

## District 4 Awards Biennium Summary – May 2014

The District 4 Awards committee is responsible for selecting the District 4 Young Women in Public Affairs Program (YWPA) award recipient and the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship (JMK). The District Governor, with the help of the District 4 Awards Committee, then forwards the District 4 winners on to Zonta International to be judged at the International level.

### **District 4 Awards Committee Goals**

The District Awards Committee continued working on its goals as follows:

- 1) Promote and communicate with the District 4 clubs to increase participation and/or fundraise for both awards at the local level.
- 2) Standardize and ensure a consistent evaluation process at the District level.

### **Awards Committee Activities and Communications**

The Awards Committee communicated with the clubs at various times throughout the biennium.

May                    Emails sent to all clubs reminding them of July 1<sup>st</sup> JMK submission deadline and to submit applications electronically to [awards@zontadistrict4.org](mailto:awards@zontadistrict4.org).

District 4 Website Awards Pages updated for changes in process and for new award amounts announced by Zonta International. Both District JMK and YWPA awards are now paid by Zonta International.

June                    Announcement of Zonta International YWPA recipients emailed to all District 4 YWPA contacts and club ECP's. Zonta International selects 10 YWPA recipients receiving \$4,000 each by the 1 of July..

July/August          Evaluation of the JMK applications received from the District 4 clubs occurs by the District 4 Awards Committee. Announcement of District 4 JMK award recipient emailed to all JMK club contacts and club ECP's. A brief bio and photo of the District 4 JMK Scholarship recipient is posted on the District 4 Website.

For 2013, Ginella Countinho, McMaster University, submitted by the Zonta Clubs of Hamilton 1 & 2 was selected as the winner of the District 4 award.

#### **Club participation**

2010	7 clubs
2011	4 clubs
2012	6 clubs
2013	5 clubs

September          At the District 4 Conference, the District YWPA and JMK Awards are on the agenda with past winners invited to attend or to send in remarks through videos.

October                Announcement emailed to District 4 JMK club contacts and club ECP's for the Zonta International JMK Scholarship recipients.

For 2012 Nina Zhang, University of Waterloo, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo was the District 4 winner and she also was a winner of the Zonta International award of \$5,000. Nina also submitted an awesome video for the District 4 Conference in Pittsburgh in

September 2013 outlining her current academic and personal goals; an update on her volunteer roles and a brief statement on how the award helped her.

- January Emails sent to District 4 Zonta club YWPA contacts and clubs as a reminder of YWPA eligibility criteria at the request of YWPA Zonta International Committee Chair.
- March Emails sent to Zonta club YWPA contacts and clubs regarding YWPA April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline and to submit applications electronically to [awards@zontadistrict4.org](mailto:awards@zontadistrict4.org).
- April Evaluation of the YWPA applications received from the District 4 clubs occurs by the District 4 Awards Committee. Announcement of the District 4 YWPA award recipient emailed to all District 4 YWPA club contacts and clubs. A brief bio and photo of the District 4 YWPA Award recipient is posted on the District 4 Website.

In 2012, Wendy Liao from the Toronto Zonta Club and in 2013 Soumitri Barua from the Zonta Club of Olean were selected as the District 4 YWPA award recipients. Both Wendy and Soumitri were also the winners of the Zonta International award of \$4,000. For this year, 2014, Christina Weber from the St. Catharines Zonta club has been selected as the District 4 YWPA award recipient of \$1,000, which is paid by Zonta International.

#### **Club participation**

2010	15 clubs
2011	21 clubs
2012	18 clubs
2013	16 clubs
2014	13 clubs

- Ongoing Communications to YWPA and JMK Zonta International Committee Chairs and ZI staff for questions from clubs on eligibility of applicants and application completion.
- Respond to questions from interested applicants on the application process and assisting them find their local club.

#### **Awards Committee Members**

The Awards Committee consists of members across District 4. The Awards Committee members to be recognized for their strong support for the YWPA and JMK Programs and District 4 Awards are:

Rujirutana Mandhachitara, Zonta Club of Pittsburgh, PA  
Marnie Piggot, Zonta Club of Oakville  
Gabiella Sciolino, Zonta Club of Cheektowaga-Lancaster, NY Co-Chair  
Brenda Ulrich, Zonta Club of Lockport, NY  
Judith Yorke, Zonta Club of Olean, NY

Thanks also to the District 4 Governor, Area Directors, District 4 Webmaster and other Zontians for their help provided to the District 4 Awards Committee. It has been an honour to act as Co-Chair of the Awards committee. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted by:

Karin Eckart, Zonta Club of Hamilton 1, ON  
and District 4 Awards Co-Chair