**Advocacy and United Nations District 12 Committee Report**

For year to date 2017 as of October 1, 2017

As I write this report, I realize that as District 12 Committee Chair, I have done a fair number of activities to promote advocacy and raise awareness about issues Zonta cares about during 2017. However, I realize that much of what I have done is as a *lone wolf* and not as part of a larger District 12 level group. While I am happy the work is being accomplished (knowing that the real work is done by Zonta members at the Club level), I am not truly nurturing the concerns of others, or mentoring others. Working alone is what I am good at – working in groups less so. This is a challenge for me to take on as I move forward in this role which I enjoy but also with which I struggle.

So, what have I been working on – emphasizing again that I am only the organizer, the overseer, and not the ever-so-important worker bee. The list:

1. I attended each of the District 12 Area meetings and made a presentation about Advocacy. The presentations were each slightly different, but built off the work that was done to try to identify pending or recently passed legislation in each of the four district states and at the U.S. Congress.

2. I prepared, shared, and update (a couple of times) the legislation of interest to Zontians at the federal level and for the states of Colorado, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming. This was not only shared at the Area meetings but was emailed out to Zontians in Advocacy leadership roles and others who expressed an interest.

3. I prepared an article on Advocacy for each of the Zonta District 12 Outreach newsletter that went out during the year. The topics of the articles were on (a) What is Advocacy? (b) How to be an Advocate; and (c) the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals.

4. I drafted and shared with the Advocacy team a letter to my Congress people on the need to continue State Department and U.N. Funding used to partner with NGOs to help others around the world.

5. I attend the Commission on the Status of Women meeting in New York City (thanks to help from the Zonta Club of Cheyenne) to really learn more about the relationship Zonta has with the U.N. and to learn from other women’s groups at the meetings.

6. I prepared the requested summary report to Zonta International describing the work of the district particularly related to Advocacy and U.N. activities.

7. I prepared a summary of how well I had met my goals relative to Advocacy and United Nations work and presented it at the June District 12 Leadership / Board meeting.

8. I prepared a letter to be provided to Senator Enzi (R, WY) in partnership with a group called RESULTS. The common theme of working with this group was to seek continued financial and other support for the international education projects and the Global Partnership for Education.

9. I attended a showing of the documentary EqualMeansEqual shown in Denver by the Colorado Business and Professional Women’s Clubs. Also there were Zontians from the Greeley Club. We have begun discussions about showing this documentary at a District 12, Area 2 event.

10. I prepared a number of awareness materials relative to the Equal Rights Amendment and the second chance that we have been given to finally pass this constitutional amendment. The key is getting Congressional resolutions passed that extend the ratification deadline.

11. I recruited an experienced advocate (Rita Meyer) to be a co-presenter with me at the Advocacy break-out session at the District 12 Conference in Greeley. She was a hit.

12. I reviewed the District 12 Club reports and selected the Advocacy Award to the presented at the District 12 Conference in Greeley, Colorado in September. The award recipient was the Zonta Foothills Club of Boulder County.

Respectfully and Humbly Submitted on the 27th day of September, 2017.

Denise Parrish