

Newsletter of the Zonta Club of Quinebaug Valley

February 2009

Editor's Message

Dear Quinebaug Valley Zontians,

Welcome to our first newsletter. We intend to publish a short newsletter monthly to keep everyone informed of current happenings in our club, District 1 and Zonta International. Please don't hesitate to give suggestions and comments, or even better, to provide a short article to include in our next newsletter.

Our club is currently focusing on three endeavors. The first is to work with United Services to support women and children in shelters. The second is to get this newsletter off the ground. The third is to recruit new members. We have a lot on our plate.

Usually, the minutes of the last month's meeting would appear at the end of this publication. However, there were no minutes for December or January. Be sure to look for the minutes next month.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our February meeting.

Sincerely,
Rose

Upcoming Events

February 16, 2009

Monthly meeting at JD Coopers at 6:30 pm.

March 15, 2009

March meeting

April 20, 2009

April meeting

Club Officers:

President:	Betty Sunter
Vice President:	Cindy Anderson
Treasurer:	Florence Parker
Secretary:	Rose Bisson

Information from the Zonta International Website

Zonta Mission Statement

Zonta International seeks to:

- improve the legal, political, economic, health, educational and professional status of women through service and advocacy;
- work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of executives in business and the professions;
- promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- be united internationally to foster high ethical standards, implement service programs, and provide mutual support and fellowship for members who serve their communities, their nations and the world.

What is the origin of the word Zonta?

“Zonta” is derived from a Lakhota (Teton Dakota), a language of the Native-American Sioux peoples, word meaning honest and trustworthy. It was adopted in 1919 to symbolize the combined qualities of honesty and trust, inspiration and the ability to work together for service and world understanding.

Zonta International President's Message

A Special Message to Our Zontians from the Zonta International Board

This message is to tell you of an unusual action taken by the Zonta International Board of Directors.

The Zonta International Board has acted, in its capacity as Sole Member of the Zonta International Foundation, to remove some of the individual members from the Zonta International Foundation Board. The Foundation's Bylaws permit this action.

This extraordinary action was taken in light of a serious disagreement between the Zonta International Board and Foundation Executive Committee over the handling of Foundation's assets, including:

- the purchase of an "office condominium" **before** selling the current headquarters building;
- choosing office condominium space which, in the opinion of the Zonta International Board, **will not suitably house** Zonta International and Foundation operations and our treasured artifacts;
- taking out a **loan** at 6.5% to cover the condominium purchase, and another loan to cover construction, when Zonta International could have made the loan more economically; and
- pledging restricted assets **of the Foundation.**

The Zonta International Board members will serve as the Zonta International Foundation Board members for the time being, until the Foundation's financial matters are well in hand and prudent steps are taken to preserve capital and reduce interest payments.

The Zonta International Board believes that, if the Foundation Executive Committee had included it in decisions as they were being made, this extraordinary action would not have been necessary. We heard from some members of the Foundation Executive Committee leadership that they did not need Zonta International's approval for their actions. This path was leading to dissension within the Zonta family and, in the opinion of the Zonta International Board, leading to a diminishment of resources.

We look forward to moving forward with a strong and united family of Zonta organizations to improve the status of women throughout the world. We thank the members of the former Zonta International Foundation Board for their past contributions and have invited them to continue furthering the cause of women worldwide through their Zonta membership.

Any questions or concerns should be directed by e-mail to Zonta International President Beryl Sten at berylzonta@telia.com or to Acting Executive Director Judy Johnston at zonta1@comcast.net.



Beryl Sten
Zonta International President