



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

Area 2 • District 6

2019–2020

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

Officers

Karen Smith, President
Joann Comodore, President Elect
Carol Mangold, Vice President
Maria Bellmann, Treasurer
Helen Ludwig, Secretary

Club Board

Jaqueline Beaudry
Debbie Buchanan
Donna Conant
Donna Kahl-Wilkerson
Joni Reese
Maureen Siwula

Foundation Board Officers

La Toya Sykes, President
Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry, Vice President
Donna Neal, Recording Secretary
Laurie Ward, Corresponding Secretary
Elizabeth Stull, Treasurer

Foundation Board

Kim Brinsko
Janet Kloser
Pam Knackert
Debra Koller

Send your newsletter submissions
to Joni Reese.

Visit us online at
www.zontamilwaukee.org

NEWSLETTER

June 2020

Zonta Virtual Meeting

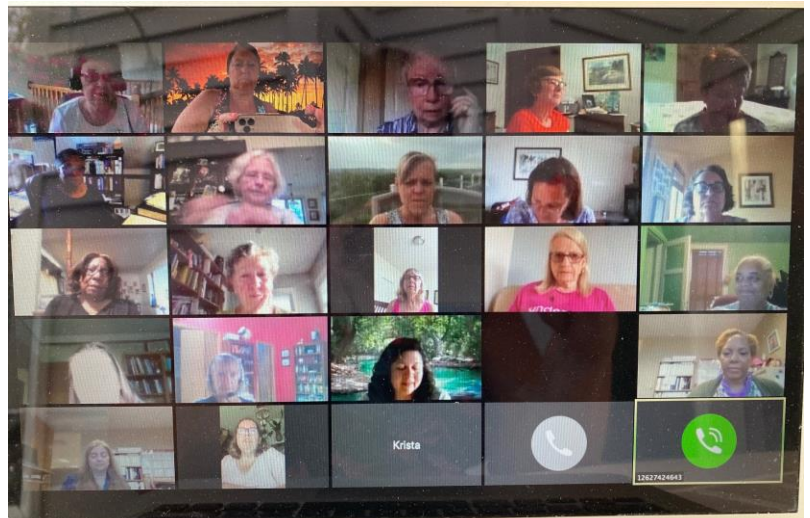
Wednesday, June 24, 2020 @ 6:00pm

The monthly Milwaukee Club Meeting on June 24th, 2020 will again be a virtual meeting.

Diane Lindsley and Pam Knackert will be providing a brief presentation on the history of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee.

Please check your email for the meeting invitation and information which will be coming from Club President Karen Smith.

We hope that you all can join the meeting. We shall gather again together soon. Be Well and Safe!



www.zontamilwaukee.org

President's Message



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

Greetings and welcome to the new biennium, sister Zontians!

This is certainly an interesting time. A time where despite all of the difficulties in our nation and in the world, we can seek new opportunities to make a difference.

COVID-19 has separated families, closed schools, closed businesses, and brought on unprecedented unemployment. In addition COVID-19 has not been an equal opportunity offender. We recognize that women and children who are already experiencing the most challenges are suffering the most. Abusive homes have become more abusive, leaving the abused with few options to seek safety. Those who work in grocery stores or other retail stores selling essential products, did not have the opportunity to work from home. The virus had the greatest spread in communities who live in close quarters.

Our club, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee, has chosen to make a difference and live according to our mission. Even though our Fashion Show Fundraiser had to be cancelled for 2020, we have identified ways to raise immediate funds to help some of our partner organizations meet critical basic needs in our community. Thank you all for your energy, efforts and unity!

Karen
Club President

What's your knowledge? What is your passion? What is your interest?

**Now is the time to offer up your services to contribute to the Club's success
through offering your time and talents!**

Talk to Karen or other Club representatives and sign up for a committee today!

Club Meeting Minutes – May 27th



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

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 6:07pm by President Maria Bellmann. There was no welcome or guests. A blessing was offered by the President.

Prior to the speaker, the President offered condolences on behalf of the club in the loss of her mother.

The speaker for the meeting was Christine Lidbury, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Women's Council. She gave a presentation of the history, membership, and purpose of the council. She also shared some of the initiatives they have worked on over the years. They include legislation, women in office, human trafficking, and caregivers. After her presentation, she took questions. In closing she said she looked forward to the possibility of working with the club.

Treasurer Report

As of May 20th:

Beginning Balance	\$14,305.32
Deposits	\$ 2,969.02
Ending Balance	\$17,317.34

She has received \$182 in dues that will need to be deposited. She has a check for \$5,230.00 for dues on June 1st. We currently have 34 members who are paid. However, since that time, three members have sent their dues. International dues can be paid online but not District.

Thanks were given to Renita Switzer for her stepping in to serve as treasurer. She has done an excellent job. Thanks also to Krista Betts for a job well done.

Committee Reports

United Nations – No Report

Fashion Show Luncheon (Karen Smith)

The luncheon has been deferred until 2021. The committee determined that we would need at least 150 guests to break even. Social distancing requirements also had an impact on the decision. Guests who have paid may be asked to donate or defer their ticket for the event.

Public Relations (Joni Reese)

Not a lot to report. Krista published the newsletter. Joni will do it if no one volunteers since Krista will be leaving. She will also be reviewing the hosting costs. She has not completed the edits that she volunteered to do for the annual report, she indicated she is working on them.

Scholarship (Krista Betts)

The YWPA and STEM applications are on the website. Completed apps will be uploaded to the drop box as they come in. The remaining committee members will have to review them. Debra Koller was asked to take

Club Meeting Minutes – May 27th



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

the lead to finish out the process and asked if she would be chair. She said she would help but was unsure about chairmanship. It was suggested that the Z Club members consider joining the Scholarship Committee.

Membership – No Report (Cheryl Lucas DeBerry)

Program – Maureen Siwala

She anticipates that our June meeting will be a Zoom meeting. It is normally a social event. Cheryl and Debra said they would work with Maureen to plan a fun meeting.

Service/Advocacy – (Donna Conant/Joni Reese/Donna Neal)

The draft of the survey is in process. Also suggested that Service and Advocacy be combined.

There was discussion regarding the increase in domestic violence and how we might help. Maureen talked about that people are in need and we need to consider helping. She discussed the need for food and healthcare. Lynn Oehlke asked about Convergence as an opportunity to help. Sojourner, Cathedral Center were mentioned as well. Barbara suggested that we take our meal money when we Zoom and make a monthly donation to a nonprofit that needs support.

We also discussed the need to look at how we will operate for the balance of the year in light of the pandemic. We have a number of members who are at risk and that needs to be taken into consideration in the planning process of the board.

Foundation – No Report (Pam Knackert)

New Business

The installation of officers was done by Jackie Beaudry, Donna Conant, Pam Knackert and Diane Lindsley. The outgoing officers were thanked individually for their service to the club. Members were presented a yellow rose virtually. The incoming officers were presented a rose based upon the office they were assuming.

Announcements

- Club dues need to be paid
- Fall Conference is pending which is scheduled for October 11th in Joliet

The meeting adjourned at 8:06pm

Respectively submitted,
Barbara Wyatt. Secretary

ZCM's COVID-19 Crisis Response



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

Please Help Raise Funds for our Zonta Club's Covid-19 Crisis Response - A combined Service and Advocacy initiative -

The COVID-19 crisis is adversely affecting women and families, particularly regarding basic needs, not only health, but also food, shelter and safety with increases in domestic violence, unemployment, and evictions. We will be supporting agencies whose resources are stretched due to this crisis and whose mission aligns with ours.

We are asking members who are able to donate to our club's Zonta Foundation to help these agencies in need, making a bigger impact than we could as individuals.

- If members who are able can donate the cost of our monthly meeting dinner, we should be able to raise \$750 or more for each of the four agencies we have selected for this summer's effort.
- Since we did not meet as a Club in person and dine together in March, April, May and June, we each did not incur a \$30 per month meeting cost. Please consider donating this amount or more.
- Feel free to send in one check, or you may elect to donate monthly over the summer. We are also offering on-line donations via Facebook.

We have selected four agencies to support with this summer's effort:

- Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative (MHVI)/ WOVIN –Women Veterans Initiative:
 - Women veterans and their families
 - Providing housing and food
- Sojourner Family Peace Center:
 - Women and their families, as domestic violence is spiking in COVID-19 crisis
 - Providing safety, food, housing
- Sixteenth St Health Center:
 - Patient and family-centered medical care and social services, serving largely below poverty level Spanish-speaking population in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties
 - Open and accepting new patients, need protective equipment
- The Cathedral Center:
 - Primary focus is on women and children, working to end homelessness
 - Concerned about running out of supplies, basic needs and PPE

Donations can be sent to Zonta Foundation Treasurer:

Elizabeth Stull
3049 S. 39th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Please indicate "COVID" on your check and note if this is a one-time donation for the full summer effort, or one of multiple checks if you prefer to donate monthly. Or you may donate on-line via our Facebook page. Thank you!

COVID-19 Response Team Members: Jackie Beaudry, Donna Conant, Pam Knackert, Diane Lindsley, Helen Ludwig, Donna Neal, Cheryl Nowak, Joni Reese, Barbara Wyatt-Sibley, Maureen Siwula



Neu-Life Back-to-School and Career Fair

We have been asked again by Neu-Life to supply backpacks with supplies for a total of 100 students - 80 elementary and 20 middle-school students. Below is a list of what we need (some backpacks and a few supplies were bought on sale at end of season last year so we have a start). You can shop if you'd like or you can donate money, since a few of us are willing to do shopping. The event will be toward the end of July so we need all supplies and donations by July 15th. It is a little early for any deals but hopefully early July there may be some.

If you are donating money please write a check to Zonta Foundation, Inc. and send to Elizabeth Stull 3049 S. 39th St. Milwaukee, WI 53215 and note Neu-Life Backpack in the memo line so we know what it's for. Also you could donate through facebook, but let Elizabeth know it's for this since not sure you will be able to note that on there. If you want to shop you can do it online and have it delivered directly to Neu-Life at 2014 W. North Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53205 and say from Zonta and let Pam know what you are purchasing so we can keep track of what we still need. Or if you are shopping in store you can drop it at Pam's 15125 W. Fenway in New Berlin or possibly Neu-Life but make sure someone is there.

Supply needs (remaining as of 6/17/20):

52 backpacks (50 elementary, 6 middle) approx. – need boys for the middle school)

30 boxes of crayons
57 boxes of washable markers
80 erasers
60 kid scissors
80 pens
200 1-subject wide-ruled notebooks
75 packs of wide ruled paper
115 pocket folders



As far as Career Fair they are thinking of a Career week where people would visit the elementary schools and not have a one day event at Neu-Life. Plans are still evolving. So if you are at all interested in sharing what you do with the kids, let Pam know and she can pass your name on to Jody Rhodes at Neu-Life.



Our Club's Statement of Solidarity



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

We are living in challenging times. The COVID19 virus demands a response and the Zonta Club of Milwaukee will have an emergency giving plan in place by the end of the month. However, it's not an accident that the incidence of virus and deaths are disproportionately impacting people of color in hyper segregated Milwaukee as well as the rest of the US. It's the result of systemic racism that put people of color at risk -- health, education, economics, judicial, etc - and prevent them from reaching full potential. It's time we recognized systemic racism as a key barrier to the empowerment of women and families.

Systemic racism is the chief barrier to the empowerment of women in much of the world and, in this country, black American women and girls in particular. As an organization dedicated to the empowerment of women and girls, it is incumbent on us to not only make a public statement against racism but also to advocate actions to eliminate it, now and on an ongoing basis.

Empowering women and girls must mean all women and girls. Without racial justice, real empowerment is impossible. Let us work to eliminate racism as a barrier to the empowerment of women and girls.

ADVANCING THE STATUS OF WOMEN WORLDWIDE



2020 Fashion Show Fundraiser



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

“Around the World, Empowering Women and Girls for Another 100 Years”

It is with much disappointment we announce that the 2020 Fashion Show Fundraiser will be cancelled. The committee reviewed what we could anticipate for participation given the COVID-19 risks and the general mix of our guests, and felt it prudent to cancel the in person fashion show. It would require 50% capacity in order to break even on event expenses and we anticipate that many would just not be comfortable with the associated risks the event would pose.

Keep an eye on your email as we are planning to have an online auction in September with the items that have been secured for the silent auction and raffle. All monies donated towards wine pull will roll into the 2021 Fashion Show Fundraiser scheduled for April 17. All corporate donations received were used to cover the expense costs that have already been incurred.

Our Facebook page will provide opportunities to donate towards the monies the 2020 event would have raised, in an effort to continue to support our partner agencies. We encourage members and prior guests to consider a donation to the foundation in lieu of the 2020 event attendance. Elizabeth will be contacting those with a paid reservation to either receive a refund or turn the money into a donation.

Karen Smith and Lynne Oehlke

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Debbie Buchanan
June 2

Debra Becwar
June 17

Joann Comodore
June 19

Joni Reese
July 10

Donna Kahl-Wilkerson
July 22

Lynne Oehlke
July 22



Violence against women and girls: the shadow pandemic

Statement by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women

Date: Monday, April 6, 2020

Source: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/4/statement-ed-phumzile-violence-against-women-during-pandemic>

Shared and highlighted for the newsletter by Diane Lindsley

With 90 countries in lockdown, four billion people are now sheltering at home from the global contagion of COVID-19. It's a protective measure, but it brings another deadly danger. [We see a shadow pandemic growing, of violence against women.](#)

As more countries report infection and lockdown, more domestic violence helplines and shelters across the world are reporting rising calls for help. In Argentina, Canada, France, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom [1], and the United States [2], government authorities, women's rights activists and civil society partners have flagged increasing reports of domestic violence during the crisis, and heightened demand for emergency shelter [3,4,5]. Helplines in Singapore [6] and Cyprus have registered an increase in calls by more than 30 per cent [7]. In Australia, 40 per cent of frontline workers in a New South Wales survey reported increased requests for help with violence that was escalating in intensity [8].

Confinement is fostering the tension and strain created by security, health, and money worries. And it is increasing isolation for women with violent partners, separating them from the people and resources that can best help them. It's a perfect storm for controlling, violent behaviour behind closed doors. And in parallel, as health systems are stretching to breaking point, domestic violence shelters are also reaching capacity, a service deficit made worse when centres are repurposed for additional COVID-response.

Even before COVID-19 existed, domestic violence was already one of the greatest human rights violations. In the previous 12 months, 243 million women and girls (aged 15-49) across the world have been subjected to sexual or physical violence by an intimate partner. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, this number is likely to grow with multiple impacts on women's wellbeing, their sexual and reproductive health, their mental health, and their ability to participate and lead in the recovery of our societies and economy.

Wide under-reporting of domestic and other forms of violence has previously made response and data gathering a challenge, with less than 40 per cent of women who experience violence seeking help of any sort or reporting the crime. Less than 10 per cent of those women seeking help go to the police. The current circumstances make reporting even harder, including limitations on women's and girls' access to phones and helplines and disrupted public services like police, justice and social services. These disruptions may also be compromising the care and support that survivors need, like clinical management of rape, and mental health and psycho-social support. They also fuel impunity for the perpetrators. In many countries the law is not on women's side; 1 in 4 countries have no laws specifically protecting women from domestic violence.

If not dealt with, this shadow pandemic will also add to the economic impact of COVID-19. The global cost of violence against women had previously been estimated at approximately USD 1.5 trillion. That figure can only be rising as violence increases now, and continues in the aftermath of the pandemic.

The increase in violence against women must be dealt with urgently with measures embedded in economic support and stimulus packages that meet the gravity and scale of the challenge and reflect the needs of



women who face multiple forms of discrimination. The Secretary-General has called for all governments to make the prevention and redress of violence against women a key part of their national response plans for COVID-19. Shelters and helplines for women must be considered an essential service for every country with specific funding and broad efforts made to increase awareness about their availability.

Grassroots and women's organizations and communities have played a critical role in preventing and responding to previous crises and need to be supported strongly in their current frontline role including with funding that remains in the longer-term. Helplines, psychosocial support and online counselling should be boosted, using technology-based solutions such as SMS, online tools and networks to expand social support, and to reach women with no access to phones or internet. Police and justice services must mobilize to ensure that incidents of violence against women and girls are given high priority with no impunity for perpetrators. The private sector also has an important role to play, sharing information, alerting staff to the facts and the dangers of domestic violence and encouraging positive steps like sharing care responsibilities at home.

COVID-19 is already testing us in ways most of us have never previously experienced, providing emotional and economic shocks that we are struggling to rise above. The violence that is emerging now as a dark feature of this pandemic is a mirror and a challenge to our values, our resilience and shared humanity. We must not only survive the coronavirus, but emerge renewed, with women as a powerful force at the centre of recovery.

Notes

- [1] "Coronavirus: I'm in lockdown with my abuser" <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-52063755>, accessed 3rd April 2020
- [2] "Domestic violence cases escalating quicker in time of COVID-19" <https://missionlocal.org/2020/03/for-victims-of-domestic-violence-sheltering-in-place-can-mean-more-abuse>, accessed 3rd April
- [3] Lockdowns around the world bring rise in domestic violence" <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/28/lockdowns-world-rise-domestic-violence>, accessed 3rd April 2020
- [4] "Domestic violence cases jump 30% during lockdown in France" <https://www.euronews.com/2020/03/28/domestic-violence-cases-jump-30-during-lockdown-in-france>, accessed 3rd April 2020
- [5] "During quarantine, calls to 144 for gender violence increased by 25%" http://www.diario21.tv/notix2/movil2/?seccion=desarrollo_nota&id_nota=132124), accessed 2nd April 2020
- [6] "Commentary: Isolated with your abuser? Why family violence seems to be on the rise during COVID-19 outbreak", <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/commentary/coronavirus-covid-19-family-violence-abuse-women-self-isolation-12575026>, accessed 2nd April 2020
- [7] "Lockdowns around the world bring rise in domestic violence" <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/28/lockdowns-world-rise-domestic-violence>, accessed 3rd April 2020
- [8] "Domestic Violence Spikes During Coronavirus As Families Trapped At Home" <https://10daily.com.au/news/australia/a200326zyjkh/domestic-violence-spikes-during-coronavirus-as-families-trapped-at-home-20200327>, accessed 2nd April 2020

Local News from Members



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

Submitted by Nola Hitchcock Cross

Milwaukee Area Cohousing, initiated by Nola J. Hitchcock Cross, has submitted a proposal to the City of Milwaukee to purchase the land on the north side of North Avenue east of the bridge, to create River Trail Commons, a diverse, multi-generational Cohousing community with 41 residences and a retail café. The development will bridge the Riverwest and the Eastside neighborhoods by having housing on Walworth in Riverwest, as well as on North Avenue, yet all residences will have a view into the Green Commons in the center, and most with a view of the Milwaukee skyline.

Started in Denmark where it is a popular form of housing (particularly for seniors), Cohousing came to the United States in the 1960s, and there are now more than 170 Cohousing communities throughout the United States, including four in Madison. Legally structured as condos, the hallmarks of Cohousing are sustainability and community. Despite having all the amenities including kitchen and dining areas, homes have significantly reduced square footage in exchange for a large “Common House” that includes a community kitchen and dining facilities where residents generally eat together weekly. Milwaukee Area Cohousing worked with Kabala Washatko Architects to design for social interaction so that the community residents spontaneously socialize in exercise, library, entertainment, or workshop areas---or on the Greens Common. Cars are deemphasized and out of sight, with housing built over the common garage.

With the motto, “we don’t all need our own lawnmower,” Cohousing allows residents to pool books, tools, etc. for common facilities, and reservable common guestrooms and guest parking, allow reduction of square footage in the private homes. River Trail Commons is resident planned, resident developed, and resident managed. Research shows that Cohousing household budgets are significantly reduced with sharing, weekly common meals, and the “It Takes a Village” approach in the community of neighbors. Many sustainable features are included such as solar panels, rain garden, flower and vegetable gardens, Whole Trees building, and energy efficiencies, as well as a reservable common electric car and charging station. The site is spectacular, with access to 4 river hiking trails, and walking distance to two medical clinics, a hospital, a 3-screen cinema, bowling alley, Whole Foods, and a multitude of restaurants and bars. And, it is right on the Oak Leaf and Beer Line Bike Trails, the river is available for canoeing and kayaking, and there are 3 bus lines nearby.

Orientations to Cohousing are provided in two ways. Initially, there is a two-part presentation---the first is an orientation to Cohousing and the second an orientation to River Trail Commons. In addition, a “Study Group 1” 5-week session runs periodically to examine our thoughts on our futures, how we want to live, financing and budgets in Cohousing, and governance in diversity. Once conditions allow, we will resume field trips to Madison Cohousing communities as well. For more information, email Nola: Cohousing@crosslawfirm.com.