

AREA 5 REPORT

The **Bradford Club** celebrated Rose Day and International Women's Day on March 5th and 6th. They surprised and delivered roses to 10 local women and one man who have served as role models to women and young girls. I had the pleasure of attending their "Queen of Hearts" card party in February and had a great time. There were approximately 120 guests and they raised over \$4600. This money will be used for their scholarships and Service awards. The club has received 16 scholarship applications and will award scholarships to two local high school senior girls and two college students. The Service Award luncheon was scheduled in May but unfortunately could not be held due to Covid-19. Awards of \$300 will still be provided to three local organizations. The club has six prospective members and hopes to induct them when they install their new officers, whenever that will be. To help with the ongoing health crisis, the club has made masks and donated them to the local hospital and nursing homes. They have also donated food to the local hospital.

The **Corry Club** had two lunch meeting with guest speakers. The owners of Fyzical Therapy spoke about "balance". A member did a Tai Chi demonstration and showed them different exercises. There was a Masquerade Ball put on by My Safe Journey, a domestic violence shelter the club works with. The theme was "unmasking the face of domestic violence". The club gave out 3 scholarships to three senior high school girls and another will be given to a non-traditional student at a later date. They also donated \$100 to two local restaurants making lunches for students.

The **Erie Club** held their first ever "Bowl-A-Thon" in February. Everyone was able to bowl, have pizza and take part in the 50/50 and gift basket raffle. It was very well attended. The birthing kit assembly has been put on hold due to the health crisis. The Amelia Earhart Scholarship luncheon was cancelled as well because of Covid-19. The club will send a \$15 gift card and a scholarship certificate to all of the 32 high school juniors whose names were submitted by their respective Erie county schools.

The **Jamestown Club** held its Luna Fest in March and raised over \$3000. Monies raised will go to local scholarships as well as advocacy for future projects. To celebrate Zonta's 100th birthday the club had a speaker posing as Amelia Earhart as well as a speaker on women's suffrage in February. They held their board meeting in April via Zoom where it was decided to hold their elections electronically and all went very well. The club was going to hold a new event in May - "Zonta Trivia Nite" but it is now on hold due to present conditions. A new committee has been formed to plan for the club's centennial celebration in September 2021. A new project in the works is "adopt a senior" with members being matched to women in nursing homes and being committed to developing a relationship with them. Unfortunately their annual Zonta Day at Chautauqua in August had to be cancelled this year due to Covid-19.

The **Olean Club** had "Fun Nite" in February. One of the members owns a restaurant and she opened it for the club. A salad bar was put out for dinner and then everyone did rock painting. It was a great evening. The Rotary Club of Olean held a dinner to honor local service clubs in March. The Zonta Club of Olean received the "Service Above Self" award along with a cash donation for the club. In May there was a challenge among service clubs to raise money for the Covid-19 response fund. The club participated in this endeavor and raised over \$1000. Members of the club also took part in a shepherding program run by the YMCA to call people to check on them during the stay at home order during the pandemic. The YMCA child care center (run by one of our members) is taking care of the children of the first responders and a member of the club cooks lunch for all once a week to help out. Unfortunately due to the current conditions inductions of new members and installation of officers are on hold.

The **Warren Club** had two fund raisers that netted them over \$14,000. One was the sale of pecans and the other was their Lucky Numbers Luncheon. Their main service project, Free the Girls, has resulted in the shipment of 2,547 bras. This was done in three bra shipping parties. The club awarded two community grants for a total of \$1,000. The High-Ed council was given \$1,000 to award on a needs basis to GED applicants. The club will award a \$100 scholarship to the Warren County Fair Queen candidates with the best speech. Due to difficulty in finding

someone to take the club's birthing kits, they gave money to "Mercy for Mamas", a nonprofit that provides money to women in Uganda to make their own birthing kits. The Advocacy chair has kept the club updated on the passing of the ERA, Ending Child Marriage, Human Trafficking, Importance of the 2020 census and 100 years of the right to vote for women.

Most clubs updated their by-laws after the centennial conference last September.

This past few months have been difficult for all of the clubs. Most events scheduled for March, April, May and June had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, I am very proud of how the clubs carried on during these trying times.

I have enjoyed being Area Director. I enjoyed attending as many club events as I could. Each club has its own identity and personality. It has definitely made me more aware of Zonta and its purpose. I tried very hard to carry out our area directors theme of Zonta without borders and tried to attend as many events in other areas as possible.

My time as Area Director is coming to a close. I do believe that this position has helped me grow as a person. I have met many, many wonderful people. I have learned a great deal more about Zonta and know that it has enriched my life.

Melinda Johnson of the Zonta Club of Warren will be the new Area 5 director for the next biennium. I know I leave the area and our district in very good hands.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Balaban

Area 5 Director

