



## Area Director Report

Areas 4 & 6

May 30, 2020

The first several months of 2020 started with a flurry of activity. Clubs were planning their multitude of fundraising events and the ZC of Oil City-Franklin was preparing to host one of the three Area Spring Workshops for the District. Many members in the area were enthusiastically making arrangements to attend the ZI Convention in Chicago, the final celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Zonta. This all changed with the onset of the pandemic known as COVID-19.

In March, some clubs managed to have a fundraising event or a business meeting before the gathering restrictions and the eventual shutdown of restaurants.

This has been a difficult transition for some clubs to make, but many have learned to adjust to new ways of having business meetings. The GoTo Meeting available by the District has allowed many clubs to meet virtually, even for allowing those with computers or the skills, the ability to continue their operations as part of the “new normal.”

**The Zonta Club of Oil City-Franklin** was receiving registrations for the Spring Workshop they were going to host for the District on April 25<sup>th</sup> when the news came that it had to be cancelled. This club had stepped up to host the workshop when the ZC of Meadville had disbanded. In the true spirit of Zonta they stepped up when asked and, unfortunately, the workshop had to be cancelled. The club has been meeting virtually for business meetings. On March 3<sup>rd</sup> the club hosted a trivia night fundraiser.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Center Street Bridge was glowing purple in honor of International Women’s Day and March 8<sup>th</sup> for the “Pack the Plaza Rally.” The club hosted the event with the theme “An Equal World is an enabled World.” They had inspirational women speakers whose goal is to inspire women to step up and become involved in the community, through volunteering or running for a political office. The club also organized a donation drive for Operation Courage, an organization that sends care packages to US servicewomen that are deployed or on active duty.

**The Zonta Club of Washington County** The club celebrated Zonta’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday by going to the theatre as a group to see “The Book of Mermaid.” In February, they had a birthing kit assembly. A month later they had switched gears and were collecting the materials to make masks. They sewed over 1,000 masks to donate to their local hospital and community. Their Amelia event had to be cancelled.

**The Zonta Club of Pittsburgh** This club has welcomed three new members in January. The club has been working with a local High School to charter a Z-Club, this has been difficult with schools being shutdown at the moment. I am confident the club will continue this process and make it a success! They have rebranded their clubs online presence through Facebook and a beautiful new website. As always, this club is a leader of advocacy efforts in the Pittsburgh area.

**The Zonta Club of Three Rivers Pittsburgh North** Had to reschedule the “Women Empowering Women Luncheon” scheduled in April to September 13<sup>th</sup>. This sold out event highlights human trafficking and educating the community as to what it is and how it manifests in their community. It also celebrates women who have made positive life-changing decisions in their lives, giving them a voice and a platform to inspire others to the same. The club is still working with Hearth, a facility-based transitional housing for homeless women with children.

**The Zonta Club of Rochester** had to reschedule their “Derby Days” fundraiser to September, but is still going strong with other fundraisers to such as a coffee sale and a plant sale. COVID-19 is not stopping these ladies! In January they had their annual Service Meeting with Governor Bonnie as a guest. The YWCA of Rochester & Monroe County was a recipient of the clubs support. The Young adults Services program at the YWCA promotes literacy and provides a foundation for children to learn and grow and see a future full of possibilities. They were a recipient of a ZI Centennial Grant for “Resolve of Greater Rochester.” This grant is for “Improving safety and Empowering Intimate Partner Violence Survivors.”

**Zonta Club of Cheektowaga-Lancaster** Their Annual Yellow Rose brunch had to be cancelled. The club had their first virtual business meeting in May. In an effort to update the club on everything that has been going on since COVID-19, the club issued an incredible newsletter, with an encouraging president’s message and all events and happenings that are going on at the local, district and international level. At a time when things are changing daily, this newsletter has allowed the club to feel connected and is an excellent resource for them. Communication is key and this club excels at it!

**Zonta Club of Geneva** In February, the club had a Candy Box assembly fundraiser for their scholarships. They had a birthing kit assemble date scheduled in April that was cancelled. This club also does KIVA loans for female entrepreneurs in developing countries. The club has maintained contact with each other through monthly newsletters that are very informative.

This has been a challenging time for all clubs and each has responded in their own unique way. All recognize that communication and connection is key to maintain a club while their members are facing unprecedented change in their daily lives. While we are learning new skills to perform our daily tasks, we are also translating those same skills to Zonta. These clubs had shifted from in-person to online meetings, rescheduling major fundraising/advocacy events and are still making an impact in their community through service and scholarships. The commitment to Zonta and its ideals are evident in the drive to continue with the mission, both at a local and international level.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie West  
Area 4 & 6 Director  
Zonta District 4