December Social
with a little Business:

- November Business Meeting Minutes
- October Final & November 17 to date Financial Reports
- Committee Reports (abridged version)

Program: A Festive Remembrance

Upcoming Committee Meeting Dates:

Service
Wed., Dec. 23 @ 8:15 a.m. via Zoom

Scholarship
Tues., Jan. 5 @ 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

Ways $ Means
Thurs., Dec. 10 @ 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOURS!

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Congratulation & best wishes to those of you celebrating your birthdays in December & January:

- December 5 — Rebecca Barnwell
- December 8 — Karla Roth
- January 3 — Christine Griffin
- January 8 — Sue McCoo
- January 11 — Marie Lang

Wishing you all a memorable day!

December Social
with a little Business
ZOOM format
Dec. 2nd
6:00 pm
Invites to Zoom sent out by Janice on Tues., Dec. 1st

December Board Meeting
ZOOM format
Wed., Dec. 16th
@ 6:15 pm

January Business Meeting
FORMAT TBD
Wed., Jan. 6th
Time TBD

CLUB SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The club’s Scholarship Committee has been busy editing and posting the applications for the following scholarships:

- New American Merit Award
- Young Women in Public Affairs Award
- Zonta Memorial Scholarship
- NHTI, Concord’s Community College

These applications have been posted on the club’s website, www.zontaclubofconcordnh.org, and will soon be advertised in the local media.

Thank you to Chair Laura, Carolyn, Maria, Marie, our District Webmaster Mary Knight, and Janice for your time and efforts on this very important club service project.

We hope to get lots of great applicants before January 15, 2021.

ZONTA CLUB OF CONCORD’S
16 Days of Activism
Against Gender-Based Violence from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10, Human Rights Day.

More on the club’s promotion of this event on page 2.
Our Zonta sister, Mary Jane Wallner, was elected to the NH House of Representatives for her 21st term and she is the second longest serving rep in the House! Congratulations, Mary Jane!

YOUR COVID THOUGHTS & EXPERIENCES

Don’t forget to share your COVID-19 pandemic story for future Concord Zontians to read! Some time ago Donna emailed us suggested “prompts” for us to use to document our thoughts and experiences on paper to be placed in the Zonta Club archives located in the Concord Room at the Concord Public Library. If you need a new copy of her suggestions, please email her at draycraft@comcast.net. Your story will give our future Zonta sisters an idea of what it was like to live through such a turbulent time.

“Adorables” Baskets Update

The first batch of 150 little wrapped “adorables” went on their way to Rockingham County Nursing Home last week delivered through the kindness of Joyce Heck and Bob Mitchell. Many thanks to them and to all who have helped fill the "basket"—actually four boxes—again this year.

Meanwhile, 75 additional “adorables” are lining up, ready for packaging and delivery to Merrimack County Nursing Home this week. We're still collecting for this basket and would be grateful for any items left in the “Z” box on my porch at 173 School St., Concord.

Carol

16 Days of Activism
Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women and Girls

Over the last couple of weeks, a great deal of effort has been made to promote this campaign and to educate the community about violence against women locally and around the world. A press release informing the public about the basis of this campaign and what our club does to advocate for this mission was sent to the Concord Monitor and was published both in the Monitor itself and again in The Insider. A “letter to the editor” was sent in prior to the 16 Days also publicizing this campaign. There have been, and will continue to be, a daily posting on the club’s Facebook page educating the public about violence to women and more.

(Members, please continue to share these daily postings with your followers.)

The Hotel Concord partnered with our club to light up their architectural brow in orange, the color representing the campaign, during the 16 Days. To show the club’s commitment to these activism days, our club donated $1,000 to the Sheila Stanley Fund for trauma victims at Womankind Counseling and sent $500 to the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Recently, our club board voted with the Zonta USA Caucus and 13 world-wide Zonta districts to urge the US Congress to prevent cuts to funding for the Victims of Crime Act affecting American victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking and like crimes (see page 4 of this newsletter for the initial letter sent to the Caucus by Lynn Stanley and the response from the ZI Caucus reps; ZI President Sharon later approved and applauded this action).

Thank you to Donna, Lynn, Laura, and Janice for your work on this effort!

NH Legislative Services Request (LSR) on Child Marriage:

2021-0003 HB entitled “Raising the Minimum Age of Marriage” sponsored by Cassandra Levesque and others. Bill language not available until December or January.

From Lynn who will keep us informed on this bill.
ZONTA CLUB OF CONCORD'S HOLIDAY APPEAL

An appeal letter was sent out in lieu of holding our in-person annual Holiday Auction. This letter gave our previous auction attendees, friends, family, and co-workers a chance to still support women by donating to our Ante-Up for Education Scholarship Campaign and/or purchasing a balsam wreath designed by Marshall’s Florist to benefit our New American Merit Award. Each donator had the opportunity to designate the scholarship he/she felt most passionate about or designate that they wanted our club to decide based on which scholarship was in need of funding. Each scholarship donator is entitled to a raffle chance to win a Wine Tasting for Six at WINE ON MAIN donated by Marie & Pat Lang. The letter was sent out using our annual auction mailing list, our MailChimp email address list, through the club’s Facebook and website pages, Concord Patch, LinkedIn, Concord Monitor Town Crier, and we asked each of you to repost the information on your Facebook pages and share.

Thank you to all of our members that contributed and to the many supporters from our community. To date we have received “gross” receipts of $1,196 in wreath sales and $4,752 in Ante-Up for Education donations. Ante-Up donations continue to be sent in or charged.

This was a way for us to keep Zonta in the minds of our past supporters and give them a chance to help our mission to empower women during this pandemic.

Congratulations to Susan Lombard on your recent retirement! May you fill your new found time with projects that you are passionate about and that will make you feel fulfilled and happy!

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted!

Every Member Every November ZI Campaign

According to my calculations, there has been over $500 donated to this campaign in tribute to our Concord Zonta sister, Lisa A. Rule. Thank you to all who contributed! Not only will these funds help support many women through our ZI International Service Projects, it also lets Lisa know how much we care about her and all the years of Zonta service she has given.

Amelia Earhart Fellow Andrea Ghez awarded 2020 Nobel Prize in physics

Andrea Ghez, Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellow (1987) was awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in physics. Andrea, UCLA’s Lauren B. Leichtman and Arthur E. Levine Professor of Astrophysics, shares half of the prize with Reinhard Genzel of UC Berkeley and the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics. The Nobel committee praised them for “the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy.”

Previously, the journal Science published a study by Ghez and her research group that was praised as the most comprehensive test of Albert Einstein’s iconic general theory of relativity. She and her group are continuing to test that theory, after finding that it could not fully explain gravity inside a black hole.

Congratulations to Andrea!
The letter below was sent via email to the Zonta USA Caucus of the ZI Advocacy Committee by Lynn Stanley.

Members of Congress received a letter urging Congress to take immediate action to prevent devastating cuts to federal funding for victim service programs through the Victims of Crime Act (“VOCA”), including programs serving victims and survivors of child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, trafficking, drunk driving, assault, homicide, and other crimes. The letter also urges Congress to increase federal support to help states compensate crime victims for costs such as medical bills, lost wages, and even funerals. A slightly updated letter is now open for organizational signatures.

The situation is dire! Federal grants to victim services through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) decreased by 25% last year, and further drastic cuts are expected, because the non-taxpayer-funded pool of funding VOCA grants are pulled from is running dry. Congress can fix this by ensuring federal financial penalties from deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements are treated the same way as penalties resulting from criminal convictions - that they go to serve and compensate crime victims.

State victim compensation funds are also facing financial challenges due to decreased revenue, and many are unable to provide adequate compensation to help survivors pay for medical bills, counseling, lost wages, and other costs. Congress can fix this by increasing the percentage of state victim compensation funds that the federal government matches through VOCA.

The aforementioned letter also asks Congress to do the following:

- Require state VOCA Administrators to waive the 20% match requirement for victim service subgrantees for the pendency of the COVID-19 crisis and one additional year;
- Allow state VOCA Administrators to waive subgrantee match requirements at their discretion after the aforementioned waiver expires and require state VOCA Administrators to develop and publish a policy and procedure for obtaining a waiver;
- Allow states to request a one-year no-cost extension from the Attorney General, as allowed for other Department of Justice formula grant programs, to ensure states can thoughtfully and effectively distribute victim service grants without being penalized; and
- Provide flexibility for state compensation programs to waive the requirement to promote victim cooperation with law enforcement if good cause is established by the program.

We need your help to get Congress to pass these measures into law!

Lynn Stanley, LICSW
National Association of Social Workers
Executive Director - New Hampshire Chapter

In response, the following email was sent out to Zonta Caucus Members, Alternates & ZI US Governors.

This issue is definitely within the purview of the Caucus. Thank you to Lynn for sending it on to us for our consideration. Of course, all the Governors are already able to sign on behalf of their Districts if they so wish.

If we want to sign on to any letter as Zonta USA, here is the process. First, each of the 13 Districts must vote YES, then we recommend the letter to the ZI President and if she agrees she does the signing. There is no one at the national level authorized to sign for Zonta, but if the Caucus recommends it, Megan will try to facilitate a quick response from President Sharon.

The Zonta USA Caucus has voted and our 13 districts unanimously request that Zonta USA sign on to the attached letter urging the US Congress to prevent cuts to funding for the Victims of Crime Act affecting American victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking and like crimes.

Bobbee Cardillo and Ela Pandya
Co-conveners, Zonta USA Caucus of the Zonta International Advocacy Committee