

Area 1 Director Report, District 4, May 16, 2020

Zonta Club of Guelph

President Stephanie Sutherland will remain in her role until 2021. AD Brenda installed new executive at their AGM meeting on May 13th. As with most clubs, the biggest challenge has been obtaining and maintaining new members. Over the course of the year, they inducted 4 new members, and with 2 recent resignations, they should finish the year with 16 members. They have lined up two new inductions for the September meeting. They held a successful IWD breakfast on March 5th and attended a Women on the Bridge event on March 6th. At the IWD breakfast they also awarded a YWPA scholarship. On March 8th they launched their brewery community collaboration which helped raise their profile and name in the community. They have encountered great success with partnering with local organizations. Their major fundraiser, a June 7th golf tournament, was cancelled due to COVID and will be held in 2021. Meetings have been switched to electronic and other activities were also cancelled. I find this a very engaged club, who has accepted the challenge with COVID with positivity and sees it as an opportunity to think of new ways to fundraise. Thank you Stephanie.

Zonta Club of Kitchener Waterloo

President Jane Newman will be stepping back as President, and will take on the Area Director role for the 2020-2022 biennium. Incoming President is Elizabeth Sproule. Former Governor Joanne Raymond will be installing the new executive at the May 20th general meeting, which will include the annual report. Membership as well has been a big challenge this year. With six resignations, the membership will sit at 32 at the end of the year, with 2 possible inductions in September. A very successful IWD event with speaker Samra Zafar was held on March 10th, netting the club just under \$14,000.00 profit. A blanket knotting in March, Birthing Kit assembly in May and the Betty Thompson Golf Classic golf tournament were all cancelled due to COVID. Thankfully, when approached, several sponsors and past attendees either continued to sponsor or donated to the club's foundation, allowing them to raise approximately \$21,000.00 for grants to health organizations in their community this year. The popular Zonta Film Festival celebrating it's 10th anniversary scheduled for October is still a question mark, but will more than likely be cancelled or modified. The club executive reached out personally to all members in April, and all meetings have been held electronically. Jane has done a superb job as leader of the club for two years, showing strong leadership and suggesting new initiatives for the club. She will be an excellent Area 1 Director.

Zonta Club of Owen Sound

President Cindy Weir has agreed to stay on as President for an additional year, as no one within the club was willing to step up for the leadership role. It has been a challenge for the club to get executive. They voted to include a club portion to their dues, which in the past just covered international and district dues. As a result, the President had to personally pay for attending Zonta events. AD Brenda will install the new executive at the club's AGM meeting on May 20th. With two resignations, they will end the year

with 13 members. Their International Women's/Rose Day was very successful with 12 dozen sold netting a profit of just under \$500.00. Their 23rd Ladies Golf Classic has been cancelled and will be held in June 2021. They remain positive and have ideas for a different fundraiser. All meetings are held electronically. Cindy is a very positive, hard working and dedicated leader. Thankfully she took on her fourth year as President. This club does thrive, and we hope will see someone step up for the role in the coming year.

Zonta Club of Stratford

Stella Hines is the outgoing President of the club, and unfortunately they do not have anyone who is willing to step into the President role. No board installation therefore will be taking place in May. Membership has hit this club the hardest of all the Area 1 clubs. With three recent resignations, their membership now sits at 6 members. This is an area of concern for the club, and AD Brenda has been speaking with club members. In January several members provided a dinner to residents of the local second stage housing for women. They held a very successful IWD breakfast on March 6th and incurred a good profit. Their fundraiser Lunafest scheduled for October 4th has been cancelled. There is an option for a virtual film festival. Meetings have been held electronically for the members, and it is particularly challenging with such a small membership that social dinners are not able to be held either. Stella has done a good job leading the club, and COVID has really taken the wind out of their sails.

Zonta Club of Woodstock

Margaret McBurney is the outgoing President, and Maria Odumodu will be the incoming President. AD Brenda will be installing the executive at the general meeting May 26th. Their current membership is 15 members, after two resignations and an induction of a new member at the meeting. They also have potential new members for induction in the fall. They had phenomenal successful with the rose sales for International Women's Day, selling out early of 600+. Their Golf Classic scheduled for June has been cancelled and will be held in 2021 instead. They are also celebrating their 60th anniversary this year, and have decided to postpone the celebration until 2021. COVID has taken so much away from our members. We thank Marg for her leadership of the club, which has continued to thrive during this biennium.

I wanted to conclude with how much I enjoyed being on the executive during this biennium, and getting to know the Area 1 clubs. We are all so unique, but have a common passion for Zonta. I grew very close to my fellow Area Directors, and hope we can stay in touch. Bonnie and Janice, you have been tremendous leaders, and I wish you well in the future. While this biennium ended much differently than we had expected with COVID, I know our goals and objectives of Zonta will continue forth in the coming year.