

NEWSLETTER

October 2024

Area 2 • District 6

2024-2025

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

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Open Position, President Elect
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Laureen Ward, Treasurer
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Joanne Harris-Comodore Donna Kahl-Wilkerson Debra Koller La Toya Sykes

Send your newsletter submissions jonizonta@gmail.com

Visit us online at www.zontamilwaukee.org

Monthly Zonta Meeting

Club Dinner Meeting: October 23rd
5:30 Arrival & Social
6:00 – 8:00 pm meeting
Speaker: Angela Mancuso
The Women's Center, Executive Director

The month of

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Our program for the October 23rd meeting will be presented by Angela Mancuso from The Women's Center in Waukesha. The Women's Center is one of our selected grant winners from the Milwaukee Club's Foundation. The Women's Center provides safety, shelter and support to empower all impacted by domestic abuse, sexual violence, child abuse and trafficking.

Members are invited to participate in a mini service project for The Women's Center by contributing to the Center that evening. Current high-need items are provided on the list listed in the Service section of the newsletter.

The October Club meeting will be held at the **New Berlin Library**, **15105 W Library Lane**, **New Berlin**. (East of Moorland, off of National Ave).

Room Set up will be at 5:30 PM with the meeting beginning promptly at 6:00 PM. Dinner will include a choice of soups (including vegetarian, dairy and gluten free), fall green salads, hard rolls or bread, dessert, coffee and water. If you prefer a different beverage, please feel free to bring your own. The cost will be \$25.



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President's Message

ZONTA

CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

Greetings Zonta Sisters,

Autumn, especially October, is my favorite time of the year savoring the spectacular display of fall color, cool nights sleeping with the window open and long walks under the forest canopy carpeted with fallen leaves. We enjoy the scent and crackle of burning wood, pumpkins, adorable little trick or treaters and, if we are lucky, no early snow to contend with.

In early October, we have our District 6 Fall Conference in Carmel, Indiana and, hopefully, those attending will report back happy memories and new ideas to share with us.



I hope you are getting excited about our Fashion Show on October 19th. Much hard work has gone into preparations for many months and we're hoping a good time will be had by all as well as a successful fundraiser to continue support for our local partners. Please give Pam Knackert and Jackie Beaudry a heartfelt thanks for co-chairing this event. They and the rest of the Fashion Show committee have put in many hours of planning and organizing.

October 11, 2024 is the International Day of the Girl Child. The theme this year is "Girl's Vision for the Future" which focuses on the challenges girls face in access to education, limited choices, child marriage, sexual violence, health, and having a voice. Zonta is one of the leaders along with UNICEF and others tapping into the potential of young girls around the world.

For additional information see <u>zonta.org</u> or <u>https://www.unicef.org/documents/five-game-changing-solutions-and-adolescent-girls</u>. In our culture where most girls have more opportunities and freedoms than in some other parts of the world, sadly many young girls internalize negative messages about themselves and their potential. It's important that we reinforce positive messages to young girls to build self worth and confidence. Young boys

also need positive messages about themselves. We love them too! Both need guidance on developing healthy relationships with respect for the rights of the other.

The annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69/Beijing+30)) will be held March 10-21, 2025 at UN Headquarters and nearby locations in New York City. As many of you know Zonta International was granted consultative status with the UN/ECOSOC (United Nations Economic and Social Council) in 1969. Zonta is one of 141 non-governmental organizations with General Consultative Status at the UN out of 6491 NGO's. CSW is the largest gathering on women's rights in the world and Zonta has a presence at CSW in New York every year. If anyone is interested in attending from our club, now is a good time to start planning. It would be fun to have a group of us attend and enjoy the Big Apple together. New York is expensive so we would not need to attend the entire 12 days to benefit from the experience. Perhaps we could share accommodations in an Airbnb. More information can be found on zonta.org.

Happy Halloween, Carol Mangold President Zonta Club of Milwaukee





Service Projects

If you choose to donate to The Women's Center, please bring items to the October meeting.

Donation Wish List - Current High-Need Items:

- Culturally-inclusive haircare products
- Bath towels & bath sheets
- Diapers (sizes 5 & 6)
- Paper towels
- Ziploc bags (all sizes)
- Cereal
- Snack food
- Sugar, brown sugar & spices
- Boxed meals, pasta, rice (Ramen, Knorr, Rice-A-Roni)
- Pasta sauces & condiments (mayo, jelly)
- Salad dressing (Ranch, Italian, Thousand Island)





District 6 Service Update: Focus on Food Insecurity



Zonta District 6 Service Committee Chair Sally Bean has announced that the District's Service focus for 2024-2025 continues to be on food insecurity and requests Clubs to report on this quarterly.

They have established the following metrics:

- 1. club participation (goal 100% or 21 of 21 clubs) in the district service project
- 2. % of club members participating at least once (goal 50%)
- 3. # of donations made (see below for definition)
- 4. # of organizations supported through our donations

The major issues causing food insecurity:

- Grocery deserts no stores within a 15-minute drive/bus ride, certainly not walkable
- Types of food available not healthy food, not culturally sensitive food
- Rural communities lack access to food pantries that urban communities offer

They provided possible solutions, which include food pantries, food banks, community meals, community gardens, mobile units distributing food, educating our clubs and communities about culturally sensitive food needs. These solutions offer opportunities for volunteer hours as well as donation of products or cash, and club program ideas. In addition to food products, the District Committee agreed that pantries will take diapers, feminine hygiene products, toiletries, paper goods, cleaning supplies, and the local pantry "wish list items." Hence these items can be included in our overall "food insecurity" efforts. We can also include in our metrics the hours that members volunteer on their own, outside of Zonta efforts.



Note that the "Number of donations made" is not the total number of items. Rather it is the sum of the members who donated x how many donations each member made in the quarter. (e.g. person "A" made monthly donations, so that would be 3 for the quarter.)

According to Sally Bean, "Each club and each member can participate in their chosen way(s). Everyone can do something, and it all adds up!"

District 6 is comprised of the 21 Zonta Clubs in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana, with 474 members and is one of 32 Districts & Regions around the world.

Pictures from the District 6 collection at Fall Conference





Photos: Governor Isabel and Service Chair Sally Bean with collected food from District 6 representatives delivered to the Carmel United Methodist Food Pantry



Photo: Milwaukee Club members at the District 6
Fall Conference Saturday night dinner



Fashion Show

Fall Into Fashion: Build a Better World for Women and Girls Saturday, October 19, 2024 at Marriott Milwaukee West.

It's countdown time.

Pam will be sending out the volunteer sheet so Club Members can remember what they signed up for.

Some things for you and your guests to know:

Item Raffles open at 10 am and close at 11 am when we move into lunch. Please make sure your guests arrive in enough time to buy their tickets and get their choices made before 11. (Item raffle tickets are 10 for \$20, 50/50 raffle tickets will be \$10, \$20 for wine pull and \$20 for gift card pull).

Silent auction will open at 10 am and close at 11:45 am.

In the ballroom there will be **two coffee & water stations**, **one on each side of the stage**. Guests will need to get your own coffee and refills on water so if you can't get up or someone at your table can't, please get it for them or ask someone to help you.

We will have meal cards with the name badge so you & your guests can put them on the table so the server can identify what you ordered.

There will be **two kinds of desserts** preset on the table: a gluten free and dairy free chocolate cake and a cheesecake (placed every other one). Please switch to accommodate gluten/dairy free as needed.

Membership

We are planning a **Prospective Member Reception for Wed. November 20, 2024** in place of our regular meeting. It will be held at MRA, N19W24350 Riverwood Dr. in Waukesha, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

We will be asking members to participate as part of the program and to bring liquid or food refreshments for that evening (we will pass around a sheet at the October meeting). An invite is attached, and Pam will email one as well and we will have invites at the fashion show. Please invite anyone you think might be a good Zonta member – friends, neighbors, coworkers, relatives, and fellow volunteers and please plan on attending yourself. We will have a short business meeting after so plan until 8 pm for members.



You are invited to the

Zonta Club of Milwaukee Prospective Member Reception Wednesday, November 20th, 2024 5:30 p.m. socializing (light hors d'oeuvres will be served) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. program

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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. 15th

Come learn more about Zonta International and the Zonta Club of Milwaukee, an organization whose mission is to build a better world for women & girls locally and worldwide through service & advocacy. 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



Advocacy

On October 8th, Ashley Luthern of the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel led the front page with '**Domestic violence funds cut**'. "In recent weeks, organizations across Wisconsin have been forced to lay off staff, cut hours and reduce services." This is in response to cuts in federal VOCA funds that are replenished from federal fines and penalties.

To compensate for this loss, WI Attorney General Josh Kaul "has requested \$66 million in the next state budget cycle."

We will need to follow this initiative closely and advocate for the restoration of critical funding.









UN Report - October 2024

Since many of Zonta International's international projects are done under United Nations agencies, observation of the commemoration day seems appropriate.

October 24th is the annual commemoration day reflecting the official creation of the United Nations on October 24, 1945. In 1947, the United General Assembly declared October 24 the anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations to "be devoted to making known to the people of the world the aims and achievements of the United Nations and to gaining their support for its work."

In 1971, the United Nations Assembly adopted a further resolution declaring that United Nations Day shall be an international observance or international holiday and recommended that it should be observed as a public holiday by United Nations member states.

The US\$10,000 *Fellowship* is awarded annually to up to 30 women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering and space sciences. These Fellowships are in honor of Amelia Earhart, a Zontian when her plane went down in 1937 in her attempt to circle the globe.

"One More Good Flight: The Amelia Earhart Tragedy: by Ric Gillespie, published in 2024 by Naval Institute Press, is an excellent read for those interested in her disappearance. Mr. Gillespie's book combines intensive research in primary sources, remote underwater vehicles, forensic archeology and rigorous deductive reasoning. He uses advances in science to test the hypothesis that Earhart landed on Nikumaroro Island where she and Noonan, her copilot, perished.

Photo: District 6 representatives in their orange at the 2024 Fall Conference.

If you missed it, you missed a good one Focusing on the Future!











Book Corner – Club Sharing of Outstanding and Inspirational Women

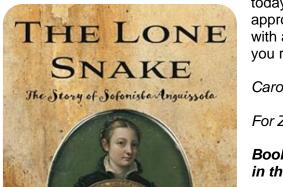
How many of you enjoy reading books about women who've been heroines or were accomplished in their field of expertise but faced barriers and were denied recognition during their lifetimes because of their gender?

There are many stories of heroines during WWII, however I did not know much about the high Renaissance period in Italy. I just finished a wonderful book by a Sheboygan author, Lisa Vihos, who also happens to be the Poet Laureate of Sheboygan and a friend of mine. The title of the book is 'The Lone Snake -The Story of Sofonisba Anguissola,' a talented Italian artist who was summoned to paint portraits for the King of Spain and his court during the Italian Renaissance in the 1500's. While this is a work of historical fiction. Sofonisba was an actual artist of that



period, and the book mentions other real-life female artists, poets and composers who were not granted their rightful place in history. I searched each of them and found examples of their beautiful art and music during the Renaissance period largely ignored in the history books. Lisa Vihos writes beautifully. Her characters are well developed, and their stories engage us and walk us through that period of time. I'm pleased to see that more books are being written nowadays on 'Herstory' and the incredible women we never learned about, but they existed and made a difference. I enjoyed reading this book and would recommend it to others.

If you'd like to recommend books about outstanding women in the past or women who are breaking barriers



A NOVEL ! LISA VIHOS

LISA VIHOS

October 2024

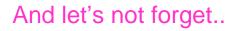
today, perhaps we could share in this space each month. Winter is fast approaching, and I will be spending many frigid nights indoors curled up with a good book, so would love some recommendations from the rest of you readers.

Carol Mangold

For Zonta Milwaukee Newsletter October 2024

Books suggestions and write-ups can be sent to Carol for inclusion

in the newsletter.





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Zonta Club of Milwaukee General Meeting September 25, 2024 Minutes

President Carol Mangold called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm CDT following social time at the New Berlin Public Library. The meeting was attended by 17 members; no guests.

Program:

Allison Byrne, founder of *Allies for Teens in Foster Care* shared her passion in creating and maintaining this program, initially all by herself, but she now has 2 Board members and a handful of volunteers that assist with different initiatives. Allison told the story of one teen girl who was impacted by the foster care system and the work Allison has done to support it. She reviewed the feedback she received from a recent survey and was proud of the response rate and positive comments. Her focus is on donating quality items that are needed and wanted. The art supplies donated were the springboard for the art contest which was inspiring, as Allison shared the portfolio of art and the teens' stories. The Club encouraged Allison to apply for our grant and a number of members voiced their willingness for on-going support.



Financial Report presented by Treasurer Laureen Ward:

The starting balance for August 2024 was \$10,851.43; less expenses of \$125; plus deposits of \$120.97 from last month's dinner net of Square fees; for a closing balance of \$10,847.40. The \$100 check remains outstanding. The balance of the CD = \$5,633.70. A motion by Viola Rembert was seconded by Joann Harris-Comodore and voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report.

New Z Club:

The new Z Club at University School of Milwaukee held their member enrollment meeting on September 10, 2024 and 29 members have joined. Discussion took place on how the club could support the effort and Chairperson, Nola Hitchcock Cross going forward. Donna Kahl-Wilkerson and Viola Rembert volunteered to help out at the next meeting October 10, 2024 if needed. It was suggested that we have a group of club members attend on the official charter day. Date is to be determined.

Committee Reports:

- Advocacy Diane Lindsley and Carol Mangold attended the *Unchained at Last* webinar on September 23, 2024. *Unchained* identifies legislators and other politicians who are willing to support legislation to end child marriage. Thirteen states have adopted age 18. The goal is for all states. Wisconsin is age 16. Committee members will explore how we can support this group in the future. In November, the Advocacy Committee will report on Women's mental health and in December, share more stats from *Unchained at Last*.
- Fashion Show Reservations are due October 5, 2024. 87 received to date, and responses generally increase as we get closer to the deadline. Volunteers are still needed for some areas of work on the day of the show. Wine, gift cards (\$20 min. value) and basket donations requested prior to the show.
- Finance See Treasurer's report above.
- Foundation At the Board Meeting August 29, 2024, Committee members selected the 9 agencies to receive funds presented at the fashion show next month.
- Membership The annual new member meeting will be held at MRA in Waukesha on November 20, 2024.
- Program October Club meeting will be held at the New Berlin Public Library. The speaker will be Angela Mancuso, Executive Director at The Women's Center in Waukesha.



- Scholarship The Committee is challenged to gain awareness of the available awards. They are posted on
 popular scholarship websites. The STEM award is expanded to include ages 18-35, and no longer just for
 higher education. Details of all awards and criteria are in the Fashion Show printed program booklet.
- Service The Committee is looking at ways to support the 9 grant recipients and 4 others. Feedback and assistance in evaluating are appreciated.
- Public Relations Articles for the newsletter are due to Joni Reese by the 7th of each month. A press
 release about the fashion show will be sent out to the list used in previous years. The fashion show
 program booklet can be used to promote prospective members and sponsors, so hold on the any copies
 leftover.
- UN Report provided in the newsletter.

Other Club Business:

Tickets to the viewing of *Beyond the Bridge* at the Oriental Theater October 26, 2024 were offered to interested members. The film showcases the travels to end homelessness.

Announcements:

- Fall Conference is October 4-6, 2024 at the Renaissance Indianapolis North in Carmel, IN.
- The Fashion Show is October 19, 2024 at Marriott Milwaukee West, in Pewaukee, WI.
- Next General Club Meeting is October 23, 2024 at New Berlin Library, 15105 W. Library Lane in New Berlin.

Meeting was adjourned by President Carol Mangold at 7:55pm CDT.



