



ZONTA
CLUB OF
JOLIET AREA

August 2025
Newsletter



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Baidino

I am hoping everyone has been enjoying their summer! I have been very busy these past couple months with family time and Zonta time. It is so nice and relaxing to spend quality time with family and friends; it is important to unplug for a bit.

However, I am so blessed that Zonta has given me the chance to meet so many new people and establish great long-lasting friendships. Getting together for club meetings, committee meetings, planning projects, fundraising, being involved in the community, attending conferences not only has provided so many prospects to build a better world for women and girls locally and globally, but has also given me so many opportunities to get to know my fellow Zontians and others in the community. I have met so many wonderful people, all I love to call my friends.

I welcome all our new members and some former members returning to the Zonta Club of the Joliet Area. I can't wait to meet and get to know each of you. Maybe our paths have crossed in the past or I can just look ahead to our volunteerism together in our future with Zonta and beyond. I foresee more great friendships.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our August 12th membership meeting.

Business for discussion:

The Ex. Board discussed having only one or two service grant recipients for the year instead of multiple recipients and will bring this issue to the membership to vote. The rationale is do we want to be able to give more funding to one or two organizations or are we satisfied with the current status of less funding for more recipients. The funding is based on a percentage of the net amount raised from our fundraising.

The Service Committee will be starting the grant funding process earlier so that we can vote on our recipients prior to the fundraiser. The goal is to inform our possible fundraiser sponsors and donors of the organization(s) receiving our fundraising monies.

Each committee will have brief reports on member/club opportunities and goals for their respective committee. Each committee has an important role in the operation of our club as a whole. I know we will hear some great plans and how all the committees will move us forward through the year. We are starting out with some great events:

· JJC Foundation Distinguished Partners in Excellence Award presented to Zonta Club of the Joliet Area on Tuesday, September 9th. This is a very prestigious award and a wonderful honor for our club to be recognized. What a great partnership for the Zonta Club of the Joliet Area Endowed Scholarship with the JJC Foundation. The announcement and invitation for this event was previously emailed to all members and is attached to this newsletter as well.

District 6 Area 5 is hosting the District 6 2025 Fall Conference on Oct. 10-12 at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Conference Center in Normal, IL. The Zonta Club of the Joliet Area will be in charge of hospitality for this conference. We need to have our ZC Joliet Area members attending Fall Conference to assist with this important role. Mark your calendar and plan to be a part of Navigating the Future Our Path to Success! This is a great opportunity to network with many other professional women and learn more about Zonta beyond our local club.

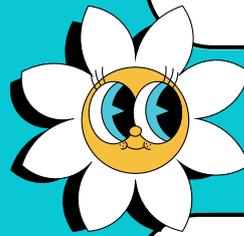
See you soon!

in this issue

President's Message

Committee Updates

Save the Dates



SAVE THE DATES

August 12 – Membership Dinner Meeting

August 26 – Executive Board Meeting

September 9 – Membership Dinner Meeting

September 18 – International Equal Pay Day

September 21 – International Day of Peace

September 23 – Executive Board Meeting



COMMITTEE UPDATES



SERVICE COMMITTEE

Save the date! Our first service opportunity is Saturday September 13th at the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Joliet from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. More details will be sent out and a sign-up sheet will be available at the August dinner meeting.

Take Back the Night is Thursday October 23rd. The Advocacy committee will be providing more information on this, but we do get service hours for participating.

The service committee will have more information on potential upcoming service opportunities for the year after our meeting on July 31st. If members have any suggestions for service projects, please let Karen or Beth know.

District 6 tracks service related to Food Insecurity Did you volunteer at a Food Pantry last year? Did you donate items such as food, diapers or sanitary napkins dropped off at a pantry or collection site that distributes these products including shelters? Did you donate cash to a pantry or organization to provide these items? This can be something you did individually or with another organization. District 6 wants to know what the clubs and Zontians are doing both as Zonta group projects and individually. We can still count last year's donations or volunteer hours and going forward will be reporting quarterly. For cash donations, we do not need to know the amount. For other donations, we don't need to know the number of items, just how many donations you made to organizations. And please report the number of hours you may have volunteered at a food pantry or organization. Please email Karen Pastell at prairielandaud@att.net with your information or questions.

Thank you.

Beth Colvin and Karen Pastell, Service Committee Co-Chairs

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 please call Donna Zanzola or Lora McQuire.

We appreciate your thought and suggestions.

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. You can bring these items to the August and September membership meetings for collection and transportation to the Fall Conference. Thank you.

DISTRICT 6 SERVICE PROJECT

HSHM
HOME SWEET HOME MINISTRIES

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

Food Shelters Hope.
SUPPORT HOME SWEET HOME

NAIDM 2025

Mary Baudino and I attended the June North American Inter-district Meeting (NAIDM) in Novi, Michigan.

There were more than 20 sessions over the 2 ½ days, with about 250 members in attendance.

With a great Michigan-inspired campfire theme, all the attendees participated in group discussions and learned from each other during the interactive sessions, as well as enjoying social and networking time between sessions.

Having an impact on climate change, improving social media presence, creating opportunities to increase membership, supporting causes that seek to end violence against women and/or support victims of violence, and participating in UN activities were among the key topics explored during the weekend. Every speaker was highly qualified in their field and it was impossible NOT to come away inspired by their dedication and their personal impact.

Nicole Beverly's experience as a domestic violence survivor is discussed in her book, *Finding Nicole*, which will soon be released as a film. Shonda Rushing, a keynote speaker at NAIDM, has also published two books.

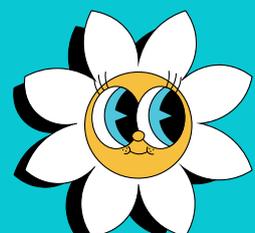
Alice Jay, of The Gateway in Michigan, spoke eloquently about her experience as a victim of human trafficking who now serves as an advocate and direct service provider to victims.

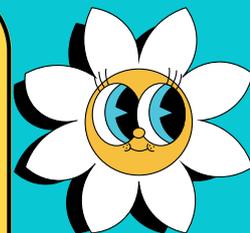
Our Canadian friends and International Headquarters staff in attendance brought different perspectives to the group and also participated in a Service project along with others, packing

Beloved Bundles, which are care packages for victims of sexual violence who come into an ER and have to leave their clothing behind as evidence.

The weekend was an inspirational event that left me with a sense of pride in Zonta. I left knowing that that these strong, powerful women are having a real impact on communities all over North America.

Although there is much work left to do, I stand on the shoulders of many of the women in that ballroom, who have been working successfully for decades carrying out the Zonta mission. I know I'm not alone, as four hotel staff connected with the local area group to consider membership, after hearing some of the presentations over the weekend. Zonta Spirit is alive and well in North America.





MEMBERSHIP MEETING ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

To advise that you will NOT be attending the monthly meeting e-mail sylvia@spanishcenter.org by 5 pm on the Friday before the meeting.

You will be charged for the meal \$31 if you do not alert attendance that you cannot attend. If you wish to be a Standing No advise Sylvia at sylvia@spanishcenter.org.

Please advise Sylvia that you are STANDING NO for this year, even if you were on the list for last year.

If you are Standing No but can attend the meeting, please advise Sylvia at the above address the Friday before the meeting.

If you are bringing guests to the meeting, please provide Sylvia with the names of the guests when contacting Sylvia.

The meal is \$31.

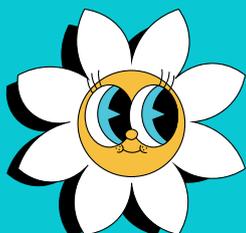
Vegetarian options are spaghetti with meatless marinara sauce or spaghetti with vegetables. There are NO OTHER OPTIONS THIS YEAR. FISH MAY BE ORDERD BUT MUST BE ORDERED BY THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE MEETING. There will be no last-minute substitutes this year.

If you do not wish to have dinner but wish to attend the meeting, please inform Sylvia that you will attend but not require dinner. We will not charge you for the meal.

Please remember that the Club is charged for any meal that is not claimed because of an absent member and is the reason the absent member is charged.

August 12th Meal

Steakburger with cheese and raw onion, French Fries.
The dessert is pound cake and strawberries.



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT
Mary Baudino

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Liz Walsh

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Sally Ritchey

TREASURER
Karen Lega

SECRETARY
Tracey Miller

*CORRESPONDING
SECRETARY*
Wendy Mullen

DIRECTORS
Sylvia Acosta-Chavez
Lisa Pappas
Peggy Field
Bonnie Horn

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