



Zonta Club of Pikes Peak Area *Member of Zonta International*

Zonta North American Inter-District Membership Meeting by Betty Edwards

As many of you know, in the off-year from the Zonta International Convention, certain large geographical Zonta areas hold Inter-District meetings. This year, the North American meeting was held in Cleveland, Ohio, June 5-7. I was pleased to be able to represent our club and District 12 at this meeting.

One of the highlights for me was the opening program called, The Future of Zonta, which covered recent international events in Chicago and also what the vision is for Zonta for the next 10 years. These speakers were the main attraction for my attendance at this meeting:

Dianne K. Curtis,
International President Elect
Kerry Dixon-Fox,
International Director
Lynn Goodhue,
International Director
Gloria Stootman Wristen,
International Treasurer/Secretary

Lynn Goodhue spoke from her IT background about the various systems at the new facility and how much easier they are for our members to use in contacting headquarters. There should be a new website up and running in November.

Kerry Dixon-Fox discussed the continuing problems with the facility on Randolph, and the eventual move to Oak Park. My notes reflect that there were 90 years of archives in boxes that need to be digitized, and it took about 7 semi trucks to make the move.

Gloria Stootman Wristen reported on the status of finances for Zonta International. Only 25% of clubs worldwide have paid the suggested optional dues, and 30% of the US

clubs have paid. There will be a lot of savings from the move to Oak Park as this is a lease situation, and will be close to a readily accessible overnight facility for governors' trainings, etc. ZI is hopeful for the future.

Dianne K Curtis spoke about how Zontians were unhappy with how things had been handled in some areas, including the sale of the Randolph building. She felt that things had developed due to complacency but that now there was a clean slate. We are in a new condominium, finances are being looked at carefully, and there is an effort to bring down the administration rate that is reflected for the Zonta International Foundation. This would make it more attractive to donors.

On a personal level, I was included on a panel concerning Legislative Awareness & Advocacy. I was proud to report on Pike Peak's adventures through our meeting Selma Hadzihalilovic (International Service Project Leader) at a conference in Boulder, the TV interview following the massage parlor raid, community needs assessments, Human Trafficking Awareness Symposium, Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado, and advocacy for the TVPRA2008.

We've done 'good' ladies!!!



International Service Program

Women's equality is not yet a reality. Women worldwide face systemized discrimination - they lack opportunities to live healthy lives, free from legal, social, economic and political inequality. Zonta International empowers women to overcome barriers to their equal human rights through its International Service Projects funded by the Zonta International Foundation. Since 1923, Zonta has provided more than US\$8 million to projects benefiting millions of women and their families representing 34 countries.



*“Men, their rights,
and nothing more;
women, their rights,
and nothing less.”*

– Susan B. Anthony

One of the three ZI Grants for 2008-2010:

Reduction of Obstetric Fistula in Liberia

Funding: US\$450,000 to UNFPA

THE NEED: Liberia is a country still recovering from the recently ended civil wars. During the fifteen years of fighting the healthcare system was all but destroyed, and most medical personnel were forced to leave the country. With so few medical facilities available, and access to even these limited, the rate of maternal mortality and morbidity increased dramatically. Currently, 578 out of every 100,000 pregnant women die in childbirth, and many more face severe complications.

Perhaps the cruelest complication is a condition known as obstetric fistula, which is literally a hole in the birth canal. Once common throughout the world, obstetric fistula has been all but eliminated in developed nations. In 87% of cases obstetric fistula is caused by prolonged labor, often lasting two days or more, without medical care or intervention. The child is usually stillborn. Women with obstetric fistula suffer from chronic incontinence caused by urine leaking through the hole in the birth canal. Pain and discomfort are a constant for many of these women, and all are at risk of long-term health complications.

Still, the pain, discomfort and complications are for many women easier to overcome than the stigma and humiliation attached to their condition. Despite every effort the smell of leaking urine is difficult to cover and impossible to prevent, a fact that leads to embarrassment and social isolation. Many women with obstetric fistula are no longer welcome in their own families or communities. Fifty seven percent (57%) of women with obstetric fistula are abandoned by their husbands, and due to their condition, opportunities to make a living are limited, leading many to a life of hard labor and profound poverty.

RESPONSE: Obstetric Fistula is devastating to the lives of millions of women around the world, but it is also a highly treatable condition. With properly trained surgeons, well-equipped facilities and the necessary aftercare, the treatment of uncomplicated obstetric fistula has a 90% success rate. The cost of all of this is a mere US\$300, a small sum to many but well beyond the means of the average woman in Liberia. UNFPA will provide treatment, including medical supplies and equipment, free of cost to women who cannot afford it. Specialty training will be offered to local doctors, raising the quality of care available. Those trained will in turn be able to teach the methods they have learned, increasing the number of people capable of performing the surgery and the number of women who will have access to care.

Many women need help reintegrating into society following treatment, having been isolated and scorned for so long. UNFPA will provide counseling to help with the transition, a new set of clothes for the women to begin their new lives, and an income-generating starter kit to help them learn to support themselves.

One of the difficulties surrounding treatment of obstetric fistula is the culture of silence that forbids its discussion. Many women, while aware of the effects of fistula, are not aware of its causes, and many do not know that there is treatment available. By educating women, future cases of obstetric fistula will be prevented, and more women already affected will seek treatment. Education will also help to lessen the stigma attached to the women affected, as it is still a common belief that obstetric fistula is sent as a punishment for wrongdoing and is not seen as a valid medical condition.

Featured Quotation and Link



“The education and empowerment of women throughout the world cannot fail to result in the more caring, tolerant, just and peaceful life for all.”

– Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



Information about Liberia:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberia>



ZI Convention in 2010



June 25-30th 2010
 Opening ceremony
 is June 26th.
 Make your plans
 for San Antonio!

Make the Connection!
 Register on the Zonta International
 site for access to Member
 Resources. <http://zonta.org>

July 13th Board Meeting

Special Presentation by Tonya McKenzie of the
 American Heart Association

5:30pm – Panera Bread on North Academy

She will give us lots of ideas on:

- * gathering sponsorships
- * effective fundraising
- * getting motivated
- * marketing ourselves

All Zonta members are encouraged to attend

Zonta International Fact Sheet Trafficking of Women and Girls

What is Trafficking in Persons?

Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

Who are the victims of trafficking in persons?

Approximately 80 percent are women and girls and the majority of whom are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. Including trafficking within national borders increases the estimate to two to four million persons per year. It is estimated that between 600,000 and 800,000 victims are trafficked across international borders each year.

Why are victims trafficked?

The root causes of the trafficking of women and girls stem from a lack of women's rights and opportunity. Women and girls are especially susceptible to trafficking due to gender-bias, oppression, discrimination, social and cultural practices, and the prevalence of gender based violence. Potential victims are at even greater risk if they originate from countries experiencing political and economic instability, internal displacement, militarism, civil unrest, internal armed conflict, and natural disasters. By failing to address gender gaps in the law, many governments fail to promote situations in which women's social, civil, political and economic rights are protected.

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Dates to Remember



2009

July 13	Board Meeting – Panera Bread
July 20	General Meeting – Crowne Plaza <u>Fellowship</u> : 5:00 PM <u>Program</u> : 5:30 PM
August 23	Ice Cream Social – Pam S's home
September 21	International Day of Peace
Oct 30-Nov 1	District 12 Conference – Denver
Nov 25-Dec 10	16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence
December 10	International Human Rights Day

2010

January 11	Amelia Earhart Day
March 8	International Women's Day Zonta Rose Day
June 25-30	60 th ZI Convention, San Antonio TX

Zonta Club of the Pikes Peak Area

PO Box 7924
Colorado Springs CO 80933

“ADVANCING
THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN
WORLDWIDE”

Our Mission...

To advance the status of women and serve our community through local and international contributions, and to achieve personal and professional growth in a nurturing and supportive environment.

About Our Organization...

The Zonta Club of the Pikes Peak Area has been serving our community since 1949 by advancing the status of women. Our club has devoted funds to scholarships for women returning to the workforce as well as to high school seniors seeking to further their education in Public Affairs or Aeronautics and other highly technical fields. Many funds as well as hands-on service hours and mentorships have been dedicated to TESSA, Intercept, Full-Circle, and support of the locally-placed Liberian refugees.

Zonta International Fact Sheet continued Trafficking of Women and Girls

Where are victims of trafficking?

Trafficking of women and girls is a global issue.

- * Girls from villages in Nepal and Bangladesh – the majority of whom are under 18 – are sold to brothels in India for US\$1,000.
- * Some 200,000 to 250,000 women and children are trafficked annually in Southeast Asia alone. Girls as young as 13 are trafficked as mail order brides in Asia and Eastern Europe.
- * Women from the former Soviet Union States are taken to Israel, other parts of the Middle East or Western Europe; many are under age 16.
- * Victims trafficked into South Africa include women and children from all corners of the African continent, and abroad.
- * In Latin America, women are trafficked to Europe and the United States of America, and an estimated 1,700 are trafficked to Japan.
- * Between 18,000 and 20,000 trafficking victims enter the United States of America each year.

Resources

United Nations, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, Web site: www.ohchr.org/english/law/protocoltraffic.htm

UNFPA, Web site: <http://www.unfpa.org>

International Rescue Committee Anti-Trafficking Initiative, Web site:

http://www.theirc.org/what/irc_antitrafficking_initiative.html

International Organization for Migration (IOM), Web site: <http://www.iom.int>

Organization of American States, Web site: <http://www.oas.org>

United States Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*, Web site: <http://www.state.gov>



Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

Pikes Peak Club 1949-2009
Celebrating 60 Years!

Find out more about Zonta:

ZontaPikesPeak.org

Member Information

Nearly 33,000 members belong to more than 1,200 Zonta Clubs in 66 countries.

Fulfilling our mission locally and globally.

For membership information, please contact Laura S.

719-264-9087

Stampfamily4cs@msn.com