

NA Inter District Conference: Legislative Awareness and Advocacy June 6, 2009

Breakout Session 1: Brainstorm list of Potential Advocacy Issues. Using the Scorecard identify if the issues fit the Objects of Zonta

RAE Team (Front Left)

Mutual arrest Issue in Michigan

Re: domestic violence

Amethyst Project

- 2 year Drug and addiction Residential Project including: programs workshops, donations and advocacy for Public Funding

2010 Governor's Women's Summit March 8!

- Includes essay contest (Grade 8) on women's rights
- Zonta to host luncheon

MEB Team (Rear Left)

Project 5-0

- All day VAW seminar, agencies that address VAW listening panel
- Providers only v. open to community
- Think of community needs in setting up (e.g. raising awareness v. solutions)

Workshop on culture of poverty

- Agencies
- Poor People

DAR Team (Rear Right)

- Needs 38 States to Ratify the ERA
 - Action: legal/Political
 - Codify constitution

SB Team (Front Right)

1. Educate club members about advocacy – what it is
2. Educate club members about issues – Health care availability, CEDAW, Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, education)
3. Help educate community – other civic groups, school boards
4. Send letters for ratification of CEDAW to state legislators
5. Send letters for legislation to make human trafficking a felony
6. Research your own state/city/area for these issues – positions, state laws
7. Search out like minded organizations to share the journey

Discussion: What projects didn't fit the Objects? Any?

Reading to Kindergarteners: How to make it relevant? One club reads to kindergarteners, but they read a book regarding Amelia Earhart and they donate the book.

Holding Parties for elderly/women in shelters: Adapt to hold some type of educational seminar followed with celebration with food.

Breakout Session 2: Describe the one idea

- **How could this be developed further at the Club level?**
- **Resources needed?**
- **Potential cautions?**

DEA: (Front Right)

Our Group chose the Amethyst Project: a residential drug and alcohol addiction program for women and their children. The club currently provides donations of money, clothing, apartment furnishings and appliances, and recently presented and employment preparation workshop. The club has opportunity to move into the area of advocacy for the program with the following.

Education and increase awareness of the program by providing success stories and involving the women to tell the stories to the community.

Focus on and monitor legislation that would affect the program and the women, public funding, and grant opportunities.

Provide a positive and more aggressive PR campaign.

Identify and use member skills in marketing, grant writing, journalism

Expand the employment preparation workshop to include employers on site to take applications and do interviews.

Resources: There are three members who are excited and energetic about the project. Club will need to provide support for them and their advocacy plan. Use club member skills, contact person at local and/or state level politics in the area of drug and alcohol.

MEB: (Rear left)

Issue: Project Poverty 101 Seminar

What are the consequences of being poor

Stuck in the culture – the only way you know to live

Perpetuation

Audience: People who can do something about it

Next Step: Plan of action is to address problem

Resources:

- Facilities
- Get audience there
 - Identify
 - Marketing
- Speakers/ content
- Sponsors
- money

Cautions: content guidelines – real information, cost/benefit, no wallowing, time to lead

DAR Team (Rear Right)

Issue: Trafficking

1. Gather Information
2. LAA Program for state legislation
3. Target Women Legislators
4. Set Up meeting
5. Male Advocates
6. Annie's list
7. Invite to District conference

SB Team (Front Right)

Educating Club Members on Advocacy

- 1) Club Workshop
 - a) Define advocacy (either here or at prior club meeting)
 - i) Someone who is knowledgeable (LAA for example)
 - ii) Local, Area, District
 - iii) Evaluate existing club service projects using LAA Scorecard
 - iv) Prioritize projects based on scorecard possibly dropping (or not) those that don't align with the mission
- 2) Determine slate of projects for coming year (and future if desired)
 - a) Educate club on local/state position and legislation (ad hoc team research or LAA team)
 - b) Track progress and adjust