



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
MILWAUKEE  
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

# NEWSLETTER

May 2016

Area 2 • District 6

## 2015-2016 Zonta Club of Milwaukee

### Officers

Donna Kahl-Wilkerson, President  
Helen Ludwig, President Elect  
Victoria Frazier, Vice President  
Diane Lindsley, Treasurer  
Judith Lehman, Secretary

### Club Board

Maria Bellmann  
Laureen Ward  
Barbara Fitzgerald  
Elizabeth Stull  
Joann Comodore  
Karen Smith

### Foundation Board Officers

Missy Creevy, President  
Christine Todd, Vice President  
Pam Knackert, Treasurer  
Lori Peterson, Recording Secretary  
Connie Thoma, Corresponding Secretary

### Foundation Board

Joni Reese  
Lynne Oehlke  
Jackie Beaudry  
Susan Koepsell

**Send your newsletter submissions  
to Krista Betts:  
[bookmaster04@gmail.com](mailto:bookmaster04@gmail.com)**

**Visit us online at  
[www.zontamilwaukee.org](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org)**

## Zonta Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

May's meeting will feature a tour of the new Sojourner Family Peace Center at 6th & Walnut in Milwaukee.

Sojourner Family Peace Center is the largest nonprofit provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services in Wisconsin, serving over 9,500 clients each year. Sojourner provides an array of support aimed at helping families affected by domestic violence achieve safety, justice and well-being.

Please meet at the Sojourner Family Peace Center at 5:30 pm.

We will also be honoring the recipient of our Young Women in Public Affairs Award during the evening.

### Sojourner Family Peace Center

619 W Walnut St, Milwaukee, WI 53212

Social: 5:30 pm

Program: 6:00 pm

**Cost:** \$30 per person, includes tax and tip

**Reservations:** Please email Lori Peterson at [lorapeterson@wi.rr.com](mailto:lorapeterson@wi.rr.com) or leave a message at 262-370-9540. Your RSVP *must* be left by 9:00 am, Monday, May 23, 2016.

# President's Message

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## Greetings, Milwaukee Zontians!

April was a busy month. We started off with one of our biggest fundraisers in some time! Almost 300 guests attended our annual Fashion Show! Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin provided an excellent review of fashions over the years in celebration of our club's 90 years of service to women in our community. See the Fundraiser report in our Annual Report (posted in the Members Only section of [www.zontamilwaukee.org](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org)) for more details. Because of the interest in our club generated by the fundraiser, the Membership Committee held an information session on May 4. It was well attended, so look for our membership to increase!

Next, we hosted a smashingly successful Area Workshop. The topic was "Telling Your Story" and Sister Patricia Rogers, of Milwaukee's Dominican Center for Women, was mesmerizing. She spoke of personal experiences during the 1960s integration efforts in the South. Our own Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry shared some experiences as well. There's much to say about the workshop, so be sure to read about it in our Annual Report as well.

At April's Annual Meeting, the Club voted for and installed the 2016–2017 officers and directors of our Club Board. The officers are Helen Ludwig, President; Maria Bellmann, President-Elect; Joann Comodore, Vice President; Karen Smith, Secretary; and Diane Lindsley, Treasurer. The new Directors are Krista Betts, Joyce McCrary, La Toya Sykes, Debra Koller, and Donna Neal; Laureen Ward is also continuing as a Club Director. As President, I want to say a special thank-you to outgoing Directors Barbara Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Stull for their service. We also voted on the recommendation of Zonta International Convention delegates from the Board: Helen Ludwig and Joni Reese as voting delegates; Jackie Beaudry and La Toya Sykes as alternates.

Our April mini project was donating sets of twin sheets to CORE/EI Centro for its massage therapy program. We collected approximately 25 sets. Thank you!

We also learned that Neu-Life was nominated for Program/Agency of the Year by the Wisconsin Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals (WACYCP), and Donna Neal was nominated for Youth Work Volunteer of the Year. The awards were presented at the WACYCP 16th Annual Youth Work Awards Celebration, and both Neu-Life and Donna won. Congratulations to both!

*Donna KW, Club President*

# Meeting Minutes *for April 27, 2016*

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## Zonta Club of Milwaukee Annual Meeting Minutes

The evening blessing was given by Joyce McCrary.

President Donna Kahl-Wilkerson shared a bit of history about Denim Day, which was started in Italy as a statement about rape and sexual assault.

The agenda was presented for review and approved.

Acceptance of the minutes from the March Meeting were moved by Lynne Oehlke and seconded by Gloria Jones. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** Judy Lehman read two thank-you letters: the first from TimeSlips, thanking Zonta for our donation, and the second from HeartLove Place, thanking us for the donation of 50 cookbooks.

**Finance Committee:** Diane Lindsley reported that the Club has a balance of \$17,061.43, which is higher because of the collection of dues. To date, 33 of 54 people have paid their dues. We took in 18 new members and lost 3 members; 2 members were gained at the half year. \$5 from each member meal is kept in reserves and used to fund guest meals. Diane Lindsley and Barbara Fitzgerald have reviewed the budget and everything ties out. Diane Lindsley suggested, Donna Conant moved, and Susan Koepsell seconded that the financial books be checked by an auditor to make certain we are using best practices. Motion carried.

**Service Committee:** Donna Neal presented information about the Neu-Life Art Show, May 14, 2016, at the Neu-Life building. Tickets are \$25 and include lunch provided by Neu-Life youth and local eateries. The students' artwork will be available for sale and auction.

Donna Neal is one of the possible recipients of the Wisconsin Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals (WACYCP) awards, for Youth Work Volunteer of the Year. Neu-Life is nominated for Program/Agency of the Year. Both Neu-Life and Donna are competing against one other nominee. The winners will be announced at the WACYCP awards dinner Thursday, May 5, 2016, at the Milwaukee Downtown Doubletree.

Other Neu-Life staff have been nominated for Youth Care Worker of the Year (in the categories of Working with Youth Aged 6-12 and Working with Youth Aged 13-18), Youth Work Supervisor of the Year, and the Dedication Award.

An ad hoc **Service Research Committee**, headed by Jackie Beaudry and Donna Kahl-Wilkerson, will evaluate opportunities for the Zonta Club of Milwaukee's future service projects. The group could use two more members to join in the effort.

**Membership Committee:** Pam Knackert reported that 13 people who learned about Zonta from this year's Fashion Show are interested in Zonta. There will be a reception May 4, 2016, with 8 of the 13 expected to attend. It was also suggested to invite these potential members to the May 25, 2016, Club Meeting at the Sojourner Family Peace Center.

# Meeting Minutes for Apr. 27, 2016 (cont.)

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**Program Committee:** Barbara Wyatt Sibley reminded us that the next meeting will be at the new Sojourner Family Peace Center facility at 6th and Walnut in Milwaukee. We will have a tour and a meal. There is off-street as well as street parking.

**Scholarship:** Missy Creevy noted that Zonta International emphasizes gender equality in education so that the playing field for advancement is more level. The three scholarships presented by the Zonta Club of Milwaukee are the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship, for which completed applications are due June 15, 2016; the Young Women in Public Affairs Award, for which our winner, Abby Thompson, has also received the District level award; and the Women in STEM Scholarship, for which applications are due June 15, 2016. We also will put forth effort in finding candidates for the Amelia Earhart Fellowship from Zonta International.

**Advocacy Committee:** Karen Hunt suggested members attend the documentary *The Abolitionists*, offered at many area theaters on May 16, 2016, at 7:30 pm. The documentary addresses human trafficking and will hopefully create widespread awareness. Karen offered to coordinate information so that Zonta members might connect at the theaters to share the evening.

The Second Annual Silent Walk will be held the last Monday in September. It was highly successful last year in bringing awareness to the issue of domestic violence.

**Fashion Show:** Lynne Oehlke reported that the Zonta Club of Milwaukee raised \$23,399.89 from the Fashion Show this year. Information was collected on the strengths and weaknesses of the event, and any issues will be worked on to enhance already working procedures or improve procedures for next year. We had 291 paid dinners; 276 people attended.

**Public Relations:** Joni Reese ensured that a picture was taken of the Club members with the sheets that were purchased for donation to CORE/EI Centro. Members were asked to update their profiles on the website.

**Z Club:** Victoria Frazier shared that there is a meeting scheduled with the principal of Milwaukee High School of the Arts. The committee is working on getting commitments from the young women to be members in good standing.

**Spring Area Workshop:** Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry reported that the event was successful. Sister Patricia Rogers of the Dominican Center for Women, who spoke of her experience in the integration of a high school in Arkansas, was greatly appreciated.

**Nominations:** Nominations for the Club Board and officers and Foundation Board were presented at the March meeting and were voted on at this April Meeting, with individuals to take office June 1, 2016.

# Meeting Minutes *for Apr. 27, 2016 (cont.)*



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**Club Board Officer Nominations**, presented by President Donna Kahl-Wilkerson:

- President: Helen Ludwig
- President-Elect: Maria Bellmann
- Vice President: Joann Comodore
- Treasurer: Diane Lindsley
- Secretary: Karen Smith

The motion to elect the slate of officers was made by Lynne Oehlke and seconded by Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry. Unanimously approved.

**Club Board Director Nominations:**

- Krista Betts
- Joyce McCrary
- La Toya Sykes
- Debra Koller
- Donna Neal

The motion to elect the slate of directors was made by Pam Knackert and seconded by Joni Reese. Unanimously approved. Laureen Ward will also continue as Director.

Thanks for services rendered were extended to Barbara Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Stull, Maria Bellmann, and Judy Lehman, who are leaving positions.

The installation of Club officers was facilitated by Jackie Beaudry and Donna Conant in a ceremony with the presentation of a yellow rose to each officer and director.

The Club's Annual Report was approved with the following corrections noted:

- Page 6, addition of Advocacy Committee member names
- Page 9, correction of the spelling of La Toya Sykes
- Page 17, correction of the spelling of Marge Holzbog

The motion to approve the Annual Report was made by Christine Todd and seconded by Donna Conant. Unanimously approved.

**Delegates to Conference:** Donna Kahl-Wilkerson put forth Helen Ludwig and Joni Reese as the delegates to the Zonta International Convention in France, with the alternate delegates being Jackie Beaudry and La Toya Sykes.

The motion to elect the delegates to Convention in Nice, France, 2016, was made by Pam Knackert and seconded by Marge Holzbog. Unanimously approved.

# Meeting Minutes *for Apr. 27, 2016 (cont.)*



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**Support for Sister Clubs:** Connie Thoma reported that the Milwaukee ornament was sent to the Zonta Club of Maryland for its celebration/auction.

**Announcements:** Donna Kahl-Wilkerson shared that there is a breakfast, Friday, April 29, 2016 planned by the Muslim Community, if one or two of us would like to attend. We share a vision of equality with this group.

Also, we will send a letter/email of congratulations to the Neu-Life staff for their tireless efforts working with Milwaukee's youth.

Our June meeting will be at the Northwest Family Center, as we enjoyed using their space for our winter holiday party. The date will be June 22, 2016. Barbara Wyatt Sibley, Program Chair, will plan the fun event.

## Foundation

Missy Creevy reported that we had an increase of applicants for the grants, due to strong publicity of the opportunity. Each year the Zonta Club of Milwaukee Foundation uses two thirds of the money raised for local projects and forwards one third to the Zonta International Foundation.

The money for Zonta International Foundation is to be allocated as follows:

- 15% Amelia Earhart Fellowship
- 10% Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship
- 0% Women in Public Affairs Award
- 50% International Service Fund
- 25% ZISVAW
- 0% Rose Fund

Foundation Treasurer Pam Knackert reported that for the 2015 calendar year the Zonta Club of Milwaukee Foundation had ended with \$137,000, after cashing the certificate of deposit. In 2015 our investments declined slightly, but we had donations. We gave \$15,000 to agencies for the 2016 scholarships and have \$1,600 for the Neu-Life backpack effort.

The grants for the last fiscal year were given to the following organizations at the 2016 Fashion Show:

- Our Next Generation \$2,500
- CORE/EI Centro \$2,500
- My Home Your Home \$2,500
- Woman's Center of Waukesha \$2,500
- Neu-Life \$5,000

The motion to approve the Foundation's Annual Report with the correction on page 3 of the spelling of ARTREACH was made by Barbara Wyatt Sibley and seconded by Victoria Frazier. Unanimously approved.



# Meeting Minutes *for Apr. 27, 2016 (cont.)*



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**Foundation Board Director Nominations**, presented by Foundation President Missy Creevy:

- Sheryl Dean
- Victoria Frazier
- Mary Staten

Also serving will be continuing Directors Susan Koepsell, Lori Peterson, Jackie Beaudry, Pam Knackert, Lynne Oehlke, and Joni Reese.

The motion to elect the slate of Directors was made by Donna Neal and seconded by Joann Comodore. Unanimously approved. The new and continuing Directors will meet next month after the meeting at Sojourner Family Peace Center to elect the Foundation officers. Thank you to Christine Todd, Connie Thoma, and Missy Creevy for their service.

Installation of the new Foundation Directors was facilitated by Pam Knackert, Jackie Beaudry and Donna Conant. A yellow rose was presented to each director during the ceremony. Installations, usually held in May, were done at the April Meeting since the May meeting will be held at the Sojourner Family Peace Center.

The newly elected individuals will take office June 1, 2016.

**Meeting adjourned by President Donna Kahl-Wilkerson.**

*Respectfully submitted by Judith Lehman, Recording Secretary*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May 9

**Regina Young-Ferguson**

May 25

**Ellen Burgermeister**

May 21

**La Toya Sykes**

May 27

**Carol Cline**



## Awards for Neu-Life and Donna Neal

Congratulations to Donna Neal and Neu-Life Community Development Center for their respective WACYCP awards. The Wisconsin Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals (WACYCP) awarded Donna Neal with the Youth Work Volunteer of the Year award. Neu-Life won the Program/Agency of the Year award. **Congratulations!**

## May Mini Service Project

Our final mini project for this club year will be a donation to the Sojourner Family Peace Center. Their greatest needs are:

- Slippers for kids and toddlers
- Underwear for toddlers
- Socks for infants and toddlers

Please bring your donations to our meeting at Sojourner on May 25.





## April Mini Service Project

CORE/EI Centro appreciated the sheets that we collected and donated for their rehabilitation efforts with women healing from domestic violence. Thank you to all who donated!



## Human Trafficking Updates

In early April, Governor Walker signed SB 323, which gives the right to an advocate during a case to victims of sexual assault, human trafficking and child sexual abuse. Later in April, he signed SB 618, which expands sex trafficking definitions to make it a crime to solicit or patronize a child for commercial sex acts or transport a child for that purpose. It will also make it easier for child sex trafficking victims to receive child protective services.

*(Reference: Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, April 12 and April 20, 2016)*

– Diane Lindsley

## Club Calendar

### Board Meetings

June 14

### Club Meetings

May 25

June 22

### Save the Date

2017 Fashion Show

Saturday, April 1, 2017



# Membership Committee



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Thanks to all those who attended the Prospective Member Reception on Wednesday, May 4. Thanks to Susan Koepsell for hosting it at her condo and for all the member presenters. We had 10 prospective members attending and several of them are interested. If any of them were your guests, please follow up and invite them to our May 25 meeting. If there is anyone who couldn't make it to the reception and is interested, please invite them to the May 25 meeting as well.

We express our deepest sympathy to Donna Kahl-Wilkerson and her husband and family on the loss of her husband's mother.

– Pam Knackert



## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Diane Lindsley, Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry, and Joni Reese for their recognition from Zonta International for their membership recruitment efforts.