



COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT TO BOARD

DATE: May 8, 2016

COMMITTEE: United Nations

2014-2015 Biennium Summary

This has been two years of learning and sharing information regarding the United Nations and Zonta's role as an NGO.

Key Highlights

D4 Conference: After making a UN presentation I received an invitation to one of the US Clubs to present at their dinner meeting.

D4 UN Committee: Participated in a number of conference calls providing updates on future Zonta activities and, on occasion, involved representatives of partner organizations such as UNICEF.

UN Day: Participated as one of the 15 Zonta members who attended the League of Women's Voters of New York United Day at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and again in 2015 where 8 attended. In both cases heard two briefings, lunched in the delegates' dining room and toured the UN. Excellent learning experience and highly recommend members try to attend at least once.

Commission on the Status of Women: Had the privilege of being one of the 20 Zonta members, out of 70, who received UN pass to attend the CSW 59 in New York. What an amazing experience ...

- Participated in the largest **IWD March for Gender Equality and Women's Rights** ever, organized by UN Women in collaboration with the City of New York, the UN Women for Peace Association, NGO-CSW, the Working Group on Girls and the Man Up Campaign
- **Attend CSW 59 sessions** at the historical Apollo Theatre and United Nations headquarters to learn what's happening worldwide to improve the status of women through speakers such as:
 - **Ruchira Gupta**, an Emmy-winning Indian filmmaker, journalist, abolitionist, and human rights activist is recognized for her work in empowering women and girls
 - **Sarah Jones, actress**, who highlights sex discrimination in the law from a woman's perspective in various countries in a unique presentation "**Women Can't Wait!**".
 - Young female and male activists carrying out the vision of the Beijing Platform for Action.
 - Learned about actions being taken to **prevent violence against women and girls in the digital and technological age** as well as **engage Men and Boys in gender equality**
 - **Attended Zonta UN presentations**, networked with government representatives and other Women's organizations and Zonta was recognized directly for our contribution by our partner UNICEF.

Key Challenges:

- Sharing the experience and lessons learned to motivate action. Although Committee report and Newsletter articles contained lots of good information, presenting face to face at the District Conference appeared to be most effective.
- Ensuring Zonta members communicate and connect at both CSW and the UN Day.

Recommendation:

- When we establish individual Board committee goals we discuss what required from other Board members to achieve these to ensure feasible and perhaps co-ordinate with other activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to be the D4 UN Chair.

Sincerely

Doreen Myers