

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL -- DISTRICT 12
CLUB ANNUAL REPORT
Reporting Period: June 1, 2015—May 31, 2016

Please email to Governor Marcy O'Toole (motoole48@comcast.net) by **May 8, 2016 with a copy to your Area Director.**

Area 1 Director: Teresa Forbes (tlarueforbes@hotmail.com)	Area 2 Director: Michelle Ammerman (AmmermanZonta@gmail.com)
Area 3 Director: Ann Hodgson (johnannhodgson@att.net)	Area 4 Director: Linda Hawkins (flowerboutique86@hotmail.com)

Club Administration 2015-2016:

Zonta Club of Billings

Today's Date: 5/7/16

Area: 1

President: Darcie Howard

President-Elect (if appropriate):

Vice President: Debbie Sundberg

Secretary: Kathie Riggs

Treasurer: Anne Marie Wade

Incoming Club Officers 2016-2017:

President: Debbie Sundberg

President-Elect (if appropriate):

Vice President: Connie Camino

Secretary: Dara Reimers

Treasurer: Anne Marie Wade

Board of Directors: Melanie Tripp, Janet Sharon

Leadership & Leadership Development 2015-2016:

Describe the leadership training conducted for officers, board members and committee chairmen.

Board Retreat in June of 2015 to plan for the coming year and orient board members.

What training opportunities / workshops have your club officers participated in at area & district levels?

President, Vice President and Corresponding Secretary attended the District meeting, VP and Corresponding Secretary attended the Area 1 meeting

Does your club have a long range plan that includes success planning for future leaders in club? Yes xNo

If yes, please describe (or provide copy to Governor and Area Director).

Describe any leadership challenges and needs.

The club has been successful at getting new members but these members need to be integrated better into projects so they will be able and willing to be leaders on the future.

Nominating:

Did the club suggest nominees for area, district and international office? Yes xNo

Please describe the process used by the nominating committee to prepare a slate of officers for 2016-2017.
The committee met and brainstormed members that would be successful filling the upcoming positions. Potential nominees were asked.

Fundraising:

Please list the major fundraiser(s) your club held during 2015-2016. *(Feel free to add additional fund-raisers.)*

1. Trivia Night
2. Sip and Savor
- 3.
- 4.

Total Funds Raised this year: **\$26819.05**

Local Service & Scholarships Dollars Given:

Please list the contribution amounts given by your club during 2015-2016.

Local Service Organizations: \$600

Local Scholarships: \$2000

Total Local: \$2600

Zonta International Foundation (ZIF) Dollars Given:

Please list the total club & individual contributions given to the Zonta International Foundation during 2015-2016. (Jan Kirch at jankirch50@gmail.com can provide this information to you)

Total Club Contributions: \$6127

Total Individual Contributions: \$9272

Total Club & Individual Contributions: \$15399

Zonta International Scholarship Information:

- **YWPA-Young Women in Public Affairs Awards**

Did your club participate in the YWPA program? xYes No

Please list the name of the candidate(s) forwarded by your club to the district for this award. Annalese Warner

- **Jane M. Klausman Women-in-Business Scholarships (JMK)**

Did your club participate in the Jane M Klausman program? xYes No

Please list the name of the candidate(s) forwarded by your club to the district for this award. Brigitte Henklemann

- **Amelia Earhart Fellowships**

Did your club celebrate Amelia Earhart Day? Yes xNo

If so, please describe how your club celebrated this year.

Local Scholarship Information:

- **Local Scholarships** awarded by your club

1. Name(s) & description(s) of scholarship(s):

Rocky Mountain College \$1,000,

Montana State University-Billings \$1,000

American Legion Auxiliary Girl's State \$600

Membership:

Please describe your club's recruitment and retention efforts for 2015-2016 in order to meet the *net +1* goal as of June 1, 2016. **Membership as of 5/1/16**

New Members as of 5/1/16: 5 new members

Retention as of 5/1/16: Lost 4 members so retention @ 88%

Current Membership as of 5/1/16: 46

Net+1 Goal: Met goal

Spring/Fall Zonta Membership Events

Membership held two Membership Drives to help with recruitment:

September 3, 2015 we held the membership drive/member event at the Moss Mansion. This was an evening event consisting of a tour of the Moss Mansion, dinner and introduction of Zonta. 15 guests attended.

Cost - \$434.68

2 new members recruited.

March 8, 2016 we held the membership drive/member event at The Arthouse Cinema. The theme was *Learn About Zonta* and consisting of 2 short films from the Zonta International film library (Zonta International President Marie Jose Oestergaard and Past President Lynn McKenzie) and presentation on Zonta Club of Billings and overall Zonta Organization. Appetizers were served and spirits were available for purchase. 3 Zonta mug door prizes were given and well received.

2 guests attended.

Cost - \$169.68

0 recruitments

Monthly "Z-meet"

On the 4th Thursday of each month we held an evening Z-meet. This allowed members that weren't able to attend our regular noon meetings an opportunity to catch up with current and future events within our club. It was also an opportunity to invite guests in a small group setting to learn more about Zonta. Z-meets were held at different venues each month (i.e. local restaurant/pub, member homes, and member businesses). By rotating the venue we were able to generate more interest in our Z-meets and increased participation.

If your club currently has fewer than 20 members, what plans do you have in place to increase membership in 2016 - 2017? N/A

Does your club have a new member orientation program? Yes No If yes, how many sessions did you hold this year? A New Member Orientation was held on February 11th and all 5 of our new members were able to attend. We had 3 experienced club members presenting; handing out and reviewing club by-laws, reviewing each committee, and conducting a general discussion of Zonta Club of Billings and Zonta International. This enabled each new member to have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback regarding their initial experience as a new member.

Does your club have a new member mentor program? Yes No If yes, describe

How does your club measure membership satisfaction? Yes our club does have a new member mentor program. All new members are assigned a mentor for their first 2 years in Zonta. The mentor is responsible for keeping new members informed of events, news, and updates. In addition, they serve as the key resource when new members have questions about Zonta. Our mentoring program is designed to help retain new members.

Our Membership Committee needs to work on a more formal system/process to measure membership satisfaction. This year our committee focused on organizing member events and gatherings to bring members together and foster member satisfaction and inclusion. Our Service and Advocacy Committee distributed a project survey this year that should provide some guidance as to membership satisfaction. While we lost 4 members year as of 5/1/16, 3 of those members moved out of town; so overall membership retention gives us some insight to membership satisfaction.

The information below will be used to determine the District Service Award to be given out at the 2016 Governor Seminar, Deadwood, SD on Sept. 23-24, 2016

Local Service: (Hands on work to help women & girls in the local community)

Please name and briefly describe your local service projects including for each item:

(a) category: improved the status of women in general (legal, political, economic, educational, health and/or professional)
or

helped prevent and fight violence against women and girls (VAW)

(b) % of club members involved in the project

(c) contribution to the Zonta International Foundation is at least 1/3 of the dollars raised this year

(d) visibility and credibility to Zonta created by the project

(e) sustainability of the project (long lasting results, and could the project continue for a certain period of time)

2. 1. The Zonta Club of Billings "Raising the Status of Women" grant program awarded two grants this year: \$5,000 to the Friendship House of Billings and \$1,200 to Passages (Alternatives, Inc). The awards were presented at our March program meeting.

Availability of grants was announced via a mailing to over 50 local non-profits and a press release was sent out area-wide:

http://billingsgazette.com/business/business-digest/article_84bc97dd-af4d-5cd6-8f44-f22b388758a7.html

Initially, fourteen letters of interest were received. A screening committee comprised of eight members (approximately 15% of club membership) met to determine which organizations would receive grant applications; nine were selected. A copy of the grant application, outlining criteria, is attached. After the completed grant applications were received, the committee met again to review and rate the applications, and select the grant recipients.

Friendship House affords a stable environment for children and their families (primarily single mothers) in the Billings south side, a low-income, underserved area of the city. Zonta has already sponsored a 2-hour self-defense class offered free of charge to women and girls that are served by Friendship House. Five of our members, along with some of their daughters, also participated in the class. We are

currently in the midst of exploring options and scheduling volunteer opportunities for our group over the coming year.

<http://www.friendshipmt.org/>

Passages is a women's community-based therapeutic correctional facility. The Zonta grant monies were used to purchase workbooks to be used in a pilot cognitive behavioral therapy program. Seven members of Zonta (approximately 15% of our membership) are serving as mentors in this program, working one-on-one with a resident of Passages. Zontians received four hours of training from Passages staff, who then paired each Zontian with a resident. The mentors and residents were later introduced at a luncheon meeting, where each pair set up a time for their first one-on-one meeting. The program is self-paced, and is expected to last approximately 12-16 weeks.

<http://altinc.net/passages/>

A pending press release will announce this year's grant winners, and we are being acknowledged in-house and in publications distributed by both organizations.

3. The High Plains Book Fest is an annual competitive book award that culminates with an awards banquet in October. Zonta sponsors the "Women Writer" category award, which serves to improve the status of women in the arts. We are active in narrowing down the books submitted to three finalists, by having approximately 20 members (40% of our membership) read and critique several books each. One of our members coordinates this with the Book Fest committee. Of the three author finalists, one is chosen by a panel of professional judges and awarded a \$500 prize at a festive, well-attended banquet held at our local art museum. The evening includes a well-known author as keynote speaker. Zonta is well represented, with two tables reserved for our members (each table also includes one of the author finalists). We receive excellent press and acknowledgement on this event, which includes a week's worth of workshops and readings leading up to the awards banquet.
<http://ci.billings.mt.us/index.aspx?NID=1407>
4. This year marked the second year of the Zonta-created monthly presentation, "Artful Women of Montana", which features local women involved in art, entertainment or writing. This program was the brainchild of one of our artist Zonta members, Connie Dillon. A Zontian moderates the presentation and discussion, which is held at our new library's community room the second Tuesday of each month. The series has been well received by the public; attendance thus far has ranged from twelve to forty people. Publicity includes a monthly library ad in the newspaper and PSAs by Yellowstone Public Radio. Zonta also has a Facebook page dedicated to the program. We recently changed the time of the presentation from 5:30 to 7:00 PM and are now offering light refreshments. We are realizing a steady increase in attendance, resulting in great exposure for Zonta and improving the status of women in the arts. This is spearheaded by one of our members, and numerous members assist with refreshments and attend each month. Articles appear monthly in the Billings Gazette, and announcements are made in the library monthly newsletter, on video screens located in the library, and on our local NPR station. This appears to be a viable program which is steadily gaining in popularity. There are many untapped resources for future guest presenters in our community and the surrounding area. http://billingsgazette.com/entertainment/artful-women-series-welcomes-sommerfeld-for-tuesday-talk/article_6a76b0f2-759f-5ca2-93a7-e3296d8fbb31.html
5. In conjunction with our annual member holiday party in December, about half of our members donated gifts cards or cash (totaling \$460) to Tumbleweeds, a local organization dedicated to helping runaway and homeless youth. Tumbleweeds offers several programs for youth and their families, including parenting classes, counseling, a transitional living program, and a drop in center.
<http://www.tumbleweedprogram.org/>

6. Zonta annually sponsors an open house shopping night in early December at Global Village, the storefront of a local non-profit fair trade organization. Support of this of this store, staffed primarily by volunteers, raises money for women artisans and supports free trade. This annual fun night is well-attended by the majority of the Billings Zontians, with sales of approximately \$2,500 this year.
<http://www.globalvillagebillings.org/>
7. Approximately a dozen Zontian volunteers (roughly 25% of our club membership) staff the “Passport Booth” at the Festival of Cultures, sponsored in early summer of each year (June 14, 2015) by the Institute for Peace Studies at Rocky Mountain College. The daylong Festival is a celebration of cultural diversity and draws over 7,000 participants to the college campus for poetry, music, dancing, ethnic crafts and foods, and a cultural talent competition for children and young adults. We display our Zonta banner and have information available about our organization in conjunction with manning the booth at this far. This celebration has been ongoing for many years.
<https://www.rocky.edu/about-rocky/ips/FestivalCultures.php>
8. We donated \$250 to Family Service, Inc. of Billings for their backpack program, which provides backpacks filled with school supplies to underprivileged area children. In addition to our annual monetary sponsorship of this program, a half dozen club members participated in filling backpacks at the Family Service offices on a Saturday morning just before the start of school this fall. We receive recognition in the Family Services newsletter and annual report. <http://famserv.com/>
9. Three members of Zonta participated in a March blanket-making evening at Angela’s Piazza, a local drop in center for women struggling with addictions and/or domestic violence victims. Our members worked side-by-side with Angela’s clients, providing support and friendship.
<http://www.angelaspiazza.org/>
10. We worked to increase exposure by updating a small brochure that summarizes the service and advocacy that Zonta Club of Billings supports and provides in our local community. This is made available at all Zonta-sponsored events and functions.

(Feel free to add additional projects)

Other Service Questions & Linking Service and Advocacy:

Do all club service projects relate to Zonta’s mission (advancing status of women / empowering women through service and advocacy)?

Yes No If no, describe

What like-minded organizations have you partnered with for service and/or advocacy. Please list and briefly describe how you partnered with them.
See above

Mention examples of club service activities focused on “Prevention of Root Causes” of inequality and violence against women through education:
see above

The information below will be used to determine the District Advocacy Award to be given out at the 2016 Governor Seminar, Deadwood, SD on Sept. 23-24, 2016

Advocacy: The expression of support for or opposition to a cause, argument or proposal. Advocacy may include influencing laws, legislation, or attitudes. Zonta advocacy is an action taken in "the public interest" or for "the greater good" with respect to advancing the status of women and girls and their human rights.)

Does your club have an advocacy committee? xYes No

(Do Not Include Zonta Says No Activities Here - See Below)

Please name and describe your advocacy projects including for each item:

- (a) category: improved the status of women in general (legal, political, economic, educational, health and/or professional)
or
helped prevent and fight violence against women and girls (VAW)
- (b) how closely the project coincided with the advocacy definition above
- (c) did the project reflect one of the District 12 Platform for Advocacy issues which are:
 - Achieving pay equity
 - Supporting measures to oppose gender based violence such as trafficking, rape & domestic violence
 - Ensuring equal rights under the law
- (d) % of club members involved in the project
- (e) names of any community partners
- (f) visibility and credibility to Zonta created by the project

1. Domestic Violence Proclamation

At the request of the Zonta Club of Billings, the City of Billings officially proclaimed November 25th-December 10th the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence in Billings, MT.

- 2. Art Classes for Domestic Violence Support Group: During the month of October, the Zonta Club of Billings, in partnership with Angela's Piazza and local artist Julie Pederson Atkins, organized art classes for victims of violence, giving the women a creative outlet to alleviate stress and anxiety. The art was shown to the public on December 8th, along with information regarding violence against women, in a display entitled, "No More Empty Shoes" at the Billings Clinic. In addition, there was a reception where some survivors told their story and a doctor who works with domestic violence victims spoke. The event was covered in the Billings Gazette. Approximately 30% of members participated. Also displayed where silhouettes with the victims stories.
- 3. Anti- Trafficking Forum: We showed Nefarious Merchant of Souls at the local movie theater. Sixty-three people showed up to watch the movie then listen to several speakers providing information on trafficking in Montana and surrounding states. 50% of the club attended.

Zonta Says No:

1. Describe your club's Zonta Says No activities in 2015 - 2016: Domestic Violence Proclamation
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2. Art Classes for Domestic Violence Support Group: During the month of October, the Zonta Club of Billings, in partnership with Angela's Piazza and local artist Julie Pederson Atkins, organized art classes for victims of violence, giving the women a creative outlet to alleviate stress and anxiety. The art was shown to the public on December 8th, along with information regarding violence against women, in a display entitled, "No More Empty Shoes" at the Billings Clinic. In addition, there was a reception where some survivors told their story and a doctor who works with domestic violence victims spoke. The event was covered in the Billings Gazette. Approximately 30% of members participated. Also displayed where silhouettes with the victims stories.

Other Advocacy questions:

What women's issues have been identified as the most important in your club? Gender based violence and human trafficking

How have club members been made aware of legislation relevant to women in our country? We have not informed members. This would be something that I believe District or National could help with by sending informative emails to all members about legislature.

Have statements/letters, etc. been sent to law-makers or government/officials at national/state/community levels? If yes, please send copy to motoole48@comcast.net (and copy your Area Director). no

United Nations:

Please describe how your club informed its membership of Zonta's work with the United Nations. Presentation by Renee Coppock

List topics shared with club members regarding the UN (& Zonta's engagement) (i.e., CSW, Sustainable Development Goals, etc.) General overview of the topics during a presentation by Renee Coppock.

External Communications/Public Relations:

Please check box for the PR tools your club uses:

Brochure Newsletter Club or Individual Business Cards Website Facebook Other (describe) Several articles in the local newspaper about events and service projects

Did the club submit a "Share your Story" through the Zonta International Website? Yes No If yes, describe

Internal Communications (e.g., newsletter, directory, website):

Please describe how your club kept its membership informed & connected this year. We send out a newsletter twice a month, hold business meetings once a month and a program meeting once a month. There is a members only section on our website as well.

ZIF Ambassador:

Does your club have a foundation ambassador? Yes x No

How has your club encouraged individual donations this year? Please describe. The board this year called every member to request a donation. A presentation as done to the membership about ZIF and what ZIF is accomplishing.

Z-Club or Golden Z-Club:

Does your club have a Z or Golden Z Club? Yes x No

If yes, please describe key events held during the year.

If no, please describe what steps taken or plans to add a Z or Golden Z Club. Not of interest to the club at the moment.

Archiving & History:

Does your club have an archivist/historian? x Yes No

Please describe your club's progress to date in:

(a) finding & listing your club archives. We have completed this. All documents have been digitized.

(b) arranging for safe storage of materials. We developed a club policy that has all documents kept on a DropBox account for seven years then documents that must be kept for archiving are also saved on two hard drives and kept in a fire safe box in our storage unit and updated each year.

Bylaws:

Does your club have a bylaws committee? x Yes No

Are your bylaws up to date in accordance with Zonta International bylaws? x Yes No