Greetings District 12 Zontians!

This is your official **Call to the 2017 District 12 Conference**, to be held on **September 22 - 24 at the Doubletree Hotel at Lincoln Park, Greeley, Colorado,** and hosted by the Zonta Club of Greeley and the Zonta Club of Fort Collins. **All District 12 Zontians are invited and encouraged to attend!**



At this year's conference, we are celebrating “*Raising Our Voices to Empower Women*.” Our voices have the power to educate, advocate and break the silence around issues that impact women world-wide. Our voices, whether written or oral, are powerful tools. We need to learn to use them—not be fearful of our power. Zonta’s own Amelia Earhart is a fine example; she often raised her voice and, in her actions, served as a role model to improve the status of women. The outspoken Maya Angelou, Lupita Nyong’o and Beyoncé each raised their own voices to uplift and inspire women of every race and age. Eleanor Roosevelt acted as the voice of women through the White House and made the role of First Lady a prominent one, changing the thought process in our country. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Ida B. Wells and Alice Paul raised their voices for many years so that women could eventually vote. Jeannette Rankin was an early voice of reason in the House of Representatives. Malala Yousafzai now raises her voice so that girls in all countries can go to school and learn to read. Currently, Ruth Bader Ginsberg raises her voice every day as Justice for the U.S. Supreme Court. However, there are many women whose names we do not know – who every day, in all walks of life, raise their voices innumerable times to improve their own lives and the lives of those around them. They advocate, teach and lead by example, thereby empowering women in countless ways. Think about how raising your own voice can, and will, make a difference. Bring that knowledge and conviction with you to your Conference and show us how to empower women that you know. The time is now. We cannot stand on the sidelines any longer – RAISE YOUR VOICE!

This year, we are inviting the members of our Z and Golden Z Clubs to join us in leadership and training. Candace Edwards, the Zonta International Z and Golden Z Club Committee Chairman, will lead sessions specifically for these members. Each Zonta Club that sponsors a Z or Golden Z Club is encouraged to offer assistance to these younger members so that they may take advantage of this opportunity. Please contact them by forwarding this Call to Conference and offering financial assistance. These young women are our future!

Attached to this email is a **registration form**. You may either print the form and mail it in with a check or you may register and pay online. The registration form will also be available onthe District 12 website. **We encourage everyone to register online.**

We also have special instructions for how to make **hotel reservations**, since we are fortunate to be holding our conference in a brand new hotel. However, that means that on-line reservations are not yet available. Please follow the instructions included with this Call to Conference to receive the special Zonta rate.

The proposed Conference agenda is provided so that you can see the exciting items and training we have for you. A separate email will be sent with instructions for delegates/alternates/proxies, along with all the voting topics. All this information can also be found on the District 12 website.

**Following are highlights of the conference weekend. Attire is business casual except where noted.**

**Friday at 5:00 p.m.** There will be a First Timer Orientation. If you have not attended a District Conference before, this session is for YOU! Learn what to do and what to expect.

**Friday at 6:30 p.m.** Welcome reception and “Zonta Academy Award Night:” Dress up as your favorite actor/actress or in “Red Carpet” attire. Movie “shorts,” emphasizing women’s issues, will be shown, and “Oscars,” aka “Zontees,” will be awarded! Be ready! Cash bar and hors d’oeuvres will be available. Pre-registration is required.

**Saturday at 7:00 a.m.** Zonta Morning Exercise to start the day right! Join Michelle Médal for wake up exercises in the park right outside the hotel. Those who attend are eligible for a special prize!

**Saturday at 8:00 a.m.** An instructional meeting for delegates, alternates and voting District 12 board members will be held. All voting members must attend.

**Saturday at 9:00 a.m.** A very packed business session starts. Voting will be held on financial statements, the 2018-2020 budget, revisions to the District 12 Policies and Procedure manual, proposed Zonta International Bylaw changes, and the 2018 – 2020 Slate of Officers. Leadership training and workshops will also be held in the afternoon (*see* attached agenda for details). You will be asked to pick one of four sessions to attend. You will have a chance to choose another session on Sunday.

**Saturday at 12:30 p.m.** Attendees will not only hear comments from our International Representative, Ursula Werner, but also an inspirational presentation from a survivor of human trafficking.

**Saturday at 6:00 p.m.** Reception and cocktails, followed by dinner and awards ceremony. Do not miss this exceptional event. Club Zontians of the Year will be recognized and awards will be given to Clubs for membership, service, advocacy, travel, and first time attendees. You will also meet and hear from District 12 (and international) scholarship winners. Dress is cocktail attire. After the dinner and awards ceremony, join Zonta International Liaison Ursula Werner and Governor Reneé Coppock in the hospitality room – this is the time to bond with fellow Zontians and get to know your Zonta International representative and district leadership team.

**Sunday at 7:45 a.m.** The Conference will begin with a memorial service to honor our District Zontians who have passed away since the 2015 District Conference. The service in nondenominational and shows the impact that Zontians have on local communities and the world.

**Sunday at 9:00 a.m.** Enjoy brunch and an update on the Zonta International Foundation fundraising, the Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign, and the Zonta International service projects. Four workshops will be held after brunch – choose your favorite! The conference will conclude at 12:30 p.m.

Please contact Cyndy Giauque at dagiauque@comcast.net or Judy Barth at Judith.Barth@ColoState.EDU for questions regarding this year's Conference.

***I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2017 District Conference! It will be fabulous!***

Cheers,

Reneé L. Coppock

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Zonta International District 12 Governor

2016-2018