



ZONTA
CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

Area 2 • District 6

2023–2024

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

Officers

Joann Comodore, President
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Donna Neal, Treasurer
Janet Kloser, Corresponding Secretary
Margaret Holzbog, Recording Secretary

Foundation Board

Debra Koller
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La Toya Sykes
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Send your newsletter submissions
jonizonta@gmail.com

Visit us online at
www.zontamilwaukee.org

NEWSLETTER

November 2023

Monthly Zonta Meeting

Meeting with Prospective Members

Wednesday, November 15th

5:30 pm: Social w/Appetizers

6 pm: Prospective Member Meeting

~ Member Presenters ~

7 pm: Brief Club Meeting

*Invite your contacts that would make a good Zonta member.
Follow up with friends, co-workers, etc. that indicated interest
from the fashion show.*

RSVPs to Pam by Nov. 10th @pmknackert@gmail.com or 262-784-7613 or 262-309-3927 cell



You are invited to the

Zonta Club of Milwaukee
Prospective Member Reception
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
5:30 p.m. socializing
(light hors d'oeuvres will be served)
6:00 to 7:00 p.m. program
at

**MRA – The Management Association
N19 W24350 Riverwood Dr.
Waukesha (directions below)**

RSVP to Pam Knackert at pmknackert@gmail.com or
262-784-7613 or cell 262-309-3927 by Friday, Nov. 10th

Come learn more about Zonta International and the
Zonta Club of Milwaukee, an organization whose mission is
to empower women & girls locally and worldwide through
service & advocacy. We invite you to be a part of an
organization helping to build a better world for women and
girls. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

For more information about Zonta & the Zonta Club of Milwaukee visit
www.zonta.org and www.zontamilwaukee.org

- Take I-94 to Hwy 164 North, Exit 294.
- Travel north on Hwy 164.
- Travel past the Thunder Bay Grille restaurant on your left.
- Turn left (west) on S. Riverwood Drive (the second traffic light).
- MRA is the westernmost office building on the left. Watch for the MRA monument sign.
- Enter northeast backdoor, we'll have sign there.

www.zontamilwaukee.org

President's Message



ZONTA
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Hi Zontian Sisters,

Join me in welcoming our newest member Habiba Ahmad, Project Coordinator of Xylem, inducted at our October member meeting.

As we move deeper into fall and this holiday season, I am excited and energized by the many changes that it brings!

I am inspired by the energy, brainstorming and proposed club activities embracing next step suggestions and ideas.

On October 21, the club held its annual fashion fundraiser fall into Fashion – Fashion Show.

A salute to Pam Knackert and Lynne Oehlke fashion show co-hosts and the entire Fashion Show Committee for their hard work and coordination efforts.

In addition, a special shout out to the entire club membership for your support. Whether you purchased a table, gave a cash donation, invited a guest, or encouraged the support of family and friends, your efforts contributed to the fashion show success!

With a continued focus on diversity and membership recruitment, the Membership Committee is hosting a Prospective Member Event, November 15 at MRA – The Management Association, located at N19W24350 Riverwood Dr., Waukesha. Your support and participation are encouraged. A brief member meeting will follow the event. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Joann Harris-Comodore

President – Zonta Milwaukee



Club News and Updates



ZONTA
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2023 Fashion Show Updates

Thank you to all our members and your guests and family for the great support you provided to make this a very successful event. We had over 250 attendees and although all the accounting isn't finished, we should be over \$28,000 net, a record high.

Mainstream and Hollyville provided the fashions and were well received. Overall, everyone seemed to enjoy the event. The agencies we provided awards to were very appreciative.

We received about 15 member leads so hopefully we will see some of them on Nov. 15th (please follow up with any of your guests).

The fashion show committee will be meeting on November 8th for a wrap up and then start planning for next year. If you'd like to join the committee, please let Pam know.



Club News and Updates



ZONTA
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Membership Bio of our Newest Member!

Hi, my name is Habiba Ahmad, and I am current a Project Coordinator / Administrative Assistant at Xylem, a global water technology provider focused on helping our customers serve the world's toughest water challenges through innovative products, services, and solutions.

I am an only child, and my mother lives with me in Elm Grove, WI. I have been in a relationship for the past 5 years and will be getting married within the next year, no date planned yet.

My hobbies include reading, hiking, and I also have a love of animals. I have volunteered for several years for The Christmas Fantasy House which supports Breast Cancer.

My passion is traveling the world, I have been to over 48 countries and still plan on adding more stamps to my passport. My end goal is to retire in Istanbul, Turkey after 7 years when I retire.

I have a large following on Instagram where you can follow my travels, my handle is Museoftravel, and my end goal is to become a travel influencer.

Warm regards,

Habiba Ahmad

262-444-7776

habibaahad@outlok.com



Service

“Make a Difference: Service Opportunities Now Through June”

At our last two club meetings, members voted overwhelmingly to support three agencies and their service projects as proposed by our Club's Service Committee. The three agencies are:

- **Allies for Teens in Foster Care:** Allies strives to supplement the educational and social needs for teens in foster care and group homes.
- **Cathedral Center:** Cathedral Center serves unaccompanied women and families with children experiencing homelessness, with emergency shelter and flexible housing up to 2 years.
- **Exploit No More:** Exploit no more continues to house and serve victims of sex trafficking in a powerful case management model.

At our September meeting, Club members strongly supported undertaking the Holiday project of Allies for Teens in Foster Care. Then at our October meeting, Club members voted in support of the 7 proposed projects for these 3 agencies, and the project schedule which takes us through June 2024.

Club News and Updates



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Participation by Members is voluntary, much needed and extremely appreciated! Each of us can effectively improve and touch the lives of women and girls in our community.

Here is an outline of the projects and our timeline:

- November Club and Prospective Member Meeting: Collect holiday gifts for Allies for Teens in Foster Care for a December delivery. See related article for more detail on items needed and how to donate.
- December Social in-person, and into January: Collect sheet sets, blankets, and cleaning/laundry supplies for Exploit No More. More detail to be provided.
- January and go-forward: Organize willing members and begin to tackle the Self-Care topics, research, and binders for Allies Teens in Foster Care.
 - Self-care education: Provide the writing of, and reviews of, educational pamphlets. Topics may range from self-care to how to use tampons. We may wish to create a binder for each group home with the needed resources on a variety of life topics. Club Need: Several members hands-on remotely for research and collaboration. We will need approval from Allies for the final product(s).
- February: Provide dinner & lunches at Cathedral Center.
 - Cook (or purchase) and serve a meal for 30-50 people at their main shelter and provide 50 sandwiches for the next day's lunch. The cooking is done at home and brought in as there are no cooking facilities at Cathedral. Club Need: Groups of 4-5 hands-on...cooking together and delivering.
- March (tentative): Collect donations for the Allies Art Program.
 - Allies provides many of the group homes with art supplies and sponsored an art contest in May, including a post-educational scholarship winner. Funding support for additional art supplies for 2024 would be appreciated. Requested \$800, and hoping the Club could raise \$300 of that in donations. Also need interested members to lead & coordinate this.
 - May: Provide dinner & lunches to Cathedral Center. (see February for detail)
 - End of May/June: Exploit No More Garden planting & expansion with dinner.
 - Service opportunities: 1) The house is always in need of detergents (laundry, dish) and general cleaning products. Also, sheet sets and blankets for the women to call their own and take with them. 2) Meal preparation from time to time. 3) Spring garden planting and expansion. Club Need: Donations for #1 and Donations and hands-on for #2 & #3.

How will you help?

- The "ask" for donations for the November/December Holiday gifts for Allies for Teens in Foster Care and the January donation of needed items for Exploit No More will go to all Club members.
- Volunteers are needed for the other service opportunities. Let us know if you wish to help with one or more of these:
 - Allies for Teens: Self Care Education (January and forward)
 - Cathedral Center: Dinner & next day lunches (February & May)
 - Allies for Teens: Art Program (March, tentative)
 - Exploit No More: Garden planting & expansion with dinner (May/June)
- Please let us know with an email, text or phone call to Donna Conant at conantd56@gmail.com, 414-839-3274.

Club News and Updates



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Background: Service Committee representatives met over the summer with several agencies that have requested our assistance in the past with grant applications. We looked at their mission, vision, activities, and service needs, as well as alignment with our Zonta mission and our club's service areas of interest.

Special thanks to Service Committee members: Maureen, Helen, Jackie, Janet, Lynne, and Deb

And **thank you** for all you do to improve the lives of women and girls in our community.

Donna Conant & Joni Reese
Service Committee Co-Chairs

During the month of November, we are collecting holiday gifts for Allies For Teens in Foster Care. If you would like to contribute, please bring:

- Target gift cards (\$25 or \$50), or
- Check donations made out to Allies for Teens in Foster Care
- Cash (will be collected through the Foundation)
- Good quality (Target) African American haircare products (Cantu, gel, etc), combs and Cantu products; Gloves, hats, scarves; Bathroom bags.
- Example pictures:



Zonta Club of Milwaukee
Published by Joni Reese · 1d ·

During the month of November, we are collecting money and will be taking donations on behalf of **Allies For Teens in Foster Care**.

The donations will go toward gifts and gift cards for teens in group homes in the Milwaukee community.

We hope to make their holidays a little brighter with our support, since these under-served teens do not have the traditional support of parents or foster parents.

If you would like to contribute please use the orange **Donate Now** button at the top of www.zontamilwaukee.org. Members and prospective members can bring Target gift cards and wish list items to the meeting on November 15th. A full list of items will be included in the newsletter.

During the month of November, we are collecting money on behalf of Allies For Teens in Foster Care.

The donations will go toward gifts and gift cards for teens in group homes in the Milwaukee community.

We hope to make their holidays a little brighter with our support. These under-served teens do not have the traditional support of parents or foster parents.

If you would like to donate, please contribute at www.zontamilwaukee.org

Thank you!

 **Allies For Teens in Foster Care**

Allies For Teens in Foster Care is an all volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit in whose main objective is to provide a secure channel for connecting goods and services to teens in the over 35 foster care group homes in the Milwaukee community.



Advocacy

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

is one of the most common forms of violence against women

includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse, as well as controlling behavior by an intimate partner



THESE VIOLATIONS RESULT IN SERIOUS SHORT AND LONG-TERM:

- ▶ physical problems
- ▶ reproductive problems
- ▶ sexual problems
- ▶ mental health problems
- ▶ and increased vulnerability to HIV



30% of women worldwide who have been in a relationship report that they have experience some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner.

34% of female homicide victims in 2017 were killed by a former or current intimate partner.



ZONTA SAYS NO
TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

#ZontaSaysNO | #16Days
ZontaSaysNo.com
Facts from WHO and UNODC

Cyber violence against women and girls

Violent online behavior ranges from online harassment and public shaming to the desire to inflict physical harm including sexual assaults, murders and induced suicides. With more access than ever to the internet, cyber violence against women and girls (cyber VAWG) has taken on a global dimension.



73% of women
are abused
online



In Europe, **9 million**
women have
experienced a serious
form of cyber VAWG
since the age of 15



Women aged
18-24 are at a
heightened
risk of cyber
VAWG



In the U.S., women
are **27 times** more
likely to be abused
online than men

Source: Networked Intelligence for Development 2015

#ZontaSaysNO | #16Days
www.ZontaSaysNO.com



ZONTA SAYS NO
TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

<https://zontasaysno.com/getthefacts/>



ZONTA SAYS NO
TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Days of Activism

25 NOV

International Day for the Elimination
of Violence Against Women

1 DEC

World AIDS Day

10 DEC

Human Rights Day

"Zonta envisions a world where no woman lives in fear of violence. Through the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign, our members and allies stand together, uniting our voices to advocate for all those who have suffered gender-based violence. Zonta is needed now, more than ever, to continue its work to end violence and build a better world for women and girls."

– Ute Scholz

Zonta International President

One of the four Zonta International Service projects receiving funding in the 2022–2024 biennium is the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Program to End Child Marriage - Driving action to reach the girls at greatest risk.

In 2016, UNICEF, together with UNFPA, launched a global program to tackle child marriage in 12 of the most high-prevalence or high-burden countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

The girls at greatest risk of child marriage are often those hardest to reach. They come from poor families, marginalized groups or rural areas. They are also more likely to be out of school than their unmarried peers, robbed of the opportunity to thrive and fulfil their potential. Child marriage can lead to further isolation from family, friends and communities, and threaten girls' livelihood and health.



A UNICEF PRESS RELEASE NEW YORK - 3 May 2023 – Despite a steady decline in child marriage in the last decade, multiple crises including conflict, climate shocks, and the ongoing fallout from COVID-19 are threatening to reverse hard-earned gains, according to a new analysis issued by UNICEF today.

“The world is engulfed by crises on top of crises that are crushing the hopes and dreams of vulnerable children, especially girls who should be students, not brides,” said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. “Health and economic crises, escalating armed conflicts, and the ravaging effects of climate change are forcing families to seek a false sense of refuge in child marriage. We need to do everything in our power to ensure that their rights to an education and empowered lives are secured.”

Worldwide, an estimated 640 million girls and women alive today were married in childhood, or 12 million girls per year, according to the latest global estimate included in the analysis. The share of young women who married in childhood has declined from 21 per cent to 19 per cent since the last estimates were released five years ago. However, despite this progress, global reductions would have to be 20 times faster to meet the Sustainable Development Goal of ending child marriage by 2030.

Sub-Saharan Africa – which currently shoulders the second largest global share of child brides (20 per cent) – is over 200 years away from ending the practice at its current pace. Rapid population growth, alongside ongoing crises, looks set to increase the number of child brides, in contrast with the declines expected in the rest of the world.

Latin America and the Caribbean is also falling behind and on course to have the second-highest regional level of child marriage by 2030. After periods of steady progress, the Middle East and North Africa, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia have also stagnated.

Meanwhile, South Asia continues to drive global reductions and is on pace to eliminate child marriage in about 55 years, the report notes. However, the region remains home to nearly half (45 per cent) of the world's child brides. While India has recorded significant progress in recent decades, it still accounts for one-third of the global total.

Girls who marry in childhood face immediate and lifelong consequences. They are less likely to remain in school, and face an increased risk of early pregnancy, in turn increasing the risk of child and maternal health complications and mortality. The practice can also isolate girls from family and friends, and exclude them from participating in their communities, taking a heavy toll on their mental health and well-being.

Worldwide, conflict, climate-related disasters, and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 – especially rising poverty, income shocks, and school dropout – are helping to increase the drivers of child marriage while also making it difficult for girls to access health care, education, social services and community support that protect them from child marriage.

As a result, girls living in fragile settings are twice as likely to become child brides as the average girl globally, the analysis notes. For every ten-fold increase in conflict-related deaths, there is a 7 per cent increase in the number of child marriages.

At the same time, extreme weather events driven by climate change increase a girl's risk, with every 10 per cent deviation in rainfall connected to around a 1 per cent increase in the prevalence of child marriage.

Precious gains to end child marriage in the past decade are also being threatened – or even reversed – by the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, the analysis warns. It is estimated that the pandemic has already cut the number of averted child marriages since 2020 by one-quarter.

"We've proven that progress to end child marriage is possible. It requires unwavering support for vulnerable girls and families," added Russell. "We must focus on keeping girls in school and making sure they have economic opportunities."



Notes to editors: Estimates of the global and regional prevalence of child marriage are calculated on the basis of national estimates in the UNICEF global databases, comprised of nationally representative data from over 100 countries. National data on child marriage are primarily drawn from household surveys, including the UNICEF-supported Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and the USAID-supported Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). Demographic data are drawn from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social



Zonta Club of Milwaukee General Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2023

The meeting at the Brass Key Restaurant was called to order at 6:10 by President, Joann Comodore.

Gloria Jones gave the blessing.

STEM scholarship recipient, Valentina Romero-Moran, thanked the club and spoke about her chosen field of architecture.

Laureen Ward presented the financial report. Checking account balance as of 9/27/23 is \$11,890.48 and the CD value is \$5,431.05. The detailed report was emailed to each member.

Barbara Wyatt-Sibley introduced our guest speaker, Celia Jackson, who gave a presentation on Vision Zero, a multi-national road traffic safety project and the Coalition for Safe Driving with goals of increasing participation in driver education programs and a campaign to increase awareness of the need for safe driving.

Donna Neal and Carol Mangold were voted in as delegates to the District 6 Fall Conference in Alton, IL October 6-8, with Pam Knackert as an alternate.

Jackie Beaudry explained the deliberations at the Hamburg International Convention regarding continuation of the pilot program, Women in STEM Scholarship. The International Board expressed concern about continued funding of the scholarship.

District 6 will vote at the Fall Conference on the following resolution:

"District 6 moves to amend Zonta International Bylaws Article XIII Committees by changing the number of Section 15 to Section 16 and adding a new Section 15 with the following content:

Section 15. Women in STEM Scholarship Committee. From submissions put forward by districts this committee shall select and recommend to the Zonta International Board candidates for annual Zonta International Women in STEM scholarships."

Janet Kloser moved that the Milwaukee Club vote in favor of the resolution to be voted on by our delegates at the District 6 Fall Conference. The club voted unanimously to approve the resolution. The club also voted to request clarification of the wording (biennial vs biennium) in the by-laws.

Joann discussed the future of the Silent Walk. It will not be held this Fall. Donna Neal reported that all of the partners who participate in the walk have been notified. Suggestions included moving the event to Spring and partnering with other organizations. Donna Neal recommended that a small group be formed to research possibilities. Lynne Oehlke, Donna Kahl, Donna Neal and Chris Todd volunteered. Joann emphasized that the event will require participation of the entire club.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Advocacy: No report.

Service: Three agencies have provided lists of needs that Zonta can assist with. Donations and holiday gifts may be collected at the November meeting. More to follow.

Zonta Club of Milwaukee General Meeting Minutes continued September 27, 2023

Program & Membership: November 15th will be the prospective member meeting to be held at MRA. The October meeting will be virtual.
A virtual program on Core Competencies will be held on Saturday, September 30.

Fashion Show: Reservations are due by Oct. 7th. A signup sheet was passed for volunteer slots at the Fashion Show.

Public Relations: No report

Scholarship: No report

Foundation: No report

UN: No report

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lehman

