



# Brite Lites

FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER

ZONTA CLUB OF LARAMIE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 25-  
December 10:**  
**ZONTA says NO**

**December 6:** Holi-  
day High Tea

**December 7:** Ring-  
ing of the bells for  
Salvation Army

**December 10:**  
Christmas social

**December: 13/14:**  
Holiday Open  
House

## Masquerade Ball is a hit!

By Amanda Wilkison

The first annual masquerade ball was hosted November 1st and went off with a bang! Kim Frazier was the chair of the masquerade committee, Mary Mountain was co-chair, and assisting members included Sarah Hellevang, Jenica Fournier, Effie Bader, Amanda Wilkison, Amber Zmolek, Tasha Bauman, and Angela VerPloeg. Guests enjoyed fortune telling, dancers, live music with Angel Adams and the Suits, as well as a night of dancing thanks to the DJ Crystal Klear Music. Numerous prizes were raffled off, including two \$100 mon-

ey trees, a wine basket, a whiskey basket, and a gigantic bottle of wine for those guests who were extra thirsty. The large raffle item was a 3 day trip to New Orleans. Joseph Haeberle had a photo booth and took candid photos of the guests throughout the night (see photos at [www.josephhaeberle.com](http://www.josephhaeberle.com)). Z-Club assisted with decorating masks to be sold at the ball. There were many people who put in hours of hard work to bring this all together! What a success this first Masquerade Ball was, and everyone is looking forward to doing it again next year!



# Advocacy Zonta Style

by Deedee Boysen

Advocacy and service go hand in hand and are the foundation of Zonta's mission. Service is, in general, straightforward and easy to understand, since it involves each of us doing something tangible with visible and immediate results.

Advocacy involves giving a voice to those projects. Think of advocacy as being a simple multi-step process.

The first and most critical step is to **educate yourself** about the topic so you can provide truthfacts, and understand the issues. There are many ways to get the information you need to formulate your opinions, through internet research, books, people who have first hand information about the subject... many ways!

The next step is to **share what you have learned** about the topic, perhaps starting with

members in our own club. Tell us what you have learned. A great time to share is during the time before the meeting starts. Start a conversation!! Several topics you as a Zontian might like to be informed about include the situations described in the article about our Zonta International Service projects. Do you know what obstetric fistula is? What exactly is the problem Zonta is trying to solve by implementing "gender-responsive" school programs in Vietnam? What is the story behind HIV transmission in Rwanda? You can start by reading the material posted on the ZI website ([www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)) and go from there. Be the expert. Learning about these topics is something you can do when you have some down-time! When you are sharing, **you are advocating**, regardless of whether you oppose or are in support of a given action. You can actually do more as an advocate when you are knowl-

edgeable about the topic and ready to speak about. You can influence legislation that can help women reduce the wage gap with your voice, you can participate in events such as the recent walk sponsored by SAFE to raise awareness about domestic violence, you can help share the information about Zonta projects with your friends and social network on FaceBook or at other social get-togethers. You can bring the information to your community through public programs. We can do a lot individually, but we can do much more if we work together to promote our causes. We have voices! Advocating is easy, particularly when you are comfortable with your knowledge of a topic. Be an advocate. Be a voice for women locally and globally who do not have this opportunity. This is what Zonta is all about, and one way you personally can take action to advance the status of women. Start today!

This year, we challenge everyone to bring a guest to at least one meeting. Lets all pitch in to help recruit!



Club Officers Pictured Below (l to r): Karol Hodges, Beth Robertson, Effie Bader, Amber Zmolek, Tasha Bauman, Wendy King, Johnna French, and Jennica Fournier



Photo: Deedee Boysen (left) and Beth Robertson (right) pose in front of one of the donated District 12 Scholarship Raffle Baskets. District 12 donated two baskets to this year's event.



By Deedee Boysen  
Membership in Zonta is a very special thing. To become a member, you must hold a professional or executive position within your organization, and you must work 20 or more hours each week. Several years ago, ZI expanded the definition of a classified member to include women who are "experienced" professionals but who are not currently working -- those who have retired or are between jobs. There is no age limit for Zontians, however, each person nominated for membership must satisfy the previous criteria. And, we are all *classified* members. This simply means that you are classified by occupation. ZI uses the Marian DeForest Classification System which assigns a number to each identified profession. After you join, the Membership Chair works with the Club Assistant Treasurer to process your membership paperwork and dues to ZI. ZI uses your classification numbers for developing statistics about Zonta worldwide. If you would like to

# 2014 Governor's Seminar

by Beth Robertson and Deedee Boysen  
Laramie Zontians Deedee Boysen - District 12 Secretary, and Beth Robertson - District 12 Historian, attended the Governor's Seminar in Cheyenne, WY, on September 12-13, 2014. The theme this year was "Looking Inside, Looking Outside" and focused on who we are, and how we can interact more effectively in a team setting. Before the seminar, all participants were asked to take the Emergenetics test, which focuses on thinking traits/behavior. We then participated in group activities that gave us hands on experience and practical applications to better work as a group. Emergenetics, is slightly different from Meyers-Briggs testing, which many Zontians are familiar with. Applications for utilizing Emergenetics include working better together as a Board or as a Committee, with the idea that you can cover all your bases if you include people who do not

necessarily think or act as you do. Those differences lend themselves to better end results.

All 21 clubs in the District attended and came from the District 12 states of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and South Dakota. There are 4 areas in our District. The Zonta Club of Laramie is in Area 2 and Michelle Ammerman, from the Zonta Club of Cheyenne, is our Area 2 Director. Our Governor this year is Marcy O'Toole, from the Denver II Club, and our Lt. Governor is Renee Coppeck, from the Zonta Club of Billings. Attending the Governor's Seminar and the District 12 Conference provides Zontians with training about program and project development at the club level, tools for increasing membership, and leadership training on a variety of topics such as those specifically designed for club officers.

## WE ARE ZONTA

know more about the ZI statistics or the classification system, check the ZI website at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org). Your classification number can be found in our Club Membership Directory next to the date you joined the club and in the paragraph about you. The membership number is actually the last set of six digits. The previous digits represent our district (12), our area (02) and our club number (0257). Membership in Zonta is by invitation. All prospective members go through a process, which begins with completing the Prospective Member Form which can be obtained from any person on the Membership Committee. Your membership committee this year consists of Deedee Boysen and Erin Bohnet - co-chairs; Wendy King, Becky Kosach, Anne Marie Huntington, and Kim Skidmore. Following submission of a completed membership form, the prospective member must also attend a club business meeting. Club events outside the business

meeting don't count! Finally, the Board of Directors approves all members. Essentially, they review the membership form to ensure that the prospective member meets the criteria described above.

Throughout the year, club members are asked to bring guests to our club meetings. This is a great way to introduce friends, professional contacts, and new members of the community to our club. Take a chance, reach out. New members bring new ideas and new energy. That's a wonderful thing! So far this year, we have four new members. They are Amanda Wilkison, Kim Skidmore, Lisa McElwee, and Kathryn Ewert. We hope to add several more new members in the upcoming months. If you know someone you believe would enjoy becoming a Laramie Zontian, bring them to a club meeting. If you want club information sent to your friend, contact Deedee or Erin. All help with recruiting is appreciated. Thank you for being a Laramie Zontian!



# Tribute Giving Campaign Announced

By Bonnie Robertson

A **Tribute Gift** to the Zonta International Foundation is a great way to support Zonta programs and scholarships, **AND** honor a special person in your life. It truly is a gift that “keeps on giving” to others and “puts your money where your heart is”.

Your ZIF Ambassadors (Charlotte Davis, Mary Mountain and Bonnie Robertson) encourage every member to make a Tribute Gift in 2015.

They will kick off the campaign with announcements and specific information at our general meetings starting in January and run the campaign through April.

If you make a Tribute Gift through your ambassadors, a special card will be sent to the person(s) you honor or to the family, if it is a memorial tribute in time for Mothers' Day 2015.

## History Committee Update:

By Caroline Darwin

Last year, the History Committee put together the club history scrapbooks. It was a big job, but the club history, going back several decades, is now in order and ready for storage. Currently, the committee is looking at what to do with this valuable information. They are currently planning on bringing more of the history to the club during monthly meetings and coming up with a narrative explanation of the club history to add to the website. We, as a club, also need to continue to gather information about the club. This includes newspaper articles, photos, letters, notes, and memorabilia. Please feel free to deliver these items directly to Caroline Darwin. Zonta of Laramie is also in need a club photographer. Since we are all busy, it would be greatly appreciated if people who attend events would take pictures and send them to Caroline to be archived. Lastly, if there is anyone interested in being a part of the History Committee, they could use some help. The committee is a great way to participate in Zonta without a huge time commitment, just a fun meeting here and there. Please contact Caroline if you are interested.



November 25 marks the beginning of our 16 day ZONTA says no campaign. This International Campaign began in 2012 with a goal to raise awareness of violence affecting women and girls around the world.

During their lifetime, 1 in 3 women will experience violence in their lifetime, such as beating, rape, or assault. ZONTA says no not only raises awareness, but encourages action against these events. Wondering how to get involved? Wear orange throughout the month and spread the word on why you are, change your facebook profile page to orange, and educate family and friends. Spread the word!

# Days for girls

Z-Club met October 12 for a sewing party for the Days for Girls Project. Days for Girls is a program that brings reusable feminine hygiene supplies to women who either cannot afford disposable feminine napkins, or who live where there is not enough water to make disposable napkins practical. These kits are designed to last 3 years and to be washed easily with very little water. Without these kits, women stay at home during their menstrual cycle instead of going to work or school. Are you interested in helping? You're in luck, the girls have more kits to make! Contact Jennica for more information on dates and times



We recently lost a beloved long time member, Zella Faye Bell Milliken at the age of 88. She passed away October 25 and her services were held Saturday November 1 at 11:00 at St. Matthews Church. She was a dedicated business woman, entrepreneur, wife and mother. She will live on in the hearts of others.

## Advocacy/United Nations

Chair: Tasha Bauman  
Member: Wendy King  
Member: Jeanetta Schmidt  
Member: Deedee Boysen

## Membership

Chair: Deedee Boysen  
Member: Karol Hodges  
Member: Erin Bohnet  
Member: Caroline Darwin  
Member: AnneMarie Huntington  
Member: Wendy King

## Archivist/Historian

Chair: Caroline Darwin  
Member: Beth Robertson

## Service

Chair: Sarah Hellevang  
Co-Chair: Tasha Bauman  
Member: Emily Parsons  
Member: Lynn Erickson  
Member: Becky Kosach  
Member: Karol Hodges  
Member: Jennica Fournier

## CLIMB Wyoming

Chair: Deedee Boysen  
Member: Mary Mountain  
Member: Kim Skidmore  
Member: Effie Bader

## Public Relations and Communications:

Chair: Amanda Wilkison  
Member: Martha Reisch  
Member: Megan Lanphere

## Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Chair: Patty Butler  
Member: Beth Robertson  
Member: Bonnie Robertson

## Ivinson Holiday Open House

Chair: Amanda Wilkison  
Co-Chair: Mary Mountain  
Member: Johnna French  
Member: Bonnie Robertson  
Member: Elaine Schumaker

## Zonta High Tea

Chair: Debi Ockers  
Member: Angela VerPloeg  
Member: Kathy Galster

## Suited for Success

Chair: Elaine Schumaker  
Member: Effie Bader

## Scholarship

Chair: Angela VerPloeg  
Member: Maryalice Gulino  
Member: Sue Steiner  
Member: Tamara Bretting

## Z Club

Chair: Tamara Bretting  
Co-Chair: Jennica Fournier  
Member: Johnna French  
Member: Ashly Schluck  
Member: Deedee Boysen

## ZI Ambassadors

Chair: Bonnie Robertson  
Member: Mary Mountain  
Member: Charlotte Davis

## Zonta 5K

Chair: Johnna French  
Member: Lisa McElwee  
Member: Jennica Fournier  
Member: Ashley Schluck  
Member: Tamara Bretting

## Rose Day

Chair: Karol Hodges  
Co-Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member: Jennica Fournier  
Member: Effie Bader

## Evening Event: (Masquerade Ball)

Chair: Kim Frazier  
Co-Chair: Mary Mountain  
Member: Sarah Hellevang  
Member: Jennica Fournier  
Member: Effie Bader  
Member: Amber Zmolek  
Member: Tasha Bauman  
Member: Angela VerPloeg  
Member: Amanda Wilkison

## Zonta 5K

Chair: Johnna French  
Member: Lisa McElwee  
Member: Jennica Fournier  
Member: Ashley Schluck  
Member: Tamara Bretting