

MINUTES
54TH Zonta District 4 Conference
September 25th – 27th, 2015
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2015

Members of the head table and local dignitaries were led into the meeting to the song Together We Are One, by Serena Ryder. Governor Joanne Raymond (Kitchener-Waterloo Club) called Business Session 1 of the 54th District 4 Conference to order at 3:55 pm on Friday September 25, 2015. After a welcome by Governor Joanne, the colours were posted by past Governor Vivian Cody, past Governor Barbara Fera, past Governor Kathleen Douglass and Governor of District 10 Oklahoma Judy Kautz. The singing of the national anthems of Canada and the United States were sung by Chris Patton, and the Austrian anthem was played.

Governor Joanne introduced those seated at the head tables:

Upper Tier - Past Governor/Invocation Daisy Waters, Conference Chair/Treasurer Cathie Wheeler, Lieutenant Governor Lori Robinson, Secretary Brenda Graham, Parliamentarian Kris Fletcher, Zonta International Representative Gertraud Ribitsch

Lower Tier – Area 1 Director Julie Brown, Area 2 Director Linda Orme, Area 3 Director Cairine Coulis-Brown, Area 4 Director Mary Jane Wajmer, Area 5 Director Laura Corey, Area 6 Director Lorene Vinski.

Cathie Wheeler, Conference Chair welcomed and introduced local dignitaries who each spoke briefly. Region of Waterloo Chair Ken Seiling, Kitchener Mayor Berry Vrbancovic and Waterloo Councillor Jeff Henry.

Anne McConnell, President of the Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo, brought greetings and welcomed everyone to Kitchener Waterloo.

Roll Call was taken by Conference Secretary, Brenda Graham. Credentials Chair, Joan Westcott gave the credentials report. 9 District Officers, 38 delegates, and 5 proxies for a total of 52 voting delegates.

Motion: Moved by Lori Robinson, Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon
 Seconded by Cathie Wheeler, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo
 That the Credentials Report be adopted.
 Carried.

Registration Chair, Jan Meier presented her report. 14 attending for their first time, and a total of 102 attendees.

Governor Joanne announced the Conference Appointments – Credentials committee Joan Westcott and Catherine Bolger both from Kitchener-Waterloo, Protocol Chair Kris Fletcher from Kitchener-Waterloo, Timekeeper Ellen Blahitka from Brampton-Caledon, Tellers Joanne Stewart, Linda McLean and Anne Paterson from Kitchener-Waterloo and the Technical Leader Valerie Beyer from Kitchener-Waterloo. There were also two pages from a Z Club. The escort for our International Representative is Past Governor Sandy Travers from Kitchener-Waterloo.

Past Governors Kathleen Douglass, Vivian Cody, Sandy Travers, Lee Fogarty, Daisy Waters and Barbara Fera were introduced, along with Governor of District 10 Judy Kautz and guest Sharon Hebert, International Membership (North America) from Zonta Club of Central Oklahoma.

Cathie Wheeler, Conference Chair presented the Conference Program.

Motion: Moved by Julie Brown, Zonta Club of Stratford
Seconded by Laura Corey, Zonta Club of Jamestown
That we accept the program, as the official program of the business for this Conference.
Carried.

Parliamentarian Kris Fletcher presented the Standing Rules of Conference.

Motion: Moved by Linda Orme, Zonta Club of Hamilton II
Seconded by Lorene Vinski, Zonta Club of Pittsburgh
That we adopt the Standing Rules as presented.
Carried.

Governor Joanne called for the approval of the 53rd conference minutes.

Motion: Moved by Cairine Coulis-Brown, Zonta Club of Niagara Falls, Ontario
Seconded by Mary Jane Wajmer, Zonta Club of Buffalo
That the minutes of the 53rd District 4 Conference held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
September 27, 2013 be approved.
Carried.

Governor Joanne called on Catherine Hardman Stratford Club, Chair of the District Nominating Committee, to present the slate of candidates for election as District 4 Officers for 2016-2018:

Governor: Lori Robinson, Brampton-Caledon, Ontario
Lieutenant Governor: Catherine Bobesich, Oakville, Ontario
Treasurer: Roxanne Rapedius, Oakville, Ontario
Area Directors: Area 1 – Sheena Poole, Woodstock, Ontario
Area 2 – Clair Wallace, Oakville, Ontario
Area 3 – Karen Fritsch, Kenmore, New York
Area 4 – Kathy Scanlon, Hamburg Orchard Park, New York
Anne Marie West, Batavia Genesee County, New York

Area 5 – Janice Durmis, Corry, Pennsylvania

Area 6 – Janet Dell, Washington County Area, Pennsylvania

Beth Zak, Three Rivers Pittsburgh North, Pennsylvania

Nominating Committee

Kathleen Douglass, Brampton-Caledon, Ontario

Julie Brown, Stratford, Ontario

Cheryl Hopper, Washington County Area, Pennsylvania

Laura Corey, Jamestown, New York

Valerie Beyer, Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario

Motion:

Moved by Daisy Waters, Zonta Club of Niagara Falls, New York

Seconded by Elaine Barkowski, Zonta Club of Hamburg Orchard Park,
New York

That Bonnie Clesse of the Zonta Club of Hamburg Orchard Park be
nominated for the position of Lieutenant Governor.

The Nominating Committee met briefly and determined that Bonnie was an eligible candidate. Bonnie Clesse was asked if she would agree to stand for the position of Lieutenant Governor, and she agreed to stand.

No other nominations came in from the floor.

Governor Joanne advised that in accordance with Zonta International by-laws, the candidates must be voted in by ballot. Delegates and voting board members were asked to cast their votes on Saturday morning, prior to the 2nd business session. For the nominating committee, vote for three people. The person with the most votes would become the Nominating Committee chair.

All candidates were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and have a small talk. Maximum time was allotted to each person – three minutes for Governor and Lt. Governor positions, and two minutes for Treasurer, Area Directors and Nominating Committee.

Governor Joanne asked everyone to add Kathleen Douglass to their conference program, as she should be shown there as the District Leadership Development Chair.

Cathie Wheeler reviewed the details for Friday evening, dinner and music by Amplified MidLife Crisis.

Governor Joanne reminded all to register at the credentials desk before each business session and prior to voting Saturday before breakfast. She asked everyone to assemble for a district picture following the close of this business session.

Governor Joanne declared the First Business Session closed at 5:55 pm.

Motion Moved by Elaine Barkowski, Zonta Club of Hamilton Orchard Park
Seconded Irene Majchrzak, Zonta Club of Buffalo
To continue the Advocacy/Service Poster Project for the 2016-2018 Biennium.
Carried.

Teller Report

Joanne Stewart was called on by Governor Joanne to share the election results. The results are as follows:

Governor - Lori Robinson, Brampton-Caledon
Lt Governor - Bonnie Clesse, Hamburg-Orchard Park
Treasurer - Roxanne Rapedius, Oakville
Area 1 Director - Sheena Poole, Woodstock
Area 2 Director - Clair Wallace, Oakville
Area 3 Director - Karen Fritsch, Kenmore
Area 4 Director - Kathy Scanlon, Hamburg-Orchard Park
Area 5 Director - Janice Durmis, Corry Area
Area 6 Director - Beth Zak, Three Rivers Pittsburgh North
Nom Committee - Kathleen Douglass – Chair, Brampton-Caledon; Laura Corey, Jamestown; Julie Brown, Stratford; alternate Cheryl Hopper, Washington County Area

Motion Moved by Cathie Wheeler, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo
Seconded by Mary Jane Wajmer, Zonta Club of Buffalo
That the ballots from the voting be destroyed.
Carried.

Cathie Wheeler gave the treasurer’s report. She shared the District financial information for the 15 month period ending August 31, 2015. There are 851 paid members in the district to this date. Please send in your dues as members join. Error was noted, change revenues over expenses rather than expenses over revenues, under Equity section on the balance sheet.

Motion Moved by Julie Brown, Zonta Club of Stratford
Seconded by Lorene Vinski, Zonta Club of Pittsburgh
That we adopt the corrected/amended Treasurer’s report that was circulated.
Carried.

Jill Colburn, Finance Chair, presented the proposed budget for 2016-2018 for approval. Discussion on the number of members used, we are hopeful in having one, possibly two new clubs by end of this biennium, plus increase of new members in clubs overall. The transfer from unrestricted is a one-time thing, last resort is to increase dues, acknowledge that we need to keep expenses down, and that exchange is an issue for the Canadian clubs. Discussion also included increasing the budget line for the Governor’s expenses.

Motion Moved by Beth Zak, Zonta Club of Three Rivers Pittsburgh North

Seconded by Kathy Smith, Zonta Club of Fort Erie
To increase the Governor's budget from \$2,000 to \$3,000 and increase the transfer from the unrestricted surplus from \$6,490 to \$7,490 for the 2016-2018 budget.
Carried.

Motion Moved by Mary Jane Wajmer, Zonta Club of Buffalo
 Seconded by Cathie Wheeler, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo
 To adopt 2016-2018 budget as circulated and amended.
 Carried.

Jill Colburn then presented the CPA prepared statements for the District for the biennium ended May 31, 2014 for informational purposes.

Historian/Archive Committee Report

Mary Yunker and Vivian Cody from the Historian/Archive Committee presented a history of our district, key treasures and facts. Excellent presentation that clubs could use at their meetings was presented. Still waiting for some clubs to report their history to the Historian. Governor Joanne indicated that all clubs have history. There are deadlines and you need to update your club history and ensure you meet the deadlines set by Mary and Vivian and she will continue to update how we are doing with this project in the Governor's newsletter.

The following conference workshops were presented. Members chose one to attend when they registered for Conference: Communications, Leadership, Zonta Stewardship and Inside Scoop on Zonta.

The Second Business Session of the 54th District 4 conference ended at 10:45 pm.

Lunch followed

Nita McCowan, Toronto introduced our keynote speaker Todd Minerson, Executive Director of the White Ribbon Campaign to end violence against women. White Ribbon has the largest presence in 60 countries, and has been active in Canada since 1991. Never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women. Presentation was given on their focus in engaging men and boys in gender-based violence prevention. Connie Deckert thanked the speaker. Excellent.

Governor Joanne convened Business Session #3 at 1:50 pm.

Roll call was taken by Conference Secretary, Brenda Graham. Credentials Chair, Joan Westcott gave the Credentials report: 9 District Officers, 41 Delegates, 5 Proxies for a total of 55 Voting Delegates.

Motion Moved by Lorene Vinski, Zonta Club of Pittsburgh
 Seconded by Laura Corey, Zonta Club of Jamestown
 That the Credentials Report be accepted.
 Carried.

That Article XIII Districts, Section 6a Officer Qualifications be amended by adding..."The Governor shall also have served in an elected or appointed capacity on the District Board."

Carried.

Motion

Moved by Lori Robinson, Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon

Seconded by Julie Brown, Zonta Club of Stratford

That Article XIII Districts, Section 13 be amended by adding..."Each selected member of the Nominating Committee shall be a classified member of a club, shall have served at least two(2) years in an elected club office and have served in an elected or appointed capacity on the District Board."

Carried.

Motion

Moved by Linda Orme, Zonta Club of Hamilton I

Seconded by Cathie Wheeler, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo

That the "Summary: Proposed changes to the District 4 Rules of Procedure, dated June 1, 2015 and appended to the minutes as Appendix A", be adopted.

Carried.

Motion

Moved by Linda Orme, Zonta Club of Hamilton I

Seconded by Cathie Wheeler, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo

That the "Changes to align with Zonta International By-laws or Rules of Procedure requirements, or Zonta International District manual recommendations", Outlined in the "Summary: Proposed changes to the District 4 Rules of Procedure, dated June 1, 2015 and appended to the minutes as Appendix A" be adopted.

Carried.

Area 3 Report

Cairine Coulis-Brown, Area 3 Director gave her report. Their area has 4 US clubs and 3 Cdn clubs. They have a focus on scholarships, creating birthing kits (great bond developed within the clubs), and Zonta Says No with 16 Days of Activism. All clubs donated to ZI Foundation. St Catharine's has partnered with Brock University for Klausman award, Fort Erie gave \$4500.00 to a YWPA winner, Niagara Falls NY and Grand Island are working on birthing kits and contributing to shelters, Lockport partnered with YWCA, Kenmore has been educating Muslim women to counter domestic violence and Niagara Falls Ontario completed a \$25,000 contribution to Family and Children Services this year.

Area 4 Report

Mary Jane Wajmer, Area 4 Director gave her report. All 8 clubs have done outstanding work on service and advocacy, and demonstrated great leadership from their Presidents and officers. Examples: Amherst

50 years, history publicized, Aurora luncheon and scholarships, Batavia-Genesee Z Club and birthing kits, Cheektowaga -Lancaster newsletter, Geneva Girl Rising public screening, Hamburg Orchard Park birthing kits and Rochester, comfort kits to rape victims.

UN Committee Report

Doreen Myers, Chair of the United Nations committee gave her report. Encourage, support and learn about UN. 5 met with UN in November and then 15 attended a briefing. Another opportunity to attend December 3rd, register online for briefing, tour and lunch. CSW New York, 70 Zontians from around the world attended. October 24th is UN Day, what is your club doing? Reminder of 16 Days of Activism November 25 to Dec 10th. International Women's Day is March 8th. Doreen is available to come out to your club meetings.

Area 5 Report

Laura Corey, Area 5 Director gave her report. Many of the clubs were busy with birthing kits. Free the Girls program with the Corry, Bradford and Olean clubs, collected bras as well as donated to the project. Bradford collected 658 bras and hosted a panel discussion on human trafficking. Jamestown provides 4 hospital emergency rooms with new sweat suits and undergarments to women who have been brought to the ER because of rape or domestic violence. Olean raised \$8000 through their Breast Cancer Bingo initiative. Erie collects personal hygiene and baby items to help unwed mothers. Bradford has a great project with 5th grade classes on "Peace Begins With Me" that engages the students and their parents. Erie hosted Spring Workshop with 45 attending. Erie invites potential members to join them in their service projects, Bradford uses a wine & cheese social event and Corry is using Facebook outreach as well as their paper.

Area 6 Report

Lorene Vinski, Area 6 Director gave her report. Meadville continues to help the Women's Shelter with an annual donation of four baskets of food stuff, cleaning supplies, health and beauty supplies. Washington County continues to support its Jogging Suit and Stuffed Animals project for female and children victims of rape and sexual abuse at the 3 hospitals in Washington County. Washington County celebrated its 30th Anniversary Rose Day event on April 25th to honor six women in the Washington County area. Pittsburgh celebrated its 15th Amelia Earhart Luncheon, where junior and senior female students in the Pittsburgh City Schools are recognized and awarded computers. Oil City Franklin is proud to have a great roster of members and holds a very successful membership tea in April, which included social time, introduction of members and testimonies from members of what Zonta means to them. Zonta Three Rivers North was selected as a recipient of a Jefferson Award for their ongoing community service.

Leadership Development Report

Kathleen Douglass, presented the Leadership Development report. District 4 is pioneering a new project, which was delivered at the Inter-District conference this year. The Mentoring Program – Zonta Connect, facilitates the transfer of information and knowledge. By partnering, it helps build capacity for our

members, and develop leadership advocates. Zonta will emerge with stronger Zonta brand loyalty and a stronger and wider network. Application forms for mentors and learning associates are on-line on the D4 website, apply if you have experience in a non-traditional role in particular. Match application deadline for 2016 will be mid - November. Check D4 website for more information on the program.

Membership Report

Lori Robinson, Lt Governor, presented the Membership report. Between May 2012 and July 2015, we are down one club and approximately 100 members. We have our work cut out for us. We need to increase our net membership, and support our members with retention and rejuvenation activities. Kudos to Jamestown who is up 13 members during this period. Plan membership drives, approach the district if you qualify for funding of the event. Reach out to other clubs if you need ideas that have worked for recruiting. Barbara Fera our SOM (Sponsored, Organized and Membership Chair) indicated that Barrie is almost ready to charter with 15 members, and London which they've just started, has 6 potential. That means we could have 2 new clubs and a potential 30 new members by the end of this biennium. There are membership tools on the ZI website, and they challenge us to put together a strong membership committee in your clubs, with a good focus on recruiting. Service and Time Projects are helping to recruit new members, as people volunteer to help. If you are struggling, let us know, we are here to help.

Communications Report

Valerie Beyer and Catherine Bobesich presented the Communications/PR Committee report. They are there to help promote Zonta to the public and encourage public engagement, especially with your websites, Facebook and twitter. They look after the district, but can help with your clubs. Offer help aligning branding, ensuring you are using the new logos, mission, vision and theme statements. They provide technical expertise, can provide help with webinars, and the service/advocacy project. In addition, they provide support for the Governor's newsletter, maintaining group emails for the district and with the ECP program, can promote your club events within the district and on the website calendar of events.

Conference Chair Cathie Wheeler provided details on the dinner and Oktoberfest celebration for the evening.

Foundation reported that 17 Zontians have donated thus far, with \$2400.00 raised.

Governor Joanne closed the 3rd Business Session of the 54th District 4 Conference at 5:00 pm.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

A beautiful memorial service was held at 7:45 am. for those Zontians we have lost since the last conference.

Governor Joanne called Business Session 4 to order at 9:50 am.

Secondary School celebrating their 30 consecutive years of being a Z Club. Karen Finney who is an engineer and member of the Zonta Club of Guelph was a Z club member 15 years ago.

CSW Report

Connie Deckert, Lee Fogarty and Doreen Myers reported on the CSW panel. 70 Zontians attended. They shared their week long experience attending sessions at the United Nations in New York. President Marie Jose's focus is Goal #5, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. There are links on the D4 website, with photos and information on the coming date as well.

Lori Robinson, Lieutenant Governor - Call to Conference. September 22 to 24th, 2017 to the Hilton Hotel in Niagara Falls Ontario Canada. Your conference chair will be Kathleen Douglass. Bring your family, lots to do, and activities they can participate in while you are in meetings. Diarize the date, and see you there!

Call to Convention in Nice France. Video shown. 2016 convention is July 2 to 6th. Opening ceremonies are July 3rd. Register by February 27, 2016 for 315 euros. Let's see you all there!

Gertraud Ribitsch International Director parting comments. Thanks to Governor Joanne and the organizing committee for a wonderful event. We are all angels with only one wing, we must hold on tight to each other. Together we are stronger. The conference was a great experience. You have great accomplishments on behalf of Zonta. You should be proud.

Cathie Wheeler Conference Chair. Thanked the Conference Committee... Nancy Croth entertainment, Donna Ketchum-Colletta the Zonta Store, Jan Lehman hospitality and marketing, Jan Meier registration, Muriel Omand-Naylor memorial service, and Cathy Wordley treasurer. She reminded everyone to fill out the evaluations, so we can implement their ideas and suggestions into the 2017 Conference. Thanks to all who attended, safe travels.

Governor Joanne closing comments. Foundation final report, so proud to share that we had 40 donors and a total of \$4,370.00 raised, fantastic! Go back and encourage your club and individual members to donate. We had great committee planning for this conference, with our strong leader Cathie Wheeler. Thanks to Gertraud for attending, and tapping the keg. Thanks to Judy Kautz for the photos and to Sharon for attending from District 10. Thanks to the conference appointees for your help in making this conference so successful. Thanks to our workshop leaders, and past Governor Sandy Travers for escorting our International Director Gertraud. And most especially, thanks to all of you for attending. Please tell your clubs we have wonderful, intelligent board and committee chairs who can help you and come out to your clubs. Governor Joanne has been to two thirds of the clubs, and is committed to being to all 38 by the end of May.

The colours were retired and Governor Joanne closed the 54th District Conference at 12:10 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Brenda Graham, Conference Secretary