

Area 2 Director's Report

K-W Conference 2015

I am really pleased to have worked over the past year with the 6 Area 2 clubs: Hamilton 1, Hamilton II, Oakville, Brampton-Caledon, Mississauga, and Toronto.

Over the past year, the remarkable Presidents' of these clubs worked together creatively to design and develop an Area award to celebrate the Zonta Says No to Violence campaign. This award was designed to recognize individuals or organizations within our area who are taking positive steps to end violence against women and girls.

Area 2 was pleased to select the Toronto Argonauts football team as the first group recipient, in recognition of their **Make the Call** program an offshoot of the Argos' award winning Huddle Up Anti Bullying campaign that has been active in high schools for over a decade. **Make the Call** is a partnership with the White Ribbon campaign and the Toronto Argonauts to deliver a gender based violence prevention program in secondary schools where players talk to boys about violence against women and girls and the Cheerleaders talk to girls about self-worth and about not allowing themselves to be treated badly. The award was presented at a Toronto Argonauts football game, October 25, 2014, a game at which 88 Zontians and their supporters attended. Kellie Leitch, the Federal Minister of Labour and Minister of Status of Women Canada was in attendance when the award was presented. A "Zonta Says No to Violence" message was flashed on the giant screen during the half time award presentation. The 6 area clubs had a booth in the concourse set up with information on Zonta international, the Just Say No campaign and about the local clubs themselves. From one of the photos, you can see that CFL football legend "Pinball Clemens" stopped by to say hello. Zonta members wearing their orange T-shirts handed out informational postcards to members of the crowd before and after the game as well as during half time. The Argonauts football team took great pride in the award presentation and posted information about the award and Zonta on their web site, in a press release sent out by them and in a subsequent appearance by an Argonaut player representative and Todd Minerson of the White Ribbon Campaign on Global TV.

The Area Two Presidents also agreed to present the individual award to high school Principal, Timothy Powell-McBride. Mr. Powell-McBride was honoured for his work with male students, both in classrooms and within student leadership forums, about the responsibility they can take on the issue of gender based violence. Through his work, he educates boys that violence against women and girls is THEIR issue too and that it is up to them to eradicate, not just lessen the incidents of violence. Eleven Zontians, including 5 of our presidents wearing their orange shirts attended the event. The award was presented at a school assembly at Westdale High School in Hamilton, November 25, 2014, the first day of the 16 days of Activism.

The six clubs are currently working on the nominees for the current year.

On an individual basis too, each of the clubs has been working to uphold and support the goals and mission of Zonta International.

Achievements for each of the member clubs are outstanding as well. Our Hamilton I club is most proud of their Annual Golf Classic. This past year through the remarkable efforts of their Golf Classic committee, they raised \$22,957 towards a second commitment of \$100,000 supporting the Juravinski CIBC Breast Assessment Centre in Hamilton, where a woman referred with breast abnormalities can be assessed by experts in surgery, radiology and pathology, all in one day. Olympic Gold medalist Laura Fortino, was a special guest at the Golf Classic event. Laura won her gold medal in hockey at the Sochi Olympics.

Our Hamilton II club is most proud of their IWD, service project. Partnering with the Hamilton Urban Core Health Centre they served lunch to over 70 women from the downtown core of the city, primarily recent immigrants who are living in poverty. The club provided fruit and cookies for the luncheon and each woman received a club sponsored re-usable "Zonta" printed bag filled with items such as shampoo, soap, hand cream, toothpaste, toothbrushes, socks, underwear, Kleenex and sanitary products.

For the Oakville Club, the most outstanding accomplishment was the recruitment of 6 new members, who have quickly stepped up to join or chair committees. The club has gone from a membership of 11 to 17 active members. They also partnered successfully once again with SAVIS the Sexual Assault and Violence

Intervention Services of Halton to present the 12th Annual Dinner Party an IWD event, raisings fund for SAVIS and Canadians in Support of Afghan Women.

The Brampton-Caledon club is extremely active in the maintenance of Z clubs. They have 15 chartered Z Clubs and one Golden Z. Eight clubs were active and engaged in various activities geared towards the prevention of inequality and eradication of violence against women through education. A successful Z Club Spring Conference hosted by Harold M. Brathwaite High School with the theme of “Unhealthy relationships and Gender Expectations” was well attended by students and teachers from a number of schools in the Brampton-Caledon area as well as members of the Zonta Club of Brampton- Caledon, District 4 Governor Joanne Raymond, and District 4 Lieutenant Governor Lori Robinson and myself as Area 2 Director.

For many years the Toronto Club has been supporting “Sistering” an organization serving homeless, marginalized and low income women in Toronto through fund raising and service projects. This past year the club held a coat drive in support of the women who use the services of Sistering and collected 70 coats and 65 sweaters along with many scarves and gloves. The Toronto Club was also the initiating force behind the Area 2 Annual Zonta Says No awards.

Last but not least, our Mississauga Club is most proud of their collaboration with Sheridan College. Each year they provide the “Zontapreneur” scholarship to a female student in a business course who has a desire to become an entrepreneur and who exemplifies the values of Zonta International. Through their on- going relationship with the college, the club was accepted for a project by senior IT students to develop the technology for the club to use more effectively as a tool for recruitment and communication. The project plan was completed this year, with implementation taking place over the next few months.

Overall despite some membership concerns, the clubs in Area 2 are all moving forward with enthusiasm to support the mission and vision of ZI.

Thank you.