

## 2017 Annual Advocacy Report from Columbus

- \* During District meeting several Zonta members became certified as One's Safe Sleep Ambassador to start saving Columbus babies. Sleep initiative Safe Sleep Ambassador trainings was conducted by Columbus Public Health infant safe sleep experts Karen Gray-Medina.
- \* Human Trafficking Awareness at Ohio Statehouse. February 2, 2016 from 8:00-4:00 pm. Columbus Zonta has a booth and if you would like to be there please register at You can obtain free tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8th-annual-ohio-human-trafficking-awareness-day-youth-summit-tickets-28770533440> Joan Bird, Carol Jenkins, Jan Wilhelm, Kimm Hrdlicka-Tigges and Robin Gilbert have signed up to support Columbus Zonta table.
- \* We also have (2) Zonta Members sitting on the Ohio Attorney General - Mike DeWine's Commission Against Human Trafficking. Lisa Wilson and Kimm Hrdlicka-Tigges. Kimm is a member of the Education & Outreach Subcommittee and is currently drafting the training program to reach all Businesses, Industries and Organization in the State of Ohio.
- \* Columbus Zonta is a host organization for "23 Years of Women Coming Together" Celebrating International Women's Day on March 8, 2017 at the Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Road. The keynote speaker is Stacey Halfmoon ( Attached is the registration information please share as a handout)
- \* "Zonta Says No" December 1, 2016 with two speakers and call action for HB396 and HB392. The bills were stopped in committee two weeks after the event. In January one bill was moved back onto the floor for discussion and voting - HB 1 - or the "Boyfriend Bill" to authorize dating protection was passed, Feb 28th 2017, by 92 to 2 in favor. A local activist organization, Action Ohio, praised our efforts in organizing Zontians from around Ohio to call, write, email our Representatives to take action on an otherwise "dead" bill.
- \* Advocacy program for February will feature Dr. Arthur James on the "The State of Infant Mortality in Ohio"

Arthur R. James, MD, is a general obstetrician and gynecologist and associate clinical professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. He moved from Houston to Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1988 to join a practice in obstetrics and gynecology at Bronson Methodist Hospital. While at Bronson, Dr. James expanded prenatal care services for underserved women, teens and women with pregnancies complicated

by HIV and substance abuse. He later moved to Borgess Medical Center where he established and led Borgess Women's Health Center, again expanding services. Between 1992 and 1999, he led a community-wide effort in Kalamazoo County that reduced black infant mortality from 29.7 to 10.2 deaths per 1,000 black births, thereby helping Kalamazoo, Mich. become only one of a few counties in the United States to accomplish the Healthy-People 2000 goal of 11 deaths per 1,000 live black births.

Throughout his career, Dr. James has built healing partnerships, not only with women and families, but with whole communities, in the belief that the sources of poor pregnancy outcomes arise in the community, and thus require community-based interventions. He calls this "Community Oriented Obstetrical Care," based on Dr. H. Jack Geiger's model of "Community Oriented Primary Care." This approach begins by engaging the community to identify problems and resources, and then collaborating with multiple organizations to address the root causes of poor pregnancy outcomes in three dimensions: vertical (along levels of care), horizontal (across providers of multiple services), and longitudinal (over time). His mission, in his own words, is to move people and agencies with shared goals "... from coexistence to communication, to coordination, and finally to full collaboration ... through conviction, commitment, and persistence" to reduce perinatal and infant morbidity and mortality and to eliminate the racial disparity in the rate at which black babies die.

**In April the Zonta Club of Columbus was awarded a Model of Justice Award by the Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center as the 2017 Community Service Organization!! See attached pictures. Our President, Kimm Hrdlicka-Tigges was able to speak for an audience of 150 and tell them more of what we do and who we are as Zontians!**

Thanks

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