



ZONTA
CLUB OF
JOLIET AREA

**BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

SEPTEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Mary Baudino



As I am paddling my kayak across the lake on a gorgeous sunny morning, I take in the beauty and serenity that surrounds me. I pause and reflect on being a part of this wonderful Zonta Club; I have the opportunity to join so many other great leaders in our community. We have so many wonderful individuals in our club that support our mission and our projects. I am thankful to each of you for stepping into the different roles whether you are serving as an officer, board member, chair/co-chair or being a member ready to serve when asked.

I think about all the fantastic things we have done to bring us to where we are today. We will soon be recognized on Tuesday, Sept. 9, for our outstanding commitment to supporting our Zonta Club of the Joliet Area Endowment Fund with the JJC Foundation at their prestigious Night of Stars event. Last year we recognized and honored one of our charter members, Dr. Patricia Miller, at the 1st Joliet Philanthropy Recognition Brunch and this year on Saturday, October 4, we will be honoring our other charter member, Carmie Castagna, for all that she has done for Zonta in the name of Zonta within our communities at the 2nd Annual Joliet Philanthropy Recognition Brunch. Both of these women have 52 years of contribution, dedication and history with the Zonta Club of the Joliet Area and we are so lucky to have them.

We have great opportunities to serve and recognize coming soon -



- Service at the Northern IL Food Bank on 9/13/25
- International Equal Pay Day on 9/18/25
- International Day of Peace on 9/21/25
- District 6 Fall Conference on Oct. 10-12 in Normal, IL
- International Day of the Girl Child on 10/11/25
- World Food Day on 10/16/25
- Take Back the Night on Thurs., 10/23/25
- United Nations Day on Oct. 24



Thank you to our members attending Fall Conference and to serve on the Hospitality Team, to our two (2) voting delegates, Cathy Miller and Pat Perrier, for representing our club and to Helen Ross for stepping forward to be our Area 5 Director Candidate.

I look forward to the many more projects and prospects to serve with the Zonta Club of Joliet with the hope of building a better world for women and girls.

Save the Date

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP DINNER MEETING CANCELLED

September 9-JJC Night of Stars -JJC Foundation
Distinguished Partners in Excellence Award

September 18 - International Equal Pay Day

September 21-International Day of Peace

September 23- Executive Board Meeting

October 10-12 - District 6 Fall Conference

October 11-International Day of the Girl Child

October 14-Membership Dinner Meeting

October 15-IRS FORM 990 Due

October 16-WORLD FOOD DAY

October 24-UNITED NATIONS DAY

In This Issue

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Renate Tracy - Sept. 2
Carmie Castagna - Sept. 3
Donna Zanzola - Sept. 23



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet new Zonta Club of Joliet member, Megan Hicks.

Megan was referred to Zonta by long-time Zontian, Beth Colvin, and was formally inducted on May 13th. Megan has 30 years of experience in our community with nearly a decade of experience as a realtor. Megan's many talents include professional landscape designing, gardening, and interior decorating. Megan is also a member of Toastmasters and Missionettes.

Megan joined Zonta "to offer my help, giving back to my community and the women here and worldwide."
"

Welcome to the Zonta Club of Joliet Megan!



COMMITTEE UPDATES

FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE



We are asking for our members input to suggest topics or programs for this year. If you have an idea for a relevant subject or know of a speaker that the membership would enjoy, feel free to call Lora McGuire, Wendy Mullen, or Donna Zanzola.

We appreciate your thoughts and suggestions.



We are seeking 3-minute speakers for each meeting. If you have never been a three minute speaker or its been a long time since you presented...we are looking for you! It's a great way for all of us to get to know you.

Feel free to call Lora McGuire, Wendy Mullen, or Donna Zanzola. We are waiting for your ideas and life stories!

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Committee met in August to discuss plans for the coming year. The Committee will focus on maintaining awareness and commitment to ZI International Service Projects and goals, as well as Zonta International's connections with the United Nations (UN) and the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

The Committee will develop a local Status of Women report. The Committee will utilize storytelling and presentations to raise awareness about issues affecting women and girls. The Committee is exploring a new international service project to replace the Jabreel school in Afghanistan.

United Nations Day is October 24, 2025. Our Zonta Club will receive UN Day proclamations from both the Joliet City Council and the Plainfield Village Board at their October sessions, at which Zonta's work to support women and girls both internationally and locally will also be recognized. We will have sign-up sheets for these events at our October meeting.



FROM THE SERVICE COMMITTEE

A reminder that Zonta will be volunteering at Northern Illinois Food Bank on Saturday September 13th from 9AM-11:30AM. Thank you to all who have signed up to help. Please wear your Zonta shirts. We will send a reminder before the event.

Along with Advocacy, Service will be participating in the Purple Ribbon Campaign again this year. We will be setting that up as a service project to do at our October meeting where we will assemble the pins and ribbons and attach them to the purple information cards. Members can then take cards and distribute them in the community, to businesses, and/or bring them to Take Back the Night on October 23rd.

Zonta Club along with Visitation and Aid Society will once again be doing our Jewelry Project headed by Terri Taylor. Although we won't start collecting until January, start letting your friends and family know they can donate jewelry to this great program.

The Service Committee is looking into options for Holiday giving this year and will be announcing that as we get more information on options.

Contact Karen Pastell or Beth Colvin, Service Committee Co-chairs with questions. Thank you.



DISTRICT 6 SERVICE COMMITTEE

District 6 Service Committee is having a collection of the following products for the local Home Sweet Home Ministries as the District 6 Service Project for the Fall Conference in Normal, IL on Oct. 10. **Please consider donating one or more of the items requested as a collective donation from the Zonta Club of the Joliet Area.**

Since we don't have a September meeting, you can drop off the items at the following places:

Blackburn-Giegerich-Sonntag Funeral Home 1500 Black Road, Joliet M-F 8AM-4PM; Sat 9AM-Noon

Contractors Association (CAWGC) 233 Springfield, Joliet M-F 8AM-4PM **Please call first as they will be out of the office a few times in September. 815-741-1455**

Deadline to drop off is Friday October 3rd..

Thank you to Kathy and Carla for helping us with these donations.

DISTRICT 6 SERVICE PROJECT



- Items requested:
- women's underwear all sizes small to XXL
- tampons
- Mucinex
- Tums
- coffee
- paper towels
- tissues
- 5 lb bags flour
- 4 lb bags sugar
- oatmeal
- condiments
- sugar packets
- boxed mashed potatoes

They will pick up all donations on Saturday morning.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

303 E. Oakland Avenue
Bloomington, IL 61701






**FROM THE ADVOCACY
COMMITTEE**

ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

ANGELS AGAINST ABUSE 5K WALK/RUN

(15th Annual 5K walk/run benefiting families impacted by domestic violence.)

Oct 04, 2025, 8:30 AM

Lewis U - Flight Deck St. Charles Borrom, 101 Airport Rd, Romeoville, IL 60446, USA

RACE DETAILS:

8:30am-Registration and Check-in

9:30 am-5K Begins

GENERAL REGISTRATION: REGISTER BY 9/15/2025 FOR EARLY BIRD PRICING: \$35 *AFTER 9/15/2025 PRICE INCREASES TO \$45—group discounts.

*Please let me know ASAP, so we can see if we qualify for a group discount.

WILL COUNTY TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

Thursday, October 23rd, 5pm program. Set up TBA

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

November 25th-December 10th

*If anyone has previous year signs or banners, please bring them to the October meeting. In addition, email me what you have so we can get more signs rolling.

* Here are the places we would like to target:

- · Village Halls/Libraries- Shorewood, Crest Hill, Plainfield (ground banners) or yard signs
- · Hanging banner for Joliet (bridge going into downtown on Jefferson)
- · Yard signs- members' property
- · Yard signs at intersection-
- · Rt.59 and Jefferson, Rt. 59 and Black Rd
- · Yard signs along D'Arcy dealership on Essington Rd. (Thinking 10 to 20?)
- · Yard banner- Jefferson and Black Rd Bays building (Karen)
- · Slammers- Orange lighting, some signage????

*If any members have other suggestions or contact people for these areas and are willing to reach out to them, please let me know. We have a small committee this year. We could use your help as we Spread the Orange in the Joliet Area!

Cathy Miller
Advocacy Chair



Dear Zontians,

I am excited to invite you to the 2026 Zonta International Convention in Vancouver, Canada from 11-14 July!

This vibrant city, known for its stunning natural beauty and diverse culture, promises to offer an unforgettable experience. With plenty of sunshine and mild temperatures, July is the perfect time to visit and explore. Imagine connecting with your fellow Zontians amidst the beauty of Vancouver's majestic mountains and the Pacific coastline.

During the convention, you will have the opportunity to engage in insightful discussions, participate in inspiring workshops and celebrate our shared commitment to our mission.

Beyond the convention, take some time to explore Vancouver's rich cultural scene. From the renowned Stanley Park to the bustling Granville Island, there's so much to see and do. Don't forget to savor the local cuisine, which reflects the city's multicultural vibe!

Save the date and join me to celebrate our achievements and greet the new biennium with renewed passion to keep building a better world for women and girls!

Lori

Lori Robinson
Convention Chair



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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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