

NEWSLETTER

October/November 2025

Area 2 • District 6

2025–2026 Zonta Club of Milwaukee

Officers

Carol Mangold, President Helen Ludwig, President Elect Karen Smith, Vice President Laureen Ward, Treasurer Shari Januszewski, Secretary

Club Board

Pam Knackert
Diane Lindsley
Christine Todd
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

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

Foundation Board

Diana Barnett
Joann Harris-Comodore
Debra Koller
Judith Lehman
Dawn Zehren

Send your newsletter submissions to jonizonta@gmail.com

Visit us online at www.zontamilwaukee.org

November 19th Club Meeting

Will be held virtually via Zoom 5:45 tech set-up/social, 6:00 meeting

Program: Our guest speaker for November will be Carrie Reichartz of Mercy's Light, part of Project Hope. Carrie is author of the book From Lawyer to Missionary and started a nonprofit organization that primarily operates in Kenya, Africa. In particular they focus on young girls and pregnancy. Some as young as 8 years old and may be a result of rape, incest or child marriage. Mercy's Light works to heal the young girl, educate her and help her to provide successfully for herself and child.

In this YouTube video, around 2:28 is a brief synopsis of her efforts.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=4e9bMvUtgeY

As we move toward the winter months, the board has decided to have our January, February and March meetings on Zoom to accommodate potential weather as well as dark travel



Our December meeting will be held at St. Camillus, hosted by Christine Todd.

Please plan to bring a dish to share. There will be a google sign up for main dishes, sides, and desserts.



Upcoming meetings:

December 17, Holiday Party at St. Camillus January 28 - Zoom February 25 - Zoom March 25 - Zoom April 22 - New Berlin Library

www.zontamilwaukee.org

President's Message

ZONTA

CLUB OF

MILWAUKEE

Dear Milwaukee Zontians,

Fall color transformed our landscape with luscious reds, yellows, and oranges so hope you had an opportunity to get out for a hike, bike ride, or drive to enjoy our beautiful State of Wisconsin. We had our Halloween Trick or Treaters here in Plymouth yesterday but for those still waiting to greet the little costumed people, I hope you

have as much fun as we did. Now we turn our thoughts to November with the Fashion Show and Thanksgiving. Our holiday social hosted by Chris Todd at St. Camillus on December 17th is not far off, so please put that on your calendar. This is a great chance to relax, socialize, and get to know other club members better.

Thanks to Donna Neal and Donna Conant for representing our club by volunteering to participate in Lobby Day at the State Capitol on November 18th. Ending Child Marriage in Wisconsin and the Equal Rights Amendment will be the focus of the visits with our state legislators. Cathy Myers, Area 2 Director, has provided a great opportunity to participate in advocacy and impact change for women and girls at the State level.

Thanks also to Joni Reese and Karen Smith for all their hard work on setting up the new website. They spent many hours working on this, so please let them know that their efforts are appreciated. The website is live now and looks great!





Last, but not least, thank you to Pam Knackert and Jackie Beaudry for co-chairing the Fashion Show Committee again this year. It's a huge task to pull together all the pieces that make our fundraiser a success and we appreciate their willingness to take

this on.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Mangold President Zonta Club of Milwaukee







Program

Thank you to our October speaker: Ruby Scheuing, Vietnam Veteran Army Nurse at the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, Vietnam and the 2022 Milwaukee County Veterans Board of Directors Veteran of the Year and is a "I Am Not Invisible Veteran" speaker. She was extremely interesting!!!

Our December meeting will be held at St. Camillus, hosted by Christine Todd. Please plan to bring a dish to share. There will be a google sign up for main dishes, sides, and desserts.

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Service Reminder for the Fundraiser!



Picture designed by Freepik





Service

Thank you to all who donated to our D6 service project at our District 6 Fall Conference!!!



Thank you so much for your partnership and large donation to Home Sweet Home Ministries!

We are so grateful for the support and appreciative you all chose us as your donation recipient.

Please thank your members and team for their dedication to helping others!

Blessings, Kody Swaney

Volunteer Coordination Home Sweet Home Ministries 303 E. Oakland Avenue Bloomington, IL 61701 Phone: (309) 828-7356





Fashion Show 2025

Saturday, November 15, 2025 at the Marriott Milwaukee West

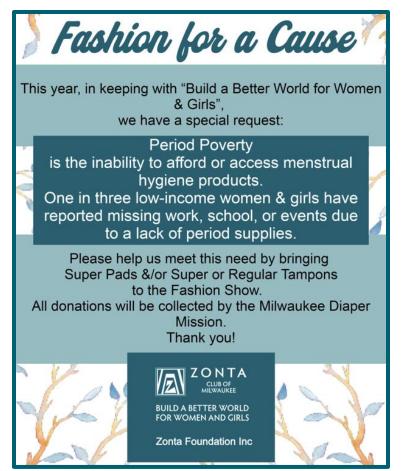
Theme: Fashion for a Cause: Build a Better World for Women and Girls

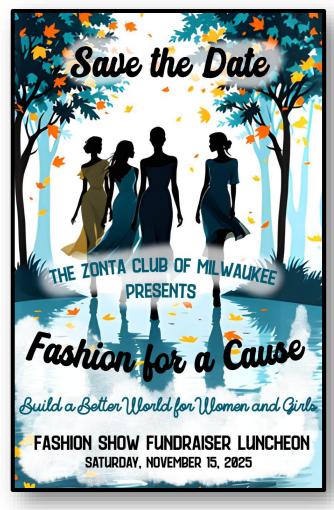
Chico's will be our vendor for fashions.

If you haven't volunteered for an activity for our Fashion Show, please contact Kate Gay to do so.

The volunteer list will be sent out as a reminder this week!

Please remember to bring "period products" to our event for the Milwaukee Diaper Mission Collection! Please remind your guests also!





Membership

Please invite any prospective members to our upcoming meetings. We will not be having a prospective member event this November because of the late fashion show, so if you have anyone interested, please invite them to a meeting and/or give Pam their name so she can follow up.





Foundation

The 2025 Awards will be presented to agency representatives at the Zonta Fashion Show Fundraiser scheduled for November 15, 2025.

Zonta Foundation Inc. 2025 Grant Recipients



The Cathedral Center is dedicated to helping women and families who are experiencing homelessness or poverty. They provide housing, case management, and other support services to help people achieve stability and self-sufficiency. Their work focuses on creating a safe and welcoming environment where individuals can receive the tools and resources they need to rebuild their lives. CCI's Employment Services Program funded in part by Zonta, focuses on employment, developing each

client's work readiness and provides a direct connection to employment, resulting in increased income, long term independence & financial stability.

Chayil, Inc. focuses on empowering women and young girls through mentoring, advocacy, and education. Chayil's Blueprint Business & Succession Planning program is a 15-week cohort-based training designed to help women launch, grow, and



sustain small businesses. The program is tailored for women facing systemic barriers to entrepreneurship, including those who are low-income, women of color, single mothers, and justice-involved individuals. Zonta funding is used to support one 15-week cohort annually



The Franciscan Peacemakers work to restore peace and hope for people impacted by sexual exploitation and addiction. They provide dignified work for women who have been victims of human trafficking. Zonta Foundation provides financial support for their Social Enterprise (SE) program that provides employment training to survivors of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, homelessness, and substance abuse. The program gives women survivors

of sexual violence the opportunity for employment and learning over 18-22 months in a

safe environment while they are on their healing journey.

The Milwaukee Diaper Mission

operates as a "basic needs bank," providing free diapers and period products to families in need. Zonta funding supports MDM's diaper and period product distribution program which serves low-income families



and individuals who struggle to afford basic hygiene essentials. They have a network of over 20 partner agencies that help with distribution of both disposable and reusable options for diapers and period products. By addressing diaper need and period poverty, MDM reduces financial pressure on families, enabling them to reallocate resources toward other essentials like housing, food, and transportation, and ultimately, overall family well-being and stability.



The Milwaukee Women's Center, a division of Community Advocates, is a crucial resource for those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. They offer comprehensive services, including emergency shelter, counseling, and legal advocacy. Their mission is to provide safety and support to victims and to work toward preventing violence in the community. Zonta's contribution supports their Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter

Program, providing safe housing and supportive services to empower women and their children to live their lives free from domestic violence.

The Muslim Women's Coalition works to promote greater understanding and cooperation among people of all faiths. They advocate for social justice, provide educational programs, and empower women in the community. Their efforts are centered on building bridges and fostering a more inclusive and equitable



society for everyone. MCW launched the Girls Hoops Club in 2023 with the support of Zonta Foundation Inc., and we continue to support this program. Using the sport of basketball, this program builds girls' self-esteem and confidence, and encourages the development of leadership, strategic thinking, teamwork, and other skills



Sojourner Family Peace Center is Wisconsin's largest provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services. They offer a wide range of support, including safe shelter, legal assistance, and counseling for adults and children. The center brings multiple services together under one roof, making it easier for families to access the help they need to escape violence and build a peaceful future. Zonta supports their Healing Services

programming which aims to address the long-term effects of domestic violence including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, substance abuse, anxiety, depression, and others. Healing Services provides survivors with the resources, support, and the assistance they need to achieve personal goals as they work toward self-sufficiency.

The Women's Center in Waukesha provides free and confidential services to individuals and families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. They offer a 24-hour hotline. emergency shelter, and support groups. The organization is dedicated to empowering survivors and promoting safe communities through education and prevention programs. Zonta is a key partner in their mission, helping to fund their programs, which provides shelter and transitional housing



for women and children fleeing violent situations.



Advocacy

Wisconsin Zonta Lobby Day November 18, 2025

Wisconsin Zontians are going to the Capital in Madison on November 18th to talk to lawmakers about passing a Wisconsin ERA and a bill to ban child marriage in Wisconsin. A joint resolution for a Wisconsin ERA has already been written and a bill ending child marriage is being finalized. We must convince our representatives that these issues should be a priority for them, too!

<u>Please join us on Lobby Day.</u> The schedule is still in the works, but you can count on a short training in the morning, lunch on your own, appointments in the afternoon and a short debriefing. We will also leave materials about these issues with lawmakers with whom we did not have an appointment. Probably 4-5 hours in Madison in total.

Tell Diane Lindsley or Donna Neal if you will attend or are planning to attend. Provide us with the name of your State Senator and Assemblyman. Look it up on myvotewi.org if you do not know.

We need the info to schedule appointments. Else fill out the google form via the link below, whether or not you will attend Lobby Day:

https://forms.ale/KUPppwL9m2nxTdXm9

Please submit this form before October 24th so we know with which representatives we should schedule appointments. We'll remind you and have some discussion at the Club meeting next week.

For more info or copies of the bills and other materials, contact Donna Neal, Diane Lindsley, or our Area Director Cathy Myers.

Thank you for all you do to support women and girls!





Advocacy continued

Women's Health

On October 14th, the Wisconsin State Senate passed Senate Bill 264 that "requires health insurance policies to provide coverage for diagnostic breast examinations and for supplemental breast screening examinations for an individual who is at increased risk of breast cancer, as determined in accordance with the most recent applicable guidelines of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, or has heterogeneously or extremely dense breast tissue, as defined by the Breast Imaging-Reporting and Data System established by the American College of Radiology. Under the bill, health insurance policies may not charge a cost-sharing amount for a supplemental breast screening examination or diagnostic breast examination."

A similar Bill (Assembly Bill 263) was introduced in the State Assembly on May 19th. A public hearing was held on October 15th. Currently, Rep. Amanda Nedweski (R-Pleasant Prairie) is rallying bipartisan support.

Why are these bills so important? Dense breast tissue makes breast cancer screening more difficult. Nearly half of all women who are 40 and older who get mammograms are found to have dense breast tissue. I am one of those and, although my 3D mammograms have not been alarming, follow-up imaging can be quite costly because insurance companies have not been required to pay for it

Now is the time to send an email or call your State Assembly Representative. Keep this website handy for future us but please use it now in support for Assembly Bill 263: https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Elected-Officials

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month

On October 6th, I(Diane) became aware of the 6th Annual Domestic Violence 5k Walk/RUN organized by ExPOSED Inc. that took place on October 4th beginning at Veterans Park at the Lakefront. More than 200 people registered for #LETTHEMLIVE to honor and support domestic violence survivors.





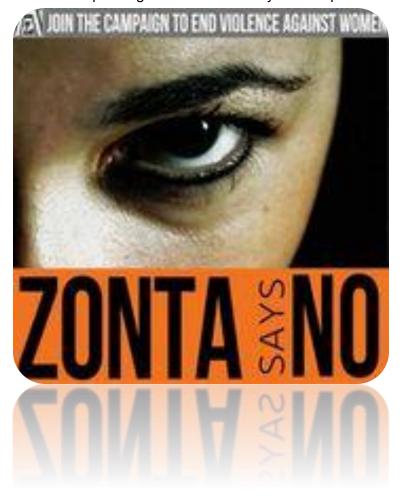
The event was reported in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel by Ashley Luthern. The following are excerpts from her article:

- Days before the run, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin released its annual report showing that domestic violence deaths had risen from 85 victims in 2023 to 98 in 2024, the highest toll since the statewide advocacy organization began tracking data in 2000.
- Milwaukee County District Attorney Kent Lovern told those assembled for the 5K that his office reviews nearly 9,000 domestic violence incidents each year.
- The report includes two calls for action: the creation of a statewide Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls Task Force and more sustained funding to support victims and survivors.
- The funding shortfall stems from the federal Victims of Crime Act, known as VOCA that has funded victim advocates, sexual assault forensic exams, emergency shelters and reimbursed victims for medical and funeral costs, among other services.

I believe we could participate in 2026 if some members have the time a month or so before the 100th Celebration. We have our orange T-shirts and the Zonta banner and this event would showcase the Club and the Zonta Says No messaging. The cost of Registration varies depending on whether or not you were part of a

group effort. Sojourner was represented at this year's event.

"EXPOSED Incorporated was created by THRIVERS Laverne Badger and Natalie Hayden. Thriving after trauma has been the focus, aligning with the mission to education, prevention, and awareness. Our mission as a nonprofit 501©3 is to provide our community with an opportunity to THRIVE without violence, by educating on what a healthy & unhealthy relationship should look like, by providing the tools needed to prevent becoming a victim of abuse and bringing awareness to how domestic violence is destroying communities and families along with being a national health issue."





Zonta International



The Zonta Foundation for Women has been on the front lines, supporting critical work and programs to promote and protect women's and girls' rights across educational institutions, workplaces, and local communities around the globe. But there is still work to be done.

Upon our 40th anniversary, we ask you to consider what Zonta means to you and make a special gift in honor of all we have accomplished and all we still need to do.



EVERY MEMBER EVERY NOVEMBER

1 November - 2 December 2025



ZONTA CLUB OF MILWAUKEE

Communications

Our new & improved Zonta Club of Milwaukee website is now LIVE!

We are happy to be displaying a more modern face to the world. Please check it out at www.zontamilwaukee.org.

Our focus on the website is to highlight who we are and what we do; and being an informational source for our members, prospective members and others who want to learn more or stay connected to our Club.

The password for our Members Only Resource area will be shared separately with our Club members.

Please send any feedback or improvement suggestions to Joni at jonizonta@gmail.com.





Empowering Women's Lives in Milwaukee and Beyond

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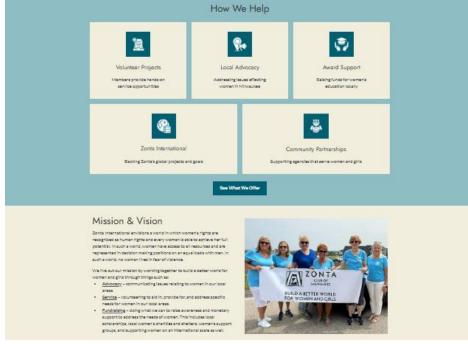
Global Network Impact
Leas work that the worked on Italian

Hands On Community

Basis service stranging thesis Milwaukee

Advocacy With Purpose

Binating women's volces at every level





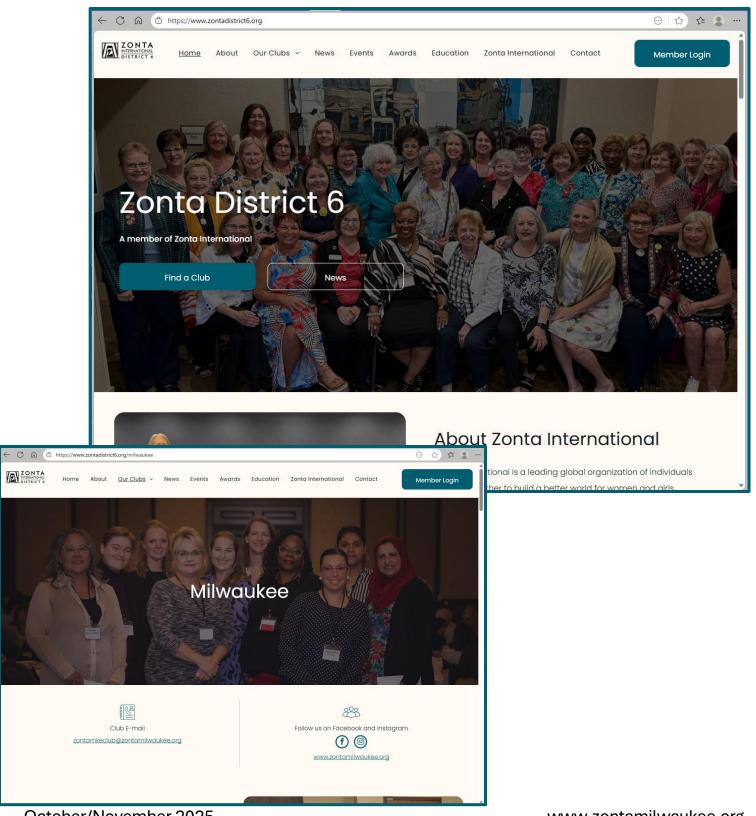
Events That Make Impact
Join us at fundraisers and programs dedicated to supporting women.

Evaluate Our Events.

Reach Out to Us



The District 6 website also went live this week, so you should check that out also! This can be found at www.zontadistrict6.org. Again, the Member login for extra resources for this site will also be shared separately.





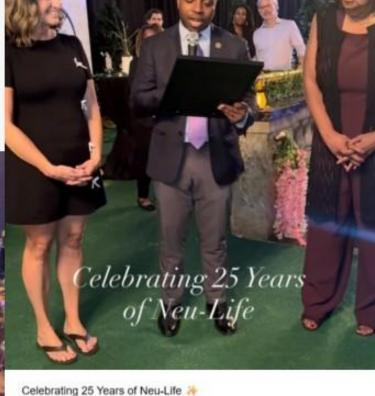
Congratulations to Neu-Life and Joann & staff!



Annual Art Show & 25th Anniversary Party Recap







When our founder, Ms. Joann Harris-Comodore, started Neu-Life 25 years ago, she never fathomed...this. And now there's so much to celebrate. Everything we are, everything we've done, everything we're becoming.

Thank you to everyone who has been on this journey with us and everyone who came out to celebrate 25 years of youth work and impeccable service to the community.

Special shoutout to @mayorofmilwaukee for recognizing Neu-Life with its own proclamation. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to celebrate with us.

Here's to 25 more!



Zonta Club of Milwaukee Club Meeting Minutes September 24, 2025

President-Elect Helen Ludwig called the meeting to order at 6:25pm CDT following social/dinner time and welcomed guests Monica Libertore from University School of Milwaukee and Jaquilynn Huff, award recipient.

Award Presentation – Viola Rembert introduced the Women in Business Leadership award winner, Jacquilynn Huff who shared her work and volunteer experience and the great value this award is to her to enable her to attend a leadership course.

Z-Club Presentation – Former school coordinator, Kate Gay and current coordinator Monica Libertore spoke about last year's achievement; Pennies for Piggies that helped fund the establishment of a pig farm in Rwanda. This year the Z-Club members are as eager and energetic and wish to choose a local cause for their fundraising efforts. In addition, they establish these three pillars:

- · Uplift themselves as leaders
- Raise awareness of issues
- Community outreach

Two girls who are taking a leadership role within the club attended the meeting and shared their insights. They are seeking engagement with women leaders and offered a daily 20-minute timeslot at 9:15am each school day to Zonta members willing to share their experiences and advice. Viola Rembert, Diana Barnett and Dawn Zehren will meet to strategize and provide some ideas on how our club can support them and help them to identify where they may want to focus their attention this year.

Monica will look into having Zonta Club members present to her Women's Healthcare class which includes other students in addition to Z-Club members on the topics of preparing for 'real-life' college away from home and career choices.

Centennial Celebration – Dawn Zehren and Donna Neal presented 3 of the possible investment opportunities for the funds raised at the 100th. An unofficial vote was taken to determine club members' interest level of these 3 initiatives that were identified at the August Meeting:

- 1. Project Wellspring funding for household furnishings and items to support long-term housing in conjunction with community advocates
- 2. Camp Hope Training Program for counselors in conjunction with Sojourner
- 3. Scholarship support of women in the Al and technology fields in conjunction with Milwaukee and Waukesha Technical Colleges

Treasurer's Report: Laurie Ward reviewed the financial statement for the month of August. The only expense was submitting annual dues for our newest member, however there are outstanding expenses related to reimbursing members that will clear next month. Deposits came from the August dinner meeting.

Beginning balance August 1, 2025: \$8,373.71. Ending balance August 31, 2025: \$8,703.38. CD balance: \$5,940.01 (Maturity date is 5/13/26.)



Committee Updates:

<u>Fundraising/Fashion Show</u> – Pam Knackert reminded members that the registration deadline of October 22nd is a hard deadline, and no exceptions can be made. Karen Smith is collecting \$20 or bottles for the wine pull. Gift cards with a \$20 or greater value are appreciated. October meeting will be the last chance to collect these as well as gift baskets for the raffle.

<u>Public Relations</u> – Joni Reese reported that the Board had approved the expense for Go Daddy to upgrade and refresh the website. They credited the club for recent expenditures for software upgrades and had already completed a first draft.

Laurie Ward offered members a variety of office supplies for the taking.

Announcements:

- October Board Meeting October 14, 2025 via Zoom
- October Club Meeting October 22, 2025 at VFW on Beloit Road in person
- Fall Conference October 10-12, Normal, IL
- November Board Meeting November 11, 2025 via Zoom
- Fashion Show Fundraiser November 15, 2025 at Marriott Milwaukee West, Pewaukee
- November Club Meeting November 19, 2025 at VFW on Beloit Road in person This was changed to Zoom after the Sep minutes were written.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm CDT.

Zonta Club of Milwaukee Club Meeting Minutes October 22, 2025

President-Elect Helen Ludwig called the meeting to order at 6:00pm CDT following social/dinner time.

Program

Pam Knackert introduced this evening's speaker, retired Army nurse Ruby Scheuring, who spoke of her experiences as a nurse in a Vietnam EVAC field hospital. From her enlisting against her mother's wishes to her marriage, the crises, and lost lives but also the fun including her wedding celebration in Vietnam; one thing was clear, the women who served were integral yet did not receive the recognition they deserved for their service.

New Business

Lobby Day at the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison will be held Tuesday November 18, 2025. Donna Neal shared the details of the day's activities coordinated by Cathy Myers across the State's Zonta Clubs. Participants may be able to meet with their representatives and/or senators in person, which has the greatest impact. Preevent training, likely virtual, will prepare participants for meaningful conversations regarding two key bills: WI ERA and ending child marriage. Members who are interested must let Donna know by the end of the week. Joni Reese will attend to capture photos. Carpooling is possible. There will be a space provided to serve as a landing spot to gather before and throughout the day.

Members are encouraged to complete the form that will identify their local representatives and senators in support of this event as well as future opportunities.



Financial Report

Treasurer Laureen Ward reviewed the financial statement for September: Beginning balance of \$8,703.38 plus deposits of \$193.27 and \$275.00, less expenses of \$2,332.25 for the website upgrades for an ending balance of \$6,839.40 as of September 30, 2025.

Committee Reports

<u>Fundraising/Fashion Show</u> – Helen Ludwig reported that attendance of 232 prior to this evening's meeting would likely exceed last year. Gift cards with a \$20 or greater value, bottles of wine or cash donations can still be collected. Pam Knackert asked that members remind their guests of the special collection of period supplies for the Milwaukee Diaper Mission at the event. A group of Z-Club members will be there to assist in whatever way needed.

<u>Program</u> – Pam Knackert reported that the November Club Meeting has been changed to virtual to accommodate the audio-visual needs of the presenter.

<u>Centennial Celebration</u> – Dawn Zehren met with Sojourner regarding Camp Hope and with The Milwaukee Women's Center Community Housing advocate to further explore these two worthwhile initiatives prior to the Club's vote of who will receive proceeds from the fundraising event.

<u>Z-Club</u> - Former school coordinator, Kate Gay reminded members of the Z-Club's three pillars:

- Uplift themselves as leaders
- Raise awareness of issues
- Community outreach

The club is still considering supporting Teens in Foster Care as well as other agencies including Robin's Nest and Kids Matter. Time allotted at a school assembly is being requested for a Zonta member(s) willing to share our mission, history and experiences as a Zontian.

<u>UN</u> – The Club needs a chairperson for this committee. The role is primarily information sharing; the primary venue is an article for the monthly newsletter.

Service – Donna Conant is soliciting feedback for any possible service projects.

<u>Public Relations</u> – Joni Reese has committed an enormous amount of time and effort on the website project. It is about 95% complete. Kudos to proofreaders. The District 6 Facebook page has pictures posted of Fall Conference. Like, comment and share.

The newsletter will be combined for a Fall issue.

An Instagram personality will attend the Fashion Show to promote the event.

<u>Membership</u> – Pam Knackert indicated the membership meeting that traditionally followed the Fashion Show will be planned for Spring, 2026. Guests are encouraged to attend our virtual meetings.

Announcements:

- November Board Meeting November 11, 2025 via Zoom
- Fashion Show Fundraiser November 15, 2025 at Marriott Milwaukee West, Pewaukee
- November Club Meeting November 19, 2025 via Zoom
- December Club Social December 17, 2025 at St. Camillus Community Room Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm CDT.