



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

# NEWSLETTER

September 2020

Area 2 • District 6

**2020–2021**

## 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 @  
[tnjreese@wi.rr.com](mailto:tnjreese@wi.rr.com)

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

## Zonta Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 @ 6:00pm

**The monthly Milwaukee Club Meeting on September 23rd, 2020 will again be a virtual meeting.**

Our speaker will be Debbie Buchanan, Zonta member and Agency Director for Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative (MHVI). (Please note: Debbie was unable to join us last month when this was originally scheduled.)

MHVI was a grant recipient from the Emergency COVID19 Fundraising that the Club did this summer. Debra will share with us how our donation helped MHVI meet the needs of their clients. <https://www.wisconsinvets.org/>

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. Hopefully we will be able to gather again soon. Stay safe and healthy!



[www.zontamilwaukee.org](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org)

## President's Message



**ZONTA**  
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Hello Sister Zontians.

Here we are in September. We can feel fall in the air and the leaves starting to fall. Still we know that things are still different in the way that we live and interact with each other. Having said that, the Zonta District 6 Fall Conference will still take place on October 10th. This year it will be a mini conference as there obviously will not be time for socializing with other clubs and the onsite event will be limited to 50 attendees. There is an option to watch the conference "live stream" as well at a discounted rate. I am hoping that we will still have club representation in Joliet but certainly understand that we all need to assess our risk tolerance and what we feel is both appropriate and healthy for our households. If for some reason the in-person event is cancelled, there will be a virtual only event on November 7-8. The call to conference invitation can be found at <http://zontadistrict6.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/D6-Brochure-final.pdf>.

Our club is a bit smaller this year. This is a common theme across many Zonta clubs and service organizations. I am hoping that each member will find a way to engage in Zonta's mission and select an area in which they would like to serve. As a club, we will need to be more intentional with our service and advocacy initiatives to be sure that we maximize our results even if we are not able to do as many. This is truly a wonderful organization of talented women with an unprecedented passion to see each woman achieve her full potential in a world that is free of gender violence.

Thank you for all you do and all that you will do!

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 – August 26<sup>th</sup>



**ZONTA**  
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Zoom Meeting was called to order by Karen Smith at 6:10.

**International Service Projects.** Karen introduced the International service projects.

**Treasurer's Report:** Maria Bellmann presented the treasurer's report. Maria reported for both June and July:

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| • Balance as of June 1       | \$18,753.66 |
| Expenses:                    |             |
| Website fees:                | 539.55      |
| Square fees:                 | 16.74       |
| Pay Pal verification:        | .25         |
| International Dues:          | 2,639.00    |
| Total fees:                  | 3,195.54    |
| Income:                      |             |
| Dues (Square)                | 546.00      |
| Dues (checks)                | 364.00      |
| Total Income:                | 910.25      |
| Balance as of June 30        | \$16,468.37 |
| • Balance as of July 1       | \$16,468.37 |
| Expenses:                    |             |
| International Dues:          | 273.00      |
| Income:                      |             |
| Dues (check):                | 364.00      |
| Balance as of July 31, 2020: | \$16,559.37 |

## **Scholarship Winners:**

- JMK Women in Business – Julia Markun. Deb Koller introduced Julia and gave a brief description of Julia's application and made a virtual presentation of the award to her. The actual certificate will be mailed next week. Julia thanked the club.
- STEM – Valerie Lynch. Deb Koller introduced Valerie and gave a brief description of Valerie's application and made a virtual presentation of the award to her. The actual certificate will be mailed next week. Valerie thanked the club.

## **Business – Committee Reports:**

### **Service and Advocacy:**

# Club Meeting Minutes – August 26<sup>th</sup>



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- **Covid 19 Fundraiser:** Joni Reese reported that we are waiting for an update from Elizabeth Stull for the final amount remaining for the Covid 19 relief to determine the final distribution of the remaining funds.
- **Zonta Says No March Walk:** Donna Neal reported the options for replacing the Walk:
  - End Abuse will be issuing the homicide report and will have a non-event gala, “Soar Above” on 9/22/2020. They have requested we support the gala. Sponsorship levels range from \$500 - \$5,000. Janet Kloser moved that we pay \$750.00 from club funds to support the gala. Lynn Oehlke seconded. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
  - We will post on social media in October (Stop Domestic Violence month) several of the personal stories from the End Abuse report.
  - Sojourner Family Peace Center has a “#untilshecan” where individuals read survivor’s stories. We will repost some of those stories in October.
  - End Abuse has a short video – “Dare to Know” program. We can publish the video or a link to it.
  - We can post a link to the domestic violence report issued in the Journal Sentinel related to domestic violence as a result of Covid 19.
  - Donna is waiting to hear back from the Waukesha Women’s Center regarding to their purple silhouettes and how we can support that program.
- **Racial Justice:** Donna Neal reported that the racial justice committee will be meeting on August 27 to come up with some directions for the club. She also recommended members read a letter called “Moment of Truth”.
- **End Early Marriage:** Diane Lindsley reported that the Madison Club is concentrating on Ending Child Marriage. Diane will ask if there is any pending legislation in Wisconsin that we should support.
- **District 6 Service Liason:** Joni reported that Tamara Hagen is the District 6 service liaison. Donna Conant reported to her our Covid 19 and backpack projects.

## Public Relations:

- Newsletter input requested by 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> of the month.
- Joni requested help with the social media posting set out above.

## Fashion Show Fundraiser:

- Lynne Oehlke requested a volunteer to co-chair with her for the 2021 show with planning starting in September.
- On-line auction will be live on 9/19 – 9/27. Email reminders and Facebook notifications will be sent periodically leading up to the event.
- Encourage friends and family to bid and donate.

## Scholarship:

- Virtual awards were made earlier in the meeting (see above).

# Club Meeting Minutes – August 26<sup>th</sup>



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- Deb Koller made a request for members to join the committee. Per request she described the time commitment involved with committee participation.
- Our YMPA recipient – Lisa Wong also won the District 6 scholarship.
- Jackie Beaudry agreed to verify that the International STEM award is not the same as the Club.

## **Membership:**

- Donna Neal reported that Jackie Gleason from the Madison Club has been brain-storming about membership events during the Covid 19 pandemic and has requested that our membership committee contact her. Donna will send her information to Cheryl Lucas DeBerry.
- We currently have 33 members. We have a new member, Crystal Carter, being inducted next month.

## **Program:**

- Maureen Siwula recommends we continue to meet virtually at least through the end of the year. Members are encouraged, if able, to donate the dinner fees and Fashion Show ticket money to Foundation while we continue to meet virtually.
- Lynne Oehlke requested that we add an agenda item for next meeting to discuss raising money for agencies during the Christmas season.
- Karen and Maureen will reach out to those members who have not been joining the meetings via Zoom to determine why they have not been joining us and let them know we are missing them.

## **UN:**

- Karen outlined the International Service projects at the beginning of the meeting.
- Marge Holzbog requested that anyone interested in joining the committee contact her.

## **Announcements:**

- District 6 Board will be installed in a virtual meeting on Saturday, August 29 at 10:00. Jackie will forward the invitation to Joni who will forward it to the Club members.
- District 6 Fall Conference, October 9 -10, hosted by Joliet will be a mini conference with a maximum of 50 on-site attendees. The Saturday session will be available for on-line attendance.
- Next Club Meeting September 23, 2020 at 6:00

## Club Calendar

### Board Meetings

October 13

November 10

December 8

### Club Meetings

September 23

October 28

November 18

December 16 (tentative)

### Online Auction

September 19-27

D6 Fall Conference

October 9-11

Joliet, IL & Virtual

# ZCM's COVID-19 Crisis Response



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**\$2,800 Donated to 4 local agencies through our Covid-19 Response Initiative!**



Milwaukee Homeless  
Veterans Initiative

**WOVIN: Women Veterans Initiative**



Sojourner Family Peace Center



Thank you, Zontians!

Together we raised \$2800 and donated \$700 to each of the four agencies listed to the left to continue to help women and children that are experiencing even more hardship due to the virus.

Our club sent \$200 to each of these agencies in early September, in addition to the \$500 each which was sent in July.

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 are supporting agencies whose resources are stretched due to this crisis and whose mission aligns with ours.

These agencies were selected by our Club's Service & Advocacy Covid-19 Response Team: Jackie Beaudry, Donna Conant, Pam Knackert, Diane Lindsley, Helen Ludwig, Donna Neal, Cheryl Nowak, Joni Reese, Barbara Wyatt-Sibley, Maureen Siwula.

A great thank you to our generous club members! You made a difference!



***As we remain in a virtual meeting world, we ask that you consider continuing to donate your monthly meeting costs to the Milwaukee Club's Zonta Foundation account until we can be together again.***



# Foundation Thanks



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August 28, 2020

Zonta Foundation Inc.  
15125 W. Fenway Dr.  
New Berlin, WI 53151

Dear Zonta Foundation Inc.,

Thank you so very much for your generous donation of \$500 to the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative and for your continued support. MHVI has been able to help over 5,000 veterans and their families since our inception because of generous people like you. With financial contributions, donations of food, furniture, household and hygiene items, we continue to grow and expand our services and outreach.

When a veteran comes to MHVI, they work with a case manager who connects them with services. We focus on basic needs such as secure housing, medical care, clothing and food. At MHVI:

- Services are tailored to the needs of each individual veteran
- Type or length of service or discharge status do not matter – we serve anyone in crisis who wore the uniform

Active duty, Reserves, National Guard, overseas, stateside, war or peacetime, front lines or in the rear, and regardless of their discharge. If you wore the uniform, we will help you.

Last year, we connected with more than 350 veterans. Your donation goes directly to supporting these heroes!

Sincerely,

Debbie Buchanan  
Executive Director  
Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative

*We thank you for your donation that will directly benefit formerly homeless and at-risk veterans. We could not fulfill our mission without your support.* We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, state of Wisconsin License #12866-800, EIN# 45-4573280. In compliance with the internal revenue code this acknowledgement serves as your tax receipt for the recent gift. We further note that there were no goods or services received in exchange for this contribution or the value of any goods and services received are within the definition of "low cost" articles under Internal Revenue Code Section 513513(h)(2).

P.O. Box 14575, West Allis, WI 53214 • 414.257.4111 • [info@mkehomelessvets.org](mailto:info@mkehomelessvets.org)

## Foundation Thanks



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Dear Zonta Club of Milw  
Foundation-

Thank you for the recent  
grant award to New-Life  
Community Development. Your  
continued support of New-Life is  
so appreciated. We value our  
partnerships with Zonta so  
much!

Tram Commodore &  
Jody Rhodes  
&  
New Life  
Family

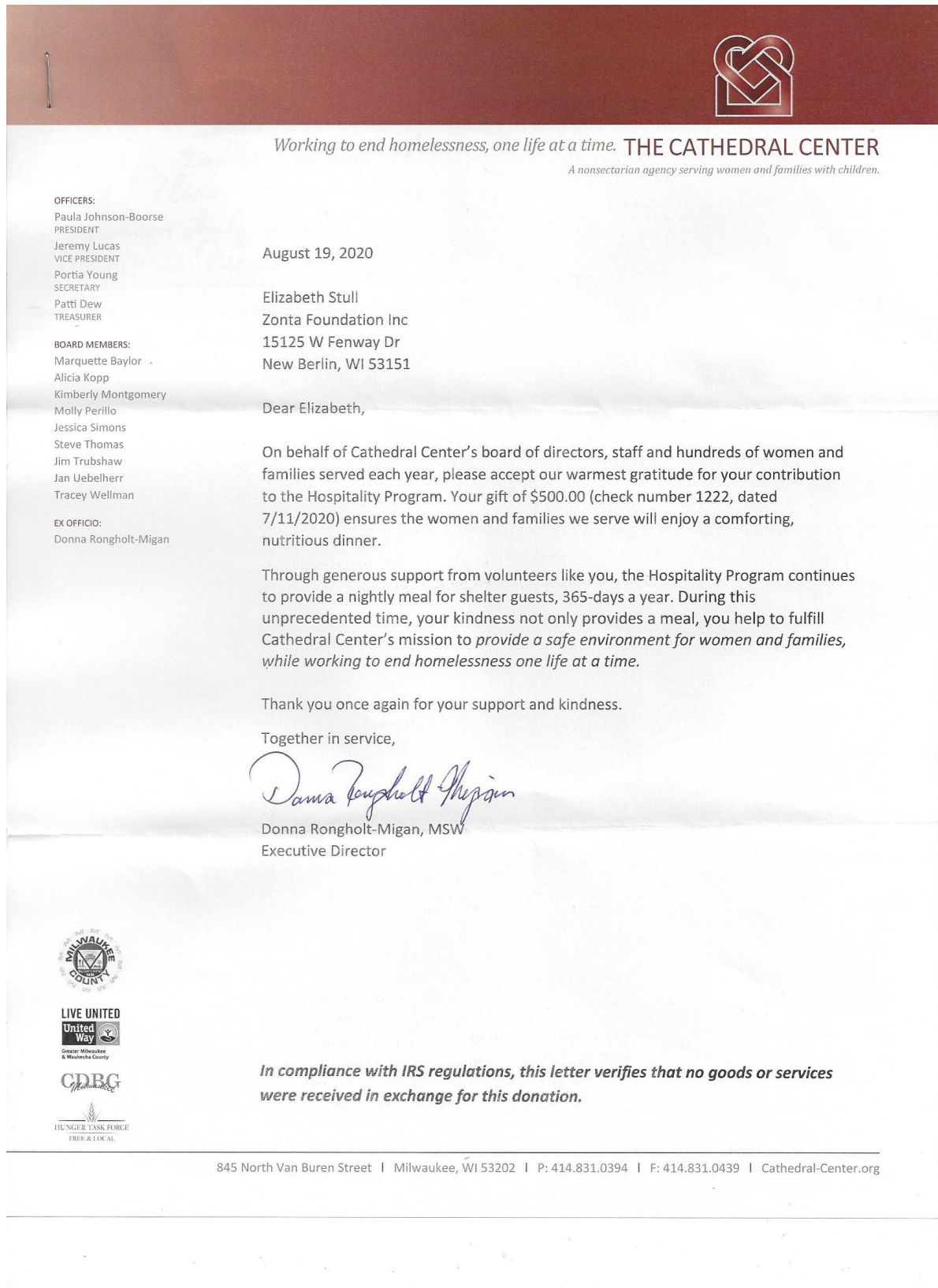




# Foundation Thanks



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Working to end homelessness, one life at a time. **THE CATHEDRAL CENTER**

*A nonsectarian agency serving women and families with children.*

**OFFICERS:**

Paula Johnson-Boorse  
PRESIDENT  
Jeremy Lucas  
VICE PRESIDENT  
Portia Young  
SECRETARY  
Patti Dew  
TREASURER

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Marquette Baylor  
Alicia Kopp  
Kimberly Montgomery  
Molly Perillo  
Jessica Simons  
Steve Thomas  
Jim Trubshaw  
Jan Uebelherr  
Tracey Wellman

**EX OFFICIO:**

Donna Rongholt-Migan

August 19, 2020

Elizabeth Stull  
Zonta Foundation Inc  
15125 W Fenway Dr  
New Berlin, WI 53151

Dear Elizabeth,

On behalf of Cathedral Center's board of directors, staff and hundreds of women and families served each year, please accept our warmest gratitude for your contribution to the Hospitality Program. Your gift of \$500.00 (check number 1222, dated 7/11/2020) ensures the women and families we serve will enjoy a comforting, nutritious dinner.

Through generous support from volunteers like you, the Hospitality Program continues to provide a nightly meal for shelter guests, 365-days a year. During this unprecedented time, your kindness not only provides a meal, you help to fulfill Cathedral Center's mission to *provide a safe environment for women and families, while working to end homelessness one life at a time.*

Thank you once again for your support and kindness.

Together in service,

Donna Rongholt-Migan, MSW  
Executive Director



***In compliance with IRS regulations, this letter verifies that no goods or services were received in exchange for this donation.***

845 North Van Buren Street | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | P: 414.831.0394 | F: 414.831.0439 | Cathedral-Center.org



## New Member: Crystal Carter

We plan to install a new Zonta Club of Milwaukee member, Crystal Carter at our Sept. 23rd meeting. Crystal is a clinical assistant professor and social work field liaison in the Social Work Department at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry is her sponsor. **Welcome Crystal!**

## Member Updates

Congratulations to Joni Reese on her new job at Northwestern Mutual.

Please keep in your prayers Donna Kahl-Wilkerson on a death in the family and La Toya Sykes who is recovering from surgery.

## ***HAPPY BIRTHDAY!***

**Crystal Carter**  
Sept 8

**Kim Brinsko**  
Sept 15

**Barbara Wyatt Sibley**  
Sept 26



# 2020 Fashion Show Fundraiser

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## 2020 Online Auction Fundraiser – Coming September 19<sup>th</sup>!

It's **Countdown Time** to our 2020 Zonta Fundraiser **online auction to be held September 19<sup>th</sup> through September 27<sup>th</sup>** along with seeking **monetary donations**.

**The money raised will be distributed in 2021 to local non-profit agencies that empower women and girls in the Milwaukee metro area. This will be the only effort to raise funds for next year's grants.** These organizations provide education, basic needs such as food, housing and transportation, domestic violence support, and/or job preparation. Over the years we have supported over 75 local nonprofit agencies as well as Zonta International Service Projects and Scholarships.

Here is our opportunity to support next year's grants to local nonprofits serving women and girls. Please also promote this event to your friends, relatives and co-workers. The items include Vera Bradley bags, dining gift certificates, Packers football, Koss products and more. Even though we will be emailing the information to those on our guest list that we have emails for there are many that you personally invite so spread the word.

**Success depends on each of us.**

The link to the auction is <https://go.rallyup.com/2020zontafundraiser> or go to our website [zontamilwaukee.org](http://zontamilwaukee.org) to find the link, but it will not be available for bids/donations until Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Monetary donations to Zonta Foundation, Inc. can be made at bottom of auction page, through a donation page <https://go.rallyup.com/zontadonation> (already available and linked to a **Donate Now** button on our website), our Facebook page or by writing a check payable to Zonta Foundation, Inc. and mailed to Elizabeth Stull Foundation Treasurer at 3049 S. 39<sup>th</sup> Street Milwaukee, WI 53215.

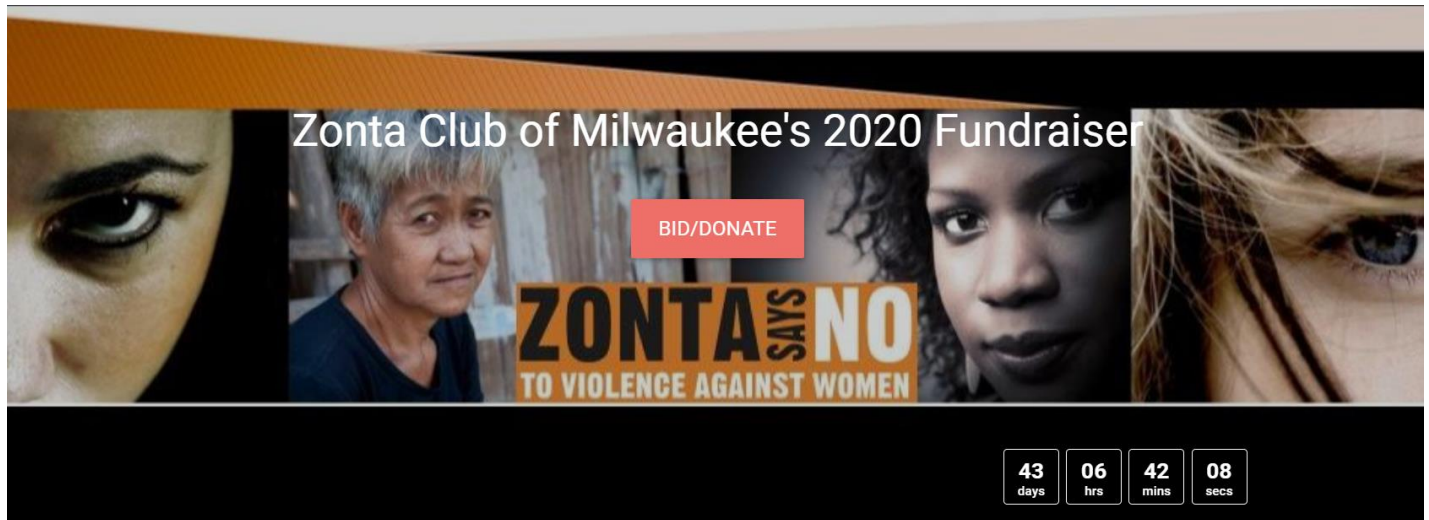
Milwaukee Zonta members have proven to be very generous. Here is one more opportunity .....if you are able, give someone a reason to smile. **The money you would have normally donated with fashion show tickets or raffles is most appreciated.**



## 2020 Fashion Show Fundraiser



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## 2021 Fashion Show Fundraiser

The 2021 Fashion Show Committee is going to start meeting on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm via Zoom. If you'd like to join this great group of members to help plan our April 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 event please let Lynne Oehlke know and she can forward the link. She is also looking for a co-chair so if anyone is interested please let her know.

***SAVE THE DATE: April 17, 2021***

You can now donate to the Milwaukee Club's Foundation at the top of the [www.zontamilwaukee.org](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org) website!







## UN Committee

When considering our 2020 -2022 International Service projects, I began to wonder whether Zonta historically had done work in Peru, one of our current biennium projects. So, I decided to look back at our service history and thought you might like to look too. No, we have never done work in Peru.

Since 1923, our first international service project, Zonta has provided more than US \$19.2 million to projects benefitting women in 35 countries. (Of course, this listing does not include ZISVAW projects, which we might look at another day.) – **Submitted by Marge Holzbog**

### 2018 -2020

|            |        |             |
|------------|--------|-------------|
| Madagascar | UNICEF | Education   |
| Syria      | UNICEF | Empowerment |

### 2016 – 2018

|            |        |           |
|------------|--------|-----------|
| Liberia    | UNFPA  | Health    |
| Madagascar | UNICEF | Education |

### 2014 – 2016

|         |        |        |
|---------|--------|--------|
| Rwanda  | UNICEF | Health |
| Liberia | UNFPA  | Health |

### 2012 – 2014

|         |        |        |
|---------|--------|--------|
| Rwanda  | UNICEF | Health |
| Liberia | UNFPA  | Health |

### 2010 – 2012

|              |          |                  |
|--------------|----------|------------------|
| Rwanda       | UNICEF   | Health/ Violence |
| Guatemala    | UN Women |                  |
| San Salvador |          | Violence         |
| Liberia      | UNFPA    | Health           |

### 2008 – 2010

|              |        |          |
|--------------|--------|----------|
| Guatemala/   |        |          |
| San Salvador | UNIFEM | Violence |
| Rwanda       | UNICEF | Health   |
| Liberia      | UNFPA  | Health   |

### 2006 – 2008

|             |       |           |
|-------------|-------|-----------|
| Sri Lanka   | UNIDO | Education |
| Bolivia     | CARE  | Education |
| Niger       | CARE  | Health    |
| Afghanistan | AIL   | Education |

### 2004 – 2006

|                    |        |                |
|--------------------|--------|----------------|
| Niger              | CARE   | Credit/ Health |
| Bosnia/Herzegovina | STAR   | Trafficking    |
| Afghanistan        | AIL    | Education      |
| Afghanistan        | UNICEF | Health         |

### 2002 – 2004

|                     |        |             |
|---------------------|--------|-------------|
| Bosnia/ Herzegovina | STAR   | Trafficking |
| India               | UNIFEM | Violence    |
| Afghanistan         | AIL    | Education   |
| Afghanistan         | UNICEF | Health      |

### 2000 – 2002

|              |        |          |
|--------------|--------|----------|
| Burkina Faso | UNICEF | Health   |
| Nepal        | UNICEF | Health   |
| India        | UNICEF | Violence |

### 1998 – 2000

|              |        |        |
|--------------|--------|--------|
| Burkina Faso | UNICEF | Health |
|--------------|--------|--------|

### 1996 – 1998

|              |        |           |
|--------------|--------|-----------|
| South Africa | UNICEF | Education |
|--------------|--------|-----------|

### 1994 – 1996

|                 |         |           |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|
| Guatemala/      | UNIFEM/ | Education |
| Central America | UNICEF  |           |
| Senegal         | UNIFEM  | Economic  |

### 1992 – 1994

|       |        |          |
|-------|--------|----------|
| Ghana | UNIFEM | Economic |
| Chile | UNIFEM | Economic |

### 1990 – 1992

|       |        |             |
|-------|--------|-------------|
| India | UNIFEM | Agriculture |
| Togo  | UNIFEM | Agriculture |
| Egypt | UNIFEM | Economic    |

# UN Committee



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## 1988 – 1990

|              |         |             |
|--------------|---------|-------------|
| Philippines  | UNIFEM  | Agriculture |
| Brazil       | UNIFEM  | Agriculture |
| Sierra Leone | WAND    | Development |
| Nigeria      | INSTRAW | Water       |
| Guatemala    | UNICEF  | Economic    |
| Uruguay      | UNESCO  | Education   |
| Mexico       | UNIFEM  | Agriculture |

## 1986 – 1988

|                |        |           |
|----------------|--------|-----------|
| Argentina      | UNIFEM | Health    |
| Comoros Island | UNIFEM | Education |
| Thailand       | UNIFEM | Economic  |
| Zimbabwe       | UNIFEM | Economic  |
| Botswana       | UNIFEM | Economic  |
| Sri Lanka      | UNICEF | Water     |

## 1976 – 1982

|          |        |                   |
|----------|--------|-------------------|
| Colombia | UNICEF | Health/ Education |
|----------|--------|-------------------|

## 1974 – 1976

|                   |        |          |
|-------------------|--------|----------|
| <b>Pan Africa</b> | UNICEF | Economic |
|-------------------|--------|----------|

## 1972 – 1974

|       |        |        |
|-------|--------|--------|
| Ghana | UNICEF | Health |
|-------|--------|--------|

## 1962 – 1976

|               |                          |           |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| <u>Jordan</u> | UN Relief & Work Agency* | Education |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|

## 1959 – 1960

|         |                                      |  |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Germany | UN World Refugees/Anne Frank Village |  |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--|

## 1956

|         |            |  |
|---------|------------|--|
| Hungary | Direct Aid |  |
|---------|------------|--|

## 1923

|        |          |  |
|--------|----------|--|
| Turkey | Economic |  |
|--------|----------|--|

\*First UN Agency Partnership

## INSTRAW

UN International Research & Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

## UNICEF

UN Children's Fund

## UNFPA

UN Population Fund

## UNIDO

UN Industrial Development Organization

## UNIFEM

UN Development Fund for Women  
(now UN Women)

## UNESCO

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

## UN WOMEN

UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

# Zonta District 6 Fall Conference



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*"Some of us have great runways already built for us. If you have one, take off. But if you don't have one, realize it is your responsibility to grab a shovel and build one for yourself and for those who will follow after you."*

*- Amelia Earhart*



**Zonta District 6  
Fall Conference  
October 10, 2020  
Holiday Inn and Suites  
Joliet, IL 60431  
Or  
Virtual Conference  
November 7 - 8, 2020**



## Empowering Women



HOW HIGH CAN WE

# SOAR

EMPOWERING  
WOMEN AND GIRLS



## Club Statement of Solidarity to Eliminate Systemic Racism

We are living in challenging times. The COVID19 virus demands a response and the Zonta Club of Milwaukee put an emergency giving plan in place in June. 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 puts people of color at risk -- health, education, economics, judicial, etc. - and prevents 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.

## Racial Justice Committee Follow-Ups

The Racial Justice Committee has developed a program for Milwaukee (and possibly Madison) Club meetings that is a shorter version of the program put together for the Spring Area Workshop that had to be cancelled. We'll work with the Board and the Program Committee to find a date.

We are also designing some optional virtual gatherings for Club members, where small groups can participate in a discussion on issues related to systemic racism, stimulated by a video, book, film, article, etc. We are developing a schedule of bi-monthly events and plan to announce them in the next newsletter.

We are also brainstorming possible Club project ideas.

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

2020 has been one of the hardest years in recent history. The pandemic has highlighted the challenges domestic abuse victims and survivors face each day. Safer at Home mandates across the nation sparked an increase in domestic abuse incidents, due to loss of income, isolation, and being in an enclosed space with an abusive partner.

These stressors, exacerbated by the spread of COVID-19, put victims and their children at a higher risk of being murdered by their abusers. A May 2020 [report from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) on the spike in homicides in Milwaukee linked nearly half of them to domestic or family violence. ***There is a direct correlation between the pandemic and an increase in domestic violence.*** Victims across WI need your help.

End Abuse Wisconsin has been tracking domestic violence homicides for the last 20 years. They have been our partner in our annual Zonta Says No to Domestic Violence Silent March for the past 4 years. Each year they publish a Homicide Report with the statistics and stories of all homicides from the prior year.





Their [Homicide Reports](#) paint a grim picture of the ultimate price victims and their families pay as a result of domestic abuse.

In lieu of an in-person fundraiser this year, End Abuse Wisconsin is sponsoring a “non-event gala” called **Soar Above At Home** on Tuesday, September 22 to support survivors and victims. The Zonta Club of Milwaukee is sponsoring this event and we encourage our members to participate to the extent they can. Together, we can effectuate a lasting transformation that will positively impact victims, survivors, and the families of homicide victims, and – most importantly – prevent future homicides. The link to the event registration is:

[https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event\\_id=10729](https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event_id=10729)

We will be sharing links to the Homicide Report and to the End Abuse Wisconsin event on social media, as well as some of the victims’ stories in late September and throughout October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We’ll also be sharing links to other information, resources and stories. Please be on the lookout and be prepared to share!

***Submitted by Donna Neal  
Milwaukee Club Advocacy and Racial Justice Committee Chair***

## **Women’s Suffrage Movement**

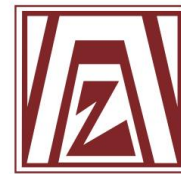
We are all familiar with the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment which, after 70 years of protests and demonstrations, ensured women the right to vote.

“THE VOTE” two-hour video returns to PBS beginning Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, can be streamed at <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/vote/#part01> and at <https://www.pbs.org/video/the-vote-part-1-3kph5d/>

However, not all women were able to vote because the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment only prohibited discrimination based upon a person’s sex but not race.

*In the PBS video “SHE RESISTED: Strategies of Suffrage” found at <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/interactives/she-resisted/sb/introduction/1>, you will learn of the struggles faced by women of color, Asian American women, Native American women, and Latin American women. These are the stories that most of us were never taught.*

When the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed in 1920, Native Americans were not allowed US citizenship. Ironically, early on in the suffrage movement, white women became familiar with equal rights held by women in certain Native American tribes but white women did not advocate for their citizenship or the right to vote. The Snyder



Act of 1924 granted citizenship to Native Americans but certain states prevented their voting by requiring literacy tests, poll taxes, and declaring that a reservation was not a part of a state.

Although African American women in the north were able to vote after the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, many in other parts of the country could not. Poll taxes, literacy tests, intimidation and violence suppressed their votes. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 ensured voting rights for all.

Asian-Americans born in the US were citizens in 1920 but their parents were not. It was not until 1952, when the Immigration and Nationality Act was passed, could first generation Asian-Americans become US citizens and vote.

Latinas in Puerto Rico who were literate in English could vote in 1929 but illiterate women had to wait until 1935. However, literacy tests continued to be required until 1975 when the Voting Rights Act was extended to women who spoke languages other than English.



Left to right: Suffragists Mary Church Terrell; Mrs. Francis E.W. Harper, Ida B. Wells, Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee & Sioux activist Zitkala-Sa (Creative Commons images)



### **The Beijing's Women Conference: 25 years later, The Council of Europe Istanbul Convention, the CEDAW treaty, and the Equal Rights Amendment**

On October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year the President of the General Assembly, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, will convene a High-Level meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *Beijing Platform for Action* during which Member States can re-commit to a gender-equal world. This **Fourth World Conference on Women** can be accessed at <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/>. Our own Club member, Aileen Rock-Jordan, attended the parallel conference for non-governmental organizations held outside of Beijing in 1995.

*"On this important anniversary, let us reaffirm the promises the world made to women and girls in 1995. Let us draw on the activist spirit of the Beijing Conference and commit to forging new alliances across generations and sectors to ensure we seize this opportunity for deep, systemic change for women and for the world",* said the UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

She added "Research shows the **COVID-19 pandemic** is exacerbating pre-existing inequalities and threatening to halt or reverse the gains of decades of collective effort – with just released new data revealing that the pandemic will push 47 million more women and girls below the poverty line. The far-reaching social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the significant increases in violence against women, threaten to reverse many of the hard-won advances made in the last 25 years to empower women and girls".

Her statement reinforces the increase in **domestic violence** cases here in Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

This month, Zonta members received a call for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. Zontian Anita Schnetzer-Spranger of **Zonta International's Council of Europe Committee** has written *"The Istanbul Convention is a ground-breaking international treaty to eradicate violence against women and domestic violence. Once ratified it is legally binding and as such unique in the world combating violence against women. The Convention was created by the Council of Europe but it has global outreach. Any state can accede to it or use it as a blueprint for national and regional legislation and policies. The strength of the Convention lies in its comprehensiveness and its commitment to tackling the root causes of violence against women and domestic violence."* Since 1995, the United States has had observer status and participates in COE meetings and works closely with COE on specific issues concerning human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Here in the United States, we have not been successful in ratifying the **CEDAW treaty**, adopted in 1979. However, Cities for CEDAW advocates the passing of legislation establishing the principles of CEDAW in cities and towns across the United States. For further information: <http://citiesforcedaw.org/about-cedaw/> The City of San Francisco is a successful example.

Currently, the **Equal Rights Amendment**, having reached the minimum of 38 states for passage, is in the hands of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. For a brief review of the E.R.A., see <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/life/women-of-the-century/2020/08/18/equal-rights-women-ever-have-equal-rights-under-federal-law/5549002002/>



# SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

END DOMESTIC ABUSE WISCONSIN PRESENTS

**SOAR**  
**ABOVE**

A **non-event gala** in support of  
domestic violence survivors

BECAUSE IN 2020,  
THE BEST WAY TO SHOW UP  
IS TO STAY HOME.



DETAILS COMING SOON ABOUT HOW YOU  
CAN SUPPORT SURVIVORS DURING THE  
COVID-19 CRISIS BY RAISING FUNDS THAT

**DIRECTLY IMPACT SURVIVORS' SAFETY**  
-ALL FROM THE SAFETY OF YOUR HOME.