



Advocacy News

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*from Sharon Roggy, District 12 LAA Chairman
and State LAA Representatives Alice Borodkin (CO), Betsy Flaherty (WY),
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District 12 Advocacy Award

This year a special Advocacy Award will be given to a Zonta club in District 12 in recognition of their efforts. The criteria will be similar to that of the annual service award with most of the relevant information reported via the club's annual reports. The award will be presented at the Governor's Seminar in Denver, September 21-23, 2012. We look forward to naming the first recipient of this new annual award.



Coming Soon

to the D12 website, will be the addition of the Platform for Advocacy, approved at last year's District Conference. The document outlines priority issues and will include templates for individual or club use.

Celebrating International Women's Day

We've come a long way, but there's still lots to do in achieving gender equality. Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, had this to say on the occasion of International Women's Day, which was March 8th.



“Gender equality and the empowerment of women are gaining ground worldwide. There are more women Heads of State or Government than ever, and the highest proportion of women serving as Government ministers. Women are exercising ever greater influence in business. More girls are going to school, and are growing up healthier and better equipped to realize their potential.

Despite this momentum, there is a long way to go before women and girls can be said to enjoy the fundamental rights, freedom and dignity that are their birthright and that will guarantee their well-being. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the world's rural areas. Rural women and girls — to whom this year's International Women's Day is devoted — make up one quarter of the global population, yet routinely figure at the bottom of every economic, social and political indicator, from income and education to health to participation in decision-making.

On this International Women's Day, I urge Governments, civil society and the private sector to commit to gender equality and the empowerment of women — as a fundamental human right and a force for the benefit of all. The energy, talent and strength of women and girls represent humankind's most valuable untapped natural resource.”

By the Numbers

Despite the fact that women hold more college and graduate degrees than men and make up 47% of the workforce, we still represent only 6% of top earners, 8% of top leadership positions, 16% of board directors or corporate officers, and in 2010 we still earned only 77 cents for every dollar paid men for comparable work. Fully 70% of the world's poor are women and children.

There are plenty of opportunities to advocate for gender equality right here at home.

Empowering Women

Nothing says “empowerment” better than exercising women's hard-fought battle for the vote. AAUW has launched a “Get-out-the-Vote” effort to mobilize young women. In a February news release they said “As the largest generation since the baby boomers, today's 18- to 30-year-olds present the strongest opportunity to increase voter turnout among women. Millions of young women will be eligible to vote for the first time this year, and many others have yet to establish the habit of voting.... We recognize the power of a single vote, and we will do everything we can to encourage all citizens to cast an informed ballot. Women must get involved in the political process to ensure that the issues they care about get the attention they deserve.”

If your club is looking for an exciting and timely advocacy project, consider joining forces or initiating your own voter mobilization movement. AAUW publishes an excellent guide titled “Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout—a Manual for Community-Based Campaigns to Mobilize Women to Vote.”

