



**ZONTA**

CLUB OF  
JOLIET AREA

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

**JUNE 2023**

# NEWSLETTER



## CONTACT US

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**BONNIE WINFREY**

**President**

**Zonta Club of Joliet**

**H**ello, fellow Zontians,

I thank you again for the opportunity of being President. I have many plans and aspirations for the Zonta Club of the Joliet Area to soar to even greater heights. Zonta is truly on the move!

I want to thank again past presidents Beth Colvin, Helen Hester-Ross, Pat Perrier, Mary Baudino, and Mohra Gavankar for all their wisdom in helping me become successful. These women are incredible and have left an indelible positive mark on the Zonta Club of the Joliet Area that cannot be erased! I appreciate them so much!

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Continued from Page 1

At my first board meeting as president, I asked for a motion for Dr. Patricia Miller to become an honorary board member. The motion was passed unanimously. I, along with fellow board members feel her longevity of 50 years as a Zontian coupled with her wisdom is an asset to the board as we continue to move forward. Please take the time to congratulate Dr. Pat. She truly deserves the honor! In addition, I have extended the honor to Carmie Castagna and she has accepted. The board will vote at our next meeting. Both of these women have been with the organization as you know for 50 years and are our charter member with a wealth of knowledge.

Summer is approaching us and as we travel, do yard work and bask in the sun; let's consider our involvement with Zonta. So many people and organizations need our help. I have an open door policy where you can call or email me at any time. What I am most proud about is how so many of you have great ideas for projects you would like to see happen. Let's keep these discussions going!

Attached you will see a partial to near complete listing of committee chairs and members. I am asking all committee chairs to have a meeting with members before our August meeting. Please outline your goals and objectives. For example, membership might consider, reaching out to former members and see how we can get them to recommit and get involved; ask all sponsors who enrolled present members to connect and see how they are doing; and to set a goal about recruitment for the organization as we move into celebrating our 50th Anniversary and into our next 50 years.

Each committee chair will report at our August meeting. For those of you that have not signed up for a committee yet, it is not too late. Send me an email or fill out the attached form and I will add you to said committee.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email or call me.

Have a great summer!

Bonnie

## WELCOME TO THE INCOMING EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023-2025

President	Bonnie Winfrey
1st Vice President	Liz Walsh
2nd Vice President	Diane Harris
Treasurer	Karen Pastell
Recording Secretary	Cathy Miller
Corresponding Secretary	Lisa Pappas
Board Member	Essence Clark
Board Member	Judy Mitchell



2023-2024 Honorary Executive Board Members  
Pat Miller and Carmie Castagna



## 2022-23 COMMITTEE RECAP

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

This past year has been exciting for PR! We have been on radio discussing upcoming events. We had many newspaper articles in four different newspapers and we were on the front page of the Joliet Herald News. We have displayed our events on Joliet Community Television via Comcast and AT&T and JCTV's YouTube Channel. We created a podcast that broadcasts nationally and internationally on the following platforms: Spotify, Apple, Google, and our website. We have been honored to have guests such as Bram Kleppner, Amelia Earhart's nephew, Amirrah Abou-Youssef, the Domestic Violence Liaison with the State's Attorney's Office, Rhonda Thomas and Steve Hoekstra and Lauren Matovou, co-founder of Pads for Hope, the period project out of Uganda. We are dedicated to bringing impactful topics and solutions to our listening audience.

I mentioned in the President's message for chair persons to meet with their committees. Lisa Pappas and Pat Perrier and I met often during the year and each time, it was always a fruitful experience with much purpose and direction.

Bonnie Winfrey, Chair

### **SERVICE & ADVOCACY**

It was a very busy service and advocacy year!

The first service opportunity of the year was Take Back the Night on Thursday, October 20th at 5:00 Hufford Jr. High School.

November 25th was the start of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, an annual international campaign that goes from November 25-December 10, beginning on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and concludes on Human Rights Day. It was started by activists at the inaugural Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and continues each year by the Center for Women's Global Leadership.

GREAT JOB Zonta, the March/Rally was incredible! Mary Baudino, Helen Ross, Bonnie Winfrey, Lisa Pappas, Pat Perrier along with the Service & Advocacy Committee. Zonta members and friends of Zonta came out in full force to support our club that afternoon. There were signs, pennants and banners throughout the Joliet Area. In December, the club sponsored a family with over \$1300.00 in food, gift cards and monetary donations collected for a single mother and her family.

Thanks to all the members that donated and distributed the holiday cards on December 6th to the very appreciative residents at Sunny Hill Nursing Home. We also thank the Fearless Females for signing the cards. Zontians and their families volunteered, Saturday, March 4th at Northern Illinois Food Bank in Joliet. We had over 20 volunteers that morning.

The final service project of the year was on Saturday, April 15th and was quite an honor as myself and 7 other Zonta members volunteered at the Easter Seals Telethon Celebration and manned the phones for an hour

Beth Colvin, Chair.



## 2022-23 COMMITTEE RECAP

### ARCHIVES

This is the year of "Zonta On The Move" for our wonderful podcasts AND the archives. The archives were moved from the Joliet Township Administration Offices( thanks Kristen for offering this space) to temporary storage at the Blackburn Giegerich Funeral home for assessment. ( thank you to Kathy for sheltering time)

This provided an area for cataloging and getting the archives in readiness for use at the celebration of the upcoming 50th anniversary and further needs.

Help was gratefully given by members Beth Colvin, Mary Baudino, and Kathy Giegerich.

The archives moved again to the Contractors Assoc of Will/Grundy building.

Specials thanks to Carla and Kristie for their generous offer to house the archives.

It's been a fun and busy year!

***Donna Zanzola, Chair***

### INTERNATIONAL

- United Nations Day (October 24): Along with Zonta members, received the UN Day proclamation from the Mayor O'Dekirk at the Joliet City Council. Similar activities occurred at the Plainfield Village Council. Reports presented at these sessions about out Zontian activities throughout the world.
- International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day (March 8): Presented the history of International Women's Day at our monthly meeting. Supported the set-up of tables commemorating women authors, etc., to be set up at the Joliet Public Library and the Plainfield Public Library.
- Zonta's International Service Projects: Set up international tables at all of our fundraisers, Lunafest, etc., featuring these projects (Ending Child Marriage, Adolescent Girls' Health in Peru, Combatting Gender-Based Violence in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, Girls' Education in Madagascar). Stressed our link to the United Nations through Zonta's partnerships with UNICEF, UNFPA, etc.
- Afghanistan: Jebreel Learning Center: Zonta International recognizes that the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan is dire--with limitations in the areas of both education and employment. Through the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL)/Sakena Fund, our Zonta Club has sent approximately \$1300 to help Afghan women and girls.
- Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)--15-26 March 2023 at United Nations Headquarters, NYC: Discussions about CSW and Zonta's role as a participating NGO in this important forum were held at our monthly meetings leading up to and following the event.

***Pam Hunte, Chair***



## 2022-23 COMMITTEE RECAP

### WOMAN OF THE YEAR/WOMAN OF DISTINCTION COMMITTEE

In November, December and January, the Woman of the Year/Distinction committee collected nominations from Zonta members for the Woman of Distinction award. This award is given to a non-Zontian woman from the community who actively works to support and improve the status of women and girls.

The Committee chose Carolyn Khan, Executive Director of Bridges to a New Day to be the 2023 Woman of Distinction. Chris Blackburn presented the Woman of Distinction plaque to Carolyn at the Zonta Spring Fundraiser on Feb. 5, 2023.

In February and March, the Woman of the Year/Distinction committee collected nominations from Zonta members for the 2023 Woman of the Year award. This award is given to a member for significant contribution in the advancement and operation of the Club.

The Committee chose Lisa Pappas, Corresponding Secretary, to be the 2023 Woman of the Year. Lora McGuire presented the Woman of the Year plaque to Lisa at the April 11, 2023 meeting.

*Peggy Field, Chair*

### Z CLUB COMMITTEE

The Zonta Club of the Joliet Area Fearless Females Z Club inducted 19 students this year.

Events and member participation included:

Welcome and Meet & Greet at Central with Zonians & Z Club – Sept.19, 2022

Will County Take Back the Night – Oct. 20, 2022

Zonta Club of Joliet Woman's March in Downtown Joliet – Nov. 22, 2022

Etiquette Event (JJC Partnership) – March 1, 2023

International Woman's Day March – March 8, 2023

Officer Presentation at Dinner Meeting – March 14, 2023

Induction Event – March 20, 2023

A special thanks to the Zonta Club of the Joliet Area membership for making these opportunities possible; and to Diana Gliwa, Carmie Castagna, Dr. Yolanda Farmer, and Essence Clark for their support.

*Kristine Schlismann, Chair*



# 2022-23 COMMITTEE RECAP

## LUNAFEST COMMITTEE

The planning for LUNAFEST 2023 started in fall of 2022. Our committee was excited to build LUNAFEST 2023 based on the success of the 2022 event. After a thorough evaluation of the 2022 event, we set goals to enhance the event for 2023. Those goals were to find a emcee that would be engaging, enhance our partnership with JJC, and raise a minimum of \$15,000 after expenses. In addition to developing a sub-theme for the event: Empowered Women...Empower Women, which added another level of recognition for women while developing more diverse attendees. We feel the attendee experience was enhanced through the PR interviews, swag bags, selfie station, and personal memory photos. Based on the post-event buzz, return attendees and first timers truly enjoyed LUNAFEST 2023.

Unfortunately, we're disappointed to learn that LUNA/Cliffbar may pause sponsorship for 2024. We're eagerly waiting to hear the final decision. However, our committee is in the process of investigating how we might rebrand this event and work with another sponsor of another "Women's Film Festival". We'll meet in June to brainstorm how to continue this highly attended event.

The success of LUNAFEST 2023 is due to the amazing women on our committee and their commitment to the purpose and process that's necessary to have such a successful outcome.

We are especially grateful for our Zonta club members-sponsors and community members who purchased tickets and tables to help fund our Zonta Endowed Scholarship at JJC.

Special thanks to the very talented Co-Chair Kristine Schlismann; PR Chair Bonnie Winfrey; Eventbrite Guru, Lisa Pappas; Empowered Wise Counsel, Peggy Field; Presenting Sponsor, Kathy Crawley; Engaging Emcee Essence Clark; Interviewer Judy Mitchell; Past President-Beth Colvin; and Treasurer, Karen Pastell. They all brought their "A" game to each and every meeting.

We wish you all a wonderful summer full of travel and sunshine.

Helen Hester Ross, Co-Chair

## SUMMER BIRTHDAYS



### JUNE

EMMIE OSTREM	11
KAREN PASTELL	25
JOHANNA KERWIN	28
MARY KAPELLA	30

### JULY

DONNA LIKAR	11
JUDY MITCHELL	12

