

Amelia Earhart Committee Report April 28, 2011

Taking on the Co-Chair position for this Committee has been a personal growth experience for me – my reading topics have greatly expanded, I've done a lot more exploring on the internet and become better at downloading information, and hopefully I have learned how to share these new and interesting areas of knowledge with others in a manner which makes them want to expand their horizons too.

We are charged with celebrating Amelia's life, encouraging young women to pursue studies in science and engineering, raise awareness of and generate contributions to the international AE Fund. I believe we have filled these requests:

During the fall, leading up to and including January, a series of articles were sent out to the Club Presidents sharing information found on a variety of websites about Amelia, early and current aviators, women inventors, and other leading women in history. As part of the articles, it was mentioned that clubs should budget funds to be donated to the ZI AE Fund. They were also reminded to send out announcements to media about the AE Fellowships and application deadline. Clubs were asked to share their stories after their own January presentations were completed. Sadly, not one president or AE committee chair shared information with us.

A District wide AE Presentation took place in January, hosted by the ZC of Batavia-Genesee County. The first presenter was Brian Duddy, author of *Wings Over LeRoy*, and he spoke of the Amelia, the Friendship plane, and Donald Woodward/LeRoy Airport connection. A second presentation was the film *Breaking Through The Clouds* – a documentary on the First Women's Air Race in 1929 (the first Powder Puff Derby). In addition, items of interest relating to Amelia and other aviatrix were on display. Basket Raffles brought in \$310.00 for the District to be sent to ZI.

At the Spring Workshop in Lockport, a basket Raffle was held to raise funds. This was a much smaller dollar amount raised – only \$35.00.

Past Committee Chair, Donna Ketchum Colletta, hosted a cruise around the Hawaiian Islands in January. This was a truly successful fund raiser – 34 Zontians and friends took to the seas - it brought \$2,550.00 to be sent on to ZI. I don't believe any of the dollars raised and submitted are reflected in information from ZI right now. This event is now on the ZI website.

Lori Robinson, Canada's AE Committee Chair, had the honor of presenting Wings and Certificate to AE Fellowship winner, Lana Osusky, at the Toronto Club meeting in January. Lori has also created an AE PowerPoint Presentation.

Lastly, I took Zonta and Amelia "to the public". I did a presentation to the local Collector's Club in October. My presentation included Amelia's connection to Zonta International, the Fellowship in her honor, and I was proudly wearing my Zonta sweatshirt. As a Public Relations awareness item, we had a wonderful article in our newspaper about the District AE Presentation in January.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary K Yunker  
District AE Committee Co-Chair