



# ZONTA

CLUB OF  
MILWAUKEE

Area 2 • District 6

## 2024-2025

## Zonta Club of Milwaukee

### Officers

Carol Mangold, President  
*Open Position*, President Elect  
 Ruth Robertson, Vice President  
 Lauren Ward, Treasurer  
 Shari Januszewski, Secretary

### Club Board

Lynda Jackson Conyers  
 Nola Hitchcock Cross  
 Gloria Jones  
 Christine Todd  
 Barbara Wyatt Sibley

### Foundation Board Officers

Cheryl Nowak, President  
 Joni Reese, Vice President  
 Donna Neal, Treasurer  
 Janet Kloser, Corresponding Secretary  
 Donna Conant, Recording Secretary

### Foundation Board

Joanne Harris-Comodore  
 Donna Kahl-Wilkerson  
 Debra Koller  
 La Toya Sykes

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

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

# NEWSLETTER

June/July 2024

## Monthly Zonta Meeting

Welcome to our new Officers & Boards!  
 Our Next Club Meeting is August 28th

*We had a nice time socializing at our June get-together!  
 The weather was warm but cooperated with no rain!*

*Lots of great food and conversation!*



*At the same time, we raised \$\$ and collected clothes & jewelry for the Milwaukee Women's Center. Thank You!*



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## President's Message

Greetings Zonta Sisters,

I hope you all enjoyed your Fourth of July celebration!

As your new president for the 2024-2026 biennium, I look forward to working with each of you and continuing the important work of making a better world for women and girls. I'm sure you will join me in sending a big thank-you to our outgoing president, Joann Harris-Comodore, for her hard work and commitment to the club over the past two years. Joann has been a valuable mentor in preparing me for the challenge ahead and I'm grateful for the opportunity of working closely with her and learning from her expertise.



Thanks to Joni Reese for hosting the June social event at her home. It's vital to the health of the club that we carve out time to relax and socialize with other club members, so we are grateful to Joni for making that possible this summer.

We have exciting things to look forward to in the next few months. Plans for our annual Fashion Show on Saturday, October 19th are coming along smoothly, and we anticipate another successful event. District 6 Fall Conference is coming up October 4-6 in Indianapolis, IN, and I would encourage as many club members as possible to consider attending. Fall Conference is a wonderful opportunity to meet Zontians from other clubs in the District, network and share ideas. The Zonta International Convention in Brisbane, Australia just wrapped up in June and we look forward to hearing from our delegate, Donna Neal, about Zonta International's vision going forward.

During the July break, I would encourage those of you not currently active on a committee to consider where you might like to serve. This is especially true for new members. Participation in a committee is a good way to meet other club members and get involved in the important work of Zonta. We are fortunate to have a group of accomplished women in our club and all of your creative ideas and talents are needed. Please let me know if you have interest in a particular committee or have questions.

My wish for all of you is to enjoy the rest of your summer and the beautiful State of Wisconsin or wherever your plans take you. Hopefully we will come back in August energized and ready to move forward with the vital work of Zonta.

See you in August!

*Carol Mangold  
President Zonta  
Club of Milwaukee*



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## Service Projects

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

At the April 24th club meeting members agreed to support the Neu-Life Back-to-School Project again this year. We will work on collecting 50 backpacks with supplies for the kindergarten and elementary children. Pam and a few others have been and will be shopping and collecting items. All items are already purchased or have been committed so we can use monetary donations to pay for the purchases.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please write a check to Zonta Foundation, Inc. & denote Neu-Life school supplies and send to Donna Neal 2624 E. Bellevue Pl. Milwaukee, WI 53211



**The event where the backpacks are distributed will be the afternoon of Wed. July 31<sup>st</sup> from 1 to 3 pm at the Milwaukee High School of the Arts 2300 W. Highland Blvd (note new location). They will be showing their short film festival from 1:15 to 2:15 followed by the backpack distribution. So come and join us!**

## Fashion Show

**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 with newly opened Third Ward vendor District Row. Invites will be going out late summer.

The committee will be meeting the third Tuesday of each month via zoom starting at 6pm. Our next meeting will be on Tues. July 16th. If you would like to join the committee please let Pam or Jackie know.

We will be collecting **bottles of wine** for our wine pull with a minimum value of \$15 or cash donations suggested of \$20. You can bring to our August in-person meeting or get to Deb Koller.

We will also be collecting **gift cards** of at least \$20 in value for our "gift card tree." If you have received any for gifts that you want to re-gift, or you can purchase one or more, please give to Pam at the August in-person meeting.

Also continue thinking of any businesses and companies (perhaps the one you work for) that you can ask for a monetary **sponsorship**. The template letters went out to members on May 1<sup>st</sup>. And let us know who you are contacting. If you would like us to contact instead let Carol Mangold know.

**Raffle item and silent auction item** solicitation template letters have been emailed to you (June 24<sup>th</sup>) and will be sent to our solicitation list around July 20th. If you are donating a basket/item please bring to August or September meeting at the latest and give to Laurie Ward.







## Advocacy

### June 2024– Advocacy and “Silent No More”

#### Community Meeting on Violence Report

On May 16th, Donna Kahl-Wilkerson, Pam Knackert, Donna Neal and I attended a Town Hall gathering at Washington Park by the We Are Here MKE and led by The Asha Project. Entitled “All Hands On Deck Against Domestic Abuse & Community Violence: Centering Voices of the Community”, community members, leaders, churches, and businesses attended this opportunity for discussion, learning, and gathering input about how to address the violence that is so prevalent in our communities and is taking younger and younger lives. Antonia Norton, The Asha Project Director, believes those closest to the problems are closest to the solutions.

My main take-aways were:

- There is a need for a collective response via culturally specific programs.
- There is a need to build back a sense of community. Take action if you see or hear abuse.
- There is a need to go into schools and teach civics.
- There is the need to “break a circle of violence” that has become the norm. Children without mothers enter foster care which can lead to additional exposure to violence.
- Revolving door loopholes in the legal system must be closed, loopholes that allow career criminals back on the streets.
- There is a much bigger need to get to the roots of violence and not just the effects of it. How much violence is due to high lead levels in water? How much to drug addiction? How much to poverty and prevalence of substandard housing?
- In Wisconsin, high racial disparities are correlated with high rates of domestic violence incidents for women of color. High racial disparities are correlated with structural racism.
- There is a need for men to reach out to other men and offer violence de-escalating programs.

*Diane Lindsley, Advocacy Chair*

### **Advocacy Event of August 7<sup>th</sup>, Need Member Response Immediately**

*~~~See full article below~~~*

For the August 7<sup>th</sup> event we will be having a hoodie designed by Neu-Life to incorporate logos of Neu-STEPP, Neu-Life, Our Next Generation and Zonta Club of Milwaukee (see mockup). We will have these printed to be given to the student attendees of this summer program.

**If you are interested in ordering a hoodie for yourself** (price \$35) please let Pam know by Sat. July 20<sup>th</sup> and size wanted. She will collect payment at the August 7<sup>th</sup> event if you attend or at our August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. (Adult sizes only S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL) This will be a white or light-colored hoodie, no choice on color.

Also, **if you are available the afternoon of August 7<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm to 3 pm** please let Pam know and come join us at Our Next Generation 3421 W. Lisbon for the celebration of the end of summer program wearing your Zonta Says NO orange t-shirt. We will help serve food or otherwise help with what is needed.

If you want to donate toward this project, please send your donation made out to Zonta Foundation to Donna Neal at 2624 E. Bellevue PI 53211 & note as for celebration.



## **Summer Event – Neu-Life/ONG Collaboration and Celebration**

You may recall reading or hearing about a potential summer collaboration between Our Next Generation (ONG) and Neu-Life, where Neu-Life's Neu-STEPP, a healthy relationships program that includes significant educational segments on trafficking, would be offered at Our Next Generation. In the past, we have provided support to both organizations but this collaboration among the 3 organizations is a significant opportunity for all.

At our May meeting we reported that this collaboration is a "GO" for 3 groups of youths. At the end of the programs, a celebration is planned for Wednesday, August 7th @ 1pm at Our Next Generation. Also at our May meeting, the Club approved our engagement with both organizations and our support of the celebration.

🌍 How would our Club's participation in this event assist both ONG and Neu-Life?

1. We would provide funding for commemorative hoodies, the printing of promotional brochures featuring ONG, Neu-Life & Zonta, & some portion of the food served.
2. The Club, Foundation, & members would underwrite an estimated \$1500 of expenses via: \$1000 allocated but unspent in the current Club budget for Advocacy activities; \$500 allocated from Foundation or project-designated donations to Foundation; with any hoodie overages covered by at least 3 members of the Event Search Team. We would expect as many Club members as possible to be present, wearing their orange T-shirts or a commemorative hoodie, which we will make available for order at cost.

🌍 How would this event benefit the Club?

1. Spreads Zonta's Mission to eliminate violence and human trafficking
2. One of Zonta's Strategies is to strengthen partnerships that can carry out this mission
3. Another Strategy is to become visible in the Community and the neighborhood is invited. Our presence there & on promotional materials increases that visibility. [similar to our presence at the We Are Here MKE

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Collective's Town Hall gathering to amass solutions from the community to combat the daily violence. We were quite visible in our orange T-shirts.]

4. At the August Celebration, we would be quite visible to the Mayor of Milwaukee, The Milwaukee County Executive, District 3 of the Milwaukee Police Dept., and the City's Office of Community Wellness and Safety which have already agreed to attend.
5. We would also be visible to the local media and like-minded organizations.

## 🌱 What might the Future bring?

If the Neu-STEPP program is successfully evaluated by a 3rd party (possibly UWM) this fall (timing TBD), it can be utilized by other youth organizations, thus making a major step forward in violence and trafficking prevention throughout Milwaukee and around the Country.

At the Club's May meeting, some members asked how the proposed collaboration with Our Next Generation and Neu-Life Community Resource Center fits with the goals of Zonta International. Our linkage with ZI goals is strong and multi-dimensional.

"Zonta will build upon the long-term success of Zonta Says NO as the campaign for our international, national and local activities for addressing gender-based violence." (Goal 1)

"While maintaining its focus on service, Zonta International will place a greater focus on advocacy and in doing so, increase Zonta's credibility and visibility on issues facing women and girls in the world." (Goal 1)

"Increase focus on the value of Zonta clubs to deliver impact in their local communities." (Goal 2)

"Zonta International will recognize and celebrate meaningful local projects addressing gender equity, education equality, climate justice, women in decision-making positions or gender-based violence." (Goal 2)

"Zonta creates customized pathways to connect to Zonta, develops collaborations with like-minded organizations, and expands revenue streams to further our mission and extend our voice." (Goal 4)

"Seek out new collaborations with likeminded organizations to expand alliances, partnerships, and sponsorships." (Goal 4)

Here's the link to ZI's full Strategic Plan: Zonta, Gender Equity, and a Vision for 2030 & Beyond:

<https://www.zonta.org/images/docs/AboutUs/Strategic%20Plan/ZontaInternationalStrategicPlan.pdf>),

## **A Brief Back Story: Zonta Club of Milwaukee, Neu-Life, and Human/Sex Trafficking Prevention**

Zonta Club of Milwaukee engaged in a formal partnership with Neu-Life in 2016. We started with support of back-to-school backpacks, holiday gifts, and support of their annual Art Show fundraiser among other ad hoc activities.

From 2013 to 2016, there were 340 youth involved in sex trafficking in Milwaukee, and 20 incidents of sex trafficking in the 53206 zip code. In response, in late 2016/early 2017, we explored human trafficking prevention programs and decided on ARTREACH, an interactive creative arts program developed by Florida Zontian Nola Theiss, who founded the non-profit Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships. Nola came to Milwaukee in spring 2017 and trained us, and then we implemented the program with Zontians, Neu-Life staff, and then Neu-Life High school and middle school youth. This evolved over a couple of

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years, as we worked to modify it for broader implementation. In 2018, there was a public exhibit of the artwork created by the youth in the program at Milwaukee Public Library, Main Branch.

While adapting and facilitating ARTREACH, Neu-Life staff realized that a more comprehensive approach to the subject was needed. There was a gap to be filled defining healthy relationship practices before exploring the sensitive content of human sex trafficking. No suitable program existed, so Neu-Life decided to build a custom curriculum. That curriculum, Neu-STEPP (Sex Trafficking Education and Prevention Program), has been developed and improved over the past several years, with some meaningful Zontian contributions, and is now striving for third party verification.

*Diane Lindsley, Advocacy Chair*

*Donna Neal, Event Search Chair*

## Membership

Welcome to our two new members, Donna Rongholt-Migan, Executive Director of the Cathedral Center and Lisa Johnston, Chief People Office, the Milwaukee Catholic Home. We are happy to have them as new members.

Please invite any prospective member to attend our August 28<sup>th</sup> in-person meeting. This will give them a great opportunity to meet our members.

A new roster of members was sent out recently, if you have any changes please let Shari Januszewski know since as our new Club Secretary she has agreed to keep it up.

## Foundation News

The Zonta Foundation is excited to announce its dedicated Board for 2024, poised to guide the organization's philanthropic efforts in the community. With a strong focus on maximizing local impact and awareness, the Board will prioritize fulfilling commitments to service and scholarship while adhering to Zonta International guidelines.

In alignment with its mission, the Zonta Foundation aims to build reserves for greater future impact while accepting donations consistent with the Zonta Club of Milwaukee and Zonta Foundation, Inc. policies. Donor intent will be respected, and a comprehensive distribution policy has been established to guide the allocation of funds, ensuring transparency and accountability in all philanthropic endeavors. The Zonta Foundation looks forward to a year of meaningful contributions and lasting positive change in the community.

**Cheryl Nowak** - President (2024-25)

**Joni Reese** - Vice President (2024-25)

**Donna Neal** - Treasurer (2024-25)

**Janet Kloser** - Corresponding Secretary (2024-25)

**Donna Conant** - Recording Secretary (2024-25)

**Directors:** Joann Harris-Comodore, Donna Kahl-Wilkerson, Debra Koller and La Toya Sykes

***The 2024 Grant Applications are now closed.*** The Board will be meeting in August to review and select the 2024 grant recipients. Awards will be given at the Zonta Fashion Show Fundraiser scheduled for October 19, 2024.

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**Foundation Thank You's and a few photos to share from our grant recipients last year.**



*"The Hoops Program has been wonderful for the girls. Since we don't have a facility to be able to do these sports programs, many of the girls don't have a lot of opportunities to be involved in formal team sports. This has been a great ego booster and has helped them have an opportunity for athletic activities. We have a coach that spends time each session teaching about self-confidence and advocating for themselves. Since most are immigrants or refugees, many times they are targets of bullying. This program has been a wonderful opportunity for the girls. I have included several photos and a video. I hope you find them delightful. Thank you to Zonta for this opportunity!"*

Janan Najeeb  
Founder and Executive Director  
Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition

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Dear Zonta Foundation, Inc.,

I am writing to express our sincere appreciation for your generous contribution of \$3,000 to support our Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter. On behalf of the Milwaukee Women's Center, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment to helping us serve survivors of domestic violence.

Your support has been invaluable in enabling us to continue our critical work of providing a safe haven to those in need. Your kindness and generosity have made a significant difference, and we are truly grateful for your contribution.

I am pleased to attach the Milwaukee Women's Center's 2023 Final Report for your review. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Once again, thank you for your support, and we look forward to your continued partnership with us.

Warm regards,  
Steve Schultz  
Strategic Development Director  
Community Advocates

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***Summer social! Lot of great food and fun was had by all!***



***And while we have been on summer break from Club meetings, your Board, Foundation, and Club Committee have been hard at work!!***



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***And don't forget the Zonta International Convention! Thank you, Donna Neal for representing the Milwaukee Club! Donna will be providing her Delegate summary when we meet again!***



PHOTOCARDS.AI





**Upcoming Dates of Interest**

**Club Meetings**

August 28<sup>th</sup>

September 25<sup>th</sup>

October 23<sup>rd</sup>

November 20<sup>th</sup> (date tbd)

December 18<sup>th</sup> (date tbd)

**Events**

Fall Conference: Oct. 4-6, Indianapolis, IN

Fall Fashion Show Fundraiser: Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>

Zonta North American Inter-District Meeting (NAIDM)

June 20-22, 2025

Novi, MI |