



President's Report – January – May, 2015

Again, we are asking each of our District Presidents to answer several questions regarding their Clubs in relation to certain activities and directions that have been taken since the beginning of January. As mentioned in December, Zonta International is very interested in what clubs have accomplished with respect to the goals of Zonta International. Although these questions are rather subjective in nature, they hopefully will provide a basis for the report for the District. I appreciate your dedication to Zonta and its mission and I look forward to your continued support to Zonta and its mission for the remainder of the biennium.

Club: _____

President: _____

Service:

1. **Describe some examples of club service activities focusing on the `` Prevention of Root Causes`` of inequality and violence against women through education.**

Niagara Falls, Canada - Worked with the Niagara Region YWCA to present their Women In Leadership Conference.

St. Catharines, Canada - same as above

Fort Erie, Ontario - supported the same conference.

Grand Island, N. Y. - worked with the Family Justice Centre

Niagara Falls, N. Y. - same as above and began the Zonta Says No Campaign locally

Kenmore, N. Y. - supports a local senior elementary school initiative called "Empower Girls" to which gets 10 girls together weekly for 10 weeks to teach life skills and begin conversations about women's issues and attitudes toward women.

2. Describe other examples of club service activities that align with Zonta's mission.

All clubs have participated in some way in the 16 Days of Activism with projects as diverse as collecting hats and scarves for their local women's shelters to sending Zonta International website information to each member's contact list.

Each one took part either individually or with sister clubs to make birthing kits.

Our American clubs have been quite actively involved with women veterans. (**Kenmore, Niagara Falls, N. Y.**)

Grand Island has begun volunteering with Meals on Wheels primarily to be involved with older, shut in women who have few visitors.

Kenmore has done specific fundraising for a local women's shelter.

Other clubs did not mention additional activities.

Membership

1. Share the most relevant membership tool that you have utilized to achieve your club membership goals.

Each club said that the most effective was personal invitations by present members to friends and acquaintances. Additionally, **Grand Island and Niagara Falls, N. Y.** followed up with the Woman's Day rose recipients asking them to join.

Kenmore followed up with the disbanded Tonawanda club inviting them to join their club (Kathleen didn't say if anyone did.)

Grand Island had causal picnic to which non members were invited to learn about the club and the organization.

Foundation

1. Do you as a club donate 1/3 of your club service funds to ZIF?

St. Catharines and Grand Island do. The others do not.

2. Describe your most successful fundraising activity. Approximately how much would your club raise with this activity?

Fort Erie: Trivia Night (\$ - ?)

Niagara Falls, Canada: Funny Little Valentine approx. \$10,000.00

St. Catharines: Afternoon Tea approx. \$3,000.00

Niagara Falls, N. Y.: ?

Grand Island: Fashion Show approx. \$3,600.00

Kenmore: Lucky Numbers Dinner approx. \$10,000.00

Lockport: ?

Leadership

1. As a President is there any area of leadership training that you feel the District could provide which would be useful in the near future to augment your role as President?

This question didn't receive much response but the Presidents who did reply said better training for the Vice-President would be appreciated so that she would actively understand what was expected of her when she became President.

Advocacy

1. Describe any advocacy activity that your club has undertaken since your first report in December?

Most said that their advocacy activities were done in the fall to coincide with the Sixteen Days of Activism which all clubs take part in in some way: everything from collecting hats and scarves for women's shelters to fundraising specifically for women's shelters in their areas, to sending information from the Zonta International website to club members' individual e-mail contact lists. Kenmore take part in and sponsor a Domestic Violence Cultural Awareness workshop through the University of Buffalo.

Governance

1. Have you updated your club bylaws to align with the bylaw changes in Zonta International?

With the exception of **Kenmore** all other clubs are presently working on doing so.

Thank you again for completing the survey. Please return to your Area Director by May 15.

Governor Joanne Raymond

Zonta International

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Any further comments that you wish to make?

I am very pleased with the progress of each of the clubs in the area. I have still to visit three of them (Kenmore, Lockport & Niagara Falls, N. Y.) but will do so over the next year.

I am pleased to see the close relationships that exist between the Grand Island and Kenmore clubs and the Niagara Region clubs. These relationships create a stronger affiliation with the District and International as well as serving as a strong support for each of the Presidents of those clubs. I believe that this has happened as a direct result of the District birthing kit initiative. I am also pleased that Kenmore has tried to provide a home for Zontians who lost their Tonawanda club last year.

On the other hand, I am concerned about the low numbers of the Fort Eire club and the ongoing struggles they have with membership and willingness of current members to take leadership roles. Both the past and current Presidents have worked on this and we will continue to do so in the coming year. St. Catharines has low numbers as well, but I am not so concerned about this situation as I believe that the leadership is strong enough to overcome the difficulty and the existing members are deeply committed to Zonta both locally and internationally.

