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## Governor's Message



Greetings,

As this biennium draws to a close, I find myself experiencing a mix of emotions. Serving as the Zonta District 2 Governor from 2022 to 2024 has been an honor and a joy. Throughout this time, I've had the privilege of visiting many of our clubs, both in person and virtually, and meeting incredible people who embody the Zonta Spirit.

Our district has achieved so much, yet there remains much more to do. Our ongoing mission to advocate for gender equality, end child marriage, stop domestic violence, and so much more depends on the dedication of our members.

As we continue to strive for new members, let's also honor and appreciate the contributions of our current and past members who have paved the way for our journey in Zonta. Their legacy inspires us and sets a foundation for our future endeavors.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Zonta Club of Oswego for hosting a fantastic workshop on May 4th. The day was filled with learning, fun, and fellowship, and the Kentucky Derby theme added a special touch.

Our district is blessed with extraordinary individuals, and I am deeply grateful to the 2022-2024 District Board and committee chairs for their leadership and commitment. Leadership is vital to our organization's success, and I encourage everyone to consider stepping up in the future; our district depends on it.

Together we can Build A Better World for Women and Girls

Thank you all for your support and dedication. I look forward to continuing our work together and seeing you around—I'm not going away.

Yours in Zonta Spirit,  
Liz Tesiero

# District 2 News

## District 2 Spring Workshop

### Review of the Workshop, by Jean Edminster Zonta Club of Syracuse

What's better than being with 20 women who are dedicated to making the world a better place for women and girls? I'll tell you what's better- being with 75 women who through their service and advocacy strive to make the world a better place for women and girls. Zonta Club of Oswego was the host for the Zonta District 2 Spring Workshop which was held on May 4, 2024 at the Best Western Conference Room in Oswego, NY. It was a day full of interesting speakers, videos, great food, a horse race and fabulous raffle prizes donated by local Oswego merchants. Under the leadership of Iraina Gerchman, the Planning Committee created a wonderful event.



Irene Orton, Past District 2 Governor and district Foundation Ambassador, also requested that attendees bring a brown bag full of surprises. The bags were sold for \$20. All of the revenue generated went to the Zonta Foundation. Irene Orton was quite pleased with the totals. The morning began with District 2 Governor Liz Tesiero introducing past District 2 Governors. One of the past governors is 90-year-old birthday girl, Val Hume, who is going to the Zonta International Conference in Australia. She has been all over the world to over 15 of these conferences in her lifetime. Liz also introduced our new Governor Amy Quinn, Lieutenant Governor Lorraine Abess, current Directors Barb Allen and CJ Blake, Treasurer Peggy Herlburt and Debbie Vecchio, District 2 Secretary. Liz also recognized the Zonta Club of

Oswego for planning a fabulous day of fun and important information for our members.

Topics included cyber security, the use of Canva, a presentation from our Zonta Foundation Ambassador Irene Orton, the impact of climate change on women and children, the Canadian caucus and a membership presentation by new Governor Amy Quinn. Three short movies were shown. The first was a video

about UNICEF and Zonta International. Zonta actually has a seat at the United Nations as a nongovernmental organization. The second video was about legalizing equality. The ERA and the history of the Walmart Discrimination Law Suit was addressed. We have still a long way to go! The third video was about Zonta Club of Syracuse's efforts to collect 1000 pounds of soft plastics.



In order to give the ladies a break from all the lectures, Zonta Club of Oswego planned a series of horse races since it was the day of the Kentucky Derby. All moneys made were donated to the Zonta Foundation. Lorraine Abess' informative talk on Cyber Security mentioned all of the practices that should be avoided using social media. An inspiring presentation about the ERA, Equal Rights Amendment, was given by Pat Vaughn. Betty Sundstrum of the Hudson Valley Club introduced the recipient of the Jean M Coon Scholarship - an amazing candidate from Zonta Club of Albany. Her name is Ashley Mckinley. We were all impressed with her projects and could see why she was chosen. The talk on climate change and its impact on women and children was delivered by Daniella Puerto, a pediatric nurse practitioner. She had excellent visuals and was passionate about this topic.



Dr. Judith Ainsworth came down from Canada and talked about all of the impressive events that the Canadian Caucus have done to address Zonta's mission. Lieutenant Governor Amy Quinn addressed the group on membership. She led an interactive discussion about making new members and veteran members feel more engaged in their clubs. A group activity followed her address to bring home the idea that engagement is the important key to sustainability. It was obvious that enthusiasm was alive in that room. Members were very excited about going back to their clubs with new ideas about how to spread the Zonta Spirit to increase membership and encourage retention of members.

## District 2 Spring Workshop cont'd

Liz spoke about the Zonta International Convention in Brisbane Australia. Eight members of District 2 will be attending. The delegates will cast votes for clubs that will not be represented. There also is a virtual option that needs no registration. Information can be found on the Zonta international website. Governor Liz Tesiero again thanked the Zonta Club of Oswego for their planning efforts and reminded the attendees to be supportive of each other and keep members engaged.



Sign the petition. [Equal Rights Amendment Petition | Sign4ERA](#)



## International News

Join us 27-30 June 2024!

Registration – [Click here](#).

Virtual Program – [Click Here](#)

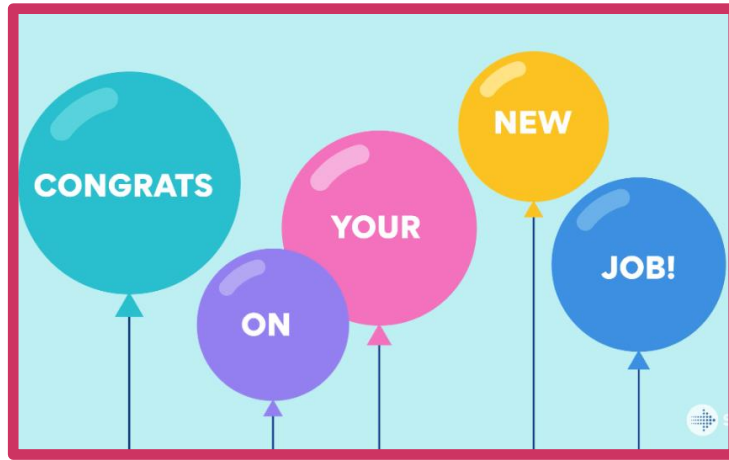
Virtual registration will be open until the beginning of the convention.



## Registration Rates

	Early Registration	Regular Registration	Last Registration
	Ends 15 March	16 March-15 May	16 May-On-site
Member Full	US\$325	US\$355	US\$395
Guest	US\$150	US\$150	US\$165
Member Virtual Only	US\$189	US\$189	US\$210
Member Virtual + One Day On-Site	US\$252	US\$252	US\$280
Golden Z Full	US\$60	US\$60	US\$60
Golden Z Virtual Only	US\$30	US\$30	US\$30

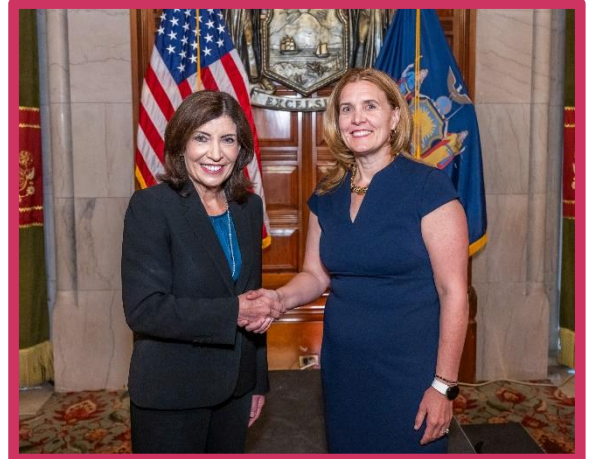
\*The rates above are in U.S. Dollars and are exclusive of GST (10%), GST will be added at checkout. Virtual attendees will not have to pay GST.



## Governor Elect, Amy Quinn

I'm thrilled to share some exceptionally exciting personal news. Last Friday, I received a phone call from Governor Hochul's office in which I learned that the Governor was appointing me to serve as a Judge on the New York State Court of Claims. This sudden news is a humbling and thrilling honor and by far the greatest privilege of my professional career.

I appeared before the NYS Senate Judiciary Committee in Albany yesterday morning to offer testimony and answer questions about my qualifications and experience from the Committee, and today, my nomination was approved by the Senate. I was immediately sworn in at a ceremony held at the Court of Claims along with the Governor's other judicial nominees. Having submitted my 66-page application for this Court of Claims appointment in February of 2023, I had no way of knowing that it would be acted upon favorably at this time, if ever. I will begin my new position as a Court of Claims judge immediately and therefore, as of this date, terminate my campaign for Essex County Judge, effective immediately.



Thank you for supporting my candidacy- all of it has truly meant the world to me. I am blessed to have so many friends, and to have made so many new friends, as well. I look forward to continuing to serve the people of New York State in my new role, upholding the rule of law with dignity and honor.

# District 2 Committee Corner

## Membership Moment

Amy Quinn, Lt. Governor

[membership@zontadistrict2.org](mailto:membership@zontadistrict2.org)

Hello District 2 Zontians!

Summer is upon us (although it never got out of the 50s in Lake Placid this past Saturday!). Many clubs do not meet in the summer, while many others have signature events like golf tournaments, and others still are in high gear for fall events. Vacations, summer visitors, and weddings do start to fill up the calendar but even if your club takes a break from summer meetings, why not plan an easy social event for your club, or even a group social with some neighboring clubs?

Sometimes, a low key idea exchange and a few laughs over coffee or pizza, without motions, committees or votes, can be exactly what a club needs to move forward on a project. Impromptu sometimes really does work best...pick a weeknight, grab one fellow club member and plan to meet for a walk, a happy hour or some beach time. Shoot the details out to your club by email and you just might be surprised at the turnout.

Remember: our mission to build a better world for women and girls has to start at home. Capitalize on some leisure time with fellow members and I bet some Zonta spirit will be the end result.

Finally, I'd like to offer one more "thank you" to our Governor Liz Tesiero, who thru her big heart, commitment to the mission and hard work, left so many beautiful marks on our district. Our gratitude will last forever, Liz!

Enjoy your summer and be well!

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**Jean M Coon**

**Betty Sundstrom**

[jmcoon@zontadistrict2.org](mailto:jmcoon@zontadistrict2.org)

### **Jean M Coon Humanitarian Award District Winner**

The Jean M Coon Award is unique and special to District 2. Jean McCoy Coon was an attorney who graduated from Syracuse University and the Syracuse Law school. Jean held many positions in the New York State government. She was a fellow Zontian, past District 2 Governor, and a member of the International Board.

Her humanitarian efforts, though legendary, were never self-serving. Good things just happened, and most people never knew Jean was the impetus. Jean died in 1982 at age 52 and shortly after, this award was established by the district in her name to honor her achievements and to continue her example of doing good for others. For over forty years, the award has been given to High School Juniors and Seniors excelling in community service.

This year, thirteen clubs in District 2 participated in this scholarship program.

I have had the good fortune to read these applications and have been humbled by the quality and extent of the students' giving.

## Jean M Coon Humanitarian Award District Winner cont'd

These young people have collected food products and worked in food pantries, set up restorative justice programs for gender equality and collected hygiene products for students in foster care. They made wreaths, baskets,

blankets, and teddy bears. Their efforts have helped terminally ill children, special education students and the people of Nicaragua. They raised funds for autism, cancer prevention and research, animal shelters and Red Cross Blood Drives, all while continuing to help their schools with projects. We see them running charity races, coaching small children, crocheting scarves for the needy, aiding the elderly, running clinics and workshops, and advocating for agricultural education. Together they have logged thousands of hours of community service. In an often-fractured world, these students go above and beyond to make their communities better.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping to recognize these remarkable young people. Please continue to support this award.

Now it gives me great pleasure to tell you a little bit about the 2024 Jean M Coon Humanitarian Award winner, Angela Tawfik from the Albany Club. She will receive a \$1000 award.

Angela is an Albany Medical Center volunteer, working with pet therapy, pastoral care, scheduling blood drive appointments and distributing blankets to pediatric patients. She is also a Junior Volunteer leader at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital where she works with geriatric patients recovering from surgery and traumatic injury.

Angela teaches weekly hymns and choir practice to middle school students. With her Key Club, she managed fundraising the "Bells of Life" for Pediatric Intensive Care, and with the church Community Outreach crocheted colorful scarves for the needy. As a member of the March For Our Lives, she organized fundraisers for the critical care of educating students on the effects of gun violence.

Angela has been accepted to a highly competitive program to learn about the health care field. She will attend Sienna College in the fall.

Congratulations to Angela and the Zonta Club of Albany

I would also like to recognize the two talented students who tied for second place. They will receive Honorable Mention certificates and a small gift: Ashley McKinley from the Canton Club. Ashley made foster care totes for girls called, My Body My Bag and Totes for teen guys. She also hand sewed fifty teddy bears for children in child protective services. The other runner up is Ava Seirafi from Montreal who participated in a Nicaraguan Community Service trip to teach English, and technology and she created Voices for Olympia an interactive data base for immigrant women to match Canadian mentors.

The task of selecting one winner from all the talented and deserving candidates is never easy. I would like to thank my committee of CJ Blake, Kathy Barnard, and Deb Otowski for your efforts and insights.

On a personal note, I will be stepping down as Chair of the Jean M Coon award. Thank you to all the clubs who have participated through out the years. I have enjoyed working with you. It gives me a great sense of pride and satisfaction to see that these motivated and giving young people are recognized and rewarded. Finally, thank you to Irene Orton, Theresa Harris and Liz Tesiero. I have appreciated the help and support of these governors through my years of service.

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## ZONTA USA ADVOCACY ACTION CENTER

**Take Action Now!**

Sign up for Fast Action Fridays. <https://www.votervoice.net/Zonta/home>

**Irene Orton**  
**Foundation Ambassador**  
[foundation@zontadistrict2.org](mailto:foundation@zontadistrict2.org)

To all the members of District 2,  
I am writing to share how grateful I am for your generosity and hope that you will take great pride in the investment you have made to build a better world for women and girls and expand their access to education, health care, economic opportunities in which they live and work.

It has been a fun and exciting biennium... Governor's purse, Grab bags, Raffles, etc. You continue to show me how we can collect and grow our contributions to ZONTA INTERNATIONAL!!!

As of April 30, 2024, District 2 has donated **\$7,081.00** to the Zonta Endowment for women. That is the combination of Club Donors and Individual Donors. (Not including what we collected at the Spring Workshop in May). Amelia Earhart - **\$2,318.**, International Service Projects - **\$27,114.07**, Rose Fund - **\$20,308.94**, JMK - **\$1,121.91**, YWPA - **\$1,596.91**.

The **total** giving by our district from clubs, individuals and the District in this Biennium (2022-2024) is **\$59,540.83**. The District and the Clubs this biennium (June, 2022 to April 30, 2024) is **\$32,776.64**.  
On behalf of the entire organization, thank you again for your generous gifts.

In gratitude and thanks...Enjoy a healthy and restful summer.

**Update as of May 31, 2024: District 2's total for giving this biennium is \$74,333.82. This is truly amazing!!**

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**Z and Golden Z Clubs**  
**Claudia Jasinski**  
[zclub@zontadistrict2.org](mailto:zclub@zontadistrict2.org)

Congratulations to this year's Z Club Service Award and Z Club Spirit Award winners!



The 2024 District 2 Z Club Service Award goes to the Z Club of Columbia County for their ongoing "Grand Friends and Gardens" project. The students volunteered time and plants to garden with the elderly residents at a local Assisted Living Facility. They collected indoor plants and worked side by side with their "Grand friends" and staff to refresh their indoor gardens. They are currently collecting birdhouses, wind chimes, plants, and seeds to create a pollinator garden which they chose for climate reasons but also so the residents will have a chance to see birds and butterflies from their windows. The Z Club students enjoy spending time with their "Grand Friends" because it makes them realize how important family and friends are to the elderly and, in return, they hear stories and advice about life and gardening.

The 2024 District 2 Z Club Spirit Award winner is Mira Zhang from Manlius Pebble Hill Z Club. Mira was nominated for "cultivating a sense of optimism, authenticity, and true concern for the people around her. She is one of the first to volunteer and always follows through on her commitments. She is a leader among her peers with respect to ethics and academics."



All of the Service Project applications and Spirit Award nominees were outstanding this year. It is wonderful to see the difference that Z Clubs make in their schools and communities!



# Club News

## Zonta Club of Albany Carol Tomlin, President

Each year the Zonta Club of Albany awards a high school student with the Jean M. Coon Award. This year's recipient is Angela Tawfik, a senior at Guilderland High School. One of Angela's activities is volunteering at Albany Medical Center. Although she does various activities there, she says that one of her most rewarding was to deliver a blanket to a two year old boy in the pediatric unit who did not have parents to care for him. After that initial visit, she took him on walks around the hospital and checked on him. After one of these walks, she was rewarded with a hug.

Another high point involved Key Club in which she crocheted colorful scarves and distributed them to those in need at St John's & St. Ann's Outreach Center. She was also part of a group who ran a fundraiser for the Bells of Life campaign for the pediatric intensive care unit at the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center.

Although these three examples are just some of Angela's activities, she exemplifies the spirit of Jean M. Coon through service to others. She will receive her award at our June meeting.



The Albany Club did a lot this spring. We were represented at the NYS DOCCS Women's History Month event, hosted an activity day at St. Paul's Shelter for Women and Children, participated in a luncheon for the Capital District Rescue Mission, collected new and gently used bras for Bracycles (who donates the bras to homeless women), granted our first Jane Bonavita Memorial Nursing Award, volunteered a moonbee and celebrated 95 years with a luncheon and fashion show.



Designed by Freepik

**Zonta Club of Glens Falls  
Karen Hartman, President**



**Zonta Club of Oneida  
Fay Eastwood, President**



In the winner's circle awarding the trophy to the winner of the Zonta-sponsored race. (Fotowon Photography)

**Centennial Celebration**



Barb Allan, Fay & Dave Eastwood, & Cindy Thurston

**Zonta Club of Oneida cont'd  
Fay Eastwood, President**



**Zonta Club of Oswego News  
Iraina Gerchman, President**

The Zonta Club of Oswego participated in some facilitated decision-making exercises to select the projects we would work on in the next biennium. The exercises were designed to give a voice to every member in the club, balance low effort/high impact with high effort/high impact projects, and reevaluate all of projects against our mission.

In September we are planning a club retreat to help our club get to know each other, plan for the biennium's projects, and practice a little wellness.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our scholarship recognition and officer installation event. We are awarding two high school scholarships. The recipients are Ciara Orr, Ray Bodley High School, Fulton, NY. She will be attending Cornell University. Julianna Ricker, Mexico High School, will be attending SUNY Plattsburgh. The Young Women in Public Affairs scholarship is being awarded to Moira Spiegel, Oswego High School, who will be attending Nazareth University.



Our newly elected officers will also be installed: Kristin LaBarge, President; Alicia King, Vice President, Kristina Woodridge, Secretary; Dorothy Bonney, Treasurer; Karen Archibee and Nora Anderson, Board members. Congratulations to this new Board. We are looking forward to the new biennium under their leadership.



**Zonta Club of Utica**  
**Jennifer Yanowitz, President**



1. We made a donation of 50 personal item bags to The Center.
2. Donation to YWCA: \$1000 monetary donation for period pantry products and sweatpants/underwear for victims of sexual assault.

**Golden Z:**

1. Co-sponsored Take Back the Night with the Women's Resource Center.
2. Put up silver and blue pinwheels on campus to raise awareness of National Child Abuse Prevention month.



**Zonta 1919 Legacy Circle**

Give a gift that lasts more than a lifetime by becoming a member of the Zonta 1919 Legacy Circle.

The Zonta 1919 Legacy Circle was established for Zontians wishing to leave a legacy gift to ensure Zonta's future. The Circle reflects the essence and enduring impact of Zontians' collective efforts. It honors Zonta's rich history of support, which began with the earliest members in 1919, and focuses on the legacy members aim to build together for many years to come.

Through planned giving, donors are able to make a significant philanthropic commitment, and many donors find this option to be more comfortable than doing so during their lifetime. There are many types of planned and life-income gifts that can offer benefits to donors and their families, in addition to funding Zonta International's work.

[Find out how here.](#)

