

THE ZONTIAN

The Membership Voice of Zonta International
2006-2008 Biennial Issue Two • October 2006



Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide



CONVENTION WRAP-UP

For more information on the 58th Zonta International Convention in Melbourne log on to www.zonta.org/convention



4



11



14



World Headquarters
557 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661-2202 USA
Telephone: 312-930-5848
Fax: 312-930-0951
www.zonta.org

Janet Halstead, Executive Director
Cathe Wood, Director of Development and Communications
Emily Aughinbaugh, Communications Manager

Design: Meyers Design, Inc.
Printing: ABS Graphics, Inc.

The Zontian (ISSN 0279-3229) is published quarterly by Zonta International. As Zonta International's official publication, this magazine carries authorized articles regarding the organization's programs and activities. No responsibility is assumed for opinions of other authors. Annual subscription rate: \$8.50 (USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland) \$17 (individual airmail outside USA). Publication office address for the publication listed above. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, Illinois USA and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Zontian*, Zonta International, 557 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois 60661-2202 USA.

THE ZONTIAN

2006-2008 Biennial Issue Two • October 2006
Volume 87 • Number 3

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 President's Message
- 4 Convention
- 8 Foundation President's Message
- 9 The World of Zontian Giving
- 10 Young Women in Public Affairs Award Program
- 11 Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program
- 12 Zonta International and the United Nations
- 13 Membership
- 14 Avenue of Service
- 15 Zonta Action
- 16 Welcome New Clubs

DID YOU KNOW...

Zonta Convention Fast Facts

- The first Convention of the Confederation of Zonta Clubs was held at the Onodaga Hotel in Syracuse New York USA in 1921.
- Conventions were held annually through 1952.
- The first Convention held outside the USA was in 1934 in Montreal Quebec Canada.
- One of the largest Conventions in Zonta history was Convention 2004 in New York, attended by 2,271 Zontians and 537 guests from 58 countries.
- Convention 2006 photographs and DVD are available for purchase at www.zonta2006.com
- Convention 2008 will be in Rotterdam, The Netherlands and 2010 will be in Bangkok, Thailand.



Convention 1927, Washington D.C., USA



Olivia Ferry

It was a great Convention – one of the best-organized and well-paced Conventions in recent history. Past International President Mary Ellen Bittner was outstanding and was in her element as she presided over the Convention with great facility and élan, exemplifying how future Conventions should be run. We commend our tireless and extremely capable Convention Committee led by Naomi Arnold. It was as if our Zontians Down Under had mastered the art of precision, meticulousness and grace under pressure. I likewise recognize all the hard-working volunteers who served during the Convention and everyone that actively participated to make this 58th Convention truly great! I only regret that distance and the cost of travel prevented many Zontians from joining.

During the 2004-2006 Biennium, the ZI Board worked very hard to review our shared understanding of why our organization exists and its aspirations for the future, identifying in the process, critical issues and over-all priorities to best respond to the circumstances of our changing environment. Zonta's strategic plan, *A Course for the Future 2006*, together with the biennial goals and international committee goals for 2006-2008 that support and operationalize the plan, were discussed and approved at Convention. Key to our core beliefs and strategies that impinge on our mission and vision for the future are the importance and role of effective advocacy in improving the impact and usefulness of our service efforts. While mission-focused service is at the heart of Zonta as an organization, advocacy is a powerful process that is critical to advancing the status of women.

Other priorities of major strategic importance adopted by the Convention are:

- A net gain of 1,000 members through effective recruitment, retention revitalization and new club formation strategies.
- Identity and visibility goals that are anchored on the strength of Zonta's credibility and driven by a well-crafted marketing program and brand management campaign.
- Financial and ZIF fundraising goals of US\$3.805 million.
- Governance and organizational practices goals intended to monitor progress and promote organizational effectiveness.

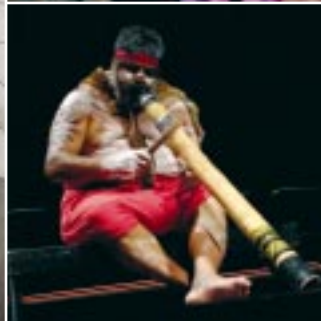
The Convention also approved two new International Service Projects and the continuation of two existing projects. Aimed at improving women's education, health and economic self-sufficiency, these projects work through our service delivery partners: CARE International, UNIDO and the Afghan Institute of Learning. All projects to prevent violence against women are centralized under ZISVAW giving principal emphasis to anti-trafficking projects. We begin with STAR Network's RAMP project to prevent trafficking in persons across the borders of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia-Montenegro (this includes supplementary advocacy modules for Zonta clubs in Europe) and will explore similar projects in Asia and other areas of the world.

Bringing our mission and goals to life increases the value to current and potential members. Each member must be given the opportunity to know Zonta intimately and to contribute her ideas and thoughts in a learning environment that values knowledge-sharing and open communication. We have a big job before us as we scale the heights toward our vision through our ambitious biennial goals. I have no doubt Zonta can do it, by converging our programs, policies and resources into a whole centerpiece of action, woven with the individual zeal and dedication of every Zontian in the organization.



On 26 July 2006, Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo awarded Olivia Ferry the Philippines Presidential Medal of Merit.

The flags of 68 member countries, exquisite kimonos (Japan), jupepagne (Togo), dirndl (Austria), saris (India) and headwraps (Africa), provided a colorful backdrop to the Convention's Opening Ceremony. Big screens projected the inspirational performances of Aboriginal musicians and the Australian Youth Choir.



The Zonta Convention Experience



More than 1,900 Zontians and guests from 58 countries traveled Down Under in June to share in the International Understanding, Justice and Peace that underscored the 58th Zonta International Convention. Over 1,000 professions were represented and 650 first-timers attended. Over the next few pages, Experience Convention through the words of one first-timer: Sarah Comiskey of the Zonta Club of Brisbane Inc, Queensland, Australia.

"Education is a human right but it is also a fundamental necessity if we are to see changes in the wretched lives of millions of women around the world. We who are privileged by our educations have an obligation to these women."

◀ The Honourable Dame Silvia Cartwright, New Zealand Governor-General, keynote address, accepting a gift from Past International President Mary Ellen Bittner.

"I hope everyone who attended the International Convention in Melbourne enjoyed it as much as I did! From Dame Silvia Cartwright's keynote address to the festive closing banquet, there was a sense of bonhomie, a desire to accomplish the business as efficiently - and fairly - as possible, and a mission on the part of the Convention Committee to ensure that every single participant had the best time imaginable."

— Mary Ellen Bittner, 2004-2006 International President



As a Zontian of 12 years, I was excited at the thought of attending my first Convention. As the flags and history of Zonta unfolded in the Opening Ceremony, I realised just what the word *International* in Zonta means. It felt wonderful to sit among 2,000 women and feel part of something so big and meaningful.



"I was privileged to be part of a professional, exciting and memorable convention. The Convention Committee was a great team, the volunteers were exceptional, Janet Halstead and HQ staff were brilliant, and Mary Ellen Bittner was outstanding. Most of all I appreciated the enthusiastic, motivated Zontians who participated and made Convention such a positive and enjoyable experience through their warmth, generosity and support."

— Naomi Arnold, Convention Committee Chairman

▲ District 23 Governor Beryl McMillan explains the Convention packet given to every attendee to help navigate the week's events.

▶ The District Meet and Greet and Open Forum allowed Zontians to share success strategies from different parts of the world and to pose organizational questions to leaders.





"The personal development journey I was on was aided greatly by Zontians. I received such wonderful warmth, enthusiasm and encouragement, and you can't put a value on that."

– Susan Anderson, AE Fellow

Over the next few days, I absorbed the business session discussions, listened to candidates' speeches for leadership, and was inspired by the exceptional award winners whose lives have been shaped by Zonta.

► For the first time, clubs could register their delegates online. Delegates used hand-held voting devices to cast votes.



◀ (left to right) Rachael Germann, 2005 Klausman Women in Business Scholar; Susan Anderson, 1994 and 1996 AE Fellow; and Kim Boyce-Campbell, 1991 YWPA recipient, met Zontians whose contributions to the Foundation made their awards possible. Donors were able to hear first-hand how their contributions make a difference in women's lives. See Page 9 for Foundation at Convention.



▲ Outgoing International President Mary Ellen Bittner with Past International Presidents (left to right) Margit Webjörn, Shirley Schneider, Mary Magee, Leneen Forde and Val Sarah shared another international experience in Melbourne.



◀ At the Closing Ceremony, Zontians dressed in their finest to say farewell to new friends, to show their appreciation for last biennium's leaders and to usher in a new biennium with excitement.



"The generosity of Zontians at Convention was outstanding! Donations at the Foundation Booth far surpassed our expectations for the Rose Fund. This is an exciting beginning for the next biennium."

– Lollie Harper, Development Committee Chairman

Election Results

Your 2006-2007 International Board



President	Olivia Ferry
President-Elect	Beryl Sten
Vice President	Dianne Curtis
Treasurer/Secretary	Gloria Wristen
Directors	A.O. Omotayo Morgan
	María José Landeira Østergård
	Simone Ovarth Bruno
	Karin Nordmeyer
	Bonny Schumacher
	Alicia Sirtori Torres
	Kika Ziti

Dilruba Ahmed, Kerry Dixon-Fox and Ragna Karlsdóttir will replace A.O. Omotayo Morgan, María José Landeira Østergård and Simone Ovarth Bruno in 2007.

2006-2008 Nominating Committee

Chairman	Naomi Arnold
Co-Chairman	Mary Ellen Bittner
Members	Kikuko Hara
	Judith Johnston
	Yinka Koso-Thomas
	Patricia Logan
	Marie-Helene Mallet
	Gabriele Springer
	Chin-Fong Yeh



After the Gala Dinner, the 2006-2008 International Board and District Governors were installed. Outgoing leaders ceremonially pinned incoming officers.

► 2006-2008 President-Elect Beryl Sten, Zonta Club of Växjö, Sweden, congratulates incoming Vice President Dianne Curtis, Zonta Club of Santa Clarita, California.



◀ Outgoing President Mary Ellen Bittner, Zonta Club of Washington, D.C., hands the presidential gavel to the 2006-2008 President Olivia Ferry, Zonta Club of Makati & Environs, Philippines.



"The Convention fulfilled what it set out to do with precision and zest as one impressive presentation after another of our sterling achievements last biennium and our plans for the next two years came to life on the awesome stage of the Convention hall."
— Olivia Ferry, 2006-2008 International President

So there you have it. I was unsure about how it would all go, but Convention allowed me to see the big picture of Zonta and to realize again why I had joined as a young 23-year-old. I felt proud to be a Zontian, and my commitment to serve was reinvigorated. We may represent diverse professions and age ranges, but our commitment to Zonta is shared and I felt a real connection.

- Sarah Comiskey



(left to right) Sarah Comiskey, Jennifer West, Rhyl Row (Brisbane Inc.)



Anne Silvester

“We say thank you to you all!”

Dear Zontians and friends,

What an excellent Zonta International 58th Convention! In June 2006 Zontians from many parts of the world travelled “Down Under” to Melbourne. From all accounts the hospitality was terrific; entertainment was super; the Gala Dinner memorable; the business sessions well organised and even the dreaded bylaws superbly handled; fellowships aplenty; and new friends made. Club delegates went home with a lot of information on the Foundation and we encourage each Zontian to read the printed Zonta International Foundation Biennium Highlights Report 2004-2006 given to all who attended the Convention.

At the Convention Foundation Booth, Zontians gave generously resulting in donations totalling over US\$40,000. Contributions were also presented to the Foundation at the Gift Giving to Presidents on Thursday. In addition, we recognise the special gesture by the newly formed Zonta District 31 (Taiwan) for their donation of US\$10,000 to the Foundation’s Endowment Fund. We say thank you to you all!

We heard at Convention inspiring presentations from past recipients of the Amelia Earhart Fellowships, the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships and Young Women in Public Affairs Awards. All their lives in one way or another had been influenced by these Zonta educational awards and scholarships. We ask for your continuing support towards these Zonta educational programs.

**ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
2006-2008 FUNDRAISING GOALS**

Rose Fund	US\$ 800,000
Amelia Earhart Fellowship Fund	650,000
Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship Fund	125,000
Young Women in Public Affairs Fund	150,000
International Service Fund	1,500,000
ZISVAW Fund	550,000
WHPPF Fund	30,000
TOTAL	US\$3,805,000

In addition to the operational fundraising goals for the 2006-2008 Biennium, in celebration of the Zonta International 100th Anniversary, the Zonta International Foundation proposes a US\$10 million Endowment Fund by 2019. During the 2006-2008 Biennium, the Foundation Board and Development Committee will focus on how to achieve this goal.

The 2006-2008 Biennium fund raising goal of US\$3,805,000 has been accepted by the Zonta membership and raising the funds will continue to strengthen the Zonta International service projects and scholarship programmes funding the needs of women in education, in health, in economic well being and in preventing violence against women. We can make a difference to the lives of women and we continue to advance the status of women worldwide. Your continuing financial support is much appreciated.

Anne Silvester

For the Foundation, Convention was about thanking Zontians for their outstanding support during the Biennium, and getting the new Biennium off to a good start.



Zonta International Foundation at 2006 Convention

Melbourne was a wonderful city in which to celebrate the successes of 2004-2006 and to start off the 2006-2008 Biennium with more successful fundraising. ... Convention 2006 presented multiple opportunities for the Foundation to thank donors and show our appreciation, as well as multiple opportunities for convention-goers to continue their support of Zonta's international programs.



Sally Gordon, Zonta Club of Adelaide Flinders makes the first contribution at the booth

For those who had made extraordinary contributions to the Foundation during the Biennium and over their lifetimes, the Foundation held a reception at 41 at The Rialto, sponsored by RSM McGladrey FPO, to extend a special thank you and to give donors an opportunity to personally meet Susan Anderson, Rachael Germann and Kim Boyce-Campbell, the Amelia Earhart Fellow, Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship and Young Women in Public Affairs Award recipients, respectively.



Foundation Director Amy Lai thanks the donors of District 26 in Chinese and Japanese.

Zontians were encouraged to visit the Foundation Booth ... Meanwhile, Zontians at home could log on to the Zonta International Web site to make online contributions that counted toward their district totals. Donors received an I Gave button for contributions of US\$25 or more.

These contributions totaled over US\$40,000, with Districts 26, 32, 31, 9 and 18 rounding out the top 5 districts in giving at the Booth.



During the Tuesday morning business session, Foundation President Anne Silvester, Treasurer Betty Jane Bourdon, and Director Kirsten Theisen presented the Foundation achievements and financial results for the Biennium and recognized individual donors who achieved lifetime giving milestones during the Biennium and Zonta Clubs who made contributions of more than US\$20,000 during the Biennium. Also recognized were the top three Districts in giving during the Biennium (Districts 26, 21, 3), and outstanding District Foundation Ambassador Annette Boddy (D16).



Left to right: Lollie Harper, Foundation Director; Irene Wiese-von Ofen, Foundation Vice President/Secretary; YWPA recipient Kim Boyce-Campbell; JMK Women in Business recipient Rachael Germann; Amy Lai, Foundation Director; Betty Jane Bourdon, Foundation Treasurer; Anne Silvester, Foundation President; Jacki Sammons, Foundation Director; Susan Anderson, AE Fellow; Kirsten Theisen, Foundation Director

Continued on page 12

Zonta Clubs Recognized for 2004-2006 Contributions of US\$20,000 or more

- Conejo Valley Area (D9)
- Corvallis (D8)
- Denver (D12)
- Everett (D8)
- Newport Harbor Area (D9)
- Santa Clarita (D9)
- St. Louis (D7)
- Taipei I (D26)*
- Three Rivers-Pittsburgh North (D4)

*Now D31



YWPA Recipients Share Global Perspectives

In 2006, Zonta gave five international and 28 district Young Women in Public Affairs awards to young women representing 15 countries. On this page the international recipients share their perspectives on gender equality.

Alma Aldrich (USA)

District 3

Career Aspirations: International Law
My Perspective: Looking at the United States government, we can appreciate how few women are in positions of power. Of the nine Supreme Court Justices there is only one woman, and there has yet to be a female President.



Corporate America

is still very much male-dominated.

The image of women as objects, which is enforced by the media

must be eliminated. Also, the image

of a successful woman having 'manly' characteristics is an enormous problem that must be changed. It is time that a feminine successful woman can be appreciated and accepted.

Fiona Campbell (Australia)

District 24

Career Aspirations: International aid worker in Africa

My Perspective: The way in which a culture perceives women is what often prevents global equality. We must strive towards universal respect of

women in relation to the constructs of culture. We, as individual women in a society which enjoys freedom



of speech, can help bring about increased international awareness of the diverse perspectives which different cultures have of women and the ways in which we can stake a step closer to achieving raised status for women across the world.

Nameera Saleem (India)

District 25 (no photo available)

Career Aspirations: Medicine and Journalism

My Perspective: The most important problems limiting women in India are illiteracy and economic dependency. Although UNDP and Andhra Pradesh Government had taken up massive efforts making elementary school education free and compulsory, with free books and mid-day meals, many families were happier with children earning – elementary school certificate would neither help them find a job nor leave the child willing to do menial work. Earn and learn schools must be set up, where vocational training as well as education is provided to ensure that the basic necessities of life are met.

Lyndsay Crump (Canada)

District 4

Career Aspirations: Medical humanitarian relief worker

My Perspective: Canada is one of the most culturally diverse nations in the world; however, immigrants habitually settle here and continue to live as they did in their native countries. Life for some women is only further complicated by the challenge of living in a foreign state. They rarely



learn to speak either of Canada's languages or pursue ventures outside of the home.

Due to this isolation, these women are

among the most abused, neglected

and defenseless in the

country. Giving women the ability to communicate with others outside of their cultural niche could empower them to seek help, guidance and a degree of independence.

Anne Soisson (Luxembourg)

District 27

Career Aspirations: Human Rights Law

My Perspective: Despite legislation on gender equality and the progress made in the last 50 years, women in Luxembourg still have to face many obstacles to equal opportunities and treatment in the world of work. Luxembourg presents one of the biggest gender gaps in the European Union. As long as the government doesn't adopt a policy that allows working women with family to get fully engaged, women will keep facing discrimination. Flexible working hours as well as affordable child-care facilities could help fulfill women's needs and integration into the business world.



Visit www.zonta.org/ywpa2006 to read more about these outstanding young women.

"Encouraging all young women to be thinkers and leaders WILL bring about equality between men and women and the voices of women WILL be heard."
 Jane Wilson O'Brien, YWPA Subcommittee Coordinator

Dr. Susan Anderson's Story:

Why Amelia Earhart Fellows make good Zontians

Amelia Earhart Fellow Susan Anderson describes her six-year journey to obtain a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering as a time of scientific and personal discovery. Attempting to determine the effect gravity has on the turbulence levels in a jet stream, Susan spent days manufacturing very delicate wires, thinner than the human hair, to form a probe so sensitive it would often break during calibration. The few probes that did survive were then used for intense experimentation in which Susan would

world. We are a group that has formed through Zonta and to this day we all feel a special bond whenever we meet.”

In the years that followed, Zontians would not let Susan forget about Zonta. Trish and Anne Silvester, Zonta International Foundation President, facilitated many opportunities for Susan to present her work to local Zonta Clubs.

“I spoke at over 15 different meetings. This was nerve racking at the time, but very beneficial for me in developing my self-confidence in enhancing my public speaking skills,” she said. “The personal development journey I was on was aided greatly by Zontians. This was something I didn’t expect when I received the Fellowship. I received such wonderful warmth and encouragement and you can’t put a value on that.”



To read Susan Anderson's Convention speech, log onto www.zonta.org/convention.

spend 15 hours at a time in her lab. These lengthy sessions required perfectly controlled movements, unrelenting concentration, endurance and patience.

“There were plenty of times when I felt like throwing in the towel,” she remembers. “It was during this time – while I was in the thick of things that I first came across Zonta. I can remember being in my lab and taking a call from Trish O’Conner (Zonta Club of Brisbane South Inc), encouraging me to submit an AE application. I was successful in this application and later received the AE pack from International Headquarters that contained short bios on the other recipients. It was incredibly interesting to read about the other women from all parts of the

Zontian support made Susan feel so “at home” in the Zonta world that after she spoke to a club, she would often stay for the entire meeting, learning about Zonta, its goals and club projects.

“I was so inspired by the women in the clubs and their achievements that I wanted to be part of the group and felt honoured when I was asked to join as a charter member of the Brisbane Breakfast club,” she said.

Now an active member of the Zonta Club of Adelaide Flinders, Susan offers

other AE Fellows the same Zonta encouragement that was so important to her during the final stages of her Ph.D. studies. She also serves on the International AE Subcommittee and shared her inspirational story at Convention in Melbourne.

“As I commented in my Convention presentation, ‘Technology is the single greatest instrument of change for good in our world’. The AE Program is encouraging women to equip themselves with this instrument and if they wish, go on to positions of power for the betterment of women and society. I believe our encouragement of women in science and technology will bring long-term and enduring benefits to the world.”

Zonta Action Alert

January is Amelia Earhart Month and 11 January is Amelia Earhart Day

Organize your Club activities now!

Women in Science and Engineering Luncheon:

Invite young women from local schools and feature Amelia Earhart Fellows as speakers.

Sponsor a Science or Math Fair:

Encourage local young women – host or donate prizes for science and math competitions.

Silent Auction:

Pair an existing event with a Silent Auction to generate support for the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program. Auction aerospace-related items: telescopes, flying lessons, planetarium memberships – the sky’s the limit! Contribute proceeds from the event to the Zonta International Foundation Amelia Earhart Fund.

2006 Amelia Earhart Fellows

Thirty-five women from 17 countries were awarded Amelia Earhart Fellowships this year. Visit www.zonta.org/ae to read about these amazing women.



UN Prepares for the 2007 Commission on the Status of Women

Jackie Shapiro, Chairman, United Nations Committee

Soon after the close of the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March, the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), which serves as the Secretariat for the meetings, and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY, which works closely with DAW to facilitate NGO participation in these important meetings, began to develop the framework for discussions of the theme for the 26 February - 9 March 2007 CSW.

For CSW 2007-2009, there will be only one priority theme, "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child." This is based on the 12 critical areas of concern from the Beijing Platform for Action, which recognized that discrimination and violence against girls begin at the earliest stages of life and continue unabated throughout their lives. Girls often have less access to nutrition, physical and mental health care and education and enjoy fewer rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys. They are often subjected to various forms of violence and exploitation.

In September the DAW, in partnership with UNICEF, held an Expert Group Meeting on the priority theme in Florence, Italy. The resulting Expert Group Report will help direct discussions during the CSW to define new strategies and strengthen implementation of activities to end discrimination and violence against the girl-child.

In addition, the DAW hosted an online discussion to collect information on the situation of girls all over the world. (Consult the DAW Web site: www.un.org/womenwatch for further information.)

Moreover, the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children, presented to the General

Assembly on 9 October, will contribute greatly to best practices for the prevention of and response to violence against girls and boys (see <http://www.violencestudy.org/r25>).

The Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Women was also presented and examined the forms and manifestations of violence against women across their lifespan and the State responsibility in eliminating it (see <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/index.htm>).

The DAW will sponsor an expert on the girl child from each region of the world to attend the CSW meetings for the first week. The selection criteria include an individual's ability to bring a unique voice to the discussion and an otherwise inability (primarily due to lack of funds) to participate. If you have a person to nominate, please send a CV with contact information to the ZI UN Committee at jacci007@aol.com.

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY (NGO/CSW/NY) is working in partnership with the NGO Committee on UNICEF Working Group on Girls to organize NGO activities around the girl child theme for the coming year. Zonta International UN Committee Chairman Jackie Shapiro is also Chair of the NGO/CSW/NY and our other ZI UN representatives in New York, Leslie Wright and Karen Siegel, will make important contributions to the success of these events.

A priority for both the UN and NGOs will be to maximize the participation of girls themselves in the CSW and other events. Member States and NGOs are encouraged to include girls on their CSW delegations and/or to help fund girls to participate. Girls under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Continued from page 9

Zontians personally presented contributions in honor of Presidents Mary Ellen Bittner, Olivia Ferry and Anne Silvester on Thursday morning. The new District 31 pledged US\$10,000 to the Foundation Endowment Fund.



Remembering Convention



*Glenne Harding,
Chairman,
OMC Committee*

If you were at Convention, you wrote “one thing *you* will do to increase your personal level of contribution to Zonta when you get home.” Now emphasize *will do*. Have *you done it?*

I identified increasing member involvement to develop commitment and stronger clubs. Suggestions to increase contribution included: attending meetings, events, and activities (more than “minimum requirements”); introducing prospective members; accepting leadership positions; actively contributing to fellowship and camaraderie; sharing your Zonta experience daily.

For those of you who missed one of the best Conventions in memory (and I’ve been to many), I’d ask that you also consider making that promise to increase *your* contribution to Zonta.

We had a number of interesting workshops including one on Membership Development. I expected to have OMC Leadership – about 50 people. Imagine my surprise when we had over 300 Zontians interested in discussing membership issues! It wasn’t the small, intimate gathering I had envisioned.

We broke into small groups to discuss a few of the intractable issues we face. Thanks to Anne Walker, Lt. Governor District 16 who compiled the feedback.

Issue	Group Feedback
What can we do differently to motivate clubs to grow and help them understand the need to have consistent membership growth over time?	“Stop talking about it and just get out and do it!”
How can we get clubs to do what is right for the larger organization and start new clubs even if they lose 1-2 members.	District leadership should break down the district plan and assign specific clubs responsibility for specific locations.
How should we use external demographic data to start clubs? Who should decide where new clubs should start?	Many types of external data are needed to identify fertile ground for starting new clubs—population and growth, average income, type of community and other socio-economic factors—to determine market size.
Clubs sometimes say there are no more qualified members in their area. How should we decide who is or is not qualified?	Identify missing classifications, identify women who hold those and invite them to join.
How should we address having more age diversity in clubs?	Target age groups the same way that classifications are (see above).
Procedures for starting new clubs (and new countries) are often ignored until there are 20 interested prospects. Is this the best approach and use of Zonta resources? What is the purpose of the procedures?	List the countries where we have no presence; ask Zontians where they might have contacts. <i>Note: The ZI Board must approve new countries before organization activities begin.</i>
Why do we have trouble talking to people about our pride in Zonta and what it does? What can we do about it?	“Being visibly a Zontian” (cards, elevator messages, jewelry, etc.) aids in having these conversations.

Log onto www.zonta.org and visit the OMC Committee page in Member Resources to access Convention 2006 workshop materials and biennial OMC Goals.

Eyes on Club Success

Zonta Club Service Photo Exhibition

More than 300 Zonta Clubs from around the globe answered the call to participate in the Eyes on Club Success photo exhibition at Convention 2006 in Melbourne. Photos illustrated projects ranging from literacy and education programs to gender-based violence prevention and income-generating and micro-credit strategies. Here are a few examples of the impacts Zontians are making on the lives of women through mission-focused service. To view more photos from the exhibit, visit www.zonta.org/zontaction.

The Zonta Club of Albany, New York, USA (District 2) started the Albany Girls' Club Inc. in a local elementary school in the early 1990s, providing annual support to specific projects that promote girls' personal growth. Currently the Girls' Club provides services to more than 85 girls in an after school program. In 2005, the Zonta Club of Albany funded this Science Room to encourage girls' interest in science. **Z**



"I do collect firewood for my family only because I do earn more by producing pottery. With help of a micro-loan I have been able to start new ways of earning," shared Sokona Konate, a resident of the village of Sinnebere in Mali in West Africa.

Sokona is one of many women learning alternative income-generating skills through a project funded by the **Zonta Club of Espoo-Kauniainen, Finland** (District 20). Traditionally, these women cut and sell wood or use the wood to create products for sale, like pottery. However, this activity has drastically diminished the number of trees in the region, which is already primarily desert. Without the protection of the trees, the soil loses its fertility and erodes. This causes severe problems for agriculture and the long-term livelihood of the people. The project provides the village people with environmental education and increases women's opportunity to make more money by teaching them diverse skills. A small amount of their income is then paid to their local women's savings group, from which micro-loans are applied.

"The project started six years ago and is still continuing. Our club has been supporting a brilliant, young specialist who has been training the women to plant new trees instead of cutting them. She teaches them to read and count," said Anja Hurme, a member of the Zonta Club of Espoo-Kauniainen. **Z**



After receiving a ZISVAW grant in 2003, the **Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs Inc., Western Australia, Australia** (District 23) partnered with a local domestic violence counseling service to run holiday camps for mothers and children who had experienced domestic violence. The project provided children intensive counseling in a family camp situation in order to stop the cycle of abuse and to enable them to develop positive, respectful relationships with their mothers. **Z**





More than 57 percent of women in Togo in West Africa are illiterate. Therefore, World Literacy Day every September is an important date for the **Zonta Club of Lome, Togo** (District 18) to spread the word about the importance of literacy. Every year, club members take chalk and slates to the markets and other public places to raise women's literacy awareness, prompting the women to ask questions about how they can learn to read and write. **Z**



The marginalized women and children in the depressed areas of Makati City and Taguig City in the Philippines are afforded a refuge from their difficult lives, thanks to the dedicated service of the **Zonta Club of Makati and Environs, Philippines** members (District 17). The club operates a

community center that offers women and their children skills training, medical and dental services, pre-school education and meal programs, gender equality seminars, micro-credit facilities, and publications on violence against women, trafficking and responsible parenthood. **Z**



For more information, visit the Zonta Action section of www.zonta.org.



Stem Cells and the Involvement of Women

District 27 Area 1 Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Committee has been acting on Zonta's 2004 Resolution on Umbilical Cord Blood, Stem Cells and the Involvement of Women since the resolution's adoption. They have provided information through various activities, including: a press conference in Brussels, Belgium, a conference in Dijon, France, and a workshop in Le Grand Hornu, Belgium with more than 120 Zontians attending.



Left to right: Els van Winckel, Zonta Club of Brussel Zavel, Belgium; Past International President Margit Webjörn, Zonta Club of Trosa Gnesta, Sweden; and Agnes Vermeulen, Zonta Club of Brussel Zavel, Belgium.



For more information, visit the Zonta Action section of www.zonta.org.



Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

557 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661-2202 USA
Telephone: 312-930-5848
Fax: 312-930-0951
www.zonta.org

Make the Connection
www.zonta.org

Nearly 3,000 Zontians are networking online through the Member Networking Directory. Let's make it 33,000.

Subscribe Today!

The online Member Networking Directory is available to all members who register with the Web site. Once you register, simply log onto the Web site and select "Directory" under the Member Resources section.

Only the following information is automatically displayed when members search for you:
First Name, Last Name, Zonta Club, Country

Visit the Member Networking Directory and choose to share any or all of the following additional information:

E-mail Address, Phone Number, Mailing Address, City, State/Province, Primary Language, Professional Classification

Welcome New Zonta Clubs

The Zonta International "family" around the world extends a warm welcome to our new Zonta Clubs. We rejoice in the experience and expertise you will share with us and with those you serve!

Ocala, Florida, USA
District 11, Area 4

Accra Metropolitan, Ghana
District 18, Area 2

Jeon-Nam, South Korea
District 32, Area 3

As of 1 August 2006, Zonta International has 1,238 clubs in 68 countries and geographic areas.



Zonta Clubs
Members of Zonta International