



March 2026

Area 2 • District 6

**2025–2026**

**Zonta Club of Milwaukee**

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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

**Foundation Board Officers**

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](mailto:jonizonta@gmail.com)

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

**March 25<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting**

**Social Time 5:30 PM, Meeting 6:00-8:00 PM**

**Location:**

**New Berlin Library, 15105 West Library Ln, New Berlin**

**Topic:**

At our March club meeting we will be welcoming **Andi Mallmann-Elliott, CEO Community Advocates**, who will be presenting our Centennial signature project, **Project Wellspring**.

We are so excited to meet Andi and learn more about the organization we will be partnering with! Please make every effort to attend and watch for an RSVP email from Ruth Robertson.

**If you can arrive early and help with setting up, that is always appreciated.**

***At our February club meeting the club indicated they would prefer to meet in person in March.***

***As such, we will be meeting at the New Berlin Public Library once again. For the 2026/27 club fiscal year, our intent is to continue to have 2-3 remote meetings (Zoom), 2 social or service meetings which will be in person at a location to be determined, 2 club meetings at the Shorewood Public Library and the remainder at the New Berlin Public Library. A corresponding schedule will be provided at our April business meeting.***

***Our hope is that by utilizing the two libraries we can continue to limit our individual member meeting expenses and also recognize that our club members are driving from various locations in the Milwaukee metro area.***



# President's Message



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
MILWAUKEE

We celebrate the historical contributions of women during the month of March. Until recently history was written from the perspective of men and focused almost exclusively on the contributions of men often ignoring the many courageous and accomplished women who made an impact. President Jimmy Carter proclaimed the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week in 1980. Later, in 1987, the entire month of March was declared Women's History Month by Congress. The National Women's History Alliance has designated the theme for the 2026 Women's History Month as "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future." *National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA)*

Fortunately, there are more books available to us today celebrating the contributions of women throughout history. "*We the Women*" by Norah O'Donnell was just released in February of this year. Another book, "*Her Story, A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*" by Charlotte S. Waisman, Ph.D. and Jill S. Tietjen, P.E., with a foreword by Madeleine Albright has been on my bookshelf for several years. More choices of books are available today for children featuring the heroic acts and accomplishments of women and girls. If you have a young boy or girl in your life, I encourage you to make these books available to them. Perhaps that could be another club book project in the future. By broadening knowledge of women's achievements and capabilities, we can change the narrative for both boys and girls. Hopefully, no young girls in the future will hear the demoralizing words, "Girls Can't Do That" from a boy or adult.



I would encourage all club members to join the Club Member Centennial Challenge of raising \$10,000 by May 31st which will be matched by a generous anonymous donor toward our Centennial Celebration fundraising goal. Please see details in the newsletter.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Carol Mangold*  
*President Zonta Club of Milwaukee*



# Club Updates



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
MILWAUKEE

## Centennial Committee Updates

### ***Strong Foundation – Stronger Future***

**GREAT BIG THANKS** to every member of the Fundraising, Publicity, History, Venue, Logistics, and Program & Entertainment Committees for our Centennial Celebration. Your efforts are showing, and momentum is growing.

Right Now, Every Club Member, part of a committee or not, has an opportunity to MULTIPLY Your Impact.

Certainly, you've heard of the generous anonymous donor who will match every dollar raised by individual contributors, up to \$10,000, before May 31st. But...

***What if you could more than double your impact?  
What if you could multiply it?  
Would you wanna know how?***

## **MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT - IT'S EASY.**

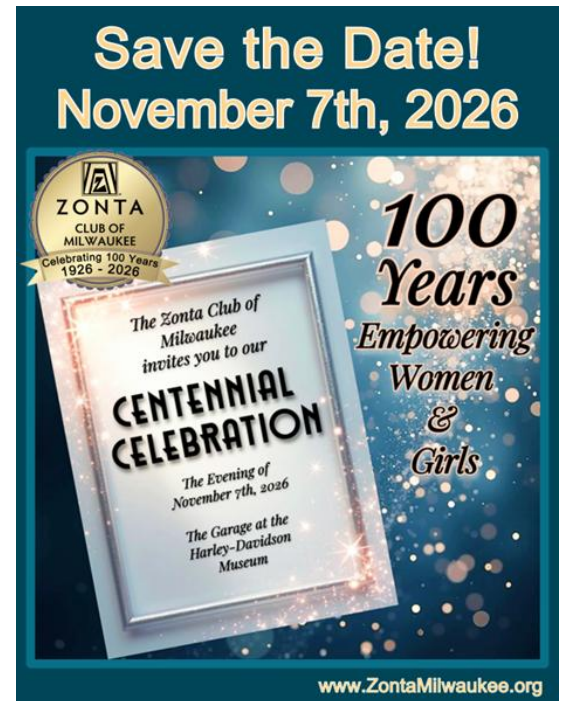
- You know people who would love to see women survivors build a better life with dignity and grace - to end cycles of domestic violence & human trafficking - but they don't know how to help.
  - You know people who are celebrating & talking about Women's History Month.
  - You know people who would chip in to help YOU - for just about anything you stand for.
- Make a list of who you know. (They don't have to live locally.)
  - Commit to connecting with your top 10, or more.
  - Call or text them. Your direct connection makes a difference.
  - Tell them that ZONTA Club of Milwaukee is partnering with Community Advocates to form Project Wellspring - designed to help survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking transition into safe, stable housing with dignity and support.
  - Share the link & ask if they'd like to help. Every dollar helps, and...
  - Let them know that today, their gift goes twice as far, due to a generous matching donor.
  - Celebrate — They are bringing someone closer to safety, stability, and a fresh start.
  - Rinse & Repeat.

***Really Easy. Really Effective. It just takes a little time and your commitment.***

BONUS: These conversations are a natural introduction to ZONTA. As your friends ask questions, invite them to learn more at our Prospective Member Meeting on Tuesday, April 28th.

**GREAT BIG THANKS - to YOU! Link: <https://zontamilwaukee.org/centennial/>**

- Dawn Zehren





## Centennial Fundraising Committee



You have been emailed a copy of the sponsorship packet and a generic solicitation letter (packet also available on website). Use this letter and packet to solicit companies and businesses you know or do business with such as your financial advisor, broker, banker, etc. for sponsorships or financial donations.

We will also be soliciting items that may be grouped into bigger items for a silent auction at the event. If you have any connections to Brewer Tickets, or other high-valued items please let us know. We will be sending out the general solicitation in July.

If you have any other ideas or suggestions, please let Pam, Jackie, Donna C. or Barbara know.

## Spring Zonta Family Challenge: Centennial Fundraising!

Double the impact of your donation this spring to our Club's 100<sup>th</sup>/Centennial fundraising effort by making an individual contribution to our Club's Zonta Foundation before May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

**A generous anonymous donor has pledged to match every new donation by individuals between now and May 31<sup>st</sup>, up to a maximum of \$10,000.**

***\$10,000 in individual donations this spring will become \$20,000 with this matching gift, and that gets us to 20% of our Centennial Fundraising goal of \$100,000!***

**All Club members are urged to donate and ask their family & friends who support Zonta to do the same.** Participation by all club members says we support and believe in the Centennial initiative and the work of Zonta International. Donations to Zonta Foundation Inc are tax deductible We will have more information at our February Club meeting.

To donate now, use this link to our webpage [zontamilwaukee.org/centennial/](http://zontamilwaukee.org/centennial/) and click the "Make a Donation" button.

Or mail a check payable to:

**Zonta Foundation Inc**

Mailed to: **Donna Neal**  
**2624 E Bellevue Place, Milwaukee, WI 53211.**



**We can do this!**

**4 \$500 gifts = \$2,000**

**20 \$250 gifts = \$5,000**

**30 \$100 gifts = \$3,000**

**\$10,000 x 2 = \$20,000!!**

**Thank you in advance for your support.**

*Centennial Fundraising Committee - Jackie Beaudry, Donna Conant, Pam Knackert, Barbara Wyatt Sibley*



## Centennial Venue Committee

Food choices are being narrowed down, and we plan to taste-test menu selections in April at the Harley-Davidson event space.

## Centennial Logistics Committee

We are looking into event platforms that can be used for tickets, check in, silent auction and paddle raises, while minimizing fees. In the meantime, Rally UP is being used with a donation page for collecting donation events and sponsorships.

A centennial event web page is available with event information and can be used to share messaging on the event with your prospective guests and donors.

<https://zontamilwaukee.org/centennial/>

\$1,000 + \$10,000

### Sponsorship Packages Offered

Benefit	Platinum Sponsor \$10,000	Gold Sponsor \$5,000	Bronze Sponsor \$2,500	Silver Sponsor \$1,000
Tickets to Event	10 (Reserved table w/logo)	5 reserved		
Recognition on event Invitations	Logo			
Acknowledgement on Presentation screen, event website and materials	X	X	X	
Add in printed event program (space 7 1/2" h x 4 1/2" w)	Full page	Half page	Quarter page	Name listed

**+ PLATINUM SPONSOR \$10,000**

**- GOLD SPONSOR \$5,000**

Includes:

- Organization Name/Logo displayed as a gold sponsor on event promotional materials
- Acknowledgement during the program
- Half page advertisement/recognition in the event program booklet
- 5 reserved complimentary tickets to the event

**+ SILVER SPONSOR \$2,500**

**+ BRONZE SPONSOR \$1,000**

[Become a Sponsor](#)   [Sponsor Information Packet](#)

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### Event Tickets & Donations

**+ Individual Ticket \$175**

**+ Table of 10 \$1,750**

**+ Make a Donation**

Ticket Sales to begin August 15, 2026!

[Buy a Ticket](#)   [Buy a Table](#)   [Make a Donation](#)

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The Zonta Club of Milwaukee invites you to our **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION** The Evening of November 19th, 2026 The Garage at the Harley-Davidson Museum

### Strong Foundation Stronger Future

Founded in 1926, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee reflects the vision and commitment of local women in diverse businesses and professions. For 100 years, our members have worked to ensure that women, whether in their communities or across the globe, have the support needed to thrive through education, mentoring, financial assistance, and safe environments free from violence.

Join us on November 7, 2026 at the Harley Davidson Garage as well celebrate 100 years of service in the community!

To commemorate our centennial anniversary, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee is honored to announce our centennial signature project, Project Wellspring.

**Project Wellspring**

1976 2026  
COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

A Collaboration of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee and Community Advocates

- Project Wellspring is a partnership between the Zonta Club of Milwaukee and Community Advocates designed to help survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking transition into safe, stable housing with dignity.
- The project will furnish at least 12 households entering transitional or rapid rehousing with essential household furnishings and items, while empowering participants to make choices within a budget - building financial literacy and independence.
- Led by Community Advocates with Asha Family Services and Fresh Start Learning, the program combines practical support with intensive case management that connects families to employment, health, legal, and wellness resources.
- A Zonta-funded flexible emergency fund will further remove barriers by covering urgent, unexpected needs that could otherwise derail progress.
- Launched as part of Zonta's 100th anniversary milestone, Project Wellspring strengthens housing stability, supports long-term self-sufficiency, and delivers lasting benefits for survivors, children, and the broader community.

## Centennial Publicity Committee

The Publicity committee has been busy with developing social media posts and centennial publicity needs for the year. This month we are focusing on history posts (see next page) and fundraising matching posts! Media content planning is underway – what, when and where to share.


**With our social media**, please follow on **Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn** and **like, comment & share!**



## Centennial History Committee & Women's History Month



**Strong Foundation  
Stronger Future**




**Milwaukee Women.  
Fearless Leadership.  
100 Years Strong.**

**Zonta Milwaukee isn't just an organization.  
It's a legacy of women who shaped this city.**

**HELEN HARRIS ALEXANDER**  
First Black person — and first Protestant — to graduate from Cardinal Stritch College's first graduating class (1948). Champion for early childhood education.

**MARY LOUISE NOHL**  
One of Milwaukee's most important artists. Her \$11.3 million bequest created the Mary Nohl Fund supporting youth arts.

**GRETA WERWATH MURPHY**  
First woman nominated to the MSOE Corporation board. First woman vice president. First woman Regent.

**HELEN IPHIGENIA BARNHILL**  
Civil rights leader who marched for school desegregation and fought for housing and employment equity.

*Here's to the women who led.  
Here's to the women who lead.  
Here's to the women who will.*

[zontamilwaukee.org](http://zontamilwaukee.org)



**Strong Foundation  
Stronger Future**





**She Went First.  
Before it was common.  
Before it was comfortable.  
Before it was expected.**

**For a century, Zonta Milwaukee has  
been home to women who stepped  
forward anyway.**

**AILEEN ROCKJORDAN**  
The only woman and only minority in her business school class. "You only live once; but if you live it right, once is enough."

**FAYE McBEATH**  
Broadcasting in 1926 — before WTMJ officially went on the air. Known as "The Story Lady."

**DOROTHY WITTE AUSTIN**  
Pioneer in journalism who fought for the right to return to work after having a child.

**ARLENE TIERNEY KENNEDY**  
First and only woman assistant district attorney in Wisconsin. First woman chief examiner and executive secretary of the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission.

*Each one stepped into a space where women were not expected.  
Each one made it easier for the next woman to walk in.  
That's what 100 years of leadership looks like.*

ZONTAMILWAUKEE.ORG



**Strong Foundation  
Stronger Future**





### A CENTURY OF FIRSTS. A LEGACY OF COURAGE.

For 100 years, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee has been powered by women who didn't just participate in history — they changed it. This Women's History Month, we celebrate our own trailblazers.

**CATHERINE B. CLEARY**

First woman officer of First Wisconsin Trust Company (1949) — later the first woman elected president and to the board of First Wisconsin Bankshares.

**ERNESTINE O'BEE**

First woman licensed as a mortician in Wisconsin (1952) and first woman appointed to the State Board of Examiners.

**LILLIAN LEENHOUTS**

Wisconsin's first licensed female architect (1942).

**BUNNY RAASCH-HOOTEN**

Milwaukee's first female television news anchor (1974).

**ELVERA TAYLOR**

First — and still the only — Black female CPA in Wisconsin (1977).

*They weren't trying to be "first."  
They were simply unwilling to be last.*

# Club Updates



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
MILWAUKEE

## Membership

Don't forget to invite your friends or relatives who indicated interest in Zonta at the fashion show (or anyone else interested in Zonta) to our March 25th meeting. We will be hearing from our Project Wellspring speaker, Andi Elliott, from Community Advocates and we will be inducting her as a new member.

We also will be holding a **Prospective Member Reception on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>** at the New Berlin Public Library. So also invite any prospects to that as well. You should have received the invitation to forward to your prospects. Also, we will be wanting members to offer to bring an appetizer to this event. We will start a sign up at our March meeting. And we will be asking members to be on the agenda. Plan on attending.

**You are invited to the Zonta Club of Milwaukee Prospective Member Reception Tuesday, April 28, 2026**  
5:30 p.m. socializing (light hors d'oeuvres will be served)  
6:00 to 7:30 p.m. program at the New Berlin Public Library Community Room  
15105 W Library Lane New Berlin, WI

**Are You Interested in...**  
*Expanding your professional network?*  
*Engaging in service & advocacy?*  
*Learning more about local & international issues impacting women?*  
*Meeting women outside of your profession? And across the world?*  
*Giving back to help others?*  
*Enhancing your resume with leadership opportunities?*

**RSVP**  
to Pam Knackert at pmknackert@gmail.com or cell 262-309-3927 by Friday, April 24th

**ZONTA CLUB OF MILWAUKEE**  
Celebrating 100 Years 1926 - 2026

**ZONTA club**

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](http://www.zonta.org) and [www.zontamilwaukee.org](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org)

## Z Club Update

Z-Club is relatively quiet right now with school off for PT conferences and heading toward spring break. Monica reports that the girls raised money over St. Valentine's Day to get supplies for Kids Matter, Inc. The singing telegrams were a fun innovation to make the fundraiser a success. They still plan a Pennies for Pigs fundraiser this Spring and will discuss details at their April meeting. Wynter, Lauren, and Monica hope the next generation of Z-Club leaders will take charge of that initiative.



## Advocacy

### **Wisconsin Women's Council Releases 20-Year Report on Women's Representation in Government**

**March 10, 2026**

MADISON, WI — The Wisconsin Women's Council today released a comprehensive new report, Women's Representation in Wisconsin Government: Twenty Years of Progress and Persistent Gaps (2005–2025), documenting two decades of trends in women's political leadership across federal, statewide, legislative, judicial, county, and local offices.

The report finds that while Wisconsin has made meaningful gains in some areas, particularly in the judiciary, women remain underrepresented in most elected roles. In 2025, women held just 27% of elected offices statewide, despite comprising half of Wisconsin's population.

March 2026

[www.zontamilwaukee.org](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org)

# Club Updates



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
MILWAUKEE

"Representation shapes policy priorities, public trust, and the legitimacy of democratic institutions," said Jeanne Duffy, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Women's Council. "This report is both a record of progress and a call to action. Achieving gender parity will require sustained commitment and systemic change."

The Women's Council promotes initiatives to empower women, serves as a clearinghouse for information on programs and resources, conducts research on the status of women, and engages in unique partnerships to address barriers and inequalities affecting Wisconsin women. The Women's Council is comprised of 15 members appointed by the Governor and Legislative leaders.

For the complete report:

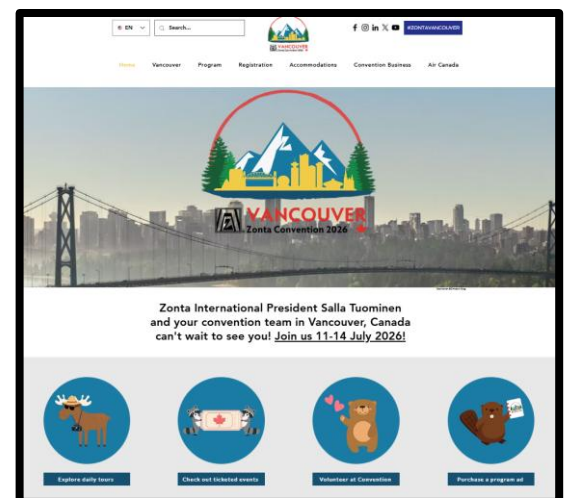
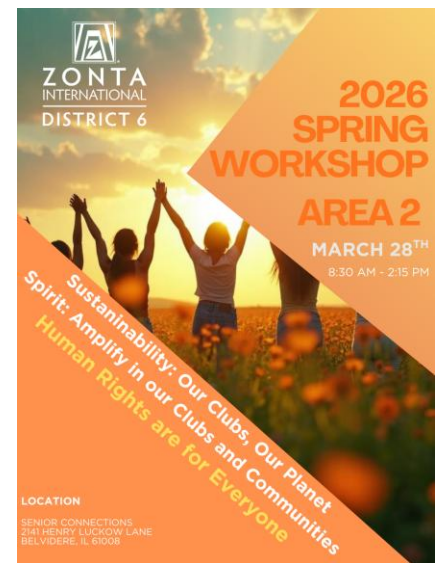
<https://womenscouncil.wi.gov/Documents/Women%20in%20Elected%20Office%202005-2025.pdf>

## Area, District 6 and ZI Updates

### Area 2 Spring Workshop March 28<sup>th</sup> in Belvidere, IL

Members can register via check/mail, QR code, or by using this link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-spring-workshop-area-2>

### Save the Date: District 6 Fall Conference – October 10<sup>th</sup> in Lombard, IL





**Zonta Club of Milwaukee  
Club Meeting Minutes  
February 25, 2026  
Virtual Via Zoom**

President Carol Mangold called the meeting to order at 6:06pm CST. There were no guests.

**Financial Report**

Treasurer Lauren Ward reviewed the financial statement for January 2025: There were no deposits or withdrawals so the beginning and ending balance were \$6,331.62 as of January 31, 2025. The CD value is \$5,940.01. This Treasurer's report was previously accepted by the Board at their January Board Meeting. Laurie sent an email request for budget information to committee chairs, and some have responded; She will resend and begin drafting the budget.

**Florence Eiseman Annual Sale - Service Opportunity**

Deb Koller shared that Florence Eiseman, who is a former Zontian, is having their Annual Warehouse Sale that several members volunteered to work last year in recognition of Florence donating a portion of retail sales to our Foundation on Giving Tuesday. The sale is April 30 – May 2. April 30 is a preview sale for invited guests and important clients. This day would be especially beneficial to attend as this day attracts our ideal audience for sponsorship and membership. Several members agreed to work that evening if we are able to promote our Club and our Centennial Celebration at the event. Deb Koller will share contact information with Dawn Zehren and Dawn will reach out to see if this could be mutually beneficial this year.

**ZI Convention Vancouver - Delegate/Alternate Nominations & Vote**

Carol Mangold reported that because we have 29 members, we are able to send one delegate and one alternate to the annual convention. Pam Knackert nominated Helen Ludwig for Delegate; Donna Neal seconded the motion, and it was unanimous. Pam nominated Karen Smith for Alternate; Donna Neal seconded the motion, and it was unanimous. The Club had previously approved to offer funds to both to help off-set meeting/travel expenses, and it is included in the budget.

**Strategic Plan for 2026 – Club Discussion and Approval**

Carol Mangold reviewed the Vision and Mission of Zonta International and District 6 focuses that were determined previously at District 6 Conference(s):

- Grow Membership
- Impact Communities
- Strengthen Communication

In January the Board made the decision to revisit strategic planning following the Club's vote on the project choice so that tactics could be specifically identified to support the Centennial Celebration and the chosen project, which is Wellspring,

Carol and Pam Knackert reviewed/presented the worksheets she had created and previously sent to all members with tactics that exclusively support the Centennial Celebration for this first phase of the strategic plan. They outlined each tactic, intended committee and target date. Each committee should accept the tactic and build out the activities that will support the achievement. Many members provided input and additional suggestions for additions to the worksheets. Pam collected the feedback, will edit the worksheets and Carol will share with the Club in the future.



## **Centennial Celebration Update**

Dawn Zehren played a short video recorded by Community Advocates CEO Andi Elliott. In the video, Andi expressed her excitement and gratitude for our Club's decision to support the Wellspring project exclusively with proceeds raised at the 2026 Centennial Celebration, and beyond. She is looking forward to sharing more details about the project with our Club at the March Club Meeting.

Barbara Wyatt Sibley shared the Club Member Challenge to raise, donate or pledge to donate \$350 per member to achieve a \$10,000 fund raising goal that will be matched by a gracious, anonymous donor. The challenge ends May 31, 2026. Funds raised to date = \$3,000. Details were outlined in the newsletter. Checks should be made payable to Zonta Foundation and mailed to Donna Neal.

Dawn Zehren shared our website now includes an announcement of the Centennial event and ways to sponsor or donate directly from the site.

## **Committee Reports**

Membership Committee – Pam Knackert reminded members to invite guests to Club meetings and to the Prospective Members Reception on April 28, 2026 at the New Berlin Public Library.

Public Relations – Joni Reese shared that she and Helen Ludwig had attended the Zonta Club of The Villages (Florida) fundraising fashion show and made some strong networking contacts.

## **New Business**

### March Club Meeting

Members discussed the desire to change the March Club Meeting from virtual to in-person. Several venues were considered and following the meeting, Pam Knackert was able to secure the New Berlin Public Library.

### Centennial Celebration Promotional Event

Dawn Zehren presented the opportunity to participate in the Brookfield Chamber of Commerce event focused on Non-profit organizations. The event is March 19th at the Brookfield Square Whirly Ball from 4-6:00pm (set-up at 3pm). This is an exceptional opportunity to promote our Centennial Celebration among attending businesses that may be open to sponsorship of our event. The cost is \$135 for a table/booth. Shari Januszewski motioned to approve the expense; Donna Neal seconded the motion, and it was unanimous. Dawn and Viola Rembert have committed to represent our Club at the event.

## **Announcements:**

- March Board Meeting – March 10, 2026 6pm. CDT via Zoom
- March Club Meeting - March 25, 2026 6pm CDT in-person at New Berlin Public Library at 15105 Library Lane, New Berlin, WI 53151
- Spring Workshop = March 28, 2026 in Belvidere, IL. (Registration is open.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm CST.