

Zonta International District 12
Legislative Awareness and Advocacy
Ann Hefenieder

My goals for the 2008-2010 biennium were:

1. Catalogue past advocacy projects by District 12 clubs.
2. Continue work on CEDAW ratification efforts.
3. Explore advocacy topics and methods with clubs, looking for right fit for each club.
Distribute ZI advocacy guidelines.
4. Encourage District-wide "16 Days" participation
5. Encourage District 12 club's commemoration of Zonta Rose Day as a day of advocacy

Over the past year, I've sent 7 e-mails highlighting club activities, providing ideas for advocacy, including trafficking, pay equity, health insurance, heart health, and judicial appointments. In two of those, I included requests for District 12 clubs to contact the White House and their Senators to request passage of CEDAW. I sent information regarding a website to monitor Congressional activities. I distributed the links to ZI advocacy guidelines in October, 2008 and again in June, 2009.

I sent "daily" emails for the observation of "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence," highlighting the lives and issues of 16 women who saw a problem, and took steps to make a change. I hoped that their stories would be inspirational for Zontians.

Looking ahead, my plans are to contact all the club advocacy chairs to determine their club needs/wants. I want to encourage every District 12 club to take an advocacy action during the 16-Days time period.

I also think Zonta Rose Day would be a great day for advocacy of some type by individual clubs, and will explore that topic.