

**Zonta International District 4**  
**Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award**  
**May 2014**

The District 4 Awards Committee is very pleased to announce that **Alexandria Iwanenko**, submitted by the **Zonta Club of Hamburg-Orchard Park, NY** has been selected as the District 4 YWPA winner. Alexandria will receive \$1,000 from Zonta International as the District 4 YWPA award.

The District 4 Awards Committee received applications from 14 clubs out of the 38 clubs in the district (2014 13 clubs). Total applications received by the 14 clubs was 52 (2014 40 applications). The candidates were exceptional young women making the judging very difficult.

Alexandria is an International Relations and Spanish dual major with a Peace/Justice Studies and Latin American Studies dual minor. One of her goals is to represent refugees who come to the US due to fear of living in their home country, supporting them throughout the very difficult legal and resettlement process they experience.

As a member of the All-College Honors Program Sophomore Board at Canisius College she organized a survivor of the Rwandan genocide to come as a guest speaker, telling his story about how he made it to the US. Alexandria is also the volunteer coordinator for the ENERGY afterschool program for refugee children in the City of Buffalo, as well as an Honors Orientation Leader for incoming freshmen. In addition to her scholarly activities, she is a member of the Canisius College Dance Team and she serves as the team's secretary. For Alexandria, the most rewarding part of being on this team is representing Canisius College by dancing at fundraising rallies such as the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk in the City of Buffalo each October and Canisius' Relay for Life.

Alexandria is currently working with a family of Colombian refugees at the Buffalo Peace House on Thursday evenings leading afterschool activities for eight children. She interned with New York Senator Tim Kennedy who works on multiple community service projects and was able to work with his constituents to help them voice their concerns to the Senator. Last summer Alexandria went to Nicaragua for eight days with the Canisius College Campus Ministry and the non-profit organization Agros International. There they worked with local villages to teach communities about sustainable farming techniques such as irrigation as well as other important topics such as health, education, finances, and women's rights.

Alexandria comes highly recommended. Andrew Beiter writes: "As someone who is familiar with Zonta's great work, it gives me great pleasure to give her our highest recommendation, as she is living example of intelligence, character, and civic involvement that our country and world so desperately need. What makes Allie unique is a sense of maturity and professionalism that belies her age. Time and time again, we were so impressed with her impeccable presence, speaking skills, and professionalism. This passion has been evident with her time in college at Canisius, where she has travelled to Nicaragua to work with Agros International. Following up on this experience, she will return there this summer to work on a law and government internship."

The Zonta International website lists the YWPA application guidelines. The YWPA award is a quality program supporting young women around the world. If your club is not making a contribution to Zonta International in support of this award please consider doing so in your next budget. It will make a difference to Zonta and to many young women.

Zonta International will announce the ten recipients of the International YWPA award of \$4,000 in the first week of July 2015.

I wish to extend a sincere thank you to the District 4 Awards Committee members for their support to the YWPA program. These Zontians are:

Brenda Ulrich, Zonta Club of Lockport, NY  
Marnie Piggot, Zonta Club of Oakville, Ontario Judith Yorke, Zonta Club of Olean, NY  
Bonnie Clesse, Zonta Club of Hamburg-Orchard Park, NY, District 4 Awards Co-Chair

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to act as Co-Chair of the Awards Committee. It continues to be well worth the effort for me!

Karin Eckart, Zonta Club of Hamilton 1, Ontario, District 4 Awards Co-Chair