

MINUTES
Zonta District 4, 55th Conference
Niagara Falls, Ontario
September 22-24, 2017

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

Members of the head table and local dignitaries were lead into the meeting. Governor Lori Robinson (Brampton-Caledon) called the 1st Business Session of the 55th District 4 Conference to order at 3:55 pm on Friday, September 22, 2017. After a welcome by Governor Lori, the colors were posted by past Governor Joanne Raymond, Zonta Club of Owen Sound President Arlene Wright, Zonta Club of Niagara Falls, NY Lindsay Edwards and Zonta Club of Stratford Catherine Hardman. The national anthems of Canada, the United States and Australia were played. Past Governor Anna Parenti Conn delivered the Invocation.

Governor Lori introduced International Director Judith Anderson, Past International Directors / Past Governors Barbra Fera and Kathleen Douglass, Past Governors Joanne Raymond, Sandra Cronk and Anna Parenti Conn.

Governor Lori introduced those seated at the Head Table:

Center Tier - Conference Chair Kathleen Douglass, Lt. Governor Bonnie Clesse, Treasurer Roxy Rapedius, Secretary Haydee Kocchui, Governor Lori Robinson, Parliamentarian Kris Fletcher, Zonta International Representative Judith Anderson, Invocation Anna Parenti Conn.

Side Tiers - Area 1 Director Sheena Poole, Area 3 Director Karen Fritsch, Area 5 Director Janice Durmis, Area 6 Director Beth Zak, Area 4 Director Kathi Scanlon, Area 2 Director Claire Wallace.

Governor Lori introduced the Timers and Credential Tables: Credentials Joan Westcott, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo. Timer Ellen Blahitka, Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon.

Special Welcoming Ceremony. Past Area 3 Director and member of the Zonta Club of Niagara Falls Canada Cairine Coulis-Brown introduced the Special Welcoming Ceremony by the Strong Water Women's drum group. Strong Water Women, is a group of Indigenous Women from many different nations who reside in the Niagara Region, and who gather together weekly at the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre to promote identity while nurturing each other's Spirit. In this welcoming ceremony members of Strong Water Women shared their stories and performed the songs 'Spirit Fire' and 'The Longest Walk'.

International President's message

Past Area 2 Director and member of the Zonta Club of Stratford Catherine Hardman introduced ZI Director and District 4 Liaison and member of the Zonta Club of Brisbane Inc, Australia Judith Anderson.

Judith introduced the Zonta International President's message. Judith reminded us that Zonta has Consultative Status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, thereby allowing us to participate in the work of the United Nations and in achieving SDG #5 a key goal for Zonta. On behalf of ZI Judith thanked all for our commitment to fight for equality and women's rights.

Zonta International President Sonja Honig Schough, in her video presentation, reminded us that 'Zonta is all of us together connected to a common mission of empowering women through service and advocacy'. She said an organization is nothing without all its members. The more we are the more we accomplish together. At the Nice Convention members approved the biennium goal of increasing membership by 5%. ZI has launched the membership drive program to support clubs in meeting this goal. She encouraged clubs to engage young women award recipients, Z and Golden Z Club members to join under the new Young Professional Member category. Sonja talked about her visit to Madagascar. This is the newest project 'Let Us Learn Madagascar' approved at the Nice Convention. It is an integrated program because not only it provides education to the girls but also provides them with safety and training for the teachers. Sonja mentioned that ZI has upgraded the website with new features. They are also working hard to bring a new learning management system that will support leadership development. This year the new theme of trafficking has been added to the Zonta Says NO Campaign. Next year there will be more sessions at the CSW in New York. All are invited to attend, learn and advocate for Zonta's mission. Sonja finished her message by asking to start preparing to go to Japan for the 2018 Convention. Details will be in the next issue of The Zontian.

Greetings from host city of Niagara Falls, Ontario. Christine Filipowich, President of the Zonta Club of Niagara Falls, Canada welcomed everyone to Niagara Falls, ON.

Greetings and Correspondence. District Secretary Haydee Kocchiu read greetings from Dr. Doreen Thompson, chair of the District 4 Z and Golden Z Clubs Committee. Doreen is on a leave of absence from Zonta as she is teaching in Egypt. A tribute letter from ZIF was received. ZIF informed that a gift in Governor Lori's honor was made to the Rose Fund by the Zonta Club of Rochester.

Roll call was taken by Conference Secretary, Haydee Kocchiu. Credentials Chair, Joan Westcott gave the credentials report. 9 District Officers, 38 Delegates, 4 Proxies for a total of 51 Voting Delegates.

Motion Moved by Brenda Graham, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo
 Seconded by Cindy Weir, Zonta Club of Owen Sound
 That the Credentials Report be accepted as presented.
 Carried.

Registration Chair Carma Horner, Zonta Club of Bradford, gave the registration report. 11 first time attendees, 110 total attendees.

Governor Lori announced the Conference Appointments:

Credentials Committee – Joan Westcott, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo, Elizabeth Spoule, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo, and Mary Lou Ardino, Zonta Club of Cheektowaga Lancaster

Protocol Chair –Sandra Cronk, Zonta Club of Hamilton 1

Timekeeper – Ellen Blahitka, Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon

Pages - Z Club Members Melanie Sookhoo and Fatima Abidi from Central Peel S.S. Z Club and Muskan Nagra from St. Thomas Aquinas S.S. Z Club

Tellers – Margaret Geare, Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon, Laura Corey, Zonta Club of Jamestown, and Kathy Smith, Zonta Club of Fort Erie

Technical leader – Kathryn Bunyan McClendon, Zonta club of Niagara Falls, NY

Escort for our Intl Representative – Catherine Hardman, Past Area 1 Director and member of the Zonta Club of Stratford

Conference Program. Conference Chair, Kathleen Douglass, Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon, presented the Conference Program.

Motion Moved by Catherine Hardman, Zonta Club of Stratford
Seconded by Cheri Palmer, Zonta Club of Woodstock
That the Conference Program as presented be accepted as the official program of the business for this Conference.
Carried.

Standing Rules of the Conference. Parliamentarian, Kris Fletcher presented the Standing Rules of the Conference.

Motion Moved by Sandra Cronk, Zonta Club of Hamilton 1
Seconded by Julie Kostal, Zonta Club of Hamilton 1
That the Standing Rules of Conference as presented be adopted.
Carried.

Minutes of the 54rd conference. The minutes were previously distributed and approved by the D4 Board. A copy was distributed to all Presidents and a copy was available on the D4 website. Governor Lori called for the approval of the minutes.

Motion Moved by Kathi Scanlon, Area 4 Director, Zonta Club of Hamburg-Orchard Park
Seconded by Karen Fritsch, Area 3 Director, Zonta Club of Kenmore
That the minutes of the 54rd Conference of D4 held in September 25, 2015 in Waterloo, Ontario be approved.
Carried.

Minutes of the 55th conference. As has been done in previous conferences, Governor Lori Robinson recommended that the minutes of this conference be distributed to the District 4 Board for approval prior to being emailed to all clubs and included in the Conference report.

Motion Moved by Nicki Inch, Zonta Club of Niagara Falls, Canada
Seconded by Janet Penny, Zonta Club of St. Catharines
That the minutes of this conference be distributed to the D4 Board for approval prior to being available to all clubs and included in the conference report.
Carried.

District Nominating Committee Report

Kathleen Douglass, Chair of the District Nominating Committee presented the list of candidates for election as District 4 Officers for 2018-2020:

Governor: Bonnie Clesse, Hamburg-Orchard Park, New York

Lieutenant Governor: Janice Durmis, Corry, Pennsylvania

Treasurer: Roxanne Rapedius, Brampton-Caledon, Ontario

Area Directors:

Area 1 – Brenda Graham, Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario

Area 2 – Karen Grant, Oakville, Ontario

Haydee Kocchiu, e-Club of Canada 1, Ontario

Nita McCown, Toronto, Ontario

Area 3 –

Area 4 – Gina Orsini, Cheektowaga-Lancaster, New York

Ann Marie West, Batavia-Genesee County, New York
Area 5 – Diane A. Balaban, Olean, New York
Area 6 –

Nominating Committee:

Jill P. Colburn, Jamestown, New York
Nancy L. McCulloch, Rochester, New York
Lori Robinson, Brampton-Caledon, Ontario
Mary Jane Wajmer, Buffalo, New York
Mary Yunker, Batavia-Genesee County, New York

Motion Moved by Karen Fritsch, Area 3 Director, Zonta Club of Kenmore
Seconded by Lindsay Edwards, Zonta Club of Niagara Falls, NY
That Jenny Johnston, Zonta Club of Kenmore be nominated for the position of Area 3
Director.

The Nominating Committee determined that Jenny was an eligible candidate. Jenny accepted the nomination.

No further nominations came in from the floor. The District Nominating Committee Chair declared nominations closed.

District Nominating Committee Chair Kathleen advised that according to ZI by-laws, the candidates must be voted in by ballot, although we had acclamations in some positions. For the Nominating Committee, vote for three people. The candidate with the highest number of votes will be the Chair of the committee. Only club delegates vote for their own area directors.

All candidates were given the opportunity to introduce themselves to the voting delegates. Maximum time was allotted to each candidate - 3 minutes each for Governor and Lt. Governor and 2 minutes each for Treasurer, Area Directors and Nominating Committee.

Voting board members and delegates were asked to cast their votes on Saturday morning from 8:00 to 8:10 am and from 8:10 to 8:25 am respectively.

Conference Chair Kathleen Douglass reviewed the program for the Friday evening: dinner at Margaritaville followed by the Candle Walk to the Falls. Reminded all to wear orange for the evening.

Governor Lori reminded all delegates/alternates and voting member of the Board to register at the credentials desk before each business session.

Governor Lori declared the 1st Business session of the 55th District 4 Conference closed at 6:00 pm.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

Governor Lori called the 2nd Business Session of the 55th District 4 Conference to order at 8:30 am.

Roll call was taken by Conference Secretary, Haydee Kocchiu. Credentials Chair, Joan Westcott gave the credentials report. 9 District Officers, 38 Delegates, 4 Proxies for a total of 51 Voting Delegates.

Motion Moved by Marion McGill, Zonta E Club of Canada 1
 Seconded by Karen Grant, Zonta Club of Oakville
 That the Credentials Report be accepted as presented.
 Carried.

Registration Chair Carma Horner gave the registration report. 14 first time attendees, 110 total attendees.

Accountant's Compilation Report

Treasurer Roxy Rapedius read the Accountant's Compilation Report on the Biennial Financial Statements for the biennia ended May 31, 2016 and 2014.

Motion Moved by Claire Wallace, Area 2 Director, Zonta Club of Oakville
 Seconded by Janice Durmis, Area 5 Director, Zonta Club of Corry
 That the Accountant's Compilation Report for the last Biennium Financial Statements be accepted as presented.
 Carried.

Budget

Finance Chair Jill Colburn, Zonta Club of Jamestown, explained that the budget is presented with an increase for the next biennium. The committee worked hard to minimize the increase as we had not had an increase in 5 biennia. They were going to also ask for a by-yearly increase be written into the motion for this conference but decided that they would just recommend that to the future board to review it for the next biennium. A bi-annual increase should be looked at every conference.

Treasurer Roxy Rapedius presented the proposed budget for 2018-2020. Annual District dues are established as \$23.00 (\$20.00 District Dues plus \$3.00 Assessment for Conference) per capita based upon the number of members in the club as of June 1st; and \$14.50 (\$11.50 District Dues plus \$3.00 assessment for Conference) per capita for members who join in the second six months of the fiscal year.

Discussion on the impact of the increase from \$15.00 to \$23.00 and how clubs can address it.

Discussion on consideration to re-structuring the way the board conduct business to reduce cost.

Discussion also included reducing the increase and cover the deficit with a transfer from unrestricted funds.

Motion Moved by Bonnie Clesse, Lt. Governor, Zonta Club of Hamburg/Orchard Park
 Seconded by Janice Durmis, Area 5 Director, Zonta Club of Corry
 That the Annual District Dues be established as follows: \$23.00 (\$20.00 District Dues plus \$3.00 Assessment for Conference) per capita based upon the number of members in the club as of June 1st; and \$14.50 (\$11.50 District Dues plus \$3.00 assessment for Conference) per capita for members who join in the second six months of the fiscal year;

and That the Standing Rules of Procedure for District 4 be amended to enact the change in dues.

Amendment Moved by Brenda Graham, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo
Seconded by Connie Deckert, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo
That the Annual District Dues be amended to \$19.00 and \$11.00 respectively.
Defeated.

Main Motion Carried.

Motion Moved by Beth Zak, Area 6 Director, Zonta Club of Three Rivers Pittsburgh North
Seconded by Karen Fritsch, Area 3 Director, Zonta Club of Kenmore
That the Budget, as presented and supported and confirmed by the dues be adopted.
Carried.

Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign

ZI Director and District 4 Liaison and member of the Zonta Club of Brisbane Inc, Australia
Judith Anderson introduced Jacqueline Beaudry, Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign Chair.
Jackie explained that as part of Zonta International's 100th anniversary celebration, Zonta is undertaking the Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign. It is the opportunity for members and contributors committed to Zonta's service and advocacy work to establish our legacy for the future. The Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign is committed to growing Zonta's endowment fund by US\$10 million and developing a robust planned giving program. Earnings from the endowment fund may be used to fund – or expand – any part of Zonta International's work, including the potential to sustain a long-term Zonta flagship program.
Judith thanked Jackie and introduced a presentation video on the Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign.

Foundation Ambassador

Foundation Ambassadors Kathy Smith, Zonta Club of Fort Erie, and Anne Marie West, Zonta Club of Batavia provided updates on ZIF projects and funding needed. Following the Foundation Ambassadors' update, a video on the Let Us Learn Madagascar project was shown.

Governor Lori declared the 2nd Business session of the 55th District 4 Conference closed at 10:20 pm.

The following conference workshops were presented. What Gets Measured, Gets Done!, Advocacy If Not Now – When?, Zonta 101 and Protocol, Navigate the ZI Website. Conference attendees selected a workshop at time of registration.

Governor Lori called the 3rd Business Session of the 55th District 4 Conference to order at 1:05 pm.

Roll call was taken by Conference Secretary, Haydee Kocchiu. Credentials Chair, Joan Westcott gave the credentials report. 9 District Officers, 37 Delegates, 5 Proxies for a total of 51 Voting Delegates.

Motion Moved by Susan Lewerth, Zonta Club of Pittsburgh Three Rivers North
Seconded by Kathy Reynolds, Zonta Club of Grand Island
That the Credentials Report be accepted as presented.
Carried.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Roxy Rapedius gave the report on the District's financial statements as of August 31, 2017. Error was noted on the Balance Sheet distributed in the Call to Conference. Error was corrected by changing Net Income amount in Balance Sheet to match the Revenue over Expenses amount in the Revenue over Expenses Report. Roxy will circulate corrected Balance Sheet to all attendees.

Motion Moved by Sheena Poole, Area 1 Director, Zonta Club of Woodstock
Seconded by Beth Zak, Area 6 Director, Zonta Club of Pittsburgh Three Rivers North
That the Treasurer's Report be accepted as distributed and corrected.
Carried.

Bylaws Committee Report

Chair Joanne Raymond, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo, presented the report.

Motion Moved by Beth Zak, Area 6 Director, Zonta Club of Pittsburgh Three Rivers North
Seconded by Kathi Scanlon, Area 4 Director, Zonta Club of Hamburg Orchard Park
That the changes to the District 4 Rules of Procedures Section C Area Meetings/Spring Workshops: '1.1 The District shall hold a minimum of two Area Workshops per year located in Area 1/2/3 and 4/5/6 with clubs from each Area rotating hosting responsibilities. If more than two Area workshops are held in one year they may be located in Area 1/2, 3/4, 5/6, with clubs from each Area alternating hosting responsibilities. The hosting club would be notified no less than 12 months in advance' be accepted.
Carried.

Motion Moved by Claire Wallace, Area 2 Director, Zonta Club of Oakville
Seconded by Karen Fritsch, Area 3 Director, Zonta Club of Kenmore
That the changes to the District 4 Rules of Procedures Section D Nomination Committee: '4 At the Conference, as long as notification has been made to the District Nominating Committee 4 days prior to the District Conference, additional nominations may be made from the floor immediately after the report from the Nomination Committee provided the consent to serve has been obtained from the nominee and the nominee is qualified' be accepted.
Carried.

Motion Moved by Catherine Hardman, Zonta Club of Stratford
Seconded by Gina Orsini, Zonta Club of Cheektowaga-Lancaster
That the word 'noted' to new section E4. Campaigning Policy, 4.b. '(if the violation is noted before the election)' is added.

Carried.

Motion

Moved by Sheena Poole, Area 1 Director, Zonta Club of Woodstock
Seconded by Beth Zak, Area 6 Director, Zonta Club of Pittsburgh Three Rivers North
That the changes to the following District 4 Rules of Procedure be accepted as amended:
Section E Campaigning Policy. Campaigning will align with the Zonta International
Rules of Procedure on Circularization and the Zonta International campaigning
Policy.

2. Allowed activities:

- a. Following issuance of the official slate by the District Nominating Committee, Zontians attending Zonta functions may be introduced as candidates, with no other information being provided about the candidates. At no time may either the candidate or any other Zontian publicly request votes for the candidate.
- c. If asked, only oral endorsements, based on personal knowledge and experience, may be made by other Zontians.

3. Disallowed activities:

- a. Remains the same
- b. No current or past officer or director of Zonta International or current or past officer of the District shall seek to influence members to vote for or against a particular candidate through either verbal or written means.
- c. No gifts, trinkets, buttons or other promotional material (such as flyers, brochures or resumes) shall be distributed on behalf of any candidate for campaign purposes either before or during the Conference, other than material provided by the District Nominating Committee.

4. **New Section** Consequences of the Policy Violation

- a. If a perceived policy violation is observed by a District Board member, or if a written complaint is sent to the Governor within 3 months of a perceived violation by a District member, then a formal investigation will be carried out by the Board, led by the Governor.
- b. If a violation is identified and proven through the investigation, consequences could include, but might not be limited to, a private letter of concern or reprimand; or a cancellation of the candidate's nomination (if the violation is noted before the election); or a calling for a new vote for the position affected (if the violation is noted after the election)

Carried.

Area 6 Director Report

Members from the Meadville, Three Rivers Pittsburgh North and Washington County clubs made presentations. Director Beth Zak recognized the clubs of Oil City Franklin with the Poster Project Award, Washington County with the Completion of 2000 birthing kits Award and Pittsburgh with the Advocacy Award for their advocacy work with local council resulting in the city of Pittsburgh signing up to CEDAW.

Centennial Committee Report

Lt. Governor Bonnie Clesse reported that the ZI theme for the centennial celebration is '100 Years Empowering Women'. Logo and more information on the celebrations from ZI will be available and posted in www.zonta.100.org in January 2018. In District 4, the committee has started planning for the celebrations and the Centennial District Conference. The club of Buffalo will host the Centennial District Conference in Buffalo, NY. The Zonta Club of Buffalo is also undertaking a video and a history book project to celebrate the centennial. All clubs are being asked to participate and contribute in this celebration.

Area 4 Director Report

Members from the Batavia-Genesee County, Buffalo, Cheektowaga-Lancaster, Hamburg-Orchard Park and Rochester clubs made presentations. Director Kathi Scanlon recognized the clubs of Cheektowaga-Lancaster with the Advocacy Award, Rochester with the Social Media Award and Batavia-Genesee County with the Service Award.

Area 2 Director Report

Members from the Brampton-Caledon, Hamilton 1, eClub of Canada 1, Oakville and Toronto clubs made presentations. Director Claire Wallace recognized the clubs of Toronto with the Area Director's Award, Hamilton 1 with the Steadfast Award and eClub of Canada 1 with the Vanguard Award.

Tellers Report

Chair Margaret Geare, Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon, announced the successful candidates:

Governor: Bonnie Clesse, Hamburg-Orchard Park, New York

Lieutenant Governor: Janice Durmis, Corry, Pennsylvania

Treasurer: Roxanne Rapedius, Brampton-Caledon, Ontario

Area Directors:

Area 1 – Brenda Graham, Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario

Area 2 – Nita McCown, Toronto, Ontario

Karen Grant, Vice Area 2 Director, Oakville, Ontario

Area 3 – Jenny Johnston, Kenmore, New York

Area 4 – Gina Orsini, Cheektowaga-Lancaster, New York

Area 5 – Diane A. Balaban, Olean, New York

Area 6 –

Nominating Committee:

Lori Robinson, Chair, Brampton-Caledon, Ontario

Jill P. Colburn, Jamestown, New York

Nancy L. McCulloch, Rochester, New York

Motion

Moved by Roxy Rapedius, Treasurer, Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon

Seconded by Kathi Scanlon, Area 4 Director, Zonta Club of Hamburg-Orchard Park

That the Tellers Committee destroy the ballots.

Carried.

Area 5 Director Report

Members from the Bradford, Corry, Erie, Jamestown, Olean and Warren clubs made presentations. Director Janice Durmis recognized the clubs of Bradford with the Special Area Director's Award and Jamestown with the Public Relations Award.

Membership Report

Lt. Governor Bonnie Clesse presented the report. She also introduced a booklet titled 'Membership Memos'. This informative booklet includes a geographic map identifying the District 4 area (Ontario, New York and Pittsburgh) and the location of clubs. It also includes a list of clubs by Area, notes on Membership from sessions and meetings at the Nice Convention and North American Inter District Meeting. Best Practices from D4 Clubs and where to find the ZI Membership tools are also in this booklet. At the end the What is Zonta video was shown.

Area 3 Director Report

Members from the Fort Erie, Grand Island, Kenmore, Lockport, Niagara Falls NY, Niagara Falls Canada and St. Catharines clubs made presentations. Director Karen Fritsch recognized the clubs of St. Catharines with the Area Director's Award, Kenmore with the Service to Community Award and Niagara Falls NY with the Advocacy Award.

Advocacy Report

Ellen Blahitka, Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon and Mary Vacanti, Zonta Club of Buffalo, presented the report. They highlighted that the focus for this year's 16 Days of Activism is human trafficking. They reminded to check the tools in the Zontasaysno.com website. The Poster Project will continue as the District 4 service/advocacy project. At the end the 2017 Advocacy video was shown.

Area 1 Director Report

Members from the Guelph, Kitchener-Waterloo, Owen Sound, Stratford and Woodstock clubs made presentations. Director Sheena Poole recognized the clubs of Stratford with the AD Advocacy Award, Woodstock with the AD Service and Fundraising Award and Kitchener-Waterloo with the AD Advocacy, Communications and Social Media Award.

Service Report

Holly Anderson, Zonta Club of Toronto and Judy Powers, Zonta Club of Hamburg-Orchard Park, presented their report. They encouraged clubs to apply for the Zonta Service Recognition Award. This award is given at the end of each biennium at the International Convention, and recognizes six of the most outstanding service projects sponsored by clubs and up to three sponsored by districts. The committee recognized the efforts of all the clubs that have built birthing kits and asked them to keep them up-to-date with # of kits built and donated. They confirmed that Birthing Kits will continue as the District 4 service project.

Conference Chair Kathleen Douglass provided details on the evening program: reception, dinner and entertainment.

Governor Lori declared the 3rd Business session of the 55th District 4 Conference closed at 4:50 pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

A heart felt Memorial Service was held at 7:45 am for those Zontians we have lost since the last conference.

Governor Lori called the 4th Business Session to order at 8:55 am.

Roll call was taken by Conference Secretary, Haydee Kocchiu. Credentials Chair, Joan Westcott gave the credentials report. 8 District Officers, 36 Delegates, 6 Proxies for a total of 50 Voting Delegates.

Motion Moved by Sandy Seaman, Zonta Club of Corry
 Seconded by Rosie Papalia, Zonta Club of Jamestown
 That the Credentials Report be accepted as presented.
 Carried.

Registration Chair Carma Horner gave the registration report. 9 board members, 1 International Representative, 111 Zontians present, 2 Zontians absent. 123 total registered.

Panel on Human Trafficking

Kathleen Douglass, Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon, introduced panel members: Alma Arguello, SAVIS of Halton; Joy Brown, Peel Human Trafficking Service Providers Committee and Kris Noakes, Peel Aboriginal Network. Panelists provided insights and informed about their organizations' services for victims of human trafficking. Following Kathleen moderated a very informative and action taking inspiring Q&A.

Awards Committee Report

Karin Eckart, Zonta Club of Hamilton 1 and Alyce Van Patten, Zonta Club of Rochester, presented the report.

YWPA Award district and international recipient Eva Wanyu Ren was introduced. Eva was sponsored by the Zonta Club of St Catharines. Eva is in her first year of studying management with a minor in international relations at McGill University. Eva's video of her thank you speech was shown.

Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship district and international recipient Helen J. Shen was introduced. Helen is pursuing a bachelor's degree in commerce at the University of Toronto. Helen's video of her thank you speech was shown.

Amelia Earhart Committee Report

Nancy McCulloch, Zonta Club of Rochester, and Donna Ketchum-Colletta, Zonta Club of Hamburg-Orchard Park, presented the report.

2016 Amelia Earhart Fellow Wing Yin (Penelope) Kwong was introduced. Penelope is studying Aerospace Engineering at the University of Toronto. Penelope's video of her description of the experimental system she designed to test a variety of geometric and chemical parameters and the data from the experiments that will be used to validate and improve computational models for engine design was shown.

The Committee raised US\$ 3135 through silent auction of baskets and donations at the Conference. They thanked for the 100% club participation. The biennium goal is to fund two Amelia Earhart Fellowships.

Z and Golden Z Club Awards

Margaret Geare, Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon, presented the 3rd Place US\$250 Zonta International Emma L. Conlon Service Award to the Golden Z Club of McMaster University. Renate Davidson, President of the Zonta Club of Hamilton 1 accepted the award on behalf of the Golden Z Club of McMaster University.

Shirley Ellison, Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon, gave out the District 4 Z Club Awards to the Z Club of Central Peel S.S. and to the Z club student member Fatima Abidi of the Z Club of Central Peel S.S.

Call to Convention 2018 Japan. Video of Fumiko Hayashi, Mayor of Yokohama, inviting to the 64th Zonta International Convention in Yokohama, Japan, in 2018 was shown. The 2018 Convention is 29 June – 3 July. The Zonta clubs of District 26, will be hosting the visit to Japan during the Zonta 64th Convention.

Call to Conference 2019 Buffalo. The call was given by the Buffalo club and Governor-Elect Bonnie Clesse. The conference will be September 26-29, 2019 in Buffalo. A video of the city of Buffalo was shown.

International Liaison Judith Anderson closing remarks. She thanked everyone for donations to ZIF. Thanked Governor Lori and the organizing committee for a meaningful event. Thanked Catherine Harman, Zonta Club of Stratford, for her hospitality. She shared her praise to the clubs for the energy and creativity invested on the many service, advocacy and fundraising projects. She emphasized the importance of keeping Zonta's mission in mind when making decisions on future projects.

Governor Lori Robinson thanked International Liaison Judith Anderson. A donation to the AE Fellowship Program was made in Judith's honour.

Kathleen Douglass, Conference Chair closing remarks. Kathleen thanked the Conference Committee. She also acknowledged Cathie Wheeler for stepping up and be the conference photographer. Kathleen thanked the Human Trafficking panelists and everyone that participated in the Candle Walk to the Falls.

Governor Lori Robinson closing remarks. \$3,000 was raised for the Zonta International Foundation. Thanked Kathleen Douglass for all her work in putting together the District 4 Conference in Niagara Falls, ON. 'We appreciate all the work she and the committee have done'. Thanked all conference appointees and attendees. 'Thank you for everything that you have done in the past and continue to do on behalf of Zonta'. She reminded everyone to complete the conference evaluation online on the D4 website.

The colors were retired by Z Club members Melanie Sookhoo and Fatima Abidi from Central Peel S.S. Z Club and Muskan Nagra from St. Thomas Aquinas S.S. Z Club.

Governor Lori Robinson adjourned the 55th District 4 Conference at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Haydee Kocchiu, Conference Secretary