

Zonta Club of Midland

April 2009 Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

April 2009

Zonta Club of Midland ~ District 15, Area 4 ~ www.zontaclubofmidland.org

Have a holiday gift that you don't know what to do with?

Save it for the Zonta auction! The Ways and Means committee is collecting items now, and there will be several opportunities to contribute items before the auction in April.

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The President's Report ~ Bonnie Westervelt, President

Dear Fellow Zontians,

Winter weather is here – at least for the day. As we begin to prepare for a busy spring season, let us prepare for a busy Zonta spring as well. Our auction is coming up fast. This is an opportunity to clean out our closets and garages and to donate those “treasures” to the club in order to prepare for our fun evening in April. Proceeds from the auction go to our conference fund, which sends our members to State Conferences and our President and First Vice to International Conferences. Bring items to our April luncheon, call me and I can arrange a pick up, or drop things off on Sandy Weimer's doorstep (thanks Sandy!)

Enjoy April, the warmer weather, and working together for the advancement of women!

Bonnie

Bonnie Westervelt
President, Zonta Club of Midland

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 7: Business meeting, 11:30 am, Midland Country Club
Thursday, April 16: Board meeting, 7:30 am, Strosacker Center
Monday, April 20: Deadline for Newsletter submissions
Tuesday, April 21: Social meeting, 5:30 pm, Midland Country Club
Tuesday, May 5: Business meeting, 11:30 am, Midland Country Club

For a list of the many agencies and organizations the Zonta Club of Midland supports, please visit our website.

April Dinner Menu

Tossed Salad with
Choice of Dressing

Persillade Breaded
Whitefish with Rice
Pilaf, Fresh Vegetable
and Cole Slaw

Rolls, Beverage

Blackberry/Apple
Cobbler

Agency Spotlight: Domestic Violence Housing Initiative

Now She Has Roses

Jean is an amazing woman. She has an indomitable spirit and used that inner strength to survive more than most of us will face in a lifetime. She is a bundle of energy, with only a slight trace of hesitation in her speech. She welcomed this visitor into her home with a generous smile and contagious optimism.

You'd never know by appearance or demeanor that she is a victim of domestic violence. You'd never guess that she lost her 8-year-old son in a drowning accident. It isn't plainly evident that she suffered a severe stroke 8 years ago that put her in a coma, left her paralyzed and without speech.

What you do see is a person who is thrilled to be in her own home, raising and bragging about her teenaged son. You hear her excitement as she describes what it felt like when she first walked into this house. "I felt it belonged to me as soon as I saw it," Jean explains, because it closely resembles in color and fixtures the house

she used to live in.

In 2007, Jean was the first tenant to participate in the Domestic Violence Housing Initiative. The program is a joint effort of the Affordable Housing Alliance (AHA) and the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Shelterhouse). It is supported by grants from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and community funds from Dow Chemical Foundation, Dow Corning Foundation, Chemical Bank, Comerica Bank and AHA. In 2008 the Zonta Club of Midland made a donation to the initiative to help continue the effort.

AHA owns 11 properties under the initiative, and all but one are currently occupied. Shelterhouse not only provides continuing in-home supportive services (such as counseling) to individuals in the units, but also provides advocacy services through Shelterhouse staff.

To qualify for this housing, individuals must be domestic

violence survivors, homeless because of it, and have an income at or below 30% of median income. Tenants living in the housing must be able to pay a modest monthly rent of \$300. Occupants can stay in the house as long as rent is paid timely, the house is kept up, and unauthorized people (abusers) are not admitted.

Jean has lived in and maintained her house for two years. She and her son have successfully transitioned from life at Shelterhouse to a safe, supportive, stable environment they call home. Jean loves gardening and has turned her back yard into a beautiful flower-filled setting with a pond. Now she has roses.



Happy Birthday, Zontians!

Please wish your fellow Zontians a Happy Birthday!

April Birthdays

Jan McGuire, April 6

Sherry Kalina, April 7

Sharon Miller, April 10

Patricia Mishic, April 21



Organization of the Month: Literacy Council of Midland County

The World's Greatest Dessert Party, an annual event for the Literacy Council of Midland County was held at Dow Diamond on Tuesday, February 24 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Northwood University President Dr. Keith Pretty was the honorary chair of this year's Dessert Party.

As in past years, the Zonta Club of Midland served at this year's Dessert Party. Thirty (30) Zontians working in two shifts showed up with smiles and aprons. Each year Zonta has supported the Literacy Council's main fundraiser at locales ranging from Ashman Court (now The H) to the Holiday Inn and for the past two years at Dow Diamond. Laura Ault from the Literacy Council stated that the Board and staff "appreciate all that Zonta has done to build the party into one of the most successful, best-attended fundraising events in Midland County."

Delicious desserts and specialty treats from more than 40 restaurants, hotels, caterers, bakeries, schools, stores, and other businesses, were on display and on the menu for everyone to sample. The party had a Mardi Gras theme with colorful beads, music provided by the Back Bayou Cajun Band, and it gave real meaning to Fat Tuesday.

According to Laura, "This year's party set an attendance record; more than 700 people enjoyed the scrumptious sweets and shopped at the silent auction. There were 15 table sponsors providing at least 400 servings each and 23 additional dessert donors."

Laura reported that "The money raised at the Dessert Party supports our tutoring services. The mission of the Literacy Council of Midland County is to provide customized tutoring in reading and related skills to people of all ages so that they can be self-sufficient in the 21st century.

The one-on-one tutoring programs are offered in these areas:

- Adult Basic Education
- English as a Second Language
- Dyslexia Initiative
- Job-related math

We provided services to more than 650 people in 2008. This is an increase of 500% from 2001. In these uncertain economic times, our community needs literacy services more than ever."

Zonta is pleased and proud to be part of this event to help the Literacy Council achieve their successes. Thank you to Maria Pia Cohoon and committee for organizing, scheduling, and aproning our volunteers.

Talk Zonta!

At the March dinner meeting, our club voted to support a press release issued by Zonta International on CEDAW, the global women's rights treaty is formally known as the Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW). The United Nations General Assembly first adopted CEDAW in 1979, and out of 192 member countries, the US is among eight that have not ratified including Iran, Sudan and Somalia. Although signed by former president Jimmy Carter in 1980, it was never ratified by the US Senate – an action that is required to bind the US to treaty obligations. Visit our website to learn more about how you can support this initiative.

Also, don't forget that Spring Workshops are coming up! Visit the District 15 website for more information.

Committee Update: Organization/Membership

The membership committee is proud to welcome our newest member, Paula Ulmer. Paula is an adjunct professor of history and humanities at Northwood University in Midland. Paula describes herself as “one of those who just doesn’t “get” this retirement thing - living the “when you rest, you rust” philosophy. International travel beckons with trips to Europe, Peru (hiking the Inca Trail to Macchu Pichu) and last year trekking through Vietnam and Cambodia’s Angkor Wat Temples. My three daughters (and one grandson) live in northern Michigan, Illinois and Arizona – meaning more travel! I serve on the Big Brothers Big Sisters Heart of Michigan Board, and am a member of Contemporary Review Club.”

Paula was inducted at the March dinner meeting with her sponsor, Nancy Barker, in attendance. Please join us in welcoming Paula.

The Membership Committee would also like to thank everyone who brought a guest to the March dinner meeting for our Membership Drive. If you know of anyone who would like an application or more information about the club please contact me at hangupsinc@aol.com and I will get one sent out. Prospective members can also fill out the membership online at www.zontaclubofmidland.org. Keep in mind that with the new bylaw changes a candidate no longer has to be employed 50% or more hours per week. The revised bylaw (Article V, Sec 1, A, 3) states “to be invited to membership, a candidate shall be actively engaged in or have experience in a recognized business or profession in a decision-making capacity”. Perhaps this will open up membership to someone you couldn’t previously invite.

On behalf of the Membership Committee,
Cari Francis

Zonta Club of Midland
Business Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 3, 2009 (Pending approval)

The meeting was called to order at noon by Zonta President, Bonnie Westervelt. The meeting began with the Zonta Blessing and introductions.

Secretary's Report – Cynthia reported that she is updating the Networking List and members interested in being added to the list can contact her by email. The minutes of the meeting of February 3, 2009 were presented. Motion to approve as presented by Maleka-deli supported by Sigsworth; approved.

Treasurer's Report – Diane presented copies of the Treasurer's Report at each table, including the Profit & Loss Statement for February 2009, and reviewed the highlights.

Standing Committee Reports

Assimilation/Retention/Rejuvenation Committee — Chair, Jan McGuire No report.

Archives Committee — Chair, Janice Hoppe Archives Committee meets on the first Thursday of month 5:30 PM at the library; feel free to attend.

Attendance — Chair, Laura Huckins No report.

By-Laws Committee — Chair, Esther Seaver This committee is updating the Yellowbook with bylaws changes.

Fellowship Committee — Chair, Nan Blasy In the membership survey, the two events that received the most votes were the murder mystery dinner and the wine & cheese tasting dinner. The committee is developing both ideas; they meet the third Tuesday of June.

Finance/Fundraising Committee — Chair, Sue Moody No report.

Homewalk Committee — Chair, Pam Kastl/Amy Slabaugh Sharon reported that this committee had its first meeting last month and is now lining up homes for next year. They meet on the 4th Tuesday of month at 11:30, March 24th at the Grand Traverse Pie Co. in the large meeting room.

Intercity/United Nations Committee — Chair, Linda Langrill Two applications have been received for the YWPA scholarship; the winner is Brianna Acker. She is a Rotary Exchange student now in La Paz to make a difference in Mexico with after school programs for kids. Maureen will be visiting her daughter there this spring and taking donated clothing for children. Contact her for more information. Brianna's name will now be submitted for consideration for District and International scholarships as well.

Organization Membership/Classification — Chair, Cari Francis No report. She reminded members that the March membership meeting is a membership drive and the club will pay for guests' dinners.

Public Relations Committee — Chair, Jennifer Sigsworth The committee is making business meeting minutes and financial reports available on the website with — as the password. Bylaws updates will go online soon as well as new members' contacts. Contact her if you have problems accessing the information you need.

Status of Women in Service/Legislative/Advocacy — Chair, Sharon Mortensen The Inland Seas scholarship deadline was March 1st and only 2 applications were received for the 3 available scholarships. Applications will still be accepted. The committee meets next on March 12th at 4:30 to evaluate the applications. Three service requests were received by the committee and approved by the

Board: up to \$400 for Midland Public Schools for summer program scholarships of \$200 each, to be used for young women; up to \$100 for the Midland County Youth Leadership program for scholarships to young women who cannot afford to participate; \$400 to Rotary International for Brianna Acker's after school program in La Paz, Mexico.

Our scholarships administered by the Midland Area Community Foundation are due this Friday; the selection committee is from MACF. These scholarships are for \$2500 each.

Ways and Means — Chair, Esther Seaver Tickets are available for the 50-50. April Auction items can be accepted at the meetings or will be picked up – call Esther.

Parliamentarian — Sharon Miller No report.

Immediate Past President — Lisa Hulbert No report.

Unfinished Business

Lisa Hulbert reported that the Nominations Committee presented a slate of officers for 2009/2010 to the Board last week and it was approved. In April at the business meeting, nominations will be taken from the floor and the membership will vote.

Proposed slate of officers 2009/2010:

President – Sue Moody

1st Vice President – Esther Seaver

2nd Vice President – Melissa Anderson

Corresponding Secretary – Cynthia Chilcote

Treasurer – Diane Moomey

ARR – Jan McGuire

Archives – Sarah Gorman

Attendance – Leslie Pierfelice

Bylaws – Melissa Anderson (2nd VP)

Fellowship – Nan Blasy

Finance/Fundraising – Esther Seaver (1st VP)

Homewalk – Sharon Mortensen/Janice Hoppe

Intercity/United Nations – Julie Ratcliffe

Organization/Membership – Cari Francis

Public Relations/Communications – Colette St. Louis

Service/Advocacy/Legislation – Kathy Dollard

Ways & Means – Melissa Anderson (2nd VP)

Parliamentarian – appointed by President

Immediate Past President – Bonnie Westervelt

New Business

Sue Moody conducted “Zonta Finances 101” for members. She reviewed the 4 primary funds; giving guidelines for Zonta International giving, and guidelines for decisions on service committee dollars.

Announcements

Esther Seaver – Midland Volunteers for Recycling is having a shredder open house to celebrate their new large shredder capable of shredding 100 sheets at a time.

The next lunch meeting is during spring break and elections will be held. Motion was made by Ann Beck to move the business meeting to March 31, supported by Cohoon; defeated (2 voted yes; all others, no). A motion was made to move to April 14th by Jean Selby; supported by Sherry Kalina; defeated (12 voted yes; 19 no). The meeting will remain on April 7th.

Sue Moody's son will play football at Alma College. The Home and Garden show is at Hangtime Sports this weekend – Sue has complimentary tickets.

Sharon Mortensen announced that April 3rd is denim day in honor of sexual assault awareness. See Sharon for more information.

Sandy Weimer announced that the Bay City chapter is having a recruiting meeting next Monday night with a seminar on insurance and financial matters for women; free to potential members; current Zontians can carpool over and attend for \$9 (cash bar).

Rhonda Anderson announced the Creativity Conference April 2-4 with local and International speakers on the topic of creativity; one can attend part or all of the event.

March 13 at 6:00 check out the classical Christian education at Midland Christian School - see Lias Vanderhoof. March 14th, 1-4:00 pm at Midland Christian is Bounce Town a fundraiser for the booster club, cost is \$6 and babysitting is available.

The winner of the \$39 50-50 raffle is Linda Malekadeli.

Dates to Remember

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|----------------|---|
| March 17, 2009 | Zonta Dinner – 5:30 PM Midland Country Club |
| March 19, 2009 | Zonta Board Meeting – 7:30 AM Strosacker Center |
| March 23, 2009 | Newsletter Deadline |
| April 7, 2009 | Business meeting - 11:30 AM Midland Country Club |
| April 16, 2009 | Zonta Board Meeting – 7:30 AM Strosacker Center |
| April 20, 2009 | Newsletter Deadline |
| April 21, 2009 | Zonta Dinner and Auction - 5:30 PM Midland Country Club |

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Chilcote, Secretary