



AREA 5

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.

Area 5: Laura Corey, Area Director

Service:

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

Erie:

- Planning an ice cream social at an elderly apartment complex and will be distributing pamphlets with information regarding preventing violence against women
- Collecting personal hygiene and baby items for the Washington Jefferson University project to help unwed mothers

Jamestown:

- The club supports the Princess Club (both financially and participatively); this is a mentoring program for girls, ages 5-16 years from economically disadvantaged homes
- LunaFest movie festival (2nd annual) – short films for, by and about women regarding self esteem, body image and inequality.
- Support for the TEAM (Teen Aged Mothers) Program (both financially and participatively) – this is a support/mentoring program for area girls through the local YWCA for pregnant teen and new mothers to encourage completion of high school and an education for a healthy pregnancy and child care.

Bradford:

- Jointly sponsor a poster contest with YWCA's Victim's Resource Center with the theme, "Peace Begins With Me." The club contacted all 5th grade classes in the Bradford area to submit entries and then we selected winners and held an event for parents and students to announce the winners.

Olean:

- Collected bras for "Free the Girls" program

Warren:

- Some members have attended functions outside of our community in an effort to bring the knowledge back to the club. They have been discussing bringing in speakers for community presentations and wanted to get insight first.

Corry:

- Speakers in March and February regarding Violence in Teen Dating and Violence and Pregnancy Services in the area
- Spring service project "Free the Girls" bra drive is underway

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

Erie:

- Planning a summer event at the Women's Domestic Violence Center fundraiser to benefit women and children of domestic abuse

Jamestown:

- Birthing kits – assembly and distribution for several Honduran mission trips
- Financial support for local domestic violence shelter (ANEW Center as part of the Salvation Army)
- ER Sweats – providing 4 area hospital emergency rooms with new sweatsuits and undergarments to be provided to women who have been brought to the ER because of rape, domestic violence where their own clothing is removed for evidence or due to trauma.

Bradford:

- For International Women's Day we selected and honored 10 local women who are examples of outstanding leadership. Members of the Advocacy Committee personally delivered each of them a yellow rose with a handwritten note.
- We provide funds and "legs" for the YWCA Walk Against Sexual Violence, earning us publicity as one of their major sponsors.

Olean:

- Collected and donated pillows, blankets and feminine products to Genesis House – a homeless shelter for women
- Donated \$2000 to Cancer Services of Cattaraugus/Allegany County
- Donated \$2000 to Mildred Milliman Radiation Center in Olean
- Donated \$100 to "Free the Girls" project

Warren:

- Birthing kits
- Women are Wonderful
- Women in Leadership

Corry:

- Support Safe Journey women's shelter
- Local scholarship program to support college education

Membership

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

Erie:

- Members network with other womens' organization to recruit members. Also, members select acquaintances to invite to meetings to introduce them to the Erie Zonta Club.
- The club invites new prospective members to their community project in an effort to get the word out to prospective members.

Jamestown:

- At our February program meeting we held a new membership recruitment "Wine and Chocolate" program. We asked members to invite prospective members. As part of the program we provided an overview of Zonta history, an overview of our committee

responsibilities, including details of our service projects. We also asked a few current members to provide testimonials about why they joined Zonta and why they've remained members, etc. As a result, we will be inducting 11 new members during our installation/induction program on May 20.

Bradford:

- We changed our annual membership event to a more informal wine and cheese event where members mingle with prospective members. We had a formal sharing of information and informal conversations which has resulted in 3 new members.

Olean:

- We have held Zings in the past. This year we invited prospective members to meetings. Inducting 4 new members in May.

Warren:

- Brought in 4 new members in May. Our most useful tool is our current members talking about our club and what we do as an organization. Inviting interested women to our function helps, as well.

Corry:

- Facebook and newspaper advertising as well as word of mouth.

Foundation

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

Erie: Yes

Jamestown: No: approximately 15%

Bradford: Currently 29% or \$20 per member

Olean: No

Warren: Yes

Corry: No

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

Erie:

- Creatively conduct Parklane jewelry fundraising event to raise money for scholarships raising approximately \$700 per event.

Jamestown:

- Calendars of Cash: raises approximately \$8,000 annually
- LunaFest movie festival: recently had the 2nd event and through sponsorships raised \$2,500 which we hope to increase in future events

Bradford:

- Calendar of Cash: \$4800

Olean:

- The Breast Cancer Bingo is the biggest fundraiser raising \$8000. Some is earmarked specifically for cancer research and services and other for worthy causes.

Warren:

- Lucky Numbers Luncheon: high end Chinese Auction raising \$15,000

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?

Erie:

- Conflict Resolution
- Keeping a positive attitude among members

Jamestown:

- I believe that the majority of Zonta members have leadership skills and those who are comfortable with utilizing their leadership skills within a group of volunteers will accept the roles within the club as Vice President, President Elect, President, etc. What I would like to see would be leadership training for members of the club who choose or need a little encouragement to volunteer to be the Chairs/Co-Chairs of the committees. These members hold a very critical role to make the club a success.

Warren:

- More intra-area meetings might help so we can share ideas and concern.

Advocacy

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

Erie:

- March 24 the club conducted the Amilia Earhart dinner to distribute certificates to 2 juniors from each area high school for citizenship efforts. 32 students and a total of 110 people attended the dinner. They also distributed 2 \$250 scholarship to students.
- The elderly apartment complex ice cream social and the Washington Jefferson University Project (previously mentioned) also support advocacy to the elderly and unwed mother population.

Jamestown:

- In March, in conjunction with International Women's Day, held a collaborative event with the local AAUW club and featured 4 local elected women (both local and in county positions) to discuss their achievements, challenges and words of advice.
- LunaFest movie festive (2nd annual); short films for, by and about women regarding self esteem, body image and inequality.
- Library donation for books specific to promote self esteem/self awareness to teenage girls

Bradford:

- Co-sponsored a panel discussion on human trafficking with the local branch of the AAUW. It was also a bra collection for "Free the Girls" a non-profit which helps girls rescued from slavery. We collected 658 bras. 45 women attended this event which educated people on human trafficking and issues specific to our area. Zontians from Warren, Oil City/Franklin and Olean attended as well as high school girls from the Olean Z Club.

Olean:

- We are working on a project for fall in our park to bring public awareness to violence against women.

Warren:

- Women in Leadership awards and presentation

- Lucky Numbers Presentation on Advocacy
- Scholarship to non-traditional students

Governance

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

Erie: No

Jamestown: Underway

Bradford: Yes

Olean: No

Warren: No: but since my presidency term is over this month, I am choosing to take on this on so it is anticipated to be completed/updated before EOY 2015

Corry: Underway shortly

Any further comments that you wish to make?

Erie:

- On May 2 the club hosted the District 4 workshop with 45 Zontians attending...it was a great success!

Warren:

- I think the poster project should be the project for the 2016-2018 biennium since we just received the specifics this month. We have been waiting on this and want to do a decent job so it doesn't make sense to be done with it soon.