

Thank you to all the BILLINGS ZONTA members that joined in to create a very successful centennial celebration in District 12 conference Billings. It was a delighted to be the conference chair. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve. Thanks to the registration crew: **ANNEMARIE WADE, GINNIE BURGESS, ANNA BREWER, CONNIE ZUGG, KELLY GALLINGER and KELLY CHRISTY** as well as the credentials crew of **ANN HEFENIEDER and RENEE COPPOCK.** All the attendees were given Welcome Bags that were planned and assembled by **JOYCE BONVILLIAN, BEV ROSS, ANNA BREWER and CONNIE ZUGG.** The Club History hall was prepared by **DEBBIE WILLIS** and our club display prepared by **RENEE and DEBBIE WILLIS. DEBBIE WILLIS** served as our conference committee secretary and **ANNMARIE** as our conference treasurer. Our conference bags were designed and ordered by **RENEE COPPOCK** and the attendee ribbons were ordered by **ANN HEFENIEDER. RENEE** donated the printing of the conference program book. Thank You. Our business meeting monitors were **TWYLA BEST** and **KRISTY FOSS.**  **JANET SHARON** chaired the committee for the Zonta Store while **LARA GUERCIO** prepared the club Travel Basket for our fundraising raffle. We began on Friday with an educational wine tour and tasting at Yellowstone Cellars and Winery lead by our famous wine expert **STELLA FONG.** Then attendees gathered with a little wet weather but we pursued through it and had a grand tour of Montana State University in the “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women” Mural in the tunnel at Montana State University Billings and a moving view of the “What were you wearing?” display in the library. We learned that the display could be implemented in any of our college campuses across our cities. Thank you to **CONNIE CAMINO, JANET SHARON, STELLA FONG and RENEE COPPOCK** for guiding the buses and tour. We moved on to Prescott Hall to the grander of Prescott Hall and enjoyed in 1919 party celebrating Zonta‘s beginning with fascinator‘s, a photo booth and an amazing performance by the Z story players and enjoyed meeting new friends and embracing old friends, exchanging ZONTA stories and so much more what a fun evening. Thank you **STELLA** for the coordination of the catering and venues for all of the conference. **TWYLA, TAMARA, GINNIE and RENEE** for serving up the wine and beer for the club. **KRISTY FOSS and NANCY RICE** prepared and supervised the fascinators. Our cleanup crew made fast work of the cleanup, thank you **BEV ROSS, NANCY CURRIDEN, KELLY CHRISTY, NANCY RICE, KRISTY FOSS, STELLA FONG, DEBBIE WILLIS, CONNIE CAMINO and RENEE.**Saturday started with a morning exercise program planned by **SUZIE DEBAR**. The day was an action packed day with business meetings incorporating the Boys and Girl Scouts (Thank You **DEBBIE WILLIS** for inviting the scouts) and having them present the colors and the pledge of allegiance with us as we started our business meeting. **CONNIE CAMINO and KELLY GALLINGER** coordinated the protocol, flags and processional. **ANN HEFFENIEDER** invited Billings Mayor Bill Cole to present the Billings welcome. We were inspired by Sigrid Duden our international representative about the spirit and passion of our international board and Zontians across the world challenging us to grow and be even better and celebrate our successes as we go along. A big THANKS to **ANNA BREWER** for hosting Sigrid and **KELLY CHRISTY** for hosting Rachel Steinberg from UNICEF. Door prizes were gathered and drawings held by **KRISTY FOSS.**
Conference event and workshop greeters included: **ANNA BREWER, GINNIE BURGESS, KRISTY FOSS, BECKY WIEHE, JOYCE BONVILLIAN, TINA FIGARELLE, CONNIE ZUGG, KELLY GALLINGER, ANNA SCHMITT, DEBBIE WILLIS and LARA GUERCIO.** Thank you!! We were gladdened in the fact that our District 12 budget is healthy and vibrant thanks to the leadership of our leadership teams over the years. We approved our new budgets. We moved on to look at our policies and procedures and approved all of those as well as a compelling election of great and grand Zontians that will be serving us in 2020 to 2022 congratulations. Thank you to our delegates **GINNIE BURGESS and LARA GUERCIO** and the alternates **STELLA FONG and CONNIE ZUGG.** You represented our Billings Club very well,

We rejoiced in our successes and celebrated with a wonderful birthday song to Zonta the largest birthday balloon at the convention. The conference entertainment and music was coordinated by **KELLY CHRISTY** with piano music Friday evening and vocals and guitar by Lyric Horton on Saturday evening as well as celebration music playing throughout the conference. Our District service project was a hit. **JANET SHARON** and **LARA GUERCIO** helped to gather over one hundred gently used purses and they distributed them to women at Angela’s Piazza, YWCA Gateway House and Tumbleweed. Each purse was filled with toiletries and hand written inspirational notes. District 12 clubs will continue the biennium service project of gathering books about women writers and women in history to give to the area school libraries. Each book will have a special ZONTA book label noting our club’s donation. We had some very talented ZONTA store sellers helping sell our mugs, license plates and pins. A big thank you goes to **NANCY RICE, ANNA SCHMITT, LAUREN WRIGHT and JANET SHARON** for your time.Our special guest Rachel Steinberg from UNICEF shared our “Why” concerning Ending Early Childhood Marriage and what a partnership with UNICEF really does to make a difference in the lives of Women and Girls around the world and in our community.
**STELLA FONG** led an interactive Open Forum with Sigrid Duden-ZONTA International Representative from Heidelberg Germany, District 12 Governor, DeeDee Boysen and Lt. Governor Ann Hogson to focus on the Future of ZONTA. Our workshop presenters were top notch, thank you Marian, Denise, Renee and Kathy.
A big thank you to **MELANIE TRIPP** for orchestrating all the AV, music, videos and power points during the entire conference. We could not have done it without you.
Saturday evening we celebrated our Jane M Klausman International award winner Cassidy Shaver. Thanks to **JANET SHARON** for her work as our scholarship chair and inviting Cassidy to speak. I’ll tell you what Cassidy is a pistol and our District 12 community award winner Dr. Flemming from Cheyenne, Wyoming is an inspiration to us all.
Congratulations to all the award winners: **BILLINGS CLUB** with the most first time attendees as well as winners of the **DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP AWARD and ADVOCACY AWARD.** Honoring certificates were given to **BEV ROSS** for her dedicated years of membership and to the Zontian’s of the year including **ANNA BREWER**. Thanks to all for sharing the District 12 experience. This was a great conference; we learn a lot, celebrated a lot and had a lot of fun.
Thank you to Ellen Tye and the Boulder Club for the gift of the ZONTA medallion that everyone received at our awards dinner. We hope everyone will proudly display them on cars, front doors of their home or business or wherever they’d like to put them.
Sunday’s memorial service was caring as we honored Zontian’s who have passed away in the past two years. **LARA GUERCIO** working with the District 12 Lt Governor, Ann Hodgson, was masterful in creating and designing the memorial service. Our long time dedicated member, AGGIE HAVIG was memorialized by **ANNA BREWER.**

Thank you to the wonderful Billings club members that all participated in so many grand ways to make this a very special conference. Your work, your dedication, your time spent to make this happen is much appreciated. No chair can do this by themselves. I am so grateful for the Zonta club members of Billings and all their talents that they bring to our community and our club.

Deedee said that I was her angel but it is been a dream working with her to put together our District 12 conference. With her leadership and her guidance we were all able the **“Seize the Spirit of ZONTA”**. I thank all of the Billings Club members for your hard work and dedication to Zonta. Here’s to you!!! Thank you for celebrating! Continue sharing and giving. Until our next meeting God bless you and I hope will see everyone in Chicago in July of 2020 as we continue to celebrate 100 years of ZONTA.

**Thank you - Debbie Sundberg, ZONTA District 12 Conference Chair 2019**  