

Zonta International District 4

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT TO BOARD

DATE: January 17, 2015

COMMITTEE: UNITED NATIONS

HIGHLIGHTS:

November 12, 2014: Leslie Wright, Zonta International UN Chair, met with 5 Zontians in New York and shared information regarding:

- **November 3-5 UN Geneva NGO Forum.** Major issues discussed were Violence Against Women and Reproductive Health . . . theme is “Every woman, every right, every minute. Everyone is responsible. The time is now.” The Declaration and Recommendations made as a result of the Forum are available at: http://beijing20.ngocsw-geneva.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Outcome-Report-for-NGO-Forum-OutcomeRecommendations_Nov-6-2014.pdf Additional info is available at <http://beijing20.ngocsw--geneva.ch>
- **March 9-20, 2015 - 59th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** will be held at the UN, New York. The main focus of the session will be on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect its implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. March 7 there will be CSW training about the UN and March 8 NGO CSW Consultation. Zonta will be arranging a dinner and speaker one evening. . . details available shortly. CSW program info is available at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015>

November 13, 2015

15 Zontians from both Canada and the US attended The League of Women Voters of New York State briefings on “**Water for Life**” at the UN Headquarters, New York. Two interesting speakers:

- Dan Thomas, Senior Communications Officer at the UN and Head of Communications and Global Mobilization for the UN Secretary General’s Climate Change.
- Nicolas Franke, Associate Expert in Water Policy, Division of Sustainable Development, UN Dept for Economic and Social Affairs. Opening UN Climate change video at <http://seanmunger.com/2014/10/02/make-a-world-of-difference-the-short-powerful-film-on-climate-change-solutions-video/>
- Powerful video of young woman Ms. Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, Civil Society Representative from the Marshall Islands at the opening of the Climate Summit 2014 <http://webtv.un.org/search/poem-by-kathy-jetnil-kijiner-climate-summit-2014-opening-ceremony/3801325925001?term=Climate%20Summit%202014&sort=date> demonstrates why Climate change is a cause for concern.
- Did you know that it takes 2000 gallons of water to provide 1 lb of beef? Conservation is not only what we consider but also looking at types of food planting as different crops require more water.

Overall Zontians enjoyed the UN tour, learning and networking opportunity. We would encourage members to attend future sessions.

March 8, 2015 – International Women’s Day theme “Make it Happen”

Encourage all Clubs to celebrate and post their events at <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/events.asp#.VLr9prmEjmQ> as well as on the Zonta District 4 website. Resource materials and info available at <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

CHALLENGES: Obtaining information from those planning to attend the UN briefing . . . 7 actually completed the on-line survey although 15 were in attendance.

OTHER: Carma Horner has resigned as UN Co-Chair.

Respectfully submitted: Doreen Myers, Chair