



ZONTA
CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

Area 2 • District 6

2023–2024

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

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Carol Mangold, President Elect
Ruth Robertson, Vice President
Laureen Ward, Treasurer
Judith Lehman, Secretary

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Lynda Jackson Conyers
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Donna Kahl-Wilkerson, President
Jacqueline Beaudry, Vice President
Donna Neal, Treasurer
Janet Kloser, Corresponding Secretary
Margaret Holzbog, Recording Secretary

Foundation Board

Debra Koller
Lynell Meeth
La Toya Sykes
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Send your newsletter submissions
jonizonta@gmail.com

Visit us online at
www.zontamilwaukee.org

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Monthly Zonta Meeting

February Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, February 28th
6:00 - 9:00 pm
(Social/connectivity: 5:45pm)



Meeting Program

Our speaker will be **Rev. Walter Lanier**, the Executive Director of the African American Leadership Alliance of Milwaukee.

AALAM (African American Leadership Alliance Milwaukee) is a nonprofit, cross-sector network of African American leaders and allies dedicated to developing, supporting, and positioning Milwaukee's pool of African American talent.

AALAM uses a system-wide approach to improve racial equity in Milwaukee through intentional actions that expand, support, and sustain African American leadership in all economic sectors and levels of our community.

The Zoom meeting link will be sent out by President Joann prior to the meeting date.

www.zontamilwaukee.org

President's Message



ZONTA
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Hello Zontian Sisters,



Since 1976, February has been designated Black History Month, a time dedicated to publicly recognizing the present, and those who have gone before us for their strength and perseverance. Black history is more than just about learning the challenges confronted by people of color, it is also about the ability to demonstrate integrity, leadership, and determination in the face of adversity.

This month we salute our Zontian Sister, Ardie Halyard. Ardie and husband Wilbur Halyard founded Columbia Savings and Loan Association on September 24, 1924. It was the first African American owned bank in Wisconsin. The bank was founded in an era of racial segregation and discrimination. Although the struggles were many, the Halyard's felt strongly that they could make a difference by

providing financial services to the underserved community of color. Ardie endured to become the first female president of a financial institution in Wisconsin.

Ardie joined the Zonta Club of Milwaukee in 1966 and maintained membership until her death, embracing and contributing to Zonta's Mission of Empowering Women and Girls Worldwide through Service and Advocacy.

Let us remember and give recognition to the past, as we continue to move forward continually seeking equality, diversity, and inclusivity.

Moving forward in this new year, the 2024-2026 Nominating Committee was formed at our January Club meeting and are seeking to fill Club and Foundation Board positions for the 2024-2026 Biennium, which begins June 1. Your enthusiastic "Yes" is encouraged if asked to serve. Thank you for all that you do!

Joann Harris-Comodore
President - Zonta Club of
Milwaukee



Club Updates



ZONTA
CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

Service Projects

As we move into 2024, we are committed to two service opportunities in the first quarter of 2024. **A Community Resource Binder for Allies for Teens in Foster care.** Aging out of Foster Care can be overwhelming for a young adult. We will pool our resources and create a list of resources and educational information to assist in the life of a teenager and their transition to adulthood.

Zonta can help Allies reach their future goals “Long term goals for Allies include reducing the appalling 20% instant homeless rate and creating options other than heartbreaking choices teen girls and boys are making to try not to become homeless. We want to get more transitional options available for teens.”

If you're interested in helping on this project call or email Maureen Siwula 262 844 4609

mortsiwula@outlook.com. Involvement will initially include a few meetings and independent research/gathering of materials, and collaboration on a resource book for each group home.

Our second service for 2024 is Cathedral Center Meal Program for March 21st. Thank you to those that have responded and are participating in food preparation, serving at the Cathedral Center, or both. The Club came together to fill all the needs quickly! Thank you to Maureen for coordinating!

Fashion Show – Fall 2024!

SAVE the DATE for our Fall Into Fashion Build a Better World for Women and Girls fashion show fundraiser **Saturday, October 19, 2024** at the Marriott West.

The committee will be meeting the third Tuesday of each month via zoom starting at 6pm on Tues. Feb. 20th. If you would like to join the committee, please let Pam or Jackie know. If you have any fashion vendor ideas, please let us know.



Club Updates



ZONTA
CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

Membership

Please invite any prospective member to attend our Feb. 28th zoom meeting.

Meet New Member Viola!

Viola Rembert is a native of New York City and moved to Milwaukee in 1991. She has worked more than 30 years in the nonprofit field serving youth and families in NYC, Cleveland and Milwaukee. Viola has served for the past 14 years as the Executive Director of HeartLove Place in Milwaukee. She enjoys traveling, exercise, music and enjoying life! Her philosophy for life is to live in your purpose, show love to self and others and be God's light in this world!



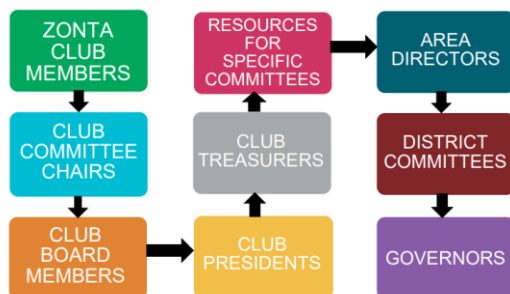
Nominating Committee

Chair Pam Knackert, Helen Ludwig, Barbara Wyatt Sibley & Cheryl Nowak. We will be meeting and asking for members to take positions so please answer yes enthusiastically.

Core Competencies for Members and Leaders in Zonta

Zonta International is committed to the ongoing growth and development in knowledge and competencies of Zonta leaders at all levels of the organization to support effectiveness and relevance for today and tomorrow.

To accomplish this task, Zonta created the following leadership competencies.



These can be found on the Zonta International website under My Zonta, then click on tools, click on core competency development program then click on Zonta leadership program. Here is where you will find videos from Zonta Essentials to videos about specific leadership roles as well as Club members.

The membership committee will be hosting a workshop for new members to demonstrate how to get to the site as well as review the Club Member videos. A discussion and Q&A of the content will follow. All members are encouraged to join us on **Saturday, April 6 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm.**

Also, if you have already watched and participated in specific modules, please let Pam Knackert or Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry know so we can keep an accurate record of who has completed certain modules. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry
Membership Committee Chair



2024 Scholarships

The 2024 Young Women in Public Affairs Award application was posted on the Zonta Club of Milwaukee's website (www.zontamilwaukee.org) and shared out via social media with a due date of March 15th.

2024

YOUNG WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARD



Recognizing young women for their commitment to volunteerism, volunteer leadership achievements and dedication to empowering women worldwide



1 APPLICATION, 2 OPPORTUNITIES

Club award
Varies by club

37 district 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/YWPAAward.

CLUB DEADLINE:

March 15, 2024

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO:

c/o Deb Koller
210 S. Water St. Unit 521
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204

zcscholarship@zontamilwaukee.org

The Young Women in Public Affairs Award is a Zonta International program funded by contributions to the Zonta Foundation for Women. Zonta International is a leading global organization of individuals working to build a better world for women and girls.



Advocacy

February is Black History Month and so we celebrate the life of Zontian Ardie Clark Halyard, a member of our Club from 1966 until her death in 1989. The following article contains excerpts from *The Shepherd Express* of Sept. 06, 2023.

Ardie and husband Wilbur arrived in Milwaukee in 1923 when available houses were “unsafe hand-me-downs with leaky roofs, structural damage and non-functioning toilets. Worse, unscrupulous predators found ways to deter people from living anywhere but rooming houses and small hotels. They believed that a small, community savings and loan would help residents avoid the sharks who preyed on their own people. The first of several setbacks occurred when an unethical attorney charged them \$500 for a bank charter that cost \$10. They also discovered that white realtors worked in tandem to keep Black families confined to a designated area of town. Undaunted, the Halyards pushed on and in September 1924 the Columbia Savings and Loan opened in a north side funeral parlor’s spare room. The initial clients liked the Halyards’ straightforward, honest way of doing business, and the positive word began to spread.”



“Their message of ‘*we’re all in this together, so let’s work for each other*’ helped pull people together in a way like never before. As increasing numbers of residents were motivated to save for a home. When the I-43 freeway construction cleared large parcels of land in Bronzeville, Ardie and her staff saw an opportunity to create a subdivision with new homes at the site. As the only investor, Columbia financed the first five homes, breaking ground in November 1976. Ultimately 35 more homes were built in what was named Halyard Park.”

Ardie became the first woman president of the Milwaukee chapter of the NAACP in 1951. She remained active in the NAACP in other capacities, often as treasurer. She was also a member of the Wisconsin Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women. In 1983 she was awarded the Public Service Recognition Award from the United Negro College Fund. As part of her legacy, there is a park, city street and neighborhood, Halyard Park, named after her and her husband in Milwaukee

Ardie passed away in 1989 at the age of 92 and was buried with her husband in Forest Home Cemetery. The Halyards’ vision and unwavering efforts to achieve it are inspiring others to follow the path they blazed 100 years ago.”

This year – 2024- is the 100th Anniversary of Columbia Savings and Loan.

Human Trafficking Legislation Updates

As some of you may know, the Wisconsin State Assembly held public hearings in 2023 for both Representatives and Senators to learn more about human trafficking in Wisconsin. This has led to the introduction of ten bills in the Assembly and four bills in the Senate. Some of the bills include the following issues:

- AB 977: requiring human trafficking prevention instruction in certain grades and teacher training related to identifying victims of child trafficking; referred to the Committee on Education; no further information

Club Updates




ZONTA
CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

- AB 981: the instruction on human trafficking in licensed schools of barbering, schools of cosmetology, and specialty schools; referred to the Jobs, Economy, & Small Business Development Committee; no further information
- AB 974: the civil causes of action for human trafficking and trafficking a child; recommended for passage
- AB 971: human trafficking of adults at risk for the purpose of commercial sex acts and providing a penalty; recommended for passage
- AB 972: solicitation for prostitution and providing a penalty; recommended for passage
- AB 976: the testimony of a child in a criminal proceeding for a human trafficking crime; recommended for passage
- AB 978: the creation of a Human Trafficking Council and requiring the establishment of county sex trafficking task forces; recommended for passage
- AB 979: creation of a human trafficking victim services grant program, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation; recommended for passage
- AB 980: displaying a human trafficking resource center hotline poster; referred to the Jobs, Economy, & Small Business development Committee; no further information
- SB 940: mandatory training regarding human trafficking for employees of community-based residential facilities and owners of certain entities and certain other employees and granting rule-making authority; referred to the Judiciary & Public safety Committee; no further information

Please note that there has been no bill addressing Safe Harbor for minors who have been trafficked. As bills are reconciled between the Assembly & Senate and then scheduled for a vote, I will let you know what actions we should take.

Diane Lindsley, Advocacy Committee




As we approach Zonta Rose Day, we invite you to join us in honoring the incredible people who have made a significant impact on your life. Show your appreciation by making a gift in their name.

Zonta Rose Day, celebrated alongside International Women's Day on 8 March, is a time to recognize the achievements, strength and resilience of women worldwide. It is an opportunity to celebrate those who inspire us, uplift us and contribute to positive change in our lives and communities.

Your meaningful gift will not only commemorate the remarkable individuals who have touched our heart but will also support projects and programs that empower and uplift women and girls globally.

Honor a loved one today





UN Report – February 2024

Amelia Earhart - Amelia Earhart was a Zontian when her plane vanished in 1937, and Zonta International in 2023 gave thirty \$10,000 each awards in her honor to women doing graduate work in air or space fields. Over the years, there have been many attempts to locate the lost plane, and Earhart's fate has been the source of speculation and conspiracy theories since her mysterious disappearance in 1937. Now, Amelia Earhart's aircraft is believed to have been found potentially solving a great mystery in aviation history.

Tony Romeo, a former Air Force Intelligence officer and CEO of Deep Sea Vision, and his team in December 2023 reviewed sonar data caught by an underwater drone from his research voyage and found a startling image: a blurry, plane-like shape Romeo believes is Amelia Earhart's twin engine Lockheed 10E Electra.

The image was taken about 100 miles from Howland Island halfway between Australia and Hawaii. Earhart and her navigator were expected to land there in July 1937 for a refueling stop in her bid to be the first female pilot to circumnavigate the globe. She was declared dead after two years when the U.S. concluded she had crashed somewhere in the Pacific Ocean and her remains were never found.

In 2010, a former NASA employee and amateur pilot, Liz Smith, suggested that Amelia's navigator, Fred Noonan, miscalculated his celestial star navigation by simply forgetting to turn back the date from July 3 to July 2 as they flew across the dateline creating a westward navigational error of 60 miles. Deep Sea Vision (DSV), a Charleston, South Carolina based marine robotics company, has been pursuing the missing aircraft using Liz Smith's "Date Line theory" of her disappearance nearly 87 years ago.

As a private pilot, DSV's CEO, Tony Romeo and his brother Lloyd Romero, believed Smith's idea had merit and began digging deeper into the celestial math Smith had laid out. The brothers came to believe that after 17 hours of exhausting flying, it was quite plausible that Earhart's navigator, Fred Noon, could have made such an error. The theory and area described by Smith had never been searched, until now.

The Deep Sea Vision team proved that diligent effort and next-generation technology could take on the monumental task of finding Earhart's Lockheed Electra. For 90 days, the DSV team researched across 5,200 miles of the Pacific Ocean floor. Their secret weapon, the HUGIN 6000 is an autonomous underwater marvel, modified to outperform any underwater submersible used before. It is the most capable system available in the world to reach full ocean depth. Further modifications by DSV allowed the side sonar scan to search nearly 1,600 meter-wide swaths instead of the normal 450 meters.

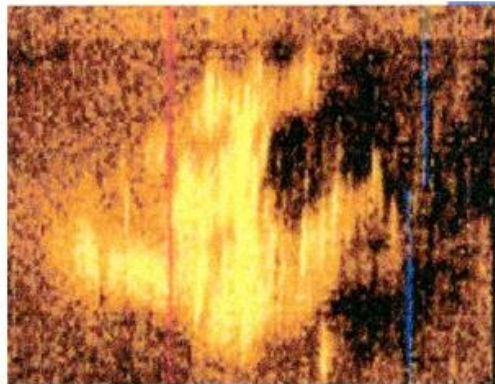
The team launched the expedition out of a tiny island in the Pacific Ocean, about a four-day cruise from where the discovery was made. Each dive of the sonar equipment lasted nearly two days and collected several terabytes of data scanning the sea floor. The international team worked around the clock, analyzing the imagery using cutting edge software that was being written as the mission went along.



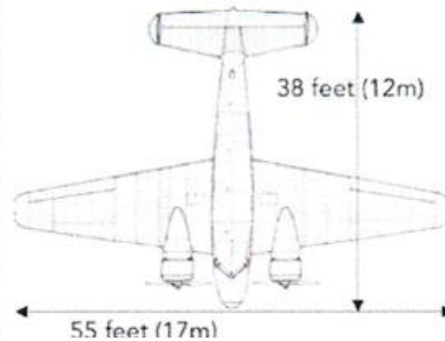
Amelia Earhart in her Lockheed 10E Electra



DSV believes they are one step away from closure to this great mystery! Many prominent authorities have been working to validate DSV's findings. DSV plans to return to the site this year or early next year with a camera and remotely operated vehicle to snap better pictures.



DSV Sonar Image



Scale Drawing Lockheed 10E Electra

Registration Now Open!

Convention 2024 Book your Early Bird rate!

ZONTA CONVENTION BRISBANE 2024

Zonta Club of Milwaukee General Meeting Minutes January 24, 2024

President, Joann Comodore, called the meeting to order at 6 pm on Zoom.

Program: Guest speaker, Jessica Rowden, a representative of Women in Aviation International spoke about the history and accomplishments of the organization. The goal of the organization is to open the traditionally male dominated field of aviation and aerospace to more women with opportunities for careers as pilots, air traffic controllers, mechanics, dispatchers and more. The International organization currently has 17,000 members, an active youth program and scholarships for aviation and aerospace careers.

Joann reminded members of the Convention on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York City this March 11-22. A Zoom option is available for those not able to attend in person. Registration is online.

Nominating Committee: Helen Ludwig, Pam Knackert and Barbara Wyatt Sibley volunteered to serve on the nominating committee for the 2024-2026 biennium. The committee will try to recruit one more member.

Treasurer Report: Laureen Ward reported that the checking account balance on 12/29/23 was \$11,437.43. Dues for new members have been paid. The CD is \$5,431.05. Please refer to her submitted report for details.

Committees:

Advocacy: The focus is on finding a replacement for the Silent Walk event related to gender-based violence. A possible theme is Silent No More. The committee is researching what domestic violence programs are happening in Milwaukee schools.

Service: Maureen S. Asked for volunteers to prepare and serve food for the Cathedral Center. A new date will be selected.

Program: The February 28th meeting will be virtual. The program speaker will be Walter Lanier of the African American Leadership Alliance of Milwaukee (AALAM). The March General Meeting will be in person on March 27 at the Brass Key.

Fashion Show: Pam is planning a committee meeting on February 20th. The date of the event is to be determined based on the date of the Fall Conference. The final figure for the Fall 2023 Fashion Show was \$30,360, the largest proceeds to date.

Public Relations: No Report

Scholarships: Application for the Young Women in Public Affairs scholarship is posted on the Zonta Milwaukee website and the deadline is March 15, 2024.

Foundation: No report.

UN: Marge Holzbog reported that early registration for the 2024 Zonta International Convention in Brisbane, Australia (June 27-30) opened online on January 17th. She encouraged members to attend in person or virtually.

Area 2 Director Report: Karen Smith reported that information is needed by the area on Core Competency progress.

Announcements:

Excellent Service and Advocacy Award recommendations on Web Site. Submissions due 2-29-2024.

Annual Business Meeting - Annual Reports – April 24, 2024

February is Black History Month

District 6, Area 2 Spring Workshop - Madison Club hosting in April.

Next General Club meeting - February 28th. Virtual.

CSW, March 11-22, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Lehman, Secretary





From Allies for Teens in Foster Care



As you know, this can be one of the most difficult times for our residents as we all desire to be in the company of loved ones during the holidays, and not all of our girls have that luxury.

Every little bit helps in reminding our young ladies that they are well taken care of, thought of and loved.

Thank you for your holiday contributions. Happy holidays to you, your family and your organization.

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To

Love Youth Homes

A nonsectarian agency serving women and families.

A PARTNERSHIP OF:
Cathedral of St. John
the Evangelist

Columbia St. Mary's
(St. Ben's Clinic)

OFFICERS:

Elizabeth Sellars – PRESIDENT
Steve Thomas – VICE PRESIDENT
Cassandra Libal – SECRETARY/PATTI
Dew – TREASURER
Jim Trubshaw – MEMBER AT LARGE

BOARD MEMBERS:

Carrie Bedore
Julia Fennelly
Meghan Focht
Pat Hickey
Bill Klingsporn
Molly Perillo
Jessica Simons
Tony Tagliavia
Tracey Wellman

EX OFFICIO:

Donna Rongholt-Migan

Dear Zonta Friends:
The fashion show was so
much fun. As always - you put
on a great event! Thank you
sincerely for your kind & generous
support. You truly do make a difference.
Donna R-M



RAL CENTER

Cathedral Center: Ending Homelessness One Life at a Time

710 N. Plankinton Ave., #803 Milwaukee, WI 53203 | 414.831.0394 | Cathedral-Center.org

Dear Donna,

On behalf of the Cathedral Center's board of directors, staff and hundreds of women and families served each year, please accept our deepest gratitude for your most generous grant, awarded in the amount of \$3,000.00 received on October 25, 2023. Please be assured that your gift will make an immediate impact on the services we provide to women and families experiencing homelessness and housing crisis. Cathedral Center being able to serve up to 28 unaccompanied women and 8 families with children at our emergency shelter is only possible because of contributions like yours.

We are constantly continuing to grow and expand our programming to empower the women and families we support to become the best selves they can be. Your grant will allow us to build upon services like our **Women's Independence Program**, where women and parents develop necessary workforce skills that will allow them to secure long-term employment and strive for financial stability. Again, we appreciate you taking the journey with us to secure safe housing for women and families in Milwaukee.

Cathedral Center remains good stewards of your generous support, as we continue to fulfill our mission of *providing a safe environment for women and families, while working to end homelessness – one life at a time.*

Thank you for your partnership and kindness.

Together in service,


Donna Rongholt-Migan

Donna Rongholt-Migan
Executive Director

The Cathedral Center, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law unless goods or services were provided. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this gift.



October 30, 2023

Donna Kahl-Wilkerson, President
Zonta Foundation, Inc

130 West Bruce Street, 3rd Floor
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204
414-384-2673
Fax: 414-384-4585
core-elcentro.org

Dear Donna,

We are so grateful to the Zonta Foundation for the generous grant of \$3,000.00! Thank you very much, this will go a long way toward supporting the health and wellness of Milwaukeeans.

CORE El Centro believes in meeting the needs of its community, and especially the underserved. We do this by offering our services in Spanish and English, and with payment options that keep our offerings affordable to our clients. We think it's important to carefully observe, and then respond to, the demands of our times.

At CORE El Centro we feel called to empower and aid all members of our community, through movement classes, one-on-one services, and gardening and nutrition. The only way that we can give this help is in turn by receiving the help of compassionate individuals and organizations, such as the Zonta Foundation. Your kindness inspires us.

Now in our 21st year, we look forward to providing classes and services well into the future. As long as there are needs to meet and people to assist in Milwaukee, we mean to be there. We are proud to have supplied direct health programming to 1,037 individuals in 2022, 80% of whom are women; and we know that there are so many more people to serve, and more ways to deepen our impact, in the coming years.

We are very happy to receive this grant; it will make a big difference to CORE and to our clients. Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Vanessa L. Llanas
Executive Director

DONNA,
THANK YOU AND ZONTA FOUNDATIONED MILK
FOR SUPPORTING OUR IMPORTANT WORK!
I WAS SO DISAPPOINTED TO MISS THE LUNCHEON
BUT ANITA AND MOLLY ATTENDED ON MY BEHALF
AND SAID IT WAS WONDERFUL AND THEY
MADE SOME GREAT CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER
ORGANIZATIONS!

— VANESSA