

ZONTA
CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

NEWSLETTER

February 2025

Area 2 • District 6

2024–2025

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

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Send your newsletter submissions
to jonizonta@gmail.com

Visit us online at
www.zontamilwaukee.org

February 26 via Zoom

**5:45 for online socialization/tech set up;
Meeting starting at 6pm**

Link to be sent separately to members and guests

At our February Club meeting (held on Zoom) we will welcome
Bridget Gaughan, Development Manager,
from the **Milwaukee Diaper Mission.**

One of our Club Foundation grant recipients, The Milwaukee Diaper Mission is a nonprofit organization that empowers families in the Milwaukee area by providing a reliable source of free diapers and period supplies. The Milwaukee Diaper Mission partners to distribute their resources through food pantries, home visiting agencies, mutual aid groups and organizations that support families through pregnancy, birth and postpartum.

**Diaper need is the lack of a sufficient supply of diapers
to keep an infant or child clean, dry, and healthy**

- 1 in 2 U.S. families report experiencing diaper needs.
- 5 million children in the U.S. ages three or younger live in poor or low-income families.
- Disposable diapers can cost \$70 to \$80 per month per baby.
- No state or federal child safety-net program allocates dollars specifically for the purchase of diapers.
- Without transportation, buying diapers at a convenience store rather than a large “big box” store can significantly increase the monthly cost of diapers.
- Most childcare centers, even free and subsidized facilities, require parents to provide a day’s supply of disposable diapers.

***As a reminder, with Wisconsin winters and dark evenings,
our February club meeting will be held virtually on Zoom with the
intent to return to in-person meetings on March 26.***

Watch for an email invitation from club president, Carol Mangold, with the Zoom link shortly before the scheduled meeting.

www.zontamilwaukee.org

President's Message



ZONTA
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Dear Zonta Sisters,

February is here and many of us are ready for winter to be over. Sports fans and romantics have The Super Bowl and Valentine's Day to celebrate in February. February is Black History Month, and multiple events are scheduled around Wisconsin. In recognition of Black History Month, Neu-Life Community Development is offering a program, **Rooted, Exploring Black Culture Across Generations**, on Thursday, February 27, 2025 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Joann Harris-Comodore extends an invitation to all club members. Seats are limited, so you can RSVP on Eventbrite. Also in February, we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the International Day of Women & Girls in Science on Feb. 11th and Susan B. Anthony Day on Feb. 15th.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended and helped at the Z Club Charter Meeting at the University School of Milwaukee on January 28, 2025. We had a good turnout from our club members on a very windy day. It was an honor to have our District 6 Governor Isabel Vidal from Lincoln, Illinois attend and speak to the students about Zonta. Twenty-two students attended the event, including several boys, to receive their Z Club pins, yellow roses, and cake. The inclusion of boys and men in making a better world for women and girls is vital to our future and a topic that has been discussed by the Advocacy Committee. I was very impressed by this outstanding group of students and am confident that the club will continue to nurture this group along on their journey. We all know that attracting young people is necessary for the continued success of Zonta. If you are interested in attending a meeting or contributing in any way, please let Kate Gay or Viola Rembert know. They will let us know of other ways we can support the club in the future.

We had our first meeting of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee 100th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee on Wednesday, February 5th. Thank you to Dawn Zehren, Jackie Beaudry, Donna Neal, and Lauren Ward who volunteered to take leadership roles for this special event that will take place in the autumn of 2026. Please be thinking about expanding your invitation list and spreading the word about the great work of Zonta at every opportunity.

Carol Mangold
President Zonta Club of Milwaukee



Club Updates



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Milwaukee Z Club Updates



On Tuesday, January 28, district 6, and the Zonta Club of Milwaukee welcomed the University School of Milwaukee Z Club during their chartering ceremony.

Over 20 students were present, said the oath and received Z Club pins and yellow roses. The Club leadership approached the Milwaukee Zonta Club asking if a Z Club would be possible.



They have already done some amazing advocacy projects, and we expect to see a lot from these young women and men. Join us in welcoming them to District 6.

Report from Kate Gay, the Z Club Academic Sponsor and new member of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee:

One of their first projects is to establish a relationship and communication on topics with the young women and teenage girls from Gashora "Voices of Hope", at Journey House Actions in Rwanda

Here are some of the topics:

- Breaking Stereotypes about Girls – Challenging beliefs that limit girls' potential, such as the idea that girls can't excel in leadership or STEM fields.
- Menstrual Health – Addressing the stigma around menstruation and discussing access to menstrual products, which remains a challenge for many girls here.
- Girls' Education & Career Dreams – Sharing stories of girls who have pursued unique careers to inspire one another and challenge the idea that certain roles are "for boys only."
- Menstruation Cycle: learning how to count safety days.



The Z Club has exchanged introductory videos about themselves and their aspirations. Now the USM girls are making videos on these topics. They hope to share more resources with the group in the future and to make a fundraiser to help them purchase cloth to sew reusable sanitary napkins. We have a good relationship with the Milwaukee [AFJHAR](#) group and could possibly send materials, books, etc, in June when we know they are making a trip to Gashora. They generously took five suitcases of sports jerseys over for them in January.

Here is the Journey House Actions Rwanda <https://journeyhouseafrica.org/>

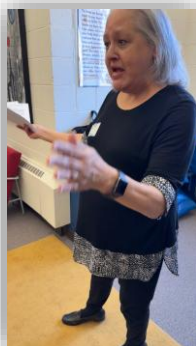
These are just baby steps to hopefully build a robust partnership. The time difference and technology issues make progress slow!

Thank you to the members of our Zonta Club of Milwaukee who attended!

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An article published by the University of School of Milwaukee can be found here:

[Z Club Making a Difference for Women and Girls | USM News](#)

Membership

We inducted Kate Gay as a new member at our Jan. 22nd meeting. Kate is an English teacher at University School of Milwaukee and our faculty adviser for our new Z Club. We presented her pin, rose and name tag to her at the Z Club Chartering on January 28th. What a great event that was.

Thank you to Shari for updating our roster, see attached. If you have any changes, please let her know.

Also, if you have any prospective members, please invite them to join us for our virtual February 26th meeting.



Meet our New Member Kate!!!!

Kate Gay grew up outside Chicago. She lived and worked in New York City and the Czech Republic before settling in Milwaukee in 1993.

She has been teaching high school English at University School of Milwaukee for 31 years and finds joy in discussing literature with her students at the Round Table every day.

She also enjoys sailing, hiking, biking, cooking, and traveling. When asked to serve as the faculty adviser for the new Z Club and learned of the group's mission to make life better for women and girls, she jumped at the opportunity.

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Fashion Show

We will be starting to plan for our 2025 fashion show, anyone who would like to join the committee please let Pam know. We will be meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month starting Feb. 18th. Meetings will be held via Zoom starting at 6 pm.

We are planning for Saturday, November 15th at the Marriott.

If you received any gift cards you won't be using from the holidays, please consider donating them to the fashion show for our "gift card" tree or if you see some deals and want to purchase a few you can do that. Looking for \$20 to \$25 gift cards.



Service

Allies for Teens in Foster Care

After Allison Byrne spoke at our September meeting and shared some of the artwork prepared by the kids in last year's **Allies for Teens in Foster Care's Annual Art and Poetry contest**, the Club was enthusiastic about continuing support for the project. Now is the time! As a mini fundraiser, the service committee is collecting monetary contributions for the 2025 contest. The funds will be used to purchase art supplies for the kids and fund the awards given to the winners. Please consider making a monetary contribution to the project.

Donations can be made on our website - <https://zontamilwaukee.org/> (Look for the orange donate now button in the upper right corner) **or by sending a check payable to Zonta Foundation to Donna Neal**. If you make your contribution on the website, please send an email to Donna Neal so that she can apply the funds to the project. Thank you for your support for this wonderful project.

The Service committee is meeting via Zoom at 5:15 on Thursday, February 20. If you would like to join our committee, please contact either Donna Conant or Helen Ludwig for the meeting link.

*Donna Conant & Helen Ludwig,
Service Committee Co-Chairs*

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Save the Date

We are hosting!



Zonta North American Inter- District Meeting 2025

Where

Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel,
21111 Haggerty Rd, Novi, MI 48375, USA

[Register Now](#)



NAIDM

Registration is now open!

Register early to get
the best price!





Advocacy

January is an important month for raising awareness about the scourge of Human Trafficking which I will get to in a moment. However, January 25th, for those of us with Scots ancestors, commemorates the birth of the poet Robert Burns (1759-1796). I mention Burns because of one of his many quotes:

"While Europe's eye is fix'd on mighty things, The fate of empires and the fall of kings; While quacks of State must each produce his plan, And even children lisp the Rights of Man; Amid this mighty fuss just let me mention, The Rights of Woman merit some attention." ~ Robert Burns

It appears then that women's rights were important to him who wielded a pen back in the 18th century but not so much to those in Congress who wield microphones and social media pages. Thus, the Equal Rights Amendment is currently stalled as legal minds voice opinions on both sides of the issue. We are at the mercy of the Courts and Congress.

Back to Human Trafficking- I'm quoting from Ashley Luthern's article in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel of Jan. 31st.

As part of **National Human Trafficking Prevention Month**, members of the Milwaukee Police Department's Human Trafficking Task Force spoke out to dispel myths about trafficking and to encourage people to come forward. MPD investigated 35 cases of human trafficking in each of the past two years and so far this year, three human trafficking cases have been reported. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel interviewed Sgt. Fawn Schwandt, Detectives Michael Walker and Anna Flores, and Maria Rozek, who is a trauma counselor and victim advocate. Here were their main points:

- Milwaukee's geography, concentration of group homes, and trend of intergenerational trafficking have contributed to the city's reputation as a hub for Trafficking. Milwaukee also has seen multiple examples of intergenerational trafficking in which traffickers learn from traffickers in their own families.
- Traffickers often offer those who are vulnerable — particularly youth — attention, affection and material help, like cell phones, money or housing, building relationships with those who mistake attention for "love".
- Milwaukee's many group homes are fertile ground for luring runaways. The task force members are planning to meet with group homeowners this year to discuss requirements for reporting youth missing and other potential solutions to keep kids safe.
- There's been bipartisan support for a "Safe Harbor" bill to ban charging minors for prostitution by clarifying that children cannot legally consent to sex with an adult. But the measure has failed to become law.
- **This is where we Zontians can advocate for a bill to be put forward.** I have sent the following message to my Assembly Representative, Deb Andraca:

Dear Rep. Andraca,

I am the Advocacy Coordinator for my service club, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee. For the past several years we have collaborated with other like-minded organizations to support a Safe Harbor bill in the State Legislature. There were hearings and bipartisan support but a bill has never been passed. A Safe Harbor bill would ensure that children who are being trafficked cannot be arrested as prostitutes but, instead, receive needed services in a safe environment. If there is any chance that such a bill can be successfully put forward this year, can you please let me know so that we can garner community support.

Thank you. Diane S. Lindsley Bayside, Wisconsin

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I have also sent a similar message to my State Senator Jodi Habush Sinykin.

To contact your State Legislators, use this site: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>. Midway down, on the right-hand side of the webpage, under "Who Are My Legislators?", is a field for your address and the button "Find Your Legislator". **I encourage Club members to follow through with messages now since the WI Legislature is notorious for ending early in the year, sometimes in March.**

Response received:

Dear Diane,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns about the Safe Harbor bill. I believe we must do more to support victims of child sex trafficking. The consequences should fall on those committing the crime of trafficking, not the victims.

Recently, there was a bill introduced focusing on child sex trafficking and how to further protect victims from prosecution. LRB- 1748/1 and 1832/1 address Wisconsin's problem as a growing hot spot for human trafficking. These bills are designed to address the issues you described, as well as take steps to provide support for child victims during the legal and healing process. I am a co-sponsor of this bill and I look forward to working with my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, on measures to prevent human trafficking. We must ensure Wisconsin is a safe place where young people can thrive.

Thank you for contacting my office. Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can ever be of service, and thank you for the honor of serving as your state representative.

With Gratitude,
Representative Deb Andraca

March 8th marks International Women's Day, first held in March, 1911 to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The theme in 2025 is **"Accelerate Action"** for gender equality to speed up the rate of progress worldwide. It is a call to acknowledge strategies, resources, and activity that positively impact women's advancement, and to support and elevate their implementation.

Groups can choose to mark IWD in whatever manner they deem most relevant, engaging, and impactful for their specific context, objectives, and audiences. It can involve a day of giving in support of those organizations that work for gender equality – HINT...like Zonta's Rose Day on March 8th, a time to reflect on past achievements and honor the current efforts of individuals working toward gender equity as well as give tribute to the women who have empowered us.



Milwaukee's International Women's Day Coalition is holding events at Red Arrow Park and Turner Hall. *"Join the Milwaukee IWD Coalition for our fourth annual event! Listen to a variety of speeches from community members and organizations that fight for liberation. The event will feature a social hour with local vendors and artists, plus a kids' activity table. Come along to celebrate the struggle for women's*

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liberation while building community- and discover ways you can get more involved!"

11:00am: Rally at Red Arrow Park

11:30am: March from Red Arrow Park to Turner Hall

12:00pm-3:00pm: Social Hour and Panel at Turner Hall

Awards

2025 The Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award \$2,000 + \$5,000

- Aimed at young women ages 16 to 19, pursuing education, careers or seeking leadership positions in public policy making, government, and volunteer organizations are eligible for the Zonta International Young Women in Leadership Award.
- Applicants must show their commitment to the volunteer sector, evidence of volunteer leadership achievements and a dedication to building a better world for women and girls through service and advocacy.
- The Zonta Club of Milwaukee awards one \$2,000 award and forwards the winner's application on to Zonta District 6, which may submit one application for consideration of one of 37 Zonta International awards of \$5,000 each.
- Zonta Club of Milwaukee awards are open, and promoted, to young women in the six-county greater Milwaukee metro area (Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee, Racine, and Kenosha counties).
- The 2024 Young Women in Leadership Award application is available now. **Completed applications are due on or before March 15, 2025.**

**Applications are being accepted now.
Information and applications can be located
on our website www.zontamilwaukee.org**

2025

ZONTA YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL

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



1 APPLICATION, 2 OPPORTUNITIES

Club award
\$2000

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/YWLA.

CLUB DEADLINE:

March 15, 2025

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO:

zcscholarship@zontamilwaukee.org

OR

Deb Koller
210 S. Water St. Unit 521
Milwaukee, WI 53204

The Young Women in Leadership 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.



UN Report

As proud members of Zonta International, the Milwaukee Club supports, with a donation from its fund-raising service project, this biennium's international service projects. Zonta International's role is to provide funds for these projects while the UN agency provides "boots on the ground" implementing the project. This biennium's international projects are:

Climate Empower

In Madagascar, Mozambique and South Sudan Zonta has committed \$1,000,000 to UNFPA to prevent climate-induced gender-based violence (GBV) and other harmful practices.

Ending Child Marriage

Zonta International has committed \$1,500,000 to the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Program to End Child Marriage; engaging millions of vulnerable girls and putting an end to this global violation of human rights in the following 12 countries with high prevalence of child marriage: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

Laaha

Zonta International has committed \$750,000 in partnership with UNICEF USA to provide a virtual safe space for girls and women with information about women's health, rights and gender-based violence services.

As a member of Zonta's International community, our club has access to Zonta's activities in several other world-wide organizations such as:

Commission on Status of Women

Of the 6,469 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with consultative status at the United Nations, only 132 have General Consultative Status, the highest status an NGO can have at the UN. Zonta International was granted General Consultative Status in 1969.

As an NGO with General Consultative Status, Zonta International is invited to participate in the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York.

The CSW is the largest annual gathering on women's rights worldwide, and is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The next meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held March 10-12, 2025.

Participatory status—a privilege for INGOs at the Council of Europe

Zonta International is represented at the Council of Europe (CoE) since 1983. In 2003, the Committee of Ministers of the CoE introduced the participatory status to independent non-governmental organizations recognizing their influence in Europe's vital civil society and their benefit for the work of the Council of Europe. Ever since, Zonta International is enjoying participatory status together with 320 other INGOs.

INGOs holding participatory status, known collectively as the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, actively contribute to debates and the decision-making process. The Conference meets in its General Assembly twice a year and works in committees on priority themes of the Council of Europe. For Zonta's representative it is key to actively support gender equality and women's rights issues amongst the most important representatives of Europe's civil society.

Book Corner retitled to Movie Corner for this month!

– Club Sharing of Outstanding and Inspirational Women



In recognition of Black History Month, I recommend a film directed by Tyler Perry and now streaming on Netflix, 'The Six Triple Eight.' This is the story of the first African American women in the U.S. military to serve overseas during WWII.

The film doesn't shy away from the challenges they faced as African Americans and women. The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was charged with sorting through and distributing a monumental backlog of mail (6 airplane hangars of mail in Birmingham, England and another 3 year back log in Rouen, France) to soldiers who were not receiving mail from home and their morale was low. The mail to their families back home was also backlogged.

The women had to do everything for themselves from cleaning up and making their living quarters habitable to fixing their own trucks. Kerry Washington plays Major Charity Adams, Ebony Obsidian plays Lena Derriecott Bell King, and Milauna Jackson plays Captain Abbie N. Campbell. The cast includes Dean Norris, Sam Waterston, Oprah Winfrey, Susan Sarandon, and many more.

The 6888 Battalion was not widely

recognized immediately after the war, but Michelle Obama held a ceremony honoring them many years later. Major Charity Adams Early died in 2002 at the age of 83. Lena Derriecott Bell King, who died in January 2024 at the age of 100, was the inspiration for Tyler Perry to make the film after meeting with her in 2022.

Carol Mangold

Book suggestions and write-ups can be sent to Carol for inclusion in the newsletter.





Upcoming Meeting Event Dates

D6 Area 2 Spring Workshop

May 17, 2025
Milwaukee –MRA (Pewaukee)

Zonta North American Inter-District Meeting (NAIDM)

June 20-22, 2025
Novi MI

District 6 Fall Conference

Oct 10-12, 2025
Bloomington, IL

Zonta International 67th Convention

July 11-14, 2026
Vancouver, Canada

Upcoming Milwaukee Club Meetings

February 26th - Via Zoom
March 26th
April 23rd
May 28th



News and Events

2026 Convention
Vancouver,
Canada



VANCOUVER
Zonta Convention 2026

Save The Date

Join Zonta
International for our
67th Convention

11-14 July 2026
Vancouver, Canada

Zonta Club of Milwaukee
General Meeting January 22, 2025
Minutes

President Carol Mangold called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm CT following virtual social time and welcomed guest speaker Jeni Royalty, District 6 Foundation Ambassador who presented the 3 Zonta International (ZI) service projects for this biennium:

Laaha – A virtual safe space providing access to education in 11 languages to women and girls in 8 countries; ZI commitment of \$750,000.

Climate Empower – Providing access to food, water and shelter in areas and instances of natural disasters; ZI commitment of \$1M.

Ending Child Marriage – Advocacy directed toward legislation to end child marriage on every continent; ZI commitment of \$1.5M.

Foundation fundraising results through June (two months) are 15% of the total goal of \$3.25M which is just slightly behind however the Rose Fund may be able to direct additional funds once scholarships are awarded. Donna Neal shared how funds are collected and distributed.

Jeni Royalty shared that District 6 is consistently among the top 7 or 8 districts to provide generous funding.

New Member Induction by Membership Committee Chair, Pam Knackert:

Kate Gay, faculty sponsor of the newly chartered Z Club at the University School of Milwaukee was formally inducted with enthusiastic support from attending members.

Financial Report Presented by Treasurer Laureen Ward:

The November 2024 closing balance was \$7,819.70 after deposits of \$350, an ACH credit of \$47.74, and expenses of \$40. The December 2024 closing balance was \$7,794.71 after an ACH credit of \$112.36 and expenses of \$137.35. The balance of the CD = \$5,633.70. Joann Harris- Comodore moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Ruth Robertson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Karen Smith raised the question of whether the per member cost for dinner at in-person meetings could be lowered to \$20. Laurie Ward will provide feedback after reviewing the expenses.

Committee Reports

Advocacy - Diane Lindsley reported that President Biden did not offer support until the end of his term and therefore the Equal Rights Amendment will not be published having missed the deadlines of legal protocol. Unfortunately, there is no clear strategy to move forward at this time.

Fashion Show – Pam Knackert and Jackie Beaudry will once again be Co-Chairs for this year's event tentatively scheduled for November 15, 2025. The Marriott location is on hold, pending consideration of other venues, due to increased cost and food quality there. Committee meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month beginning February 18, 2025.

Foundation – Joni Reese reported that the balance in the Foundation Fund was ~\$253k. One-third of the ~\$31K proceeds from the Fashion Show will be forwarded to ZI, leaving ~\$23k for grant award recipients. The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2025.

Our 100th Anniversary fundraising celebration will replace the Fashion Show for 2026. A separate committee has been formed. Carol, Diane, Jackie, LaToya, Dawn and Joann joined the committee in addition to 9 members who previously volunteered to serve. All Club members will be asked to participate.

Membership – Pam Knackert encouraged all Club members to invite guests to attend our meetings.

Program – Karen Smith will be meeting with Vicki Chapell, Vice President of Philanthropy at Milwaukee War Memorial Center. Karen also asked for input on possible venues for in-person meetings.

Scholarship – Jackie Beaudry reported that the deadline for applications for the Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award (formerly Young Women in Public Affairs scholarship) is March 15. It has been publicized to over 300 contacts via the Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP) exchange search engine. The S.T.E.M Award will be posted sometime in March. Jackie asked for committee volunteers and Kate Gay volunteered and will promote within the University School of Milwaukee. Changing the committee's name to the Awards Committee will be taken into consideration.

Service – Helen Ludwig reported the continued support of Allies for Teens in Foster Care, specifically the Art Project which has an \$800 goal for supplies. Donna Neal asked that donations to the Foundation for this cause be labeled as such. The committee is narrowing down a couple of other agencies for hands-on service projects or program speakers. Viola Rembert joined the committee.

Public Relations – Joni Reese reported that updates to the website include posting the current newsletter. She is also working on the District newsletter. Social media posts included support of the E.R.A. and the upcoming International Women's Day March 8th. Donna Neal suggested that members of the Z Club could be extremely effective in supporting social media efforts and Kate Gay agreed to make that recommendation.

UN – Marge Holzbog asked for thoughts and prayers for Zontians facing extreme challenges in the Ukraine.

Z Club – Carol Mangold reported that the charter meeting will be held January 28, 2025 at the University School of Milwaukee. Kate Gay is expecting ~12 girls to attend. Each will be presented with a Z Club pin, yellow rose and a certificate of charter. Several Milwaukee Club members will attend and volunteered to bring refreshments and paper goods to the event.

Spring Workshop – Carol Mangold reported that Cathy Myers will be sending a save-the-date email soon and the invitations will be sent mid-April. The theme is Strategic Planning. MRA location is confirmed as Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry was able to secure the space at no cost. Janet Kloser will provide a list of caterers that they have used, and Viola Rembert will assist as this is her non-profit business. Ruth Robertson will reserve hotel rooms. Registration fees will cover the meeting costs. Committee members are welcome, and they are looking for experience with online event registration.

Nomination – Karen Smith reported that the committee has not yet started up for this biennium. Carol Mangold shared the current and pending open positions.

New Club Business:

The email with information and invitation to the NAIDM will be distributed by Carol Mangold. Event dates are June 20-21, 2025 in Novi, MI. Donna Neal will be a panelist on one of the discussions that will focus on long-term relationships between Zonta clubs and the non-profits they support. Neu-Life will be our example. Joann Harris-Comodore may attend.

Announcements:

- Next General Club Meeting is virtual on Zoom February 26, 2025 6pm CT (5:45pm for socializing.)
- Spring Workshop May 17, 2025.
- NAIDM June 20-21, 2025.

Meeting was adjourned by President Carol Mangold at 7:57pm CT



Recognizing Black History Month

DID YOU KNOW...that the first Statue of Liberty was modeled after a enslaved black woman?

The statue, built in France from 1875-1884, was presented to America by the French. They were so moved by the recent abolitionism of slavery in America. They wanted to acknowledge the futuristic vision of its present-day politicians.

The crown, with its spikes, represent the ability to catch rays from the sun to draw attention to America's freedom. The tablet represents America's Declaration of Independence and is dated July 1776; when America's own "freedom" from England was declared. On the foot of the first statue there is a broken shackle, symbolizing the end of slavery in America and around the world.

The white-American politicians thought the statue was made to honor immigrants coming to America. The French government corrected that thought. They informed the Americans that the statue was made to commemorate the black Union soldiers of the Civil War. At that point the white-American politicians decided to return the statue to France. They finally agreed to accept the version of a statue that is currently standing on Ellis Island. The original statue is exhibited in New York, NY presently.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Kahl Wilkerson, PhD