



August 20, 2017

Dear Zontians,

We are pleased to provide you with the budget for the 2018-20 biennium that has been reviewed and approved by the District 2 Board and is now being presented to you for a vote at the upcoming District Conference. It is the duty of the finance committee and board to provide adequate and sustainable financial resources for the district which we feel we have done in this budget.

We have budgeted an annual \$5 dues increase for the district that would bring district dues to \$20 per member per year beginning with the upcoming fiscal year starting June 1, 2018. Even with the dues increase of \$5, your dues cover only about 52% of our budget. We are using money from reserves in this budget of \$11,180, which amounts to a dues savings of over \$12 per year per member, however the reserves once spent will no longer be available to fund future budgets.

Some points we'd like you to be aware of:

- There has not been a dues increase since 2009 – 8 years (4 biennia).
- In 2009 at conference, members offered to increase dues by \$5 instead only \$2.
- But dues cannot be raised by more than sent out in the call to conference, so the \$5 increase was not possible at that time.
- Membership has continued to decline, even with the formation of 2 new clubs, from over 500 in 2014-2016 to 461 as of July, 2017.

Some other specific reasons an increase is needed:

The Jean M Coon Scholastic Award is provided to a district winner for their humanitarian efforts. It is a District 2 award given in honor of a past District 2 Governor. In past years we increased it from a \$200 district scholastic award to the current level of \$500 per year. We have projected an annual Jean M Coon District Award of \$1,000, an increase of \$500 per year. The Jane M Klausman district award, also given at conference, is \$1,000 per year but is paid for by ZI. This would bring the 2 awards to the same annual amount. The cost per member is about \$1.11 per year.

We will be discussing a District Centennial Project at conference to celebrate the first 100 years of Zonta service to women in 2019. Our district contains 3 charter clubs (Elmira, Syracuse, Utica) that were formed in 1919 and many others which have long histories as Zonta Clubs. This has been budgeted at \$2,300 about \$2.55 per year per member.

The 2018 International Convention in Japan will be expensive so we have increased the convention costs for next biennium by \$2,000, which is about \$2.22 per year per member.

These 3 items will cost about \$5.88 per member per year. In an effort to keep the dues increase down, we have looked carefully at other expenses and reduced them where we feel we can so that a \$5 dues increase allowed us to present a balanced budget with \$20 annual dues.

We hope that you will see the importance of this dues increase. If you have questions, please send them to finance@zontadistrict2.org or treasurer@zontadistrict2.org. We will present the budget early in the conference program giving members a chance to ask us questions throughout the weekend. A vote on the budget and dues increase will be taken on Sunday as usual.

Yours in Zonta Service,

Gloria Stootman Wristen, District 2 Finance Committee Chairman
Mary Ann Morreale, District 2 Treasurer