

Brief History of the Zonta Club of Hamilton 1 District 04 Area 02 Club 0082

Our Chartering

- Organized March 3, 1928 by Marian DeForest and Florence Fuchs of the ZC of Buffalo
- 23 charter members with Jean McBride, CPA as charter president

Service through Organization

- 1929 ZC of St Catharines
- 1951 ZC of Galt-Preston- now Cambridge
- 1959 ZC of Oakville (later disbanded and reorganized by ZC of Burlington)
- 1960 ZC of Woodstock
- 1962 ZC of Stratford (later disbanded and reorganized by member Judy Lindsay in 2000)
- 1963 ZC of Burlington
- 1971 ZC of Hamilton 2 (became first 2 club in North America, and we became Hamilton 1)
- Joan Heels (then a member of ZC of Montreal) with help from her mother, our member Mary Heels, founded ZC of Freeport/Lucaya (Bahamas) in 1982

Hosted District Conferences

- We have hosted the District 4 Conference seven times- 1938, 1947, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987, 2009

Members Serving Beyond our Club

- **Rt. Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough**
 - District 4 Governor 1947 to 1949
 - Zonta International Treasurer 1974 to 1976
 - International Honorary Member
- **Mary Smale**
 - District 4 Governor 1961 to 1963
- **Olga Cloke**
 - District 4 Governor 1967 to 1969
 - Presented gift to ZC of Tokyo at their charter dinner
 - Installed officers and presented gift at charter of ZC of Istanbul
 - 1970 to 1972 Chaired International Nominating Committee
- **Sandra Cronk**
 - District 4 Governor 2004 to 2006
- Dozens of our members have served on Zonta International committees, as Area Directors, and on District committees

Long running local service projects

- From 1946 until 1966 we assisted Stewart Memorial Church (founded by fugitive slaves and also free black men and women in the early 1800s)
 - Entertained choir members at a dinner prior to an evening service once a year.
 - Supplied flowers for the altar
 - Donated to education fund and organ fund
- From 1955 to 1999 we served as hostesses for the Citizen Court.
- From 1968 to the late 1990's we provided judges for Junior Achievement.
- We provide hygiene kits to local women's shelters and have done this for more than twenty years.

Scholarships and Awards

- **Olga Cloke Bursary:** The bursary was established by Olga's family on the occasion of her 75th birthday in 1971. Upon her death in 1974, the YWCA established an endowment fund with contributions from the Cloke family and the Zonta Club of Hamilton 1. Olga was a past President of our Club, past Governor of District 4 and also held International positions in Zonta. Olga was past chair of the YWCA Building Campaign as well as past District Commissioner of the Hamilton Girl Guide Association.
- **ZC of Hamilton 1 Bursary at McMaster University:** Our initial contribution in 1997 was \$60,000 from our Club and was matched by the Province of Ontario for an endowment fund of \$120,000.
- **ZC of Hamilton 1 Bursary at Mohawk College:** This fund was established in 1997 with a donation from our Club of \$40,000 and matched by the Ontario Government to establish an \$80,000 endowment fund.
- **The Zonta Club of Hamilton 1, Muriel Stewart Memorial MBA Bursary** was established in early 2000 with a \$10,000 donation of long standing member Muriel Stewart. This amount was matched to create a \$20,000 bursary fund.
- We award a **YWPA award** to a local student. Our winner has gone on to win the District 4 award twice (2002 and 2009) and the International award once (2002).
- **Jane M Klausman Award:** We provide a local award to a student at our local university and have had two District winners (2011 and 2013) and one International winner (2011).

Recent Service and Fundraising Projects

- **ZISVAW:** The club was the recipient of a grant from Zonta International (one of four in the world that year) which provided \$25,000 US seed money. The club partnered with the Zonta Club of Hamilton 2, Catholic Family Services and New Faces to produce and support an interactive play performed by high school students. This play, "There's Got to Be a Better Way", was presented to over 20,000 elementary students in Hamilton to explore alternate methods of dispute resolution.
- **Zonta Classic 1998 to present:** We host a women's only golf tournament to raise money for breast cancer. We have raised over \$500,000 to date which has been donated to local breast cancer initiatives.
- **Birthing Kits:** We have partnered with the Zonta Club of Hamilton 2 and had three birthing kit assemblies, producing 3000 birthing kits.
- **Local Donations:** from volunteering at bingo and other fundraising initiatives, we donate approximately \$15,000 annually to local projects that relate to health and advocacy to assist women and children in our community. This is in addition to the approximate \$25,000 annual donation from the Zonta Classic.
- Our Club has always donated annually to the **Zonta International Foundation**. Recently, 2012 and 2014 we have had 100% participation of our members also making a personal donation to ZIF.

Current Status

- Current membership is 48 members ranging in age from 25 to 95. Years of service range from 0 to 54 with the average being 18 years of service.
- One of our current members is a two time Amelia Earhart Fellow.
- We meet monthly and have a dinner, then guest speaker, followed by a business meeting.
- We are fairly well known in our community partly because of partnering with Hamilton Health Sciences, our city's largest employer, YWCA, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, Hamilton Community Foundation and Catholic Family Services on various projects.
- We have had a website for 10 years (www.zontahamilton1.ca) and we also have a Facebook page.
- Our club is always represented at International Conventions and District Conferences with two delegates and an alternate.
- We try to support our sister clubs by encouraging attendance at their events including Spring Workshops.