

Area 1 Report – Zonta District 12 Conference: Oct 29 – Nov 1, 2009

Area 1 Director 2009 -2010 Goals:

- Continue to work with clubs to recruit & retain members. This has been a main request at club visits.
- Work with clubs on leadership training. There is a huge need for officer training and ensuring each club officer is aware of their duties and responsibilities. Also encourage officers to utilize the Zonta International Website.
- Work with members to understand the importance of officer positions and how this enhances the club, but also personal and professional development. “What’s In It For Me!”
- Continue to stress the importance of ZI projects and educate members on these projects.

Zonta Club of Billings:

A club visit is scheduled for November. We will discuss other club happenings, International Convention and membership.

Billings just completed the High Plains book awards, which is a book festival for authors in the plains states and Canada. They read entries submitted by women and narrowed the choice to three authors. They selected Jennifer Graf Groneberg, author of "Road Map to Holland" as Zonta Woman Writer award winner. This book is recommended to fellow Zontians.

They're current focus is on Trivia Night, which is in February. 30 teams of 8 compete in an evening trivia competition. Winners of each round are awarded a prize basket, and awards go to the final top 3 scoring teams. The winning team takes a \$500 cash prize. It is their main fundraiser and is well received in the community.

A new exciting project is arranging a visit by Jessica Jackley, one of the founders of Kiva Microfunds. Kiva is an online site that is headquartered in San Francisco. The site uses the internet to facilitate micro finance loans around the globe. One of the members has arranged her visit, and they are partnering with other organizations to help finance it. She will discuss microfinance, and how it is improving the lives of women around the globe. It is expected her visit to have interest for people outside of Billings and they are excited to be the lead organization bringing this to their community.

Zonta Club of the Black Hills:

Presented a program on Zisvaw to tie in with October's National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Provided information on Zonta International Zisvaw Projects and provided state and local statistics on domestic violence. I also gave a presentation in the spring on Zonta International Service Projects.

The Zonta Club of the Black Hills recently held their 26th Annual Zonta EXPO. It is their main fundraiser. Over 1000 women attended, the guest speaker was humorist Juli Burney. The Expo includes a food court, style show, silent auction, and over 100 vendors. The club also participated in the Miss Wheelchair America Pageant, held in August. They helped with the event and with fundraising. The club also continues to have members volunteer for approved service projects; Youth & Family Services Kids Fair, Junior Achievement, Keeper of the Closet, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, WAVI, and Go Red for Women. Hours volunteered with these organizations count towards the clubs service hours.

Zonta Club of Gillette:

Attended a business meeting in October. We discussed fundraising opportunities for the club. In the past the club has presented a Women's Conference. It has been post-phoned this year because there was not a facility available

to host the event. They are looking at ways to revamp this project and move it towards becoming a major club fundraiser. They are hosting a Farmers Market and looking at ways to develop other smaller fundraisers as they work on the Women's Conference. We also discussed ideas for membership recruiting and retention. The club has monthly socials which provide an opportunity for recruitment and socializing. The club also recently installed three Zonta Club Signs that are highly visible at Gillette's three exits.

Zonta Club of Glendive:

Glendive was the host of the Area 1 Meeting. A club visit is planned for December. They are busy planning their annual Zonta Bazaar held November 13 & 14th.

Zonta Club of Pierre/Ft. Pierre:

Club visit took place at their annual summer social in August. I gave a presentation on Zonta 2008-2010 International Service Projects. The Zonta Club of Pierre-Fort Pierre prepared and served a meal for the Community Banquet to approximately 300 low-income individuals on September 24, 2009. The club will be having their annual Holiday Craft Fair November 14 & 15. This is one of two craft fairs the club does as a fundraising project. The other craft fair is in the Spring.

Zonta Club of the Southern Black Hills:

Attended a business meeting in Custer in early October. We visited about membership recruitment ideas. The club discussed having a 90th Birthday Party for Zonta International at a local business as an opportunity to recruit new members. They also discussed taking advantage of their annual holiday party and asking each member to bring a guest. I will also be working with the club which will be hosting the Area 1 Meeting April 30 & May 1 2010.

They are busy putting the finishing touches on their Monthly Business Planner and Telephone Directory. This is the club's major fundraiser and is very well supported by the community. They are also involved in helping with the new community food bank.

Zonta Club of Spearfish:

Attended a club business meeting in September and presented information on Zisvaw to tie in with October's National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Provided information on Zonta International Zisvaw Projects and provided state and local statistics on domestic violence. We also talked about the District 12 Conference. The club is busy preparing for their annual fundraiser, the Festival of Trees, which is held at the end of November. Businesses and individuals decorate wreaths and trees that are auctioned off to lucky bidder.

Zonta Club of Sturgis:

Met with president to discuss membership retention and recruitment. We talked about stepping out of the box in a rural community when recruiting and having meetings on a consistent day each month. I also provided her with a sample recruitment packet used by the Zonta Club of the Black Hills. And we discussed ideas to help members pay their dues. A club visit is scheduled for November where I will discuss the benefits of being in Zonta and the International Convention.

The Zonta Club of Sturgis annual fundraiser is their decorated/painted pumpkins which are on display at local businesses.