

# The Zontian

*Membership Voice of Zonta International*



2010-2012 Biennial Issue Two January 2011



## 2010-2012 BIENNIUM

*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*

# The Zontian

Membership Voice of Zonta International

2010-2012 Biennial **Issue Two** January 2011



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World Headquarters  
1211 West 22nd Street  
Suite 900  
Oak Brook, IL 60523-3384  
USA

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

Jason Friske, Executive Director; Megan Radavich, Communications Manager; Sarah Stec, Graphic Designer  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Dianne K. Curtis*

We will make the world a better place, improving the lives of women and children and helping them realize their full potential.

Dear Zontians and Friends of Zonta,

Congratulations to Past International President Beryl Sten, the 2010 Convention Committee and the District 10 Zontians for a stimulating, motivating and successful 2010 Convention in San Antonio, Texas, USA. I am sure that we left the “Big Star” state with exciting plans and renewed commitment to advance the status of women worldwide.

The 2010 Convention gave us the opportunity to look back on our accomplishments and look to the future for continued success. If you did not have the opportunity to attend the convention in San Antonio, you must plan to participate in the 2012 Convention in Torino, Italy 7-12 July 2012. You will have the chance to: elect members of the Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation Boards, elect members of the International Nominating Committee, vote on dues and fees, vote on proposed amendments to the Bylaws and adopt resolutions and goals, vote on the proposed International Service projects and share fellowship with Zontians from 65 countries around the globe. I can already see you enjoying the beautiful city of Torino, sharing a coffee or a glass of wine in the unique cafes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued, generous support of our international service projects and educational awards. Through your contributions to the Zonta International Foundation, we will make the world a better place, improving the lives of women and children and helping them realize their full potential.

The following International Service projects were adopted at the 2010 Convention:

- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda—a project in cooperation with United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality and Morbidity in Liberia—a project in cooperation with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Safe Cities for Women in Guatemala City, Guatemala and in San Salvador, El Salvador—a project in cooperation with United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, Part of UN Women)

The following Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women (ZISVAW) projects were adopted at the 2010 Convention:

- Towards a Comprehensive Strategy to End Burns Violence against Women in Cambodia, Nepal and Uganda—a project in cooperation with United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, Part of UN Women) contributions to the UN Trust Fund
- Security and Empowerment for Women and their Families: Ensuring a Gender-Responsive Humanitarian and Early Recovery Response in Haiti—a project in cooperation with United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, Part of UN Women)

We will continue to update you on each of these projects, their implementation and progress in future issues of *The Zontian* and on the Zonta International website. It is also important that we continue our support in the areas of education, leadership and youth development. Since 1920, Zonta has established programs that help to support and prepare women and girls for careers and leadership roles in both traditional and non-traditional fields.

*Continued on page 4...*



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“A candle loses nothing if it is used to light another one.”

In this issue of the Zontian, we are featuring the Amelia Earhart (AE) Fellowships for doctoral study in aerospace-related sciences and engineering, established in 1938 to honor the famed pilot and Zontian Amelia Earhart. International Amelia Earhart Fellowship Chairman Dr. Sharon Langenbeck is an inspiration in her own right. As a two time recipient of the AE Fellowship, Dr. Langenbeck walks the walk and talks the talk. She understood the importance of joining Zonta and giving back to the organization who gave her the opportunity to further her career. Please take



*Golden Z Club of Colombo I Member  
arranging the new kitchen*

the time to read the 2010-2012 Amelia Earhart Committee's goals which speak volumes as to their dedication to this important program and to Zonta International.

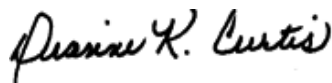
This issue of the Zontian also features the Z Club and Golden Z Club Program. Z Clubs for high school students and Golden Z Clubs for college and university students encourage leadership skills development, career exploration and service and advocacy. I believe that we must encourage the Z Club and Golden Z Club Program.

When will we understand that the youth of today will be the leaders of tomorrow, and the Zonta International Z Club and Golden Z Club program is a way for these future leaders to build a better world through service and advocacy? Z Club and Golden Z Club Chairman Maria Victoria P. Vergel de Dios and the Z Club and Golden Z Club Committee have an aggressive plan in place to allow the youth of today to gain civic leadership experience and career development assistance through their commitment to service and advocacy. The International Z Club and Golden Z Club Committee cannot move this program forward without your help, so please take the challenge to make this important program a priority. We have the ability to shape Zonta's future leaders.

The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship program and the Young Women in Public Affairs Award program will be featured in future issues.

Again, thank you for unwavering commitment to advancing the status of women worldwide and your generous support of our international service and educational programs.

“A candle loses nothing if it is used to light another one.”



Dianne K. Curtis  
*Zonta International President*  
*Zonta International Foundation President*

# 60th Zonta International Convention

## SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, USA



More than 1,400 Zontians, representing all 32 districts, gathered in San Antonio, Texas, USA in June for the 2010 Zonta International Convention. The Convention schedule was filled with informative speakers, important Zonta business, and many opportunities for fun and fellowship. For those of you who were not able to attend the Convention, here is a highlight of the events.



*The flag of Togo is presented during the opening ceremony flag parade.*

### Friday, 25 June

Members who arrived in San Antonio early were invited to participate in a series of open forums, starting with a workshop on club and district finances for club and district treasurers, followed by sessions on Zonta International finances and other issues. The Zonta International Finance Committee presented a clear case for the need to increase dues and answered a variety of financial questions from the audience which filled the ballroom.

In the evening, governors from past biennia gathered for the traditional governors' reunion dinners while other attendees had the opportunity to enjoy a number of excursions or explore San Antonio and the beautiful Riverwalk on their own.

### Saturday, 26 June

The 60th Zonta International Convention officially opened with the traditional flag parade and posting of the colors. Past International President Ruth Walker presented the Zonta International flag, followed by the flag of the United Nations, carried by Mary Ann Tarantula, Chairman of the International United Nations Committee. The flags of each of Zonta's 65 countries followed in the

order in which they joined Zonta. It was truly a sight to see!

After the presentation of the flags, International President Beryl Sten invited keynote speaker Carolyn Hannan to the stage. Ms. Hannan, former Director for the Division of the Advancement of Women at the United Nations, began by commending Zonta International for our service and advocacy efforts on behalf of women worldwide. She went on to speak about the critical need to combine the efforts of the four UN organizations working on gender issues. According to Ms. Hannan, the creation of a single entity with adequate resources would focus and enhance efforts to promote and advance the rights of women and girls around the world. After her remarks, President Beryl Sten announced that Ms. Hannan had accepted Zonta's invitation to International Honorary Membership.

The first day of the convention was capped off with a fun-filled evening at Knibbe Ranch, a traditional Texas ranch where guests enjoyed a Texas bar-b-que, rodeo, line dancing and a magnificent fireworks display. Oreo the bull, made famous by International President Beryl Sten's video promoting the 2010 Convention, posed for photos with Zontians.

*Continued on page 6...*



*Zontians representing their home countries during the opening ceremony's traditional flag parade.*

### **Sunday, 27 June**

The second day of the convention began early with a memorial service to remember those Zontians who had passed away during the 2008-2010 Biennium. The service included a traditional New Orleans "Second Line Jazz Funeral" parade in which participants twirl a parasol or handkerchief in the air.

Sunday also marked the first day of the business sessions which began with the International President's Report and a report of the International Finance Committee. During the afternoon session, the International Nominating Committee presented the Slate of Candidates for international office. Attendees had the opportunity to meet those Zontians running for office before the elections during the Meet the Candidates event that evening.



*Zontians enjoying Texas-style fun at Knibbe Ranch*

### **Monday, 28 June**

Monday morning began with the elections for the 2010-2012 Zonta International Board. Learn more about your [2010-2012 Zonta International Board](#) on the Zonta International website. Zonta business continued throughout the remainder of the day with the International Bylaws and Resolutions Committee report and important votes on amendments to the Zonta International Bylaws.

### **Tuesday, 29 June**

On Tuesday, attendees received updates on the International Service Program and ZISVAW projects, as well as the proposed projects for the 2010-2012 Biennium. Adriana Quinones, Manager of the UN Trust Fund, spoke about the results achieved for the ZISVAW programs in Cambodia, Egypt and Syria during the 2008-2010 Biennium and presented the proposed project on burns violence in Cambodia, Nepal and Uganda.

After the devastating earthquake in Haiti in January 2010, many Zontians wanted to know how Zonta could support relief efforts. At convention, Ms. Quinones from the UN Trust Fund presented a proposed project to rebuild a safe house for women survivors of violence and provide services for them to seek justice during the recovery and rebuilding process which was approved by convention delegates.

Urjasi Rudra, Coordinator of the [Say NO—UNITE to End Violence against Women campaign](#), shared the successes of the campaign to date and encouraged those Zontians in attendance to add their names to the global call to end violence against women. A giant banner saying "Zonta Supports Unite" was unfurled in front of the stage at the end of her presentation.

Kate Weber, Director of NGOs for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, shared the promising results of the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Rwanda project thus far and presented a video on Zonta's involvement with the project and our impact on the growth and progress achieved to date and Zonta International's continued support of this project during the 2010-2012 Biennium.

Dr. Luc de Bernis, a Senior Maternal Health Adviser for the United Nations Population Fund, gave a detailed presentation on the obstetric fistula project in Liberia and spoke of the resources needed to sustain and grow the program to meet the level of need. The [Freedom from Fistula video](#) was a moving reminder of the women that will benefit from Zonta International's continued support of this project during the 2010-2012 Biennium.

Zonta's educational programs were not to be forgotten. Angeline de Chiara, recipient of the Young Women in Public Affairs Award, expressed her gratitude

*Keynote Speaker and International Honorary Member Carolyn Hannan*







*Dr. Luc de Bernis, Senior Maternal Health Advisor for UNFPA*

for the Award and spoke of her admiration for the members of Zonta International whose actions have been an inspiration to her as she started college and expanded her knowledge of the way women are treated around the world. Lauren Howard, recipient of the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship, spoke at the convention literally 24 hours before she was to start her first day of work at Monsanto Co. as an internal staff auditor. She thanked those members present for the opportunities the Scholarship afforded her and commended them for their work on behalf of women worldwide. Past AE Fellow Caroline Rickards ended Tuesday's business sessions with an entertaining and informative video presentation of her work and the impact of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship.

On Tuesday evening, International President Beryl Sten recognized the most generous club and individual supporters of the Zonta International Foundation at a special donor reception. In addition to recognizing clubs who donated US\$20,000 or more and individuals who donated US\$10,000 or more, Districts 21, 9 and 26 were recognized for being the top 3 districts in contributions to the Foundation, and District 12 was recognized for having the largest percentage increase in donations to the Foundation since the last convention.

### Wednesday, 30 June

The final day of the convention opened with the morning business session which included a membership report and recognition of those Zontians who had recruited two or more new members as part of the membership incentive program. After a presentation on the achievements of the 2008-2010 biennial goals and the strategic plan, the 2012 Convention Committee welcomed all present to the 2012 Convention in Torino, Italy.

That evening, Zontians and their guests donned their best attire for the evening's closing banquet and the installation ceremony of the 2010-2012 Governors and Zonta International Board of Directors. In a symbolic ceremony, the outgoing governors passed a rose to the incoming governors, transferring leadership from one group to the next. Then, the 2008-2010 Board joined the 2010-2012 Board on stage to pass the director and officer pins to the new leaders. 2008-2010 International President Sten handed the president's gavel over to incoming 2010-2012 Zonta International President Dianne Curtis who gave a moving and heartfelt speech as the new president of Zonta International.

*We are already looking forward to the 2012 Convention in Torino, Italy and hope to see many of you there! ■*

**More Convention photos on page 22.**



*2008-2010 International President Beryl Sten passes the President's gavel to 2010-2012 International President Dianne Curtis*



*2008-2010 International President Beryl Sten*



*Past International Presidents present at convention; bottom row from left: Shirley Schneider, Beryl Sten, Leneen Forde; top row from left: Ruth Walker, Margit Webjörn, Olivia Ferry, Val Sarah and Mary Ellen Bittner.*

# Zontians Demonstrate their Support for the Zonta International Foundation at the 2010 Convention



*Patricia Thomas-Scribner accepts the recognition award for the Zonta Club of Conejo Valley Area from ZIF Development Committee Chairman Jackie Beaudry.*



*District 26 Zontians sing a song after accepting their award for being one of the top three districts in contributions to the Zonta International Foundation during the 2008-2010 Biennium.*

Throughout the convention, Zontians showed their support for Zonta's international service projects and educational programs by visiting the foundation booth and making a donation or donations to the Zonta International Foundation.

Zontians clearly demonstrated their generosity and unwavering commitment to advancing the status of women worldwide. A total of 838 donors, including 201 first-time donors, contributed a total of US\$152,528 at the foundation booth during the 2010 Convention.

To encourage donations, a friendly competition was held amongst the districts to see which district could contribute the most money by individual members to the Foundation during convention. The top 5 districts overall and their contributions are below.

1. District 26 **US\$21,460**
2. District 31 **US\$13,300**
3. District 21 **US\$9,930**
4. District 6 **US\$9,225**
5. District 9 **US\$7,905**

Thank you to all those Zontians and Zonta clubs who so generously contributed to the Foundation at Convention and throughout the 2008-2010 Biennium. It is because of your generosity that Zonta International is able to improve the lives of women around the world.

In addition to the incredible generosity demonstrated at convention, the following Zonta clubs were recognized at the 2010 Convention for contributions of US\$20,000 or more during the 2008-2010 Biennium.

- Zonta Club of Alzenau I Ufr Area (Germany, District 14) **US\$20,350**
- Zonta Club of Conejo Valley Area (USA, District 9) **US\$26,223**
- Zonta Club of Denver (USA, District 12) **US\$36,308**
- Zonta Club of Everett (USA, District 8) **US\$22,125**
- Zonta Club of Grants Pass (USA, District 8) **\$20,000**
- Zonta Club of Munich II (Germany, District 14) **\$20,090**
- Zonta Club of Newport Harbor Area (USA, District 9) **\$50,100**
- Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva (USA, District 11) **\$24,380**
- Zonta Club of Santa Clarita Valley (USA, District 9) **\$42,331**





*Anna Economu Gribaudo takes in the sights on her US road trip—top left: Chicago riverboat tour; top right: Memphis; bottom right: Mississippi riverboat dinner cruise with her fellow Zontians.*

## The American Adventure for Zontians

ONE ITALIAN ZONTIAN'S TRIP WEST TO SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS FOR THE SIXTIETH ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

*By Anna Economu Gribaudo*

Fancy, I am walking  
in Chicago, while  
thousands of lights  
appear on the  
skyscrapers, rivaling  
the star-spangled sky  
...magic moments!

Pity indeed that America was discovered centuries ago by two famous Italian explorers, Christopher Columbus and Sebastiano Caboto-Amerigo Vespucci. (The truth is they didn't really know what they had discovered. On the world map, drawn by the German Martin Waldseemuller, the name America had been affixed on Brazil!) Yes, I confess, I am jealous. I wish I had first discovered America myself, on the occasion of this extraordinary Zontian trip—my first contact with real America (leaving aside a visit to New York years ago for another Zonta convention, a kind of special aperitif announcing a sumptuous dinner).

Upon receiving the invitation from my German friend, Sigrid, to join a group of daring Zontians planning to reach San Antonio at the end of a Midwest trip, nothing could stop me. My natural enthusiasm pushed me to overcome all difficulties to attend my third Zonta International convention (after New York and Rotterdam) which also offered the opportunity to undertake a detailed exploration of that part of the States which tourists generally ignore!

Not later than January, I bought my ticket from Turin to Milwaukee (via Paris and Detroit), the starting point of the coach adventure named GALS—Great Adventure for Ladies South-

*Continued on page 10...*

bound; and, on June 16th, I flew to the States. Flying from Detroit to Milwaukee takes a little over an hour, over Lake Michigan, looking more like a sea than a lake, such is its vastness. My dream is becoming a reality.

Donna of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee receives me at the airport and takes me home where I am put up with great friendliness and can start savoring the real Zontian friendship. She guides me through the city and all

## I felt indeed a hint of elegance and friendly charm, the very embodiment of the southern flavor of my fables—Dixieland.

the events carefully prepared for those Zontians, like me, arriving to join the special GALS program. I must confess I had only read a few lines about Milwaukee in geographical encyclopedias and old guide books provided to me by my husband, but physical contact is better than anything else! No one can suspect how many realities such a city (small by American standards) can offer—a visit to the imposing Town Hall, celebrating just 100 years of its foundation, offers us a special council medal; classical operas are at home at Pabst Theatre; the Public Library decorated with marble in its reading rooms, rich in ancient and modern books, adds to the feeling of the highly cultural atmosphere. A simple lunch in the Library is animated by a lecture of a local historian, Professor John Gurda, on the main historical landmarks of the city. Then on to the Art Museum, the work of the famous Calatrava, the Spanish master of modern architecture. What a whirlwind of impressions!

Another dream comes true: Chicago. What do I know of Chicago? Al Capone, slaughterhouses and Obama. What deep, inexcusable ignorance! Donna (of Milwaukee) sees us to Chicago, overseeing our luggage transfer. For one and a half hour, the train inspector not only punches our tickets but also plays the clown, much to our amusement! Thus begins the discovery of the Midwest and American efficiency

(luggage jumps from planes to bus to hotel rooms automatically without any ground for concern) at its best, and yet accompanied by a sprinkle of cheer and a smile.

I adore Chicago, its downtown skyscrapers, the humid heat of Illinois after a refreshing rain storm, its skyline admired from a comfortable river boat, and an open-air concert with pieces by Beethoven and Brahms, while Sandra, one of the main masterminds of our

tour with Donna (all of Zonta Club of Milwaukee) offers refreshments. (Sandra is a real specialist during the entire trip, lightening the long coach hours with her drinks, toffee and dry fruits, but especially with her smile!) Fancy, I am walking in Chicago, while thousands of lights appear on the skyscrapers, rivaling the star-spangled sky...magic moments!

Leaving the big city, now let's dream in front of the extended horizons, immense white clouds covering the endless flat lands of the Mississippi valley, rural areas where landmarks of two centuries of American history suddenly appear. We arrive in Springfield, home of Abraham Lincoln, where his wisdom still seems to pervade his mansion and the city streets, and receive a warm welcome from the Zonta Club of Springfield.

Next we travel to the better-known,

## This stop is the most nostalgic of our visits. One feels the influence of the French domination, but also Italian boroughs of dubious decency.

almost mystical St. Louis, where the two longest rivers in North America meet—the Mississippi and the Missouri. Here, we see an unforgettable Catholic basilica, Jefferson Park and the tall arch, a symbol of modern times.

Memphis—the capital of cotton, the master crop of the old south, stage of the dramatic murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the hard times of racial discrimination. I desperately look for Uncle Tom's hut that haunted the dreams of my green years, but no way. Instead, memories surface of another American figure known worldwide—Elvis Presley at his luxuriously decorated Graceland home and the Sun Studios where the singer recorded his unforgettable songs. We spend an evening with the melodies of the blues where some of us are tempted to dance...typical American atmosphere (but I am afraid, there are hundreds of ways of being typical in the States). I was told Memphis represents to many the lights and the music, excitement and opportunity and also grace, culture and fun. I could not agree more. I felt indeed a hint of elegance and friendly charm, the very embodiment of the southern flavor of my fables—Dixieland.

Further to the South we go, on the endless motorways along the Mississippi, cutting green fields, towards the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the riotous jazz bands of New Orleans (or at least as I dreamed of them many decades ago). This stop is the most nostalgic of our visits. One feels the influence of the French domination, but also Italian boroughs of dubious decency. We enjoy a gorgeous dinner on a boat, cruising the Mississippi, on the point of losing its life in the Gulf, huge and overbearing. Luckily, the weather is still fine, no capricious hurricanes yet, although the season's first, Alex, is announced within a few days. No thunder, only lively country music that

makes me always dream...yes, all this trip is a dream.

The Zonta spirit in the persons of Sandra and Donna, keeps us up to the last day when in a jump we reach San Antonio from New Orleans, almost



1,200 kilometers. Donna and Sandra very resourcefully resort to unflinching tests, inescapably featuring an intellectual Zonta background: "Which were the nine clubs that contributed to the foundation of Zonta International? Or, "Marian de Forest was also a distinguished..." More cutely, "during which biennium, did the Board approve the inclusion of the words Zonta International into its emblem?" The feeble historical knowledge of many participants, including your humble servant, was put to very severe trial.

The final event of the trip while the coach is still running is the "tombola" with valuable prizes, amongst which is a splendid necklace of precious stones

and a silver Z. The game produced over 500 dollars for the Zonta International Foundation. All 26 participants won a prize, and the necklace went to a much-envied American participant. More precious stones we found at the Texas Museum, and we offered them again in the shape of a necklace to Sandra and Donna as a sign of appreciation for their efforts and the fantastic, unforgettable trip!

Now, ensconced at home on the hillside not far away from Turin, I start putting in some order my impressions. It will not be easy. More than the day-to-day reactions, what struck me most was the atmosphere amongst Zontians: friendship, kindness and mutual help,

be it amongst the 26 of us on the bus, or later at the Convention with more than 1,600 people. Zonta does good to others by way of donations, technical assistance and what not, and also does good to its members offering them the "cadre" of an exceptional experience.

I am still somewhat sad: it is always sad to leave somebody you love and admire like the States, of which I respect the old values and honor the founding principles. I envy the immense effusion of national will that they manage to inject into the causes they believe in. I realize I only touched eight out of fifty states. Forty-two remain to be discovered. I wish I could start again on a Zontian trip...even tomorrow! ■

# 61st Zonta International Convention

7 – 12 July 2012 • Torino, Italy



Make plans now to join your fellow Zontians in Torino, Italy—a city rich in history, culture and natural beauty. The 2012 Convention Committee is planning what promises to be a truly memorable experience for all who attend and look forward to welcoming you to Torino in 2012!

Visit [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org) for additional information and details as plans develop.







## Zonta International Reaffirms Commitment to Eliminating Obstetric Fistula in Liberia

*Survivors prepare to leave the Fistula Rehabilitation and Reintegration Center after successfully completing the Center's four-month training program. Miss Liberia 2009 Shu-rina Wah is part of a public media campaign to educate the community and help to address remaining stigmas while increasing women's access to care.*

Zonta International joined UNFPA's efforts to eliminate obstetric fistula in Liberia during the 2008–2010 Biennium.

Obstetric fistula, a hole in the birth canal caused by prolonged, obstructed labor has been virtually eliminated in North America and Europe through improved obstetric care; however, an estimated 2 million women in developing countries are still living with fistula, with an additional 50,000 to 100,000 new cases occurring each year. According to a report—“[Supporting Efforts to End Obstetric Fistula](#)”—released by the United Nations on 11 October 2010, at least US\$750 million is needed to treat existing and new cases of obstetric fistula worldwide between now and 2015, the target date to eliminate fistula, set by the global Campaign to End Fistula.

In 2007, Liberia began a fistula program to prevent, treat and support the reintegration of women into their communities following treatment. Although the exact prevalence of obstetric fistula in Liberia is unknown, available data on the maternal mortality ratio and a 2006 situation analysis identify it as a major problem.

Zonta International joined UNFPA's efforts to eliminate obstetric fistula in Liberia during the 2008-2010 Biennium. With the support of Zonta International, the fistula project has made significant progress over the last two years in the prevention, treatment and reintegration of survivors of obstetric fistula. Understanding that continued prevention, treatment and reintegration of survivors is key to eliminating obstetric fistula, delegates to the 2010 Zonta International Convention in San Antonio, Texas overwhelmingly voted in favor of continuing Zonta's support of UNFPA's efforts to eliminate obstetric fistula and reduce maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity in Liberia during the 2010-2012 Biennium.

According to the [Campaign to End Fistula](#), only 58% of women in developing countries deliver with the assistance of a skilled professional (midwife or doctor), and only 40% will give birth in a hospital or health center. In rural areas where fistula is most common, access to hospitals or medical centers is limited and the

With the support of Zonta International, the fistula project has made significant progress over the last two years in the prevention, treatment and reintegration of survivors of obstetric fistula.



*To date, the Fistula Rehabilitation and Reintegration Center has successfully reintegrated 109 survivors since its opening in 2008.*

traditional midwives that women often rely on during childbirth are not trained or equipped to provide emergency obstetric care. Often by the time a woman gets to a medical center that can help them it is too late.

UNFPA has focused its preventative efforts on eradicating harmful traditional obstetric practices that often contribute to the development of fistula and training medical doctors and certified midwives in the provision of emergency obstetric care services. A comprehensive electronic and print media campaign to increase awareness of the availability of fistula services led not only to an increase in the number of patients treated since the start of the program but also saw an improvement in community receptiveness to women living with fistula. Education and advocacy efforts also helped encourage rural women to utilize health facilities and have skilled health workers present during childbirth.

Significant achievements have also been made in the treatment of obstetric fistula. In 2009, with Zonta's support, the Fistula Project provided treatment to 197 patients from all over Liberia with an 81% rate of complete closure and dryness. The number of patients treated was up from 178 patients in 2008 and 154 patients in 2007. In addition, UNFPA opened a third, major fistula unit at a Liberian government hospital and established three additional outreach sites (in addition to 9 existing outreach sites). These outreach sites, established in three hospitals in three different Liberian counties where UNFPA also supported the training of local doctors to carry out simple surgical repairs, have increased access to treatment for women who cannot easily reach a hospital. In August 2009, a major fistula outreach campaign was conducted which brought two surgeons from Mali to share knowledge and skills with health workers in Liberia. At the end of the 14-day campaign, a total of 67 additional patients received surgeries in three hospitals. UNFPA also provided medical and surgical supplies to treatment facilities, including complete fistula surgical repair kits to six hospitals.

Addressing the social and psychological effects of obstetric fistula is an essential component of treatment and ensures a lasting, positive change in survivors' lives as they return to their communities. Many fistula survivors in Liberia who have undergone successful surgeries are enrolled at the Fistula Rehabilitation and Reintegration Center where they participate in four months of intensive training to prepare them for easier reintegration into the communities that previously rejected them. At the Center, these women receive meals, hygienic materials and personal effects, psychological counseling, and skills training in various disciplines, including cosmetology, pastry making, soap making, and tailoring. Following completion of the training program, they are equipped with starter kits to empower them to use their newly developed skills to generate much-needed income. Because most fistula survivors are from rural parts of the country where illiteracy rates are very high, an adult literacy program was also added to teach survivors how to read and write, and the Center provides training in business management skills to help survivors prepare to manage their income when they return to their communities. To date, the Fistula Rehabilitation and Reintegration Center has successfully reintegrated 109 survivors since its opening in 2008. Monitoring and follow-up visits by social workers and program staff has shown that the majority of reintegrated survivors are using the skills learned at the center as a means of survival and have easily assimilated into their communities.

Although progress has been made in lessening the stigma associated with obstetric fistula, many women living with obstetric fistula are isolated and therefore often have very limited access to information and/or service sites for treatment. The public media campaign, engagement of celebrities like Miss Liberia 2009 Shurina Wiah, and education at the community level are helping to address remaining stigmas and increase women's access to care. According to Dr. John Mulbah, the national fistula program manager in Liberia, improving knowledge about obstetric fistula is essential. "As we improve knowledge about fistula, we can break the cycle of poor maternal health and stigma associated with women living with obstetric fistula," says Dr. Mulbah.

*Continued on page 14...*



*Following completion of the training program, survivors receive a “starter kit” to help them use their newly developed skills to generate income when they return to their communities.*

However, as the information about the availability of fistula treatment increases, so too does the demand for services which puts a strain on the existing capacity of facilities and medical personnel to provide the necessary fistula services. Likewise, the rapid growth of the project also requires financial resources that at times are not readily available. To respond to the increase in need in Liberia, the Liberia Fistula Program, with the support of UNFPA and Zonta International, continues to train doctors, nurses and midwives in fistula prevention and treatment. The project is also working closely with partner agencies to ensure continued provision of essential services, while the support of organizations like Zonta International has encouraged new donors to get involved.

Those Zontians who were able to attend the 2010 Convention in San Antonio had the opportunity to see “[Freedom from Fistula](#),” a film by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, Lisa Russell. The film is a powerful reminder of the challenges women in Liberia face in living with obstetric fistula, as well as the transformation and joy that treatment can bring to their lives. The video is available on the Zonta International website for anyone who wishes to learn more.

Zonta International is dedicated to ensuring the continued progress and growth of the Liberia Fistula Program and is proud to support UNFPA’s efforts on behalf of women in Liberia. You can help Zonta provide life-changing treatment and services to women in Liberia by making a donation to the International Service Fund. Donations can be made online at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org). ■

## Young Fistula Advocates Go to Schools and Communities

(COURTESY OF CAMPAIGN TO END FISTULA AND UNFPA LIBERIA)

“It is a dream come true,” remarked Ms. Mariam Pewu, 18, her eyes sparkling with joy as she saw the first team of the Fistula Girls Club leave St. Matthew Lutheran High School in Monrovia’s eastern district of Paynesville to begin an awareness campaign in Gobachop Market, a nearby suburban community in the capital of Liberia.

They had just launched the club, which started as an idea among a few high school friends. The almost 300 students present at the launch ceremony on 26 March 2010 were a testimony of how far things can go with commitment and hope.



*A team from the Girls Club led by Ms. Mariam Pewu (second on the right) shares information with a girl who have just come from the countryside to sell her farm produce.*

Ms. Pewu and her colleagues are quite privileged. They receive an education, they have friends and they are even allowed to mingle within their communities—rare luxuries for some young women in Liberia. Still, they care about less fortunate girls their age who face isolation, abandonment, stigma and discrimination as a result of a terrible birthing injury—obstetric fistula.

Speaking during the launch ceremony, Ms. Pewu, the club’s acting coordinator, said she conceived the idea “to advocate on behalf of women living with fistula and to spread messages to fight the problem” after meeting a fistula patient in May 2009 at a local hospital in Monrovia.

“When I met that girl in a corridor of the John F. Kennedy hospital, and I saw urine leaking down her legs and the hopelessness on her face, I asked myself why she had to suffer that way,” she remembered.

Ms. Pewu revealed that her quest to know more about the condition led her to discover the Liberia Fistula Project. “I started sharing information with schoolmates and encouraged them to join me in establishing a fistula awareness club

at my school,” she explained.

The group now brings together students from at least 10 high schools across the district and aims to carry out fistula awareness activities among students and communities. Their motto: Healthy Women, Healthy Nation.

Although it is challenging to estimate the prevalence of obstetric fistula in Liberia, available data on maternal mortality ratio and initial information gathered as part of a 2006 situation analysis point at fistula as a major problem in the country.

In recognition of the need to address the issue, UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, and the Liberian government launched the Liberia Fistula Project in 2007, with activities partially funded by Zonta International, a global organization to advance the status of women worldwide.

The results achieved since then are impressive, including the steady increase in the number of patients treated: from around 150 in 2007 to almost 200 in 2009, with an average success rate of 81 percent. ■



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www.zonta.org

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International Service Fund	US\$
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Amelia Earhart Fellowship Fund	US\$
Jane M. Klausman Women In Business Scholarship Fund	US\$
Young Women in Public Affairs Award (YWPA) Fund	US\$
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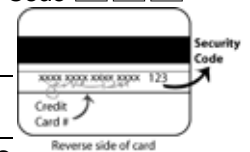
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# Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program

By Dr. Sharon Langenbeck

January 11, Amelia Earhart Day, the day Zonta International honors famed Zontian Amelia Earhart. January, the month Zontians recognize through local events our 2010 Amelia Earhart Fellows. The certificates and wings pins for the current fellows were mailed to the governors in August to award at presentation ceremonies, many of which will be held in January.

By the time you read this article, many of you will be finalizing the plans for your January Amelia Earhart celebrations. These events offer an opportunity for Zontians to reach out to current and past AE (Amelia Earhart) Fellows in their local areas; however, even if you do not have a current or past Fellow in your local area to invite to your event, it is important to focus your January program on Zonta's longest running service program, the Amelia Earhart Fellowships. Please share how you celebrated AE month or raised money for the AE Fellowship program. You can submit your stories via the "[Share Your Story](#)" feature on the ZI website.

Since the inception of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Award program in 1938, there have been 1,297 Fellowships, totaling US\$7 million, awarded to [902 Fellows from 64 countries](#). The women who have received the Fellowship are improving the status of women worldwide by moving into policy decision-making positions.

Many of the past Fellows are mentoring the next generation of women in aerospace. For instance, Monika Auweter-Kurtz, a former AE Fellow, was the advisor for seven students who received the AE Fellowship (Anja Schoenemann, Patrizia Dabalà, Pia Endlich, Tanja Schmidt, Nataliya Semenova, Hannah Boehrk and Anusheh Nawaz). Also, as you will read in my interview of Tammy Smecker-Hane, there are three generations of professor to student Amelia Earhart Fellowship recipients (Rosemary Wyse to Tammy, then Tammy to Carol Thorton Hood).

Women helping women!

At the San Antonio Convention, we heard about the opportunity for Zonta to participate in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The theme of the 55th session of CSW is "access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology." This access is exactly what the AE Fellowship is providing. My Co-chairman Holly Anderson and I have a unique opportunity to attend the CSW to present at a parallel session Zonta International's Amelia Earhart Fellowship's role in science and technology education and advancing the status of women worldwide.

If you attended Convention, I know you were inspired by past Fellow Caroline Rickard's presentation about her Ph.D. research. Caroline spoke about how she used her fellowship award to study in-flight incapacitation in Royal Australian Air Force fighter pilots and potential training methods for reducing this risk. Her presentation is posted on the [ZI website](#) for those of you who were unable to attend Convention.

Zonta has a rare opportunity for recognition in honoring Amelia Earhart. In the United States, each state is allowed two statues of famous citizens to be honored in the halls of Congress. The state of Kansas voted to honor Amelia Earhart. Amelia's statue makes her only the 10th woman to be featured in the historic Statuary Hall. We will be working with the Kansas state officials regarding the biography that will go with the statue to ensure Amelia's membership in Zonta is acknowledged.

From December through February, the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Committee (Sharon Langenbeck, Chairman, Holly Anderson, Co-chairman, Candace Kohl, Monika Auweter Kurtz and Susan Riding) will be evaluating all the applications for the 2011 Fellowships. The Committee will meet February 18 – 20, 2011 to select the 2011 Amelia Earhart Fellows.

Through your support, we are able

to award 35 fellowships each year to very deserving women pursuing doctorate degrees in aerospace sciences and engineering. To sustain and advance the Amelia Earhart Fellowship program, please consider making a donation to the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Fund. Donations can be made online at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org).



*Tammy Smecker-Hane and 2009 Amelia Earhart Fellow Caron Thornton*

## An Interview with Amelia Earhart Fellow Tammy Smecker-Hane

By Dr. Sharon Langenbeck  
Chairman, International Amelia Earhart Fellowship Committee  
Amelia Earhart Fellow 1977 and 1978

In January 2010, I met Professor Tammy Smecker-Hane at the District 9 Area 4 Amelia Earhart Luncheon. She is a past Fellow and the advisor for another past Fellow. Since that time Tammy has joined Zonta. I wanted to know more about Tammy and her career. Here are her answers to my questions.

### How did the Amelia Earhart (AE) Fellowship help you with your career?

Receiving the AE Fellowship very positively affects a young woman's career in that it recognizes and rewards her academic accomplishments at a critical time when she is moving from doing her Ph.D. thesis research to applying for postdoctoral research jobs and

*Continued on page 18...*



fellowships. At that time, receiving a distinguished international award—one which comes with a sizeable amount of funding—is a very noteworthy item on a job applicant's CV, one that potential employers view very positively. In addition, the financial award gives the recipient the freedom to pursue independent research. For example, I could confidently submit a proposal for a US national telescope located in Chile, South America and know that I could afford to travel there and back. In addition, someone could use the money to further their career by buying a more powerful computer for research work or traveling to attend a conference to present their research or network with future collaborators or employers.

### **When and how did you become interested in astrophysics?**

I only had the opportunity to take one astrophysics class when I did my bachelor's degree in physics at Johns Hopkins University but loved the subject and thought I might want to pursue it in graduate school. When it came time to choose a research supervisor, I was drawn to Professor Rosemary Wyse who had just joined the faculty and worked on star formation and galaxy evolution, which were hot topics in astrophysics. I love the subject and enjoy it greatly.

### **Are you seeing more women going into astrophysics now than when you were in school?**

Yes, there is a much higher fraction of women in astrophysics than when I was in graduate school, but the numbers are not nearly as high as the 50% that it could be. In particular, the fraction of women in astrophysics gets lower the higher up you move in seniority.

### **How have you helped other women in astrophysics?**

We have a Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy in the American Astronomical Society. I often contribute to the Committee's newsletter and have given talks at brown bag lunches at the biannual Society meetings. It is a very important way to help other women in the field at various stages of their careers and can be especially helpful to young women who do not have visible

women role models at their universities. I have also been greatly involved in the ADVANCE Program at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), which was funded by a National Science Foundation ADVANCE (Increasing the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers) grant. We were tasked with creating institutional changes that would promote gender equity in the recruitment, hiring, advancement and retention of faculty in all schools at UCI and in particular in science and engineering. We developed some very innovative programs, and I became the Equity Advisor for the School of Physical Science for a number of years. Our school went from having no new hires being women in two straight years to having roughly half the new hires being women. Now, I am one of the representatives from UCI on the UC System-wide Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, which deals with issues of importance to women faculty, students and staff on all 10 campuses of the University of California.

### **How many of your students have received the Amelia Earhart Fellowship?**

One. My Ph.D. thesis advisor and Johns Hopkins University Professor Rosemary Wyse received an AE Fellowship while doing her thesis work in astrophysics in the UK. She encouraged me to apply and recommended me for the AE Fellowship I received in 1991. I worked with a remarkable graduate student named Carol (Thornton) Hood from 2005 to 2007. Carol was the graduate student coordinator for the Astronomy Outreach Program that I ran. She greatly expanded the programs we did with K-12 grade schools and impressed me with her high level of motivation, leadership and professionalism. She later went on to do research on black holes in nearby galaxies with another faculty member, and I encouraged her to apply for the AE Fellowship which she received in 2009.

### **Who or what inspired you to join Zonta?**

I attended the dinner at which Zonta awarded Carol Thornton her AE

Fellowship, and I was greatly impressed with the members of Zonta that I met. I was in a whole room of people who were very similar to me! I noticed the Zonta and UNICEF flags that stood behind the speakers. At that time, I was in the midst of chairing a fundraising dinner to support UNICEF's Tap Project to provide clean drinking water to children throughout the world. A few of the members of the Zonta Club of Newport contacted me after the dinner, and I attended one of their meetings and decided to join the club. I greatly enjoy participating in their activities to improve the status of women in our community and the wider world.

### **What challenges did you encounter on your journey towards your present role?**

The most critical challenges came from the need to obtain grants to fund my research and my students' research and the time it takes to obtain and publish the results. I struggle to strike a good balance between work, family life (I have a husband and two children, 7 and 10 years old.) and my social life.

### **What are your future career plans?**

I plan to continue doing research in galaxy evolution by studying the ages and chemical compositions of stars in nearby galaxies, teaching physics and astronomy to both undergraduate and graduate students, and helping both men and women have productive careers in science.

*Many past Amelia Earhart Fellows, like Tammy, have become members of Zonta International to support Zonta's efforts to provide educational opportunities for women around the globe. The Amelia Earhart Fellowship Committee, which reviews the applications and recommends recipients, is comprised entirely of past Amelia Earhart Fellows. If you are a former Amelia Earhart Fellowship recipient and would like more information about membership in Zonta International, or how you can help support future Amelia Earhart Fellows, please contact [programs@zonta.org](mailto:programs@zonta.org). ■*

# Zonta's Z Club and Golden Z Club Program: Preparing the Next Generation of Advocates for Women



*Patients enjoying the new kitchen items*

The Z Club and Golden Z Club program is one of Zonta International's longest-running programs. Established in 1948, Z clubs and Golden Z clubs help high school, college and university students develop leadership skills, promote career exploration and encourage members to participate in community, school and international service projects. There are currently 207 Z and Golden Z clubs in 16 countries around the world.



*Golden Z members with staff and patients*

Zonta's Emma L. Conlon Service Award recognizes those Z and Golden Z clubs whose projects and programs best express the ideals of Zonta International through local and international service and advocacy to advance the status of women worldwide. In 2009, Zonta International presented the Golden Z Club of Colombo 1 with the Emma L. Conlon Service Award for the Club's efforts to improve the health and economic status of women living in local psychiatric hospitals.

## **Improving the Health and Economic Status of Women Suffering from Psychiatric Illnesses**

### **Golden Z Club of Colombo 1 (District 25), Recipient of the 2009 Emma L. Conlon Service Award**

The Golden Z Club of Colombo 1 was delighted and honored to receive one of the six 2009 Emma L. Conlon Service Awards. The pledge by our parent club (Zonta Club of Colombo) to support us with matching funds greatly motivated us to further strengthen our commit-

ment to achieve our goals, in line with Zonta's mission of "improving the legal, political, economic, health, educational and professional status of women through service and advocacy." Since our club previously focused on projects involving school children, internally displaced people, orphans etc., this time around we decided to pioneer a project involving females suffering from psychiatric illness. Although a substantial number of women in our country are affected by such illnesses, it remains a vastly neglected area with social stigma, where discrimination prevails.

The mental Hospitals of Angoda and Mulleriyawa, which are the main hospitals providing inpatient care to psychiatric patients throughout the country, were recently recognized as the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) under an active and well-motivated Director, Dr. Jayan Mendis. The NIMH Unit two (previously Mulleriyawa Mental Hospital) comprises of approximately 610 female patients, many of whom have been residents for

*Continued on page 20...*

“Golden Z Club members had the opportunity to gain satisfaction by empowering underprivileged females and working towards advancing their health and economic status in society.”

the majority of their adult lives, being institutionalized even following remission. They come from wealthy to very poor backgrounds and have remained ignored by their families, the community and society. Despite strong emphasis by various authorities on rehabilitating them, discharging and relocating these patients has proven to be a challenging and resource intensive task, as in most cases families have moved on and are no longer traceable. The current management of Mulleriyawa Mental Hospital is in the process of rehabilitating those patients in remission who are able to get back to society by improving and restoring various community living skills, thus providing them an opportunity to experience some independence they have been deprived of. The dedication of the enthusiastic team of doctors and other staff towards improving the wellbeing of these patients and opening new doors to their future greatly motivated us towards supporting this rehabilitation program.

There are four well-functioning rehabilitation wards (20, 21, 22 and 24), where they concentrate on improving functional skills, daily living skills, social skills and leisure skills. Currently, some patients are employed inside and outside the hospital in horticulture, cleaning services, and at Ceylon paper sacks factory, which provides them the opportunity to earn between Rs.5000 to 7000 a month (US\$50-70). We opted to help towards this project.

Furthermore, eight women have been selected and trained to be housed outside of the hospital in the first ‘half-way home’ in February 2010. We were able to direct our parent club to link with our project; and they have now, very generously, provided furniture for the house and promised to bear one year’s rent of yet another house.

Two meetings were held during the first week of September 2009 to discuss how best we should utilize our award money. We informed them of our decision to take up a project to improve the health and economic status of the females suffering from psychiatric illness at the NIMH Unit two. As a preliminary step, a meeting was arranged on 8 September 2009 at Mental Hospital

Angoda, Sri Lanka with the Director of NIMH, Dr. Jayan Mendis, additional hospital resource personnel and four representatives from our club. We were briefed on the projects being conducted under the rehabilitation program on relocating patients outside the NIMH. We considered several proposals put forward by these experts. After many internal meetings, our members opted to provide financial assistance and establish a kitchen facility in one rehabilitation ward—with the objective of improving cooking skills of patients—as our choice of a feasible project. On 19 September 2009, eight members of our club visited the NIMH Mulleriyawa and met the medical officer in charge, the occupational therapist, the nursing staff and patients. Rehabilitation ward 20 was selected as the location for our project. The needs were itemized with the help of staff and patients.

During the next few weeks, great effort was made by a group of eight Golden Z Club members to purchase the kitchen equipment at minimum cost while ensuring best quality. On 1 December 2009, fifteen members visited ward 20, where we cleaned the room allocated for the kitchen and arranged the equipment and handed it over to the nurse in charge. A discussion on food hygiene was also conducted by our Golden Z Club members with the thirty-seven patients of ward 20. Cookery lessons were arranged to encourage those who had forgotten to cook due to their illness and prolonged institutionalization. On 15 December 2009, four of our members re-visited the ward to assess the outcome of our intervention. We were happy to know that the patients able to cook were very enthusiastic and were cooking their daily meals independently. We provided them with dry rations to help cook a traditional breakfast and serve all 37 patients in ward 20 on 1 January 2010. This allowed them to enjoy the dawn of the new year with happiness and new hope.

#### **As a result of our efforts:**

- Nearly twenty women were empowered to cook their own meals and be independent, thereby helping them

Effective 1 June 2011, the prize amounts for the Emma L. Conlon Service Awards will increase to

- 1st Prize (2 winners)—US\$1,000 each
- 2nd Prize (2 winners)—US\$500 each
- 3rd Prize (2 winners)—US\$250 each

Download information and an application at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org).



to develop their self-esteem and live an independent life.

- Those women employed outside of the hospital are now able to take their own “home cooked” meals to work.
- The afflicted women are encouraged to engage in constructive work rather than spending day after day in boredom.
- Females with psychiatric illnesses are able to build their self-confidence.
- They are provided with some independence in their daily living skills in preparation for relocation to half way homes.
- Golden Z Club members had the opportunity to gain satisfaction by empowering underprivileged females and working towards advancing their health and economic status in society.
- We were also very happy to direct our parent club to link with our project and further assist the hospital authorities in their very worthy program.

In addition to the US\$250 Award we received from Zonta International, our parent club decided to match that amount as a contribution from them towards our project. We hope to utilize the additional funds provided by our parent club for the maintenance of this new project in improving the infrastructure of the kitchen. Part of the funds on hand will be used to provide a professional cookery trainer/motivator to go in twice weekly and teach the women basic cookery skills. We are also planning on empowering patients to supply food items to the hospital canteen, which will provide them an opportunity to earn a sustainable income. Some of the balance of funds on hand will be used to provide the initial working capital needed to enable them to start up the canteen food project.

We have involved the ward nursing staff, social workers and the occupational therapist to assist us in monitoring the project, as they are constantly involved with the patients and will also monitor the hygienic practices in food preparation. We have also requested the medical officer in charge of ward 20

## ARE YOU A FORMER Z OR GOLDEN Z CLUB MEMBER WHO IS NOW A ZONTIAN?

The International Z Club and Golden Z Club Committee is searching for Zontians who belonged to a Z and/or Golden Z club in high school or college. We want to hear more about the impact of the Z Club and Golden Z Club program in your life and why you later chose to become a member of Zonta International. Please send your name, the name of your current Zonta club, and a brief story about why you joined Zonta to [pr@zonta.org](mailto:pr@zonta.org). Submissions may be used later on the Zonta International website or in a Zonta publication.

at NIMH to coordinate and evaluate the progress of the project.

We wish to thank Zonta International for awarding us the Emma L. Conlon Service Award and providing us this opportunity to be able to improve the health and economic status of these women, as well as their self-esteem. We also wish to thank the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health and the resource personnel for their help and support, as well as our parent club for their generous offer of additional funds, guidance and assistance.

### Sustainability

- We received an award of US\$250 from Zonta International. Our parent club decided to match that amount as a contribution from them towards our project. We hope to utilize the additional funds thus provided by our parent club for the maintenance of this new project in improving the infrastructure of the kitchen.
- Part of the funds on hand will be in providing a professional cookery trainer/motivator (who will have the ability to coach and coax the women of their mentality) to go in twice weekly and teach the women basic cookery skills.
- We have involved the ward nursing staff, social workers and occupational therapist to assist us in monitoring the project as they are constantly involved with the patients. They also monitor the hygienic practices in food preparation.
- We have also requested the medical officer in charge of ward 20 at NIMH to coordinate and evaluate the progress.

- We are also planning on empowering patients to supply food items to the hospital canteen, which will provide them an opportunity to earn a sustainable income. We hope to train a group of patients to make small meals and desserts and employ them in this project. Some of the balance of funds on hand will be used to provide the initial working capital needed to enable them to start up the canteen food project. (This is the progress to date and will not end at a particular date but will be continuously looked after by the Golden Z club members, keeping Zonta International updated periodically.)

### Acknowledgements

- We wish to thank Zonta International for awarding us the Emma L. Conlon Service Award and providing us this opportunity to be able to improve the health and economic status of these women as well as their self-esteem.
- We also wish to thank the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health and the resource personnel for their help and support,
- And our parent Zonta club for their generous offer of further funds, guidance and assistance in many ways.



# 2010 Zonta International Convention Installation of Zonta International Board



2010-2012 Zonta International Directors with Zonta International President Dianne Curtis during the installation ceremony—  
from left: Beryl McMillan, Kirsi Nickels, Sonja Hönig Schough, Dianne Curtis, Susanne von Bassewitz, Kikuko Hara, Kathleen  
Douglass, Jacqueline Beaudry



2010-2012 Zonta International Officers—*from left: President Dianne Curtis, President-Elect Lynn McKenzie, Vice President Maria José Landeira Oestergaard, Treasurer/Secretary Ellen Karo*



*President-Elect Lynn McKenzie and 2010-2012 Zonta International President Dianne Curtis.*

“Membership is vital to our ability to influence the status of women in the future.”

**Share your successful recruitment and retention strategies with the rest of the Zonta world!**

If you have a recruitment or retention event or program that has helped grow membership in your club and district, please submit your story on the Zonta International website. Just click on the “[Share Your Story](#)” button.

Your club or district’s success story could be featured on the Zonta International website or in a future Zonta publication.

*Also, don’t forget about the Membership Incentive Program.*

*Zontians who recruit two or more new members between 1 June 2010 and 31 May 2012 will receive a special pin and be recognized at Convention in Torino in 2012. [Eligibility](#), [instructions](#) and [forms](#) are available on the Zonta International website.*

**SHARE  
your  
STORY**

# Zontians

## I need your attention!

Do you realize that the most important role within the Zonta International hierarchy is that of being a member? Without members, there is no organization. It is very clear and it is the truth.

The membership goals approved by the 2010 Convention in San Antonio are:

- Achieve a net increase in the number of members.
- Ensure that the members of each club represent a wide variety of occupations.
- Promote responsible recruiting, rejuvenating, retaining, classifying and orienting of new members.
- Encourage clubs to recruit qualified members with an interest in the global mission of Zonta International.
- Continue review to achieve a more effective district division.
- Promote mentoring for a sustainable membership.

All goals, but one, deal with club membership, membership growth and recruiting qualified members for Zonta International.

This is your responsibility! Only the members of a club are able to increase the club membership. All strategies on how to recruit members are worthless if you, the member, don’t realize that that’s your call to invite new members into your club. The methods you use are dependent on your culture and society. Turn to a friend or a colleague and tell them about what you experience in Zonta. Tell them about the power they have through Zonta to make a difference in the lives of other women. Tell them about the friendship. Use your own words about your own experience. You don’t need any strategies, manuals nor directives on how to bring in a qualified member into your clubs. Just invite someone you trust who is willing to work with you on Zonta objectives to advance the status of women worldwide.

There are about 31,000 members in all Zonta clubs of the world. Membership has decreased gradually the last few biennia. Increase in membership has primarily been through starting of new clubs, but the loss of members has exceeded the membership growth. Therefore, I want to ask you to do something about it.

If we achieve a net increase of ONE MEMBER in each Zonta club in the world, we will make history. YOU will make history. YOU CAN DO IT!

In addition to that one new member, we want to keep the members that we have. Each one is a treasure for the richness of experience, friendship, attitude and diversity that they bring to the club. Sometimes in our rush for new members, we are not as attentive to our more seasoned members. WE have to use strategies that engage new and prospective members with our current membership so the club continues to be strong and vibrant. We have to balance the needs of the new members with that of our seasoned members.

Some Zonta clubs have the potential to start new clubs. That takes a lot of enthusiasm, energy and work. We appreciate their good work on that and welcome and cherish every new club into our organization. There are very clear directions on how to start a new club in the newly revised [Membership Manual](#) on the Zonta International website [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org).

Membership is essential to any organization. No one can say this more clearly than the International President Dianne Curtis on the cover of *The Zontian*, July 2010: “Membership is vital to our ability to influence the status of women in the future.”

Ragna Karlsdóttir

*Chairman, International Organization, Membership and Classification Committee*





# Zonta International

*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*

1211 West 22nd Street | Suite 900  
Oak Brook, IL 60523-3384  
USA  
www.zonta.org



## Zonta Clubs

*Members of Zonta International*

### Welcome New Zonta Clubs

*The Zonta International community extends a warm welcome to our new Zonta clubs.*

- Zonta Club of Guildford, United Kingdom  
District 29, Area 3
- Zonta Club of Niers-Schwalm-Nette, Germany  
District 29, Area 2
- Zonta Club of Ogre, Latvia  
District 21, Area 6
- Zonta Club of Paranaque, Philippines  
District 17, Area 5
- Zonta Club of Troy-South Oakland, USA  
District 15, Area 4

As of December 2010, Zonta International has  
**1,203 clubs in 65 countries.**

#### ZONTA INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

### Welcome from the Staff

Zonta International Headquarters, located in Oak Brook, Illinois, is a staff of fourteen full-time employees that manages the day-to-day operations of Zonta International and supports the Board of Directors in implementing policies and programs to further the Objects of Zonta International.

Our friendly, capable staff is ready to assist you!

- Member Services** [memberrecords@zonta.org](mailto:memberrecords@zonta.org)
- Communications** [pr@zonta.org](mailto:pr@zonta.org)
- Website** [webmaster@zonta.org](mailto:webmaster@zonta.org)
- Programs** [programs@zonta.org](mailto:programs@zonta.org)
- Foundation** [contributions@zonta.org](mailto:contributions@zonta.org)
- General** [zontaintl@zonta.org](mailto:zontaintl@zonta.org)

If you are visiting the Chicago area, we invite you to visit Headquarters. Enjoy a tour of our offices and see artifacts from Zonta's 90-year history. To schedule a visit, please call 630.928.1400 or stop by our offices during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST.



# WWW.ZONTA.ORG