

## Advocacy Report US

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Anxious and ready to begin my new role, I began to find out what is in my own backyard as it regards advocacy:

1. Sent off the program plan for "Look in your own Backyard" to International and they put it on their website. Very thrilling to have our club noted on the website.
2. Sent a copy and invited Patricia Slotter, District 1, Advocacy "Newbie" who was looking for guidance in beginning her advocacy project. Loved the ideas in our project and the statement depicting Zonta as the Go-To-Organization for Advocacy. Wished us well, and wants to keep in touch.
3. Brought together the Buffalo Club Advocacy committee and decided to go forward with our plans from the March, 2012 facilitation with the Refugee Service Groups and the Women's groups of Erie County to help the International Institute of Buffalo get their Pictorial Dictionary into print.
4. Our first action was to determine if there were advocacy chairs in the Area 3 & 4 Zonta Clubs. Emails went to the Area Directors and Presidents of the US Area 3 and Area 4 clubs describing the proposed plan for advocacy. We wanted to garner support for the program if the clubs are interested. Our meeting is set for November 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. Emails are being returned and we have active participation planned from area 3 & 4 Area Directors, and many club presidents as well as ....Wait for it.....Advocacy Chairs!!! I am thrilled!
6. I recently sent emails to Area 5 & 6 Area Directors and discussed their assessment of the Advocacy chairs for their Clubs. I will be getting this information from them soon, possibly at the board meeting.
7. Rochester Advocacy Chair, Alyce Van Patten let us know that their club is actively engaged in the 16 days of Activism-- 1st (and we hope Annual) Candlelight Walk on the first day of the 16 day, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Rochester is also involved in Lifespan. This organization is having a kick-off meeting on an initiative "Take It On For Mom". They are bringing representatives from women's groups across Monroe County. The initiative of Lifespan is to create consumer demand to reinvent nursing homes.
8. Our plans for Area 3 & 4 include contacting the women's groups to continue supporting IIB in their project and secondly to begin offering the support of many hands of the Area 3 & 4 Zonta Clubs interested in reaching across the aisles to help other organizations meet some of their advocacy goals.