



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

Area 2 • District 6

2021–2022

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

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Send your newsletter submissions
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NEWSLETTER

August 2021

Zonta Meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Wednesday, August 25th 6:00pm

Facilitator: Heidi E. Moore, Moore Urban Consulting

The Racial Justice Committee is excited to welcome Heidi Moore, a Milwaukee-based equity, diversity, and inclusion professional who will be facilitating some Club programs and educational experiences for us over the next several months.

In this second meeting, we will complete our personal introductions to one another and lay the groundwork for our future efforts to grow and develop our cross-cultural communication competencies, as individuals and as an organization.

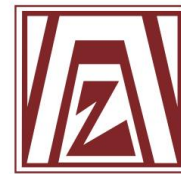
Check out this month's advocacy column for a bit more detail.

From our June Service Meeting:



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President's Message



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Happy August to the Zonta Club of Milwaukee,

Yes, we are nearing the end of summer and looking to see some changes in the upcoming year for our club. In particular, we are planning for August to be our last Zoom club meeting, returning to in person meetings in September. Maureen is working with Saz's on our return. The Club Zoom account has been renewed for an additional year and the various committees are welcome to use it for their meetings as they have in the past year. We will also continue to use it for board meetings.

Our August club meeting is on August 25. We will continue with our discussion facilitated by Heidi Moore. We have several members still to share from our club so please keep in mind Donna's original request and come prepared if you are one that still will be sharing:

*"Each of us will be asked to introduce ourselves with some commentary on our personal, professional and Zonta backgrounds. Pretty standard, but many of us don't know each other well, and Heidi knows only a few of us, recently. Heidi will provide questions to guide your comments. We'll be looking for something like **2 minutes** from everyone.*

*We ask that each member bring to and share in the meeting **an item** (could be an object, a memory, a story, anything at all) **that represents your cultural background**, and also tell us **why you chose** that item to share in the meeting."*

In addition, we will be looking to vote on delegates for the Fall Conference (October 8-10) at our August meeting. I am hoping that many of our club members can participate in the Fall Conference as it is an excellent way to really understand how Zonta works and how our club fits into the big picture.

I will be leaving early Thursday morning, August 26, for a mission trip to Comayagua, Honduras. We will be starting the initial efforts of an aquaponics project which will bring water gardens, producing fish to sell and water to drink. I am excited for the trip, and it reminds me why I am so drawn to the efforts of Zonta International and its service projects.

Thank you everyone for all you do!

Karen
Zonta Club of Milwaukee President





Neu-Life Back to School 2021



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Neu-Life backpack & supplies project this year (if you still want to make a monetary donation please do so). We donated 90 backpacks with supplies to kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high school students. Thanks to Diane, Deb & Pam who helped stuff and to Deb & Pam who attended the fun activities and distribution of backpacks at Johnson Park. The kids really appreciated their new backpacks.





Upcoming Dates



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Upcoming Club Dates:

August Club Meeting: August 25th

September Club Meeting: Sept 25th

Fall Conference:

October 8-10 Oakbrook IL

Fashion Show:

October 23rd

Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women 6th Annual Walk – Monday October 4th

2022 Convention
Hamburg,
Germany



Save the Date

Join Zonta International for our
65th Convention

25 -29 June 2022

Congress Center Hamburg
Hamburg, Germany





Fashion Show Fundraiser

Save the Date for our “Empowering Women and Girls Here and Around the World” Fashion Show Fundraiser on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at the Marriott Milwaukee West. You should have rec’d your invites and an email version from Joni. Invites to our mailing list also went out early August. Eventbrite site can be accessed at <https://2021-zonta-fashion-show.eventbrite.com> to make reservations and pay for tickets online if you prefer. Please invite your friends, relatives, and co-workers. Each member is encouraged to sell/purchase a table of 10 or donate ½ the cost since this is our only major fundraiser of the year.

Some “Asks”

Corporate Sponsorships – corporate/business sponsorships are coming in, but if you have anyone you need to follow up with or still need to ask, please do so – dentist, accountant, financial advisor for example. This money is very important to covering the costs of the event and a great opportunity for them to get their name in front of people.

Wine pull – Once again, the wine pull will be a part of the fashion show this fall. It has been through the generosity of monetary donations of our members in the past that we have been able to provide 75 bottles of wine for purchase. Please consider donating \$20 or more towards this year's wine pull. Given the virtual format of our August meeting, checks made out to the Zonta Foundation, Inc. can be sent to Elizabeth Stull at 3049 S. 49th St. Milwaukee, WI 53215 and note in memo wine pull. Another option is to wait until we return to our face-to-face meeting in September and donating at that meeting. Thank you in advance for supporting the wine pull at this fall's fashion show fundraiser.

Gift cards – The fashion show committee is searching for unwanted, largely ignored and otherwise nonessential gift cards with a value of \$20 or more. Our idea is to create a **gift card “tree”** as another way to raise funds. Each card is in an envelope so that its value and purpose are not seen. A “buyer” pays \$20 and can select an envelope from the “tree.” They have been guaranteed that the value is at least \$20 but might be more.

The committee members think that all of us have one, two, three (perhaps more) cards we have received as gifts that we are not really interested in---you know the type: The restaurant is too far away! that type of cuisine is not me! You don't every shop at..... We are hoping that you want to put those cards to good use and make them part of our fund-raising efforts for services to women and girls. (There is a possibility we will use a few in baskets too). Please get to Pam Knackert or bring to September meeting, but let Pam know what you are donating.

Raffle Items/Baskets (\$50 range) and Silent Auction Items/Baskets (\$100 +) – we are looking for raffle and silent auction items/baskets. Food and drink items go well. Also experiences like boat rides, cabin stays, etc. So, start thinking and asking and shopping. You received a template letter and donation form from Pam on July 12th that you can use to ask for donations from your favorite restaurant or store or put a themed basket together. Pam Knackert and Laurie Ward will be collecting. Please contact them to let them know what you have and then they can arrange to get from you or make sure you bring to our September meeting.



August Club Meeting and Future Plans

At our May meeting, the Racial Justice Committee (RJC) introduced Heidi Moore, a Milwaukee-based Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coach. Heidi has agreed to work with our club as we engage in what can be difficult conversations about racism and racial justice issues as barriers to the empowerment of women and girls, and look to increasing the size, inclusiveness, and diversity of our club.

We have always tried to maintain a safe environment in our club which allows for open discussion and opportunities to learn new things. We had a terrific first session with Heidi where we all learned something new about each member who introduced herself. But we didn't get through the whole membership. In this month's meeting, we will complete our introductions, and Heidi will introduce herself and the model of cross-cultural communication and conflict resolution that we will be working with in upcoming sessions with her.

If you did not get a chance to introduce yourself at the May meeting, we ask you to do so this month. Please keep your remarks to 2-3 minutes and answer the following questions:

- Name
- Professional or trade background
- Years of Zonta membership
- Why did you join Zonta?
- Share an item that represents your cultural background, and explain why you chose to share that item
- 1 or 2 other membership organizations you belong to (optional)

We expect to be utilizing the Intercultural Conflict Style Inventory Tool developed by ICS Inventory, LLC. If you like, find out more about it on their website:

<https://icsinventory.com/ics-inventory/the-ics-improves-communication-conflict-resolution-across-cultures>

Expect a lot of discussion on culture – values, beliefs, behaviors, feelings – and cross-cultural communication and conflict styles as we move through the learning process.

We will be linking our programming to Zonta International goals and leadership development training wherever possible. If you like, check out the tools available on the ZI website as well – and take a class or two for leadership development credit. Two that we have sampled are the 50-min webinar titled *“Having Difficult Conversations: Effective Conflict Resolution in Organizations”* (predates the more recently developed models), and the newer 13-min presentation entitled *“Resolving Conflict by Achieving Win-Win Outcomes”*:

<https://www.gotostage.com/channel/55756b4d9b5b477d8a8373446fa5194f/recording/24ac4175a9f949f8aa8814c0c92fba55/watch?source=CHANNEL>

The RJC thanks our membership and Club Board for their support as we continue to identify barriers that try to restrict the enormous potential of women in the Milwaukee area.

Respectfully Submitted

Racial Justice Committee (Joann Comodore, Donna Kahl-Wilkerson, Judy Lehman, Diane Lindsley, Carol Mangold, Donna Neal/chair)



The Annual Walk is Around the Corner!

Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women 6th Annual Walk

Monday, October 4, 2021

11:55 am – 1:00 pm | Milwaukee City Hall

*Join us in a silent walk around the Milwaukee downtown area, beginning and ending at City Hall, for the purpose of remembering those in Wisconsin who have died this past year as a result of domestic violence. **Together, we can inspire community action.***



Sponsors



We have formed a sub-committee to work on our **6th Annual Zonta Says No Walk Against Violence Against Women**, which will be held **Monday, October 4 from 11:55-1:00**. The Zonta Says NO Walk is a silent walk around the Milwaukee downtown area, beginning and ending at Milwaukee City Hall, for the purpose of remembering those Wisconsinites who died last year due to domestic violence. Once again, we are partnering with End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin. Arrangements have been confirmed with the City of Milwaukee.

We welcome people to the walk, and carry pennants honoring the victims on a walk that is approximately 1 mile and takes about 30 minutes. The program then includes several community leaders who each speak for a couple minutes. We are currently in the process of inviting speakers and awaiting their responses. Our own La Toya Sykes will be emceeding the program this year. At the end of the program, we honor the victims.

We are expecting to see a major increase in the number of reported domestic violence deaths in 2020 vs prior years, due to the COVID19 pandemic. In past years we have welcomed about 50 marchers; **we would like to at least double the number of walkers.**

Here's what we ask from each of you:

- **Plan to walk, and walk with your Zonta Says No T-shirt**

Advocacy



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- *Invite friends and family to walk with us*
- *Invite members of other like-minded organizations to walk with us*
- *Pass on the names of organizations (and maybe a contact name) you think might walk with us to someone on the committee*

Now is the time to ask others to join us. It is a good opportunity for organizations to get some publicity for themselves! We welcome them wearing logoed merchandise in showing their support. We have a templated invitation letter that you can use – just ask.

And if you don't have a Zonta Says No T-shirt to wear, or if you would like a new **long-sleeved Zonta Says No T-shirt**, you can order one by contacting Donna Neal. Cost is \$15 (the same as several years ago). Donna must receive order info by the end of August. Long lead times are necessary given the labor, supply chain and transportation issues many companies are facing.

The color and logo design of the T-shirt is shown in the photo. Note that the photo shows short-sleeves, but we are ordering long-sleeved shirts. **The available sizes are small to 3XL**, and they run "normal".



Respectfully submitted,

Silent Walk Committee (Pam Knackert, Donna Neal, La Toya Sykes, Maureen Siwula, Christine Todd)

June 2021

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2021 JMK Women in Business Scholarship

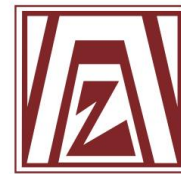
Jamie Silkey is this year's JMK Scholarship recipient. Jamie has been a Physician's Assistant and Assistant Director at the Medical College of Wisconsin for the past 15 years. Jamie received her master's in healthcare administration in 2012, but over time Jamie felt her leadership tool kit and acumen were limited in financial analysis, analytics, and strategic marketing principles. Jamie's current interest in enrolling in UW-Milwaukee's Executive MBA Program is driven by her desire to communicate with her business partners through common language and sound, strategic problem-solving logic.

Jamie's work-related reference stated, "Jamie stepped into a practice-wide leadership role as assistant director in the Office of Advanced Practice Providers. Without a doubt, Jamie has improved the recognition and responsibilities of APP's who practice at the Medical College of Wisconsin. In this role she has been exposed to senior leaders from MCW and Froedtert Hospital. She is recognized for her thoughtful approach to problem solving and the ability to deliver on key initiatives."

In addition to Jamie's professional and academic responsibilities she has volunteered with Soles for Souls Annual Shoe Drive for Milw. Rescue Mission, UW-Madison Health Professional Mentorship Program, and is currently the President-elect for the Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants.

Jamie wrote: "This scholarship would ease the personal financial burden of realizing a dream of becoming a respected, valued female leader. Women supporting women, as role models and mentors, is an inspiring experience that I have been fortunate to have in my professional and personal life. I hope to serve in that same capacity for younger leaders, especially females, coming up behind me. "





2021 Zonta Club of Milwaukee STEM Scholarship

Bella Serrano is this year's Zonta Club of Milwaukee's STEM Scholarship recipient. As a pre-med student, Bella plans to graduate Carthage College in the spring of 2023 with a major in Environmental Science and double minors in chemistry and biology. Bella believes the combination of coursework in various science disciplines at Carthage College has empowered her to approach academics with the ability to think about various real-world issues holistically and critically.

This summer, in addition to conducting research alongside Dr. Sarah Rubinfeld, Associate Professor of Environmental Science at Carthage, Bella will be participating in the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP) through UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. Bella will be examining a variety of healthcare issues affecting medically underserved communities through problem-based learning cases, lectures, clinical experiences, small- group discussions, and a research project.

Bella has also partnered with Heart to Heart International in making menstrual kits for girls in need, personally raising \$6,000 to complete the project. Bella wrote, "These "Girl's Kits" were intended to empower girls to be confident, feel safe, and stay in school. They were sent off to Malawi, Africa and were given to 250 young girls. This volunteer and leadership experience assured me that my passion is in expanding healthcare access."

Bella's academic reference wrote "By pushing herself and encouraging others, Bella's interest in learning is contagious to the rest of the class. She is often the one to bring up precisely the points I am hoping the class would reach, and then deepen that conversation beyond expectations."





CLIMATE CHANGE IS AN ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Climate change includes social and intergenerational injustice; those who have contributed least are most impacted. Climate change also affects women and men differently due to the gendered division of labor, cultural norms and different societal roles. Girls face discrimination and abuse based on their gender. Poverty, ethnic background and disabilities may multiply these challenges. Understanding the current status of women and girls, unequal structures and unfair cultural norms, and making changes are important in order to tackle inequalities in structures that place the greatest burden of the consequences of climate change on girls and women. In addition to gender justice, Zonta International promotes climate justice. We want our societies to take bold steps toward an equal future where current and future generations have an opportunity for a good life. Zonta International wants to strengthen the human rights perspective in the fight against the climate crisis.

Women's involvement is needed. Studies have found that greater female representation in national parliaments leads countries to be more likely to ratify international environmental treaties and adopt more stringent climate change policies, which are greatly needed if our efforts to curb the effects of climate change are to be successful. Moreover, among the countries that signed on to the Paris Agreement, those countries led by women have made some of the most committed national climate action plans. Surveys have found that women's concerns about climate change are greater than men's, even in parts of the world where the consequences of climate change are not already impacting their lifestyles. Women have diverse experiences of how best to adapt to climate change and how to most effectively control it. If properly involved, women and girls can set and promote climate-friendly lifestyles; they can become change agents and effective leaders in mitigating the risks of climate change. However, women often have limited opportunities to influence decision-making. It is, therefore, important to include more women and girls in decision-making roles in the area of climate change going forward.

Zonta International calls on governments to: • Set up more gender-balanced governing bodies to integrate gender sensitive climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning, as per SDG 13.2 and the Paris Agreement.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL www.zonta.org