



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
MILWAUKEE

Area 2 • District 6

**2022–2023**

**Zonta Club of Milwaukee**

**Officers**

Joann Comodore, President  
Carol Mangold, President Elect  
Crystal Carter, Vice President  
Laureen Ward, Treasurer  
Judith Lehman, Secretary

**Club Board**

Diana Barnett  
Gloria Jones  
Joni Reese  
Ruth Robertson  
Maureen Siwula

**Foundation Board Officers**

La Toya Sykes, President  
Donna Kahl-Wilkerson, Vice President  
Donna Neal, Treasurer  
Janet Kloser, Corresponding Secretary  
Margaret Holzbog, Recording Secretary

**Foundation Board**

Jacqueline Beaudry  
Debra Koller  
Lynell Meeth  
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Send your newsletter submissions  
[jonizonta@gmail.com](mailto:jonizonta@gmail.com)

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

# NEWSLETTER

May 2023

## Monthly Zonta Meeting

**Club Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm**  
**6:00 Dinner**

**Karen Smith, Area 2 Director, will be our guest speaker at the May meeting.**

She will update us on the activities of the District Board of Directors and the future direction of Zonta International. It promises to be an interesting discussion.

***An email was sent by Ruth R regarding dinner entrée choices and soup/salad selections.***

***Reservation were due to [ruthrob59@att.net](mailto:ruthrob59@att.net) by 5/19.***

***Location:***  
***Bravo Italian Kitchen***  
***95 North Moorland Rd at Brookfield Square Mall***

**It's time to end  
child marriage in  
our state once and for all.**

**Please take action now.**



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

# President's Message



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
MILWAUKEE

Dear Zontian Sisters,

April was our Annual Club Business Meeting, officer/directors were elected and will be installed this month by our Area Director Karen Smith, and annual reports presented. Thanks to all who participated, the annual reports vividly reflected the ongoing activity, commitment, and work of our Club.

As I write this letter, I am inspired by the activity and forward thinking of our club, recognizing the need for, and seeking avenues to expand our boundaries, broaden our outreach to better understand ourselves in relation to others, with the ultimate goal of increasing membership and Zonta mission fulfillment.

I was highly energized on April 29 when Zonta International engaged our Cultural Communication Consultant Heidi Moore, and issues lead by the Advocacy -Racial Justice Committee that our club has been working on for the past couple of years to present two worldwide seminars addressing the importance of Diversity and Inclusion in Zonta.

The Area 2 Spring workshop in Janesville proved to be a GREAT networking & information sharing opportunity. Providing up to-date area & district focus, and an opportunity to interact with State Legislators, gaining legislative tips and ideas/recommendation actions for Ending Child Marriage.

D6 is hosting the NAIDM Conference, and “all hands-on deck” are needed. I strongly encourage every club member that can, to attend! This conference provides a great opportunity for Zontian fellowship and Zonta learning.

You are amazing, thank you for all that you do!

Joann Harris-Comodore

Zonta Club of Milwaukee - President



# Club News and Updates



**ZONTA**  
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## Membership

Please feel free to invite potential members to our May 24th meeting. Our own Karen Smith, Area 2 Director, will be speaking.

## 2023 Fashion Show Committee

Please save the date for Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Marriott Milwaukee West for our **Fall Into Fashion: Build a Better World for Women and Girls** fashion show event.

Our next fashion show committee meeting will be **Tuesday, June 13th at 6 pm via zoom**. Please note we are meeting on the second Tuesday's now.

Start thinking of businesses or companies that you can ask for sponsorships: your employer, financial advisor, accountant, dentist, etc. Please let Pam and Carol Mangold know who you are contacting. If there are any businesses you wish us to contact, please let Carol know.

The committee is working on getting a vendor for fashions, possibly a woman-owned boutique or two.

We are collecting money again for our wine bottle raffle (please give to Karen Smith or Deb Koller) and we also will be collecting gift cards again (minimum \$20 value) for our "Gift Card Tree." Please provide gift cards to Pam.

Raffle and silent auction solicitation letter template will be available later in June. However, if you are planning to donate a basket, etc. you can let Pam and Laurie know.





# Club News and Updates



**ZONTA**  
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## Service

### **Neu-Life Back-to-School Service Project**

At the April 26th club meeting members agreed to support the Neu-Life Backpack Project again this year. We will work on collecting 50 backpacks with supplies for the kindergarten and elementary children (about \$350 of the funding came from Foundation last year above the donations). Pam will be shopping and collecting items again. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please write a check to the Zonta Foundation, Inc. & denote Neu-Life and send to Laurie Ward at 1172 Kerechun Rd. Hubertus, WI 53033 or bring to the May meeting.

If you are purchasing items, please let Pam know and get to Pam by July 15<sup>th</sup>. (We will stuff sometime between then and the event). **The event at Neu-Life is planned for Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 3 pm.**

### Items needed:

Backpacks 20 (5 kindergarten and 15 elementary)  
Crayons – 50 boxes  
Washable markers – 50 boxes  
Glue Sticks – 50  
Erasers – 50  
One-Subject notebooks – 100  
Pocket folders – 150  
Kid's scissors – 50  
Pencils - 150 to 200  
Wide Ruled Paper – 50 packs



## 5 Organizations & Future Service Opportunities

The five organizations that the Service Committee ranked highest from among the 19 agencies that applied for Zonta Foundation grants in 2021 and 2022 are listed here, along with our Club's Service Committee contacts:

- Allies for Teens in Foster Care (Janet Kloser, Lynell Meeth & Joni Reese)
- Cathedral Center (Lynne Oehlke & Maureen Siwula)
- Exploit No More (Maureen Siwula & Jackie Beaudry)
- Sojourner Foundation (Donna Conant & Helen Ludwig)
- The Women's Center – Waukesha (Deb Koller & Joni Reese)

Club Service volunteers looked at the mission, vision, activities, and service needs of the 19 applicant organizations, and identified these 5 as top with respect to aligning with our Zonta mission and our club's service areas of interest.

Our Service Committee contacts are now reaching out to these 5 organizations to explore their service needs and possible Club service opportunities for our members. The first service opportunity identified is for Exploit No More, and we hope to be able to provide more information at our Club meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Based on member feedback . . .

- We are also continuing our support of Neu-Life, with the backpack project this summer,
- We are looking at more "hands-on"/ or "in-person" service activities.

# Club News and Updates



**ZONTA**  
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Thank you all for improving the lives of women and girls by participating in and supporting our club's service activities. We will keep you informed as we plan.

Donna Conant & Joni Reese

Service Committee Co-Chairs

## **Spring Workshop 2023**

The Area 2 Spring Workshop was held in Janesville, WI on April 29, hosted by the Zonta Club of Janesville. We had 33 members, five district board guests and one scholarship winner in attendance for a total of 39. All clubs in Area 2 had members at the workshop as well as a few Zonta E-Club of USA 3 members. Thank you to the District 6 board members who gave updates to Area 2 and the Zonta Club of Janesville who served as wonderful hosts. The workshop focused on ending child marriage with a goal of getting the 2019 Assembly Bill 715 reintroduced and sponsored in 2023.

We had three state legislatures in attendance who provided insight into how to gain support for the bill, what timing we should plan on and committed their personal support of the bill. The outcome of the workshop generated ideas for the Wisconsin clubs to form a Wisconsin team that would work across the clubs to present a unified approach. Eight workshop attendees volunteered to be on the WI team and the invitation will be extended to club members who were unable to attend. The goal is for all Wisconsin clubs to fully participate under the organization and leadership of the WI team.

More information from the workshop will be shared at the May club meeting.



# Scholarships and Grants



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
MILWAUKEE

## Scholarship Applications are being accepted now.

Please share with schools and worthy candidates!

**2023**

Jane M. Klausman  
**WOMEN IN BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP**

Expanding opportunities for women in business



**1 APPLICATION, 2 OPPORTUNITIES**

Club award  
Varies by club

37 international awards  
US\$5,000 each

Applications must be received by the applicant's local Zonta club's deadline. To locate a club near you and download an application, please visit: [zonta.org/JMKScholarship](http://zonta.org/JMKScholarship).

**CLUB DEADLINE:**  
June 1, 2023

**SUBMIT APPLICATION TO:**  
Deb Koller  
210 S. Water St. #521  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
OR  
[zcscholarship@zontamilwaukee.org](mailto:zcscholarship@zontamilwaukee.org)

The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship is a Zonta International program funded by contributions to the Zonta Foundation for Women. Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

**2023**

**WOMEN IN STEM SCHOLARSHIP**

Encouraging women to pursue education, career opportunities and leadership roles in STEM fields



**1 APPLICATION, 2 OPPORTUNITIES**

Club award  
Varies by club

32 international awards  
US\$5,000 each

Applications must be received by the applicant's local Zonta club's deadline. To locate a club near you and download an application, please visit [zonta.org/womeninstem](http://zonta.org/womeninstem).

**CLUB DEADLINE:**  
June 1, 2023

**SUBMIT APPLICATION TO:**  
Deb Koller  
210 S. Water St. Unit 521  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204  
OR  
[zcscholarship@zontamilwaukee.org](mailto:zcscholarship@zontamilwaukee.org)

The Women in STEM Scholarship is a Zonta International program funded by contributions to the Zonta Foundation for Women. Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

## Zonta Foundation: 2023 Application for Grants is Available Now

The Zonta Club of Milwaukee Foundation Board is soliciting requests from agencies starting May 8, 2023, with a due date of July 15, 2023. The Board will review and make decisions in an August/September timeframe. Awards will be given at the Zonta Fashion Show Fundraiser scheduled for October 21, 2023.

The Foundation Board notified the organizations that have received grants in the past two years that the new application is available and requested by July 15. Other organizations are encouraged to apply.


Members: If you know of an organization that you think would be deserving and should apply, please feel free to pass the application along or direct them to online access.

The **2023 Application** for funding is now available.

Please find the information at <http://zontamilwaukee.org/> on the Foundation Page.

**ZONTA Foundation, Inc.**

**Funding Guidelines  
And Application  
for 2023 Grants**



**General Information**

Zonta International was founded in 1959 and is a leading global organization of professionals with more than 29,000 members in 125 countries. The organization exists to empower women worldwide by improving the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women at the global and local levels through service and advocacy. With the generosity and collective action of Zontas and branches around the world, Zonta International has supported projects in 16 countries, provided scholarships and awards to women around the globe, and has been a powerful advocate for change in our local and international communities, directly transforming the world and women's place in it.

**Zonta Club of Milwaukee** was chartered in 1959 as the 79th local club of Zonta International.

**Zonta Foundation, Inc.** was established in 1957 as the charitable arm of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee. Classified as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the foundation's primary role is to raise and distribute funds. Each year, one-third of the funds raised are used to support Zonta International service projects, while the remaining two-thirds are distributed locally to provide scholarships and support programs designed to improve the lives of women and girls.

**2023 Grants Program**

In keeping with the mission and goals of Zonta International and the Zonta Club of Milwaukee, Zonta Foundation, Inc. is soliciting funding applications from 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations for specific programs, projects or services that are designed to empower women and girls.

**Eligibility:** 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations serving women and/or girls in the greater Milwaukee area.

**Grant Amounts:** Individual grants typically range from \$1,000-\$2,000 per year, with commitments up to 3 years. However, the Foundation Board will consider requests for larger amounts. Applicants should keep in mind that preference is generally given to funding requests for specific programs, projects or services unless otherwise noted in a grant opportunity list.

**Application Process:** 2023 Funding Applications, with the required supporting documentation, must be sent to Zonta Foundation, Inc. in time to arrive by the due date below. Electronic submissions via email as Word documents are preferred.

<b>Due Date:</b>	July 15, 2023
<b>Post Address:</b>	Zonta Foundation, Inc., 210 S. Water St. #521 Milwaukee, WI 53204
<b>Reply Address:</b>	Zonta Foundation, Inc., c/o Jane Koller 210 S. Water St. #521 Milwaukee, WI 53204

**Award Disbursement:** The Board of Directors of Zonta Foundation, Inc. will review all applications and will make their final decisions by the end of September.

**Award Presentation:** Grants will be presented to recipients at the Zonta Club of Milwaukee's Fashion Show Fundraising Event that is planned for Saturday, October 21, 2023.

**Other Requirements:** Grantees must consent to: (1) the electronic or hard copy publication of material contained in the application for Zonta's internal use or publicity purposes; (2) the use of their organization's name and photograph in communications regarding the grant; (3) the use of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee award; (4) the use of the Zonta Foundation logo; and (5) the submission of a final report/progress report or status report at mid-year, or other mutually agreed upon dates.

**Additional Information:** More information about Zonta can be found at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org) and [www.zontamilwaukee.org](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org). If you have any questions about 2023 Foundation grants, please contact us by email at [info@zontamilwaukee.org](mailto:info@zontamilwaukee.org).



In October/November 2022, President Ute Scholz made a site visit to India to monitor our international project “Child Marriage in India. This is a joint project with UNFPA and UNICEF.

Zonta International joined Phase I of the project in the 2018-2020 biennium. Zonta International continued support of Phase II of the project in 2020-2022 as well as in the current biennium 2022-2024. Phase III of the project is slated for 2024-2030, and Zonta International’s participation will be determined at the next International Convention in 2024.

In our participation on the Steering Committee, we are joined by the governments of Belgium, Canada, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom as well as the European Union through the Spotlight Initiative.

The Program’s priority is to engage adolescent girls as key agents of change in 12 countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Yemen and Zambia. International President Scholz’s visit focused on India’s participation in the program.

India is a colorful, diverse and populous country. The Indian Constitution guarantees women access to education, sport, media, work, science, technique and equal pay for all women. But, India is the most dangerous country in the world for women according to respected authorities. Social and economic pressures are the key drivers. These pressures are caused by poverty, hunger, age-old tradition, illiteracy and the dowry system.

Zonta’s focus in India is in the state of Odisha on the northeast coast of India with a population of 42 million. Odisha is 83% rural with a large tribal (indigenous) and caste population. The area is vulnerable to cyclones, floods and draught. Only 69.5% of the women and 84.6% of men can read and write, and only 33% of women and 38.6% of men have been enrolled in school for 10 years. However, teenage pregnancy has almost halved since 2005, and the number of child marriages has been reduced by more than half since 1995 to 20.5% for girls and 13.3% for boys.

The Odisha strategic goal is to declare the state free of child marriage by 2030 by strengthening and empowering adolescents in cooperation between: all departments of government, civil society, communities and villages, families and schools and the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Program to End Child Marriage.

Several organizations and activities (ADVIKA “Every Girl is Unique,” Nirbhaya Kadhi “The Fearless Adolescent,” “The Day of the Children,” creation of “Marriage Free Villages,” creation of “Child Marriage Free Temples”) have resulted in:

- Training 100,000 peer skilled leaders
- Training 300,000 adolescent skilled boys

Strong partnerships help  
**build a better world for  
 women and girls**

Zonta, UNFPA  
 and UNICEF take  
 action to end child  
 marriage in India



**Community Training**

Life-skills education at 1,157 tribal schools

155 schools equipped with tools for disabilities

30,343 adolescents directly supported with cash assistance for higher education

1 million adolescent girls from tribes and cast able to continue school with scholarships

With good cooperation, the results to date have been good:

Fewer child marriages

Fewer teenage pregnancies

1,855 child marriages were prevented in Odisha between January and August 2022 compared with prevention of only 657 in 2019.

The secret of this success in ending child marriage has been turning it to a village owned topic!

North American Inter-district Meeting:  
June 29th – July 2nd, 2023  
District 6 is hosting

Fall Conference: Oct 6th - 8th

Zonta Club of Milwaukee Fashion Show  
Fundraiser: October 21st, 2023







## **March Meeting Minutes**

### **Zonta Club of Milwaukee General Meeting**

**March 22, 2023**

President, Joann Harris-Comodore, called the Business meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed members and guests, Jennifer Patrick, Megan Pirelli, and Andi Elliott. The meeting was held in person at the Brass Key.

Nola Hitchcock Cross, a member of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee, presented information on the topic of River Trail Commons, which is planned to be a mixed age and income community of neighbors with an intentional focus on addressing the Racial Home Equity wealth Gap. The River Trail Commons will be a co-housing unit, with many opportunities for people to interact and gather for activities. The goal is to be able to function separately as individual family units and as a larger neighborhood family unit with opportunities to work and play together, as well as share meals when desired. The project is planned to open by spring 2025.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Diana Barnett for Laureen Ward, who was absent from the meeting. February 1 to February 28; \$10,692.00. Expenditures were \$185.00, and \$113.00 was taken in. The end of the month total was \$10,620.00 and the CD is \$5,420.47.

The slate of Nominees for the Zonta Club of Milwaukee Board and Foundation, Diane Lindsley, Chairperson, was presented and approved as stated. See Below.

### **Committee Reports:**

Service: Exploit No More – items were collected.

Advocacy: Donna Neal has written information and questions for how/if the Zonta Club of Milwaukee is to proceed on the downtown walk against violence. At the next general meeting there will be a discussion about the possible downtown walk as well as other possible programs to pursue, and the Advocacy part of the Annual Report will be completed.

Program: Summary of programs for the annual report and the plans to discuss expanding goals will be discussed at the next meeting.

Public Relations: Joni Reese will put the annual report together after receiving the committee annual reports, comprise the document and send to club and eventually put on our website page.

Fashion Show fundraiser: The date will be October 21, 2023, and the vendors for the program will hopefully be one or two boutiques. Early April Pam will send the corporate sponsorship letter template out.

Scholarship: Our Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Award for 2022 was given to Heather Jost, who also received an International award.

Membership: Cheryl thanked the three guests for joining us and encouraged them to join the Zonta Club of Milwaukee.

# Club Meeting Minutes



**ZONTA**  
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**Foundation:** The foundation is discussing investment issues for Zonta funds, and La Toya Sykes will be calling another meeting soon to have more discussion on how the Foundation should proceed.

**UN:** Marge Holzbog reminded members of the importance of Zonta International's visibility throughout the world and encouraged members to go to Zonta International at [zonta.org](http://zonta.org) to learn more information.

**Announcements:** Committee Annual Reports due April 2  
Next Meeting will be the Annual Business Meeting, April 26 on Zoom.  
Individual Core Competency Training completion due, March 31  
Area 2 spring Workshop in Janesville, April 29  
NAIDM Conference held June 29 – July 2, Indianapolis (early registration ends April 25)  
Committee Biennial Goals due April 21

Meeting adjourned at 7:30

## **April Meeting Minutes**

**Zonta Club of Milwaukee General Meeting  
April 26, 2023**

**Zonta Club of Milwaukee Annual Business Meeting – Virtual**

Meeting was called to order by President, Joann Harris Comodore.

The Club elected their new Club Officers and Directors.

### **Club Annual Report Committee Summaries Presented:**

**Advocacy:** Diane Lindsley shared that it is important for all of us to keep up the cross-cultural communication and hopes we can revisit and practice these skills. To be watched: the equal rights amendment as it moves through the Senate. The Advocacy Goals will be in the next Newsletter.

**Fundraising/Membership:** Pam Knackert and Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry report that the last Fashion Show raised \$26,400.00 from 257 reservations. There were 21 people who expressed interest in Zonta. To Date there is 1 person who has joined, and 10 people who have attended a meeting. The plan and hope for the next October Fashion Show Fundraiser is to raise \$30,000.00. As to membership, Cheryl expressed that we need to explore new ideas to recruit and retain members.

**Nominating Committee:** Donna Kahl Wilkerson of the Foundation Board will address the Foundation nominations in the foundation annual meeting. Club nominations were approved.

Karen Smith will install the new Zonta Club of Milwaukee new officer directors and give the program presentation. The 2022 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship recipient was Heather Jost, who was also awarded a Zonta International-level award.

**Public Relations:** Joni Reese reported that the Web, Face Book, Twitter, and Instagram all are being used for public relations to bring increase exposure to Zonta Club of Milwaukee and Zonta

# Club Meeting Minutes



**ZONTA**  
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International. Joni is appreciative of people willing to help, and soon will have a larger committee for Public Relations.

Scholarships: For the Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Scholarship, our 2022 recipient was Khadijah Dhoondia of Pewaukee Wisconsin, and she was also awarded a Zonta International-level YWPA award. The 2022 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship recipient was Heather Jost, who was also awarded a Zonta International-level award.

The Milwaukee Club is supporting ZI Stem Award with \$1,000.00.

Service: Donna Conant and Joni Reese reported that they and the club members worked together on the following various projects throughout the year. 1) collecting 400 pounds of food for fighting hunger for the food Pantry, 2) Sponsoring backpacks and supplies and a holiday party and gifts for the children at Neu-life, and 3) collecting 76 books and a bookcase for the Neu-life children's library.

UN Goals: The UN goal is to bring information on International projects to club members, and to keep the issues front and center.

Finance: Laureen Ward reminded us that the \$182.00 per member dues need to be paid by the deadline of May 5, 2023. There are 14 members who have paid and 17 members are still outstanding.

Laureen Ward also shared the financial report for March 2023, which was emailed to all members. As of March 31, 2023, the balance was \$10,620.45; the expenditures at date of report were \$577.60, \$407.60, \$50.00 (speaker, Brass Key and dinner), and the end of the month bank statement at PNC Bank was \$10,042.85.

The next Zonta Club of Milwaukee General Meeting will be held at Sojourner.

## Club Meeting Updates

Joann Harris Comodore brought up the need for discussion and a decision about whether to continue to have the Silent Walk to bring attention to domestic violence. The club is looking for someone to Chair this event. Co-sponsoring the walk with another organization was brought up as a possible option. Discussion held on pros/cons of partnering with other agencies. Decision made to bring for discussion and decision making at May's meeting.

The plan is to meet in person in May at the Sojourner facility, install officers, have dinner, and have a program given by Area 2 Director, Karen Smith.

Helen shared that there was a contact in our Zonta email, regarding supporting our Silent Walk. To be followed up.

President, Joann Harris Comodore reminded members of the Area 2 Spring Workshop in Janesville, April 29, 2023. There will be a Panel Discussion addressing Child Marriage. North American Intra-district Meeting June 29, 2023 to July 2, 2023, which District 6 is hosting. Help is needed and will be appreciated.

Zonta Club of Milwaukee Fashion Show fundraiser, October 21, 2023