

# District 12 Outreach

## December 2022



### Governor's Message

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. I wish for all of you the best of the holiday season and a happy, healthy and successful 2023. This biennium is off to a great start. Lots of new members and some really great work being done by our clubs. I am so proud to be your Governor and look forward to meeting with all of you during this biennium. Always feel free to reach out with thoughts, ideas and questions.

As we start the New Year please keep in your heart a quote from Maya Angelou;

“People will forget what you said, People will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

District 12 Governor

Bridget Masters

### District 12 update

The District 12 Seminar was a huge success and I thank the Zonta club of Pierre-Fort Pierre for their hard work and really fun ideas. Great food, Great fun and Great learning opportunities. The Pikes Peak Area club presented the club's Women in Careers project and the Billings club gave us a hands on opportunity to spread Red Sand at the entrance to the Ramkota and spread the word about Domestic Violence. The presentation from the Action for Environment and Gender Equality committee (AEGE) by Julie Trone helped to highlight how climate change more adversely impacts women than men. Laurie Feiler, Church of Hope shared with us the challenges women face when released from prison. The District 12 Seminar service project was to bring items to fill back packs for these women. They received enough items to fill 46 back packs. GREAT WORK EVERYONE!! The Seminar ended with an invitation to the District conference in Laramie, WY September 15-17 and an inspiring message of Attitude of Gratitude by Dr Michelle Aldrich. THANK YOU to all of the presenters and round table facilitators.

The following awards were presented:

- The first Lifetime Achievement Award went to Mary Benoit, Zonta club of Denver for her longevity of service, outstanding leadership, and dedication to our organization.
- Service Award – Billings
- Advocacy Award- Prowers County
- YWPA Winner – Thank you to Zonta clubs of Denver, Spearfish, Ft Collins and Cheyenne for submitting applications. The winner was Colleen Kennedy from the Zonta club of Fort Collins
- Several Zontians were recognized for their length of membership.
- At the end of the newsletter is a listing of the Zontians of the Year and the testimony from the clubs of the hard work and dedication of these amazing women. .

The Club Creators are working hard at getting a club chartered in Sheridan, WY. Monthly meetings since the beginning of the biennium and we have a great core group of women interested. If you know anyone in the Sheridan, WY area please send their contact information to the Club Creator Chair, Deedee Boysen.

Area Directors are busy preparing for the Area meetings. Here is a listing of the dates and host clubs, more information will follow regarding time and location.

January 21 – Area 3 and the AE Fellowship award program. We have 1 AE Fellow attending the University of Colorado that will attend and present her thesis work.

April 15 – Area 2 - Cheyenne club

April 22 – Area 4 – Pikes Peak Area club

April 29 – Area 1 – Glendive club



Lt Governor Debbie Sundberg and Governor Bridget Masters



Round Tables

## Zonta International Update

The Zonta International tag line has changed from Empowering Women and Girls through Service and Advocacy to “Build a Better World for Women and Girls” that is centered under these 5 pillars:

Stand out for Equality-Advocacy for gender equality and promote International Women’s Day. Elevate Zonta’s presence and participation in global conversations on women’s rights.

Represent Global Citizenship -Club and individual donations to ZFW, Zonta Says No Campaign and Zonta Says Now. Clubs to be shining examples in our communities.

Develop Future Leaders-Elevate Scholarships and fellowships. Build and maintain relationships with Z and Golden Z, Embrace and listen to young members

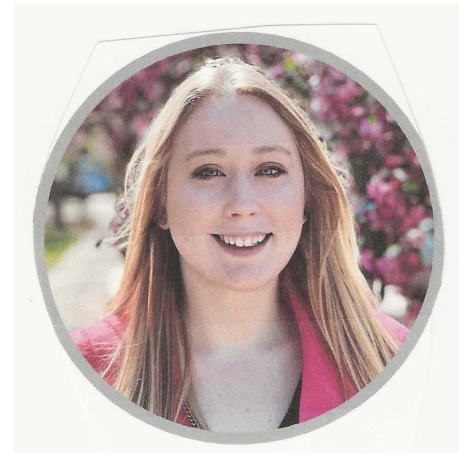
Celebrate Ourselves - Promote the spirit of Zonta, Celebrate our over 25 year members and value diversity in our membership

Position Zonta for the Future-Continue to evaluate our organization and create long range goals and strategic plan. A survey will be coming out to members in October and it is VERY important that as many members as possible respond. This is the information they will use to create the future of Zonta.

The key idea is to be active with Advocacy during 16 Days of Activism and International Women’s day.

**Always think to include a membership growth function to all club activities.**

**University of Colorado**  
**2022 Amelia Earhart Fellow**  
**Anivid Pedrós Faura**



Anivid Pedrós Faura is a 2022 Amelia Earhart Fellow attending the University of Colorado Boulder. She is from Spain and is working toward a PhD in Aerospace Engineering. Anivid will be joining us at the Area 3 Meeting /Amelia Earhart Luncheon in January.

Anivid is a member of the Orbital Research Cluster for Celestial Applications (ORCCA) Laboratory. Her research focuses on modeling the behavior of active small bodies (i.e., asteroids, comets) with the goal to build better dynamical environment models to enable safe close-proximity operations.

Close-proximity operations around small bodies can be extremely challenging due to their highly uncertain dynamical environments. Recent missions indicate that surface activity and ejecting particles can exist for both asteroids and comets increasing the uncertainty and risks.

Anivid wishes to build robust guidance algorithms and contribute to high-fidelity dynamical models so that active small bodies become reachable targets. As part of her research, she has been working on improving the current state of the art models for cometary drag force and gravity models suitable for irregular bodies.

She will use her Amelia Earhart Fellowship to fund her stay as a visiting researcher at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). She will continue her work on improving ejecta motion evolution models using data from the Hayabusa2's kinetic impactor experiment.

Ultimately, Ms. Faura hopes to push the bounds of deep space exploration so that we can better understand solar system formation and where we came from. After graduating, one of her career goals is to become a professor so she can encourage women to pursue careers in STEM fields and help increase the number of role models in the space field.

In her free time, she enjoys traveling, skiing and learning new languages.



## 2022 Zonta Convention

June 24 to June 28, 2022 was the 65<sup>th</sup> Zonta International Convention held in Hamburg, Germany. I was our club delegate as well as a 2020-2022 Governor. The Convention occurs every 2 years and is a chance to meet with Zontians from around the world, learn more about Zonta's work and participate in decisions about Zonta's future.



Ann Hodgson with her lanyard of pins and credentials

**Friday June 24** started with an optional walking tour of Hamburg which I skipped - too early after the flight and time change. In the afternoon, I attended a welcome reception given by the Mayor of Hamburg at the Hamburg city hall or Rathaus. The building was huge and ornate and the Mayor's speech showed a good understanding of Zonta's mission. The reception was in 3 large, beautiful rooms with champagne and finger food. Friday evening, President Sharon Langenbeck held a dinner for the ZI Board, Committee Chairs and Governors in a lovely hotel overlooking the river. I was able to spend some time with Ina Wasserling, our District 12 liaison.

**Saturday June 25** was "Orange Out Day" and we all wore orange to support ending violence against women. We were able to attend 3 workshops during the day on a variety of topics. The ones I selected were:

Zonta Says Now to Gender Equality and Climate Action

Zonta Says No: Maximizing Our Impact

Zealous Inclusion – Member Diversity



Julie Trone, District 12 Climate Change Chair, presenting at the Zonta Says Now Workshop

About 5 pm we gathered in front of the Convention Center to welcome a group of Zontians who had biked 270 km from Göttingen, Germany to Hamburg to raise funds for Zonta Foundation for Women. They presented Sharon Langenbeck with a check for 5,555 euros.



**Sunday June 26** was the first day with actual business sessions. We started with the flag ceremony in which representatives of all countries with Zonta clubs march in carrying their country flag to be posted on the stage for the duration of the Convention. The USA flag is always first because Zonta was established in the USA. Usually, the flag bearers wear a national costume. This is one of my favorite parts of Convention.



Flag Bearers in National Costumes

Next we heard reports from president Langenbeck and the Chicago HQ staff. After lunch recipients of each of the ZI scholarships and fellowship spoke.

The Nominating Committee gave their report of nominations for officers and board and we voted electronically. After having no one from the USA on the board last biennium we elected two directors from the USA this time. Our own Renee Coppock from the Billings club and my fellow Governor, Brit-tany Vaughan, from District 9 in Burbank, CA. The new Nominating Committee includes both our District 12 liaison, Ina Wasserling, and past ZI treasurer, Mari McKenzie, who attended our 2021 District Conference in Colorado Springs.



Newly Elected Officers – Renee Coppock, Director, second in on the right

That evening I had dinner with a group of Zontians who went on a preconvention trip from Heidelberg to Rotterdam prior to the first Convention I attended as a delegate in 2008.

**Monday June 27** we spent the whole day on bylaws and resolutions. Many of the amendments were simple clean up or minor. Here are the ones that I found significant or interesting:

- Individual member was changed to Supporting member after a suggestion from the floor

- Removal of classification for members

- Replace chairman with chair – this has been brought up at many previous Conventions

- No junior Z clubs – too many issues of access to younger students

- Allow ZI and District meetings to be electronic

- Proposal to remove require committees at ZI level was rejected in favor of it being addressed as part of strategic planning

Two resolutions were passed against ZI recommendations:

- Resolution One passed and ZI policy is now in support of a woman's right to abortion

- Resolution Five passed so Women in Technology continues for another biennium (we voted on an updated Foundation budget to cover the \$160,000 scholarships) There was no discussion of how the candidates would be identified or selected. I assume the last process would continue.

In the evening I went to the Governor's reunion dinner for the first time.

**Tuesday June 28** began with the memorial service for Zontians who passed way in this biennium and also in the last since we were not able to honor them before. Each Governor walked across the stage and added a yellow rose to a vase as the names of those being honored from that district were displaying on the screen.

We voted to accept the proposed international service projects:

- Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection in Peru – renewed

- Her Health and Dignity (fighting violence against women) – renewed

- Engaging Girls on Climate Change in Madagascar -new

- Global Program to End Child Marriage – renewed

I was excited to be asked to give a short presentation to the Convention on my Foothills club's Z and Golden Z clubs. I'm sure this invitation was due to the Share Your Story items that we have posted. The thought of an audience of almost 1,400 was intimidating, but the auditorium lights were off for the slide show so I couldn't see them. The presentation was well received and I got a number of great comments about how well we support the clubs.

Next was a rousing welcome to the Ukrainian Zontians who made it to Convention. They lined up on the stage and a film was shown of how they are helping refugees escape and supporting families in need. Another standing ovation as they left the stage.



We then went back to business items. Incoming ZI president, Ute Scholz, presented her 5 pillars and biennial goals. The fundraising goals and spending plans for Zonta Foundation for Women to support the service and educational programs were passed.

We were all invited to attend the 2024 Convention in Brisbane, Australia and the Convention was closed.



Collecting pins from other clubs is a Convention tradition.

That evening was the gala banquet with the installation of the new board and incoming Governors. This included the presentation of pins to the incoming Governors by the outgoing Governors. I was proud to give the District 12 pin to Bridget Masters.





**Congratulations to the 2022 Zontians of the year.**

**Thank you for your hard work and dedication!**

## **Area 1**

### **Teri Pattee – Zonta Club of Billings**

Teri Pattee is the Zonta Club of Billings Zontian of the Year. Teri has been a member for more than 7 years, and from the beginning, she got involved and volunteered for key leadership roles in the club. The other members of the Billing club have a lot to say about Teri...

“I realized right away that she was a hard-working, dedicated member who didn’t hesitate to pitch in when needed. From organizing Mom’s Night Out events at Friendship House to volunteering for the self-defense classes there or to helping with our installation dinners and our many other events. Now, she’s taken over the monumental job of club treasurer. She is always there with her quiet, unassuming ways to get the job done, and get it done proficiently. Above all she is kind.”

Another member says Teri represents all the qualities of a great Zontian: She participates in club activities and supports the efforts of other Zontians, she volunteered to be our club treasurer and does a good job, she supports the Zontian mission of Empowering women through service and Advocacy and she is one to mentor professionalism and leadership within her chosen careers.

Many recognized Teri for stepping up to take on what is one of the hardest jobs in Zonta, which is being the club treasurer. In her years with the club Teri has taken many leadership roles. She was co-chair of service, served on membership and participated in organizing the Centennial celebration. One member wrote, “She is a great example of a passionate, kind and dedicated Zontian who cares about our mission and our work.”

“Teri is steadfast, fun and delightful in every way. She embraces the Zonta spirit. Teri rocks!”

### **Karen Kierstad – Zonta Club of the Black Hills**

**I joined Zonta in 2014 after my husband passed away because I wanted to be around women doing good work in the community. Since then, I have held several positions within the club. the first two years as recording secretary, Vice-President, President Elect and then President. I have been on the board since 2014 to present and now again as Recording Secretary. I have held positions on several club committees. At the last annual meeting I was presented with the Zonta of the Year award for 2021. My whole family surprised me at the meeting! I am also the District 12 -Area 1 Vice-Chair. I have owned Mountain States Security for 36 years. Mountain States Security has grown to be the oldest and the largest security company in western South Dakota. I am passionate about my work, and the work of Zonta.**

## Bonita Keel – Zonta Club of Glendive

“Sounds like a great idea! What do you need me to do?”

**Bonita Keel**, the first person to offer help in any Zonta project is Glendive’s Zonta Member of the year for 2022! Having joined Zonta in 2001, Bonita has served as director for several terms, as well as Committee Chairman for various committees. Bonita is always ready to help when Zonta is asked to provide volunteers for various community activities: ringing the bell for Salvation Army, selling tickets at Makoshika Basketball Tournament and NorskOctoberfest. Making cookies for the Z-Club annual COED as well as providing a variety of food items for the Food Pantry at the High School, which is sponsored by Z-Club. A major project for Zonta is our “Coats for Kids”, and many times, Bonita has bought coats, mittens and hats to add to our supply.

Bonita is an integral part of our annual Zonta fundraiser, the Arts and Crafts Show. She is the Chairman of the committee who sends out letters to vendors and assigns booths to them. At the craft show, she is the main contact for vendors who have questions. Besides these duties, she also helps with our concessions by cutting and serving desserts as well as taking a turn at the cash register!

As one of the co-chairs for our scholarship committee, she prepares the applications, selects the scholarship winners and organizes a social event to honor the scholarship recipients. Bonita has been asked and was on the selection committee for District YWPA scholarship winner.

The best thing about Bonita is that she always has a smile and always has a positive attitude, which makes working with her a joy and a pleasure. All of our members know we can go to her and she will help us any way she can with our project. AND....she makes yummy casseroles and desserts when she provides meals for our meetings!

## Alison Jares – Zonta Club of Pierre-Fort Pierre

Alison has been an active and passionate member of the Zonta Club of Pierre-Fort Pierre since she joined in 2005. She has served the club as Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Craft Show Chair and Advocacy Chair (to name a few). She has worked for the Department of Revenue since 1998 when she became a Revenue Agent and has worked her way up to a Deputy Division Director of Business Tax. In her free time, Alison loves to sew. She is a skilled seamstress and does alterations for friends and family on wedding dresses, prom dresses, and other gowns and heirlooms. In addition to being an advocate for women and girls, Alison is also an advocate for studies and research of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) of which she was diagnosed many years ago. Alison and her husband Jason have two daughters, Julia and Jesse. She is expecting her first grandchild very, very soon!

## Li Fjerestad – Zonta Club of the Southern Hills

Li Fjerestad was chosen for the Zonta Club of the Southern Black Hills' Zontian of the Year. She was bubbling with enthusiasm and had an energy that energized others. She worked on every project and recruited more businesses to be sponsors. She was especially committed to the Missing/Murdered Indigenous People cause and made a significant connection with the Red Skirt Society in Rapid City. She died on April 1, 2022, having not yet received this award. We honored her with contributions to the Ukrainian Zonta Club. We will miss her contributions.

## Area 2

### Jenicca Fournier – Zonta Club of Cheyenne

Jennica is an absolutely amazing woman. She was active in many of the Club's activities in spite of all the other things going on in her life. She was present at each of the Cheyenne Frontier Days / Kiwanis pancake breakfast events to help raise awareness about domestic violence and human trafficking. She participated in the Silent Witness March in November held as part of the Sixteen Days of Activism. She attended the *In Her Shoes* experience we did at Safehouse to learn more about what it is like for a victim of domestic violence. She was active and was a leader in much of the Club's work on scholarships - even creating a dummy's guide to scholarships that will help those less experienced Zontians. She coordinated the review of the YWPA applications. She prepared the written event program for our Cancel Out fundraiser. And, she did all this while she is nearing the end of a three-year program to get her MBA and Pharmacy degree. And, yes, she is the class president and has many other honors in conjunction with her school program. To reiterate, she is an amazing woman and the Cheyenne Club was lucky to get her when she moved to Cheyenne, having begun as a Zontian in the Laramie Club.

### Sherilyn Gourley – Zonta Club Colorado North Forty

Sherilyn works hard to keep our club organized and on track. She is willing to pitch in and help with everything despite multiple priorities. She truly exhibits the Zonta spirit.

### Carol Myers – Zonta Club Colorado North Forty

Carol keeps our service projects going by finding material sales, teaching us to sew, hosting at her home, building relationships with partner groups, and all with a sweet smile and 'can-do' attitude. She is truly a gem and we appreciate her so much in our club.

### Paige Rider – Zonta Club of Converse County

Paige Rider has been a Zontian in Douglas since 2018. We are so lucky and appreciative to have her as a member! Paige was President from 2020 thru 2022. Her presidency was hindered by Covid and a legacy of reining during the pandemic. We were a quiet and definitely a "hunkered down" club. Paige was known for her bravery since she had only been a member for a year and accepted the Presidency!

Paige has been married for 25 yrs., with four children and 2 grandchildren. She is on the Board of our local Boys and Girls Club. Pharmacy Tech of the year in 2015. Paige has been a Pharmacy Tech for 25 years in Douglas. Every Thanksgiving, Paige, along with a few friends, "Just a Bunch of Turkeys" take over the Moose Lodge and cook a free Thanksgiving dinner for the citizens of Douglas! Deliveries are made for shut-ins!

Paige is always ready to accept any task we ask of her in regards to our Zonta club. Thank you! Congratulations Paige!! We love you!.....Zonta Club of Converse County

### Judy Barth – Zonta Club of Fort Collins

The Zonta Club of Fort Collins honored Judy Barth in 2022 at our Zontian of the year. Judy has numerous roles with our club and has been in numerous roles. She exemplifies hard work, dedication and expertise in every task. A few years ago, she said, 'our club is small but mighty' for all of the work we do in the community. She is also a mighty force leading and directing our popular Rose Day event. When someone needs help or information, she is first in line to help. We are incredibly fortunate to call her our Zonta sister.

## **Betty Wills – Zonta Club of Laramie**

Laramie's Zontian of the Year is Betty Wills. Betty joined Zonta 5 years ago and has been an active member in the club. She has served on the Zonta Board the last 2 years. Betty attended her first District 12 Meeting in Billings and was very excited and enthusiastic bringing what she learned back to our club. She attended the Conference in Colorado Springs last year. Betty volunteered to work with the Climate Change and Advocacy group that Julie Trone leads. She actively participates in the club meetings and various committees. She has recruited 2 new members to our club this year. She has a great sense of humor and is just fun to have in our club.

## **Area 3**

### **Mary Lou Edwards – Zonta Club of Denver**

The Zonta Club of Denver is proud to name Mary Lou Edwards our Zontian of the Year. Mary Lou answers the call to serve any time she is called including most every committee and as a Foundation Trustee. She regularly attends International, District and Area meetings and the Commission on the Status of Women and Inter District Meetings. Mary Lou served on the D12 Board of Directors. We are fortunate to have a member who always has a smile and a kind word and happily says yes when asked to help.

### **Jean Griswold – Zonta Club of Denver II**

Jean is a dedicated member who serves our Club on two committees and always volunteers to assist with the work of other committees. As a member of the Service Committee, Jean works tirelessly with Florence Crittendon and makes sure our members stay abreast of what is happening at the school. Jean again arranged the Flo Crit graduation this year and continued her tradition of ordering special individual graduation cards and cookies for each graduate. As a member of the Finance Committee, Jean can always be counted on to assist with and participate in our fund raisers. Jean is a significant and very caring contributor to the success of our Club.

### **Ranelle Randles – Zonta Foothills Club of Boulder County**

Ranelle has been a member of our Club for three years and became a member of our Club's Board of Directors and Advocacy Committee Chair in 2021. In that role she re-energized our club's Advocacy work, helped revise the club and foundation's bylaws and actively participated on the team that produced our new Zonta Foothills Club and Foundation Procedures Manual. Ranelle spearheaded a revision of our club Advocacy plan to include local and state-level outreach and expanded partnerships in our community through our club membership in the Women's Collaborative of Boulder County. She had our club's 2022 participation in Fast Action Fridays at 100%. A goal I'm sure she will continue in 2023. Ranelle is our District 12 Alternate to the Zonta USA Caucus and a member of the Caucus Leadership Committee. She has established very deliberate communication to members around ZI and local advocacy action and has helped to coordinate our Boulder community Women's Marches and has become a voice in the community around women-related issues. Ranelle is a member of our Club's Board of Directors and has become a critical member of our club at all levels.

## **Area 4**

### **Lynette Jones – Zonta Club of the Pikes Peak Area**

Being Zontian of the year is a huge honor and for 2021-2022, Lynette Jones was Zonta PPA's proud recipient. Lynette has been an excellent member of our club. She currently served on the Board along with chairing the Service and Advocacy Committee for three years and stepping up to chair the Programs Committee. The club was awarded the Governor's Award in 2019 for the Zonta Women in Careers Program which Lynette spearheaded. Additionally, she has served on the International Women's Day Committee for five years and volunteered to head it up for 2023. AND, in her spare time contributes so much to RMWFF (Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival)! She really puts forth great efforts with positive results. Sometimes these efforts and contributions are overlooked because she does it so smoothly with great organization and purpose!

We are indeed fortunate to have such a dynamic and involved member of Zonta Pikes Peak Club.

### **Tammy Benabides – Zonta Club of Prowers County**

The Zontian of the Year from the Zonta Club of Prowers County is Tammy Benabides. Currently our Club President, Ms. Benabides was President Elect during her year of outstanding commitment to the club. In addition to bringing the Red Sand Project to Prowers County, she was instrumental in the sponsorship and mentoring of our new Z Club. We were very proud when she earned the Citizen of the Year award from the local Chamber of Commerce. Tammy Benabides excels at empowering women and girls and is committed to the goals of Zonta International.

### **Della Rieger – Zonta Club of Royal Gorge**

The Zontian of the year for the Zonta Club of Royal Gorge is Della Rieger. Della has been an active member of Zonta for 10 years. She has held the position of Secretary for several terms as well as treasure. Della participates in all Zonta events and is a wonderful advocate for women and girls.

Della and her husband have raised 3 successful sons. They are both very active in our community, participating in several clubs and often volunteering at community events. Della is a very successful realtor working with Home Smart Realty.

