementing new procedures to ensure Clubs are being credited for new members in a timely manner. This will be important as we come up quickly on the 2010 ZI Conference where Club membership will be important for the number of voting delegates. New procedures will also ensure that new members will be assimilated into our Zonta Family quicker and will receive all Zonta mailings and communications in a timely manner keeping them informed of our Zonta World. District Officers have been following the progress – or the lack thereof in some cases – of new members via ZI's secured leadership area and finding there is a long delay between when Clubs are conducting orientation of new members and when ZI/District has them formally registered. The above issues are important for all Zontians! It will be a fun, informative and packed one-day meeting where you can renew old friendships and begin new ones with fellow Zontians within your Area! Your Area Directors, District Committee Chairs and Board are looking forward to seeing all of you at your Area Spring Meeting! The Area Spring Meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Area 1 – Saturday, April 18 – Host Club: Bowling Green
- Area 2 – Saturday, March 28 – Host Club: Paducah
- Area 3 – Saturday, May 2 – Host Club: Cleveland
- Area 4 – Saturday, March 7 – Host Club: Newark

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

Congratulations to Zonta Club of Columbus on celebrating their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 19<sup>th</sup>!

Congratulations to Zonta Club of Findlay on celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 16<sup>th</sup>!

Both Clubs have a rich and cultured history! Club Members are recognized within their communities for their inspiration and ability to work together for service and world understanding. Members of the Board look forward to celebrating with both Clubs and wish them many more years of advancing the status of women and girls worldwide through service and advocacy!!

To commemorate their 50th anniversary in 2009, Zonta Club of Findlay will be partnering with the Hancock Park District to refurbish the current Landing at Riverside. HPD Director Tim Brugeman attended the club's program meeting on October 21 to describe how this partnership will allow HPD to undertake this renovation for completion in May 2009. The club is contributing \$5,000 toward the project which will be matched by the Hancock Park District Foundation. He explained that, upon completion, the area would be designated "Zonta Landing at Riverside Park". Ribbon cutting for the event is scheduled to take place during the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting at the park.

### **LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS & ADVOCACY – Joyce Combs, District 5 Chairman**

The new ZI Standing Committee of Legislative Awareness & Advocacy continues to evolve. The Committee continues to educate and to engage Zontians about the importance of LA&A and how it relates to Zonta. Doing so is a huge job as there is legislation affecting women's issues and the status of women at all

levels of the political spectrum. To name a few: CEDAW in the global arena; equal pay at the U.S. Federal level; and a recently enacted trafficking and kidnapping law signed by Ohio's Governor Ted Strickland on January 6, 2009.

At the Area Spring Meetings, we will continue the dialogue on LA&A. Zontians who attended the October 2008 District Fall Conference in Louisville provided invaluable feedback as to what they would like to learn about LA&A. As with all groups, there is a wide spectrum as to how our sister Zontians view and understand LA&A. Therefore, it is important for us to continue the educational part about what LA&A is and why/how it applies to Zonta. At the same time encourage clubs and members to become involved pro-actively in legislation that advances the status of women -- not only at the global level, but also in the halls of the U.S. Congress and even closer to home with our state and local representatives.

There are several clubs within our District who are very knowledgeable with the above issues. It is time we all become actively engaged in issues that affect the health, wellbeing and status of women and girls within our communities and worldwide. I look forward to discussing the above issues more in depth during the Area Spring Meetings with you.

*“Women’s Rights are Human Rights. Human Rights are Women’s Rights.”  
U. S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Beijing Women’s Conference – 1995*