



# Zonta Club of Concord

Newsletter January 2020

## Happy New Year

Welcome to the Zonta Year of 2020! We had a fantastic 2019, celebrating our club's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, Zonta International's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Women's Right to Vote 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I'm thinking that this year can be even better.

To start, we can celebrate the ratification of the Women's Right to Vote in 1920. My grandmothers were young mothers that year. I wish I had asked them when they were alive what that news meant to them at that time.

Also this year we have many local, state and federal candidates up for election and re-election. We will have many opportunities to look at their positions on issues that will have an effect on women and their families. We can look at their websites and see what proposals they have. We can go to house parties and ask them in person. With our First-in-the-Nation Primary, we get to see the next

President in person, up close and personal, before he or she is even elected. Ask them all about women's issues: family leave, access to health care, affordable daycare, child marriage, gender-based violence, reproductive health, gender equality, education. Choose one or all and push the candidates.

Another thing to celebrate is that the Zonta International Conference is in our country this year, which makes it much more affordable. Be looking at flights to Chicago!

We can also celebrate that this year we get to plan for the District Conference that our club will get to host next year. We can put on an impressive weekend for our sisters across the District and make them happy they came to NH.

And, as in all years, we get to celebrate the opportunity we have to be members of a wonderful organization,

And to especially celebrate the 28 women in our own club.

## January 8 Business Meeting

Because we are meeting the *second* Wednesday of the month because of the holiday, our usual room is not available. Instead, we will be using the function room upstairs. Usually reserved for much larger groups, the Blazer is generously offering it to us with the guarantee of 30 dinners. Because we have a guest speaker, our JMK winner and her mother, Governor Liz and our two new members attending, it was going to be likely that we would hit that number easily. However, we have since found out that several members will not be able to attend. Rising to the occasion, some board members have offered to buy take-home meals to make sure we have the minimum 30 dinners. Even our board is extraordinary. **Important:**

**the restaurant is now requesting that Carolyn give them ahead of time not only the number of members who will be attending but what their meal choices are. This month's choices are:**

- Baked Stuffed Chicken
- Haddock
- Plant-based Dinner

**Please email or call Carolyn as soon as possible to let her know if you will be coming and what you want for dinner.**

This will be a special meeting because both Governor Liz Hart and Area Director Jane House will be with us. They will be presenting our JMK winner, Victoria Rice, with a certificate from ZI. As you know, she was the recipient of our \$1,000 scholarship. We sent her name on to District to compete at that level, and she won \$2,000. District sent her application to Zonta International to compete internationally, and she was one of six at that level who was awarded \$8,000. We are very proud of her. Her mother will be attending our business meeting with her.

We will be installing our two new members, Dulcinea and Diane. Even before becoming members, they have been working on the auction and other projects, so we already know what great members they will be. I think there will be some competition among committee chairs as to who can be the first to entice them to join theirs.

Also joining us will be Cary Gladstone who is the director of the United Way project, VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). This is an amazing program which prepares taxes for people free of charge, most of whom are women we would choose to empower. The statistics are quite impressive, including the fact that they find more deductions for people than what had previously been found

for them by tax preparers that charged them exuberant fees and questionable tactics.

We will also be receiving the official results of our Holiday Auction. The Ways and Means Committee is pretty proud. We all know that the guiding force behind this incredible fundraiser is our president-elect, Janice Severance. We should raise her up on our shoulders.



I surround myself with women who inspire me to be more ambitious, and who constantly astonish me with their magnetism, style, and smarts.

Heidi Julavits  
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With such a full agenda, we won't have time for our monthly story. However, I will have something to share with you that won't take much time but will be a symbol of the power of women together.

## Period Project

I won't steal the thunder from the Service Committee, but I will tell you that the Period Project is up and running, and the committee is deciding exactly what to call this attempt to empower women by allowing them to be productive all four weeks of the month. And it's going to be so easy for club members and for all the people we recruit to help us. We'll hear more at our meeting.

## Ending Child Marriage

We have an opportunity to support HB 1516, which re-introduces a bill to end child marriage in NH. It is the work of Cassie Levesque, who you will remember initiated this project when she was a Girl Scout. When that failed, she ran for a seat in the NH Legislature at 18 and won. At that point she was able to raise the minimum age but not to an acceptable age, so she is fearlessly introducing it again. She is being helped by the Unchained At Last Project. I'll be talking with their Policy and Advocacy Associate in the coming days, so I'll have more information to share with you at our business meeting. Thanks to Lynn Stanley for connecting us to this organization. How much more connected to our mission could something be?

*What you are  
supposed to do if you  
don't like a thing is  
to*

## CHANGE IT

*If you can't change it,  
change the way you  
think*

## ABOUT IT

*Maya  
Angelou*

### Gratitude

I think all of us start the new year with thoughts of all we have to be grateful for. I just want to share with you that one of my most treasured blessings is being a Zontian. The sisterhood that I feel in our club is palpable. The energy is unmeasurable and seems to expand itself every time we gather. The drive that is in the heart of every member to empower women throughout the world inspires me to work harder. Every one of our members has gifts that she brings to our mission. What one member doesn't have, another does. What one member wants to learn, another teaches her. What one member needs, another provides for her.

It's truly a blessing and a life-altering experience to be a member of such an organization, but especially to our club. I can't imagine that any other group of women in all of Zonta International is as kind, generous, ambitious, driven and capable as ours.

Our club is very special, and I am so grateful to be one of you.