



## **Zonta Club President's Year Summary June 2018- May 2019**

### **Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland**

#### **Club Highlights**

##### **Service**

**Advocacy (include End Child Marriage involvement, if any, and Say No to Violence Against Women Campaign)**

##### **Scholarships**

##### **Membership/Mentoring**

##### **Centennial Planning/Celebrations**

##### **Fundraising**

##### **Special Events**

##### **Club Sales**

Thank You for taking the time to complete this report!

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### **Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland**

#### **Club Highlights**

#### **Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland Receives a Prestigious Award**



On April 13, 2019, the Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland was honored by the The Prince Georges' County(M) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated at its An Emerald & Diamond Affair at the MGM National Harbor for excellence in International Trends and Services. On behalf of the club, I accepted a beautiful crystal award.



There were many dignitaries as well as several Club members in attendance.

### **Vienna, Austria**

On May 23-24, 2019, I attended Zonta International's Conference on Force and Early Marriage: A Severe Human Rights Violation.



Zonta International President Susanne von Bassewitz joined a panel of experts from Interpol, Worldbank, the UN Office of Drugs and Crime and EndFGM to discuss forced and early marriage. This conference, Forced and Early Marriage: A Severe Human Rights Violation, introduced the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage. This program is present in 12 countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia and is made possible with the support of Zonta International.

Dinner with other Zontains from around the world who attended the conference





**Celebration of Annapolis Club 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



I represent our club at the anniversary dinner celebrating the Annapolis Club 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Doubletree Hotel in Annapolis. It was my honor to attend this event to celebrate their many years of service and advocacy. Public officials as well as Zonta members from other clubs were in attendance.

**Girls on the Run Donation**



During the Are 3 & 4 Conference we collected gift cards that were then donated to the Girls on the Run organization. At the presentation were Karen Jarvis, Howard County Club President and District 3 Board members who gave remarks.

### **Centennial Planning/Celebrations**

The Club will host a 5k/walk on September 28<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness about Zonta and its anniversary. The Club is also planning a centennial dinner meeting to celebrate 100 years of Zonta on November 8, 2019.

### **Service**

The Service committee continued to use the "Umbrella Concept" for programming, where more than one committee plan and work together. This allows the abilities for committees under the direction of a board member as one of her duties, to carry out activities which could not be accomplished alone. It also allows members to share their expertise, experiences and to have a sense of support to each other's committee. Further, it increases brand and public awareness through consistent messaging and programming.

### **Local Service Project Prince George's County Family Justice Center**



The Prince George's County Family Justice Center (FJC) was designed to offer victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and elder abuse with a place where they could get the services, they need without having to go from one end of the county to the other to get help.

Family Justice Center Service Project this year was the Young Mother's Kit which included care packages and other needed items: The committee purchased and assembled 100 Zonta Care Packages and baby pampers which were distributed at the Family Justice Center. The Zonta care packages included: toothpaste, toothbrushes, antibacterial wipes, deodorant, and women sanitary products. The packages were assembled at a Zonta member's home. All Zonta Club members of Mid-Maryland were invited to assist as an opportunity to fellowship with each other.

We Donate 21 Gift Cards for FJC holiday party. The cards were for teens in the amount of \$25.00. The committee donated 21 gift cards in the amount of \$25.00 each for teens attending the Family Justice Center Christmas party. Gifts are often donated for young children and teens are often left; therefore, this was a fitting gift for the teens.

**Free the Girls Bra Campaign:**



The Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland continued its program to collect new and gently used bras for Free the Girls, an organization devoted to helping girls rescued from sex trafficking. Mozambique, El Salvador, and Uganda are just three of the countries that face high numbers of human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Survivors can earn a safe income selling bras in the second-hand market place. Zonta collected bras at our meetings and events to donate to Free the Girls, is an ongoing program and the bras are collected at club meeting and in partnership with at Mane Envy Salon & Spa in Bowie, Maryland.

We collected 207 bras and mailed them to the Free the Girls Organization. These new and gently used bras will help formerly sex trafficked women support themselves and their families.

### **Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland Scholarship**

The Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland Scholarship for young mothers attending Prince George's Community College is a scholarship that awarded annually. It is designed to help young mothers pay for added expenses related to obtaining childcare, transportation, and food while attending Prince George's Community College. The 2018 award is \$1,500 dollars. The scholarship is publicized in the Prince George's Community College Fall Scholarship Guide. Our scholarship is on page 27 of the guide.

### **Young Women in Public Affairs Award Program**

Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland presented a \$500 award for the Zonta International 2019 Young Women in Public Affairs Award Program. The application of the young lady, Grace Sweetak, who received the award especially resonated with the selection committee because of her leadership roles and volunteerism which specifically related to her service as a role model for other girls. Grace stated in her winning YWPAA application that girls her age often struggles with the idea of looking strong. She said that she wants to teach young girls that the idea of strength is a positive attribute so they can grow up feeling self-empowered.

The award winner was honored at the Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland April club meeting where she and her parents enjoyed the club dinner and was presented a certificate and her monetary award. A press release was issued publicizing information about the award winner.

### **Zonta International Jane Klausman Women in Business Scholarship**

The Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland sought applications for the Jane Klausman Women in Business Scholarship. The club publicized information about the scholarship via a press release and the Zonta Club Mid-Maryland website: [www.zontaclubofmidmaryland.org](http://www.zontaclubofmidmaryland.org). We received one application and It was submitted to the district.

### **Zonta Technology Scholarship**

Information regarding this scholarship was put on the website of our club.

### **Membership/Mentoring**

The Zonta Club of Mid Maryland continues to have a very strong and active membership. Our long term and short-term goals are to show a net increase in



membership each year. There are two membership intakes: one based on attendance at a ZING; and the other based on the attendance of at least one meeting. Information is provided about Zonta at all service and advocacy events. We continue to hold retreats for members that are educational to also include a fun "Agenda".

During each club year, members have at least attended an area, district or international meeting. After the meetings a report is given back to the body of the Club. Delegates are provided registration and hotel expenses.

Finally, our members understand that they are expected to help each other no matter what committee they are serving on. Members provided good support and participation in our advocacy, service and fundraising activities.

### **Advocacy**

The Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland was very active in 2018-2019 as we participated in many advocacy programs and events. We were effective advocates and community leaders on women's issues. We actively engaged in advocacy activities to improve the status of women in the areas of education, health, legal, political and human rights issues such as ending early childhood marriage, violence against women, and human trafficking. We supported legislation that advanced the objectives of Zonta and its commitment to women. We collaborated with like-minded organizations who shared our goals and helped us to further our mission to include 5 other Zonta clubs in Maryland. We developed and implemented several advocacy and service projects.

#### **November 17, 2018 - Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women Conference**

Members of the Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland attended the MLAW Fall Agenda Conference: "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: What Rights are at Stake at the Federal Level and What Maryland Can Do to Protect Them," at Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore, Maryland. MLAW is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent, voice for Maryland women and families.

The group advocates for progressive legislation and policies that promote and protect the well-being of Maryland women and their families and provide them with opportunities to develop their full potential. The conference was outstanding and featured several informative workshops, a keynote speaker, and state representatives presented a summary of pending legislation in Maryland that affects women and children.

During the Fall Agenda Conference, club members networked with several women from various organizations throughout the area and passed out Zonta's (Says No to Domestic Violence) literature. Our Club Members dressed in yellow Zonta T-shirts to raise awareness about the Zonta mission and goals to eliminate early childhood marriage, and human trafficking of women and girls. Club members communicated with several attendees about Zonta International, Inc. Club members also passed out pamphlets regarding the Prince George's County Family Justice Center, an organization that provides an array of co-located services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and elder abuse.



The Stepping Out of Domestic Violence Shoe Exhibit created by club members consisted of a collection of barely used shoes that were placed in a central location inside the mall and served as a silent vigil against domestic violence. The display represented local women and children who were killed because of domestic violence and those who have survived, left violent relationships and rebuilt their lives. There is a personal story behind each pair of shoes such as a story of survival or a story of hope.



While at the Shops at Iverson, club members spoke to several holiday shoppers about Zonta's mission and commitment to end domestic violence, including victims of domestic violence and those whose relatives were incarcerated because they committed domestic violence crimes. Club members also passed out purple ribbons in honor of domestic violence month, stickers, pamphlets, and Zonta Says No to Domestic Violence literature. Our hope is that the Stepping Out of Domestic Violence exhibit not only raised the level of awareness about domestic violence, but that it encouraged members of our community to engage in dialogue and action that can help eradicate this problem.

**January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019**



Five members from Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland attended the Women's Legislative Briefing. We wore Zonta scarves and each attended 2-3 workshops that address issues that affect women and girls throughout Maryland.

### **January 23rd, 2019 - I Stand with Bennett Campaign**

For many years, Bennett College founded in 1873, a pillar of education for education for African American women. In recent years fell on financial hard times and was at risk of losing its accreditation due to lack of financial resources



Zonta of Mid-Maryland pledged to participate in this giving campaign referred to as #StandWithBennett to foster appeal to remain accredited by SACSCOC. Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland raised money among its members and donated \$1,000 within 24 hours.

### **February 11, 2019 - Domestic Violence Vigil in Annapolis**

Several members of the Advocacy Committee attended the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) 2019 Statewide Domestic Violence Memorial Service. This candlelight service is just one of many ways to support victims, their families, and survivors.





**February 28, 2019**

**Zonta Day in Annapolis**



On February 28, 2019 members of the Zonta-Club of Mid-Maryland Co-hosted, along with Senator JoAnne Benson, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Zonta Club Day in Annapolis. The

purpose of Zonta Club Day in Annapolis was to raise Zonta's visibility in Annapolis, and to advocate for bills affecting women and girls.

This year our second Zonta Club Day in Annapolis included representation from five of the six clubs in Maryland to include Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland, Zonta Club of Annapolis, Zonta Club of Howard County, Zonta Club of Frederick, and Zonta Club of Charles County. We stood out and received rave reviews for the yellow Zonta scarves and black suits that we wore. We began at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast, were greeted by our District 3 Governor - Joann Gallos, Area Wide Director - Pat Rosensteel, Delegate Susie Proctor, and many other staff members of several senators and delegates.

During the day, members of Maryland's General Assembly greeted us. We ended our day with a sisterhood luncheon for all clubs in partnership with this event. We also toured the Maryland General Assembly and the Governor's Mansion referred to as Government House as well as watched members of the Senate and the House debate and pass bills.

Five members representing three Zonta clubs were escorted on the floor of the Senate to observe the Senators debate and vote on legislation first hand. In addition, Senator Benson gave us an outstanding introduction from the floor and in recognition of Zonta International's 100 Year Centennial Anniversary and presented us with a Proclamation from The Maryland General Assembly. We were well received by all in attendance. We invited all clubs in Maryland in an effort to collaborate on issues affecting women that we are all concerned about such as domestic violence and human trafficking.





After lunch we met with Delegate Ron Watson and Delegate Erek Barron regarding Zonta's mission, priorities, the bills we support, testifying at committees and future speaking opportunities in Annapolis.





### **Summary of Bills Zonta Supports and Is Advocating For**

#### **Senate Bill 209 (Senator Bobby Zirron); House Bill 122 (Delegate Cathleen Dumais) Protective Orders – Relief Eligible – Rape and Sexual Offenses**

This bill alters the definition of "person eligible for relief" in a domestic violence protective order to include any individual who alleges s/he is a victim of a rape or sexual offense. This bill also removes them from the peace order to clarify that these victims are eligible to receive all of the protections of a protective order rather than a peace order.

For many years, domestic violence and sexual assault advocates have worked to have the protective order (PO) cover victims who were in dating relationships and victims of sexual assault. By clarifying that this group of victims is eligible for a PO, it provides them with the special protections of a protective order that are not included in peace orders, e.g. longer order, removal of firearms, more robust response by law enforcement.

#### **Senate Bill 688 (Senator Susan Lee); House Bill 0827 (Delegate Brooke Lierman) Juvenile Law - Sex Trafficking – Immunity, Services, and Investigations (Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act of 2019)**

This bill would require a law enforcement officer who has reason to believe that a certain child is a victim of sex trafficking to notify a regional navigator; that a minor who is reasonably believed to have engaged in prostitution be treated as a victim of sexual abuse and have access to immediate child-centered and trauma-informed services. This bill would also provide certain immunity for a minor who engages in certain prostitution-related conduct.

**Senate Bill 738 (Senator Susan Lee); House Bill 634 (Delegate Karen Lewis-Young)**  
**Labor and Employment - Wage History and Wage Range**

This bill would ensure women are not forced to carry lower earnings and pay discrimination with them from job to job by prohibiting employers from seeking and relying on job applicants' salary history and by requiring employers to provide the salary range for a position upon a job applicant's request.

Employers' use of this information in the hiring process has a disproportionately negative impact on women and people of color, who face bias in the workplace and are typically paid less than white, non-Hispanic men. It also penalizes individuals who reduced their hours or left their prior job to care for children or other family members, or who worked for the nonprofit or public sector, and whose prior salary, consequently, doesn't reflect their qualifications or current market conditions.

**March 6, 2019**

Members of the Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Links at the Legislature at the Lowe House Office Building in Annapolis, Maryland. The purpose of this event was to network with members of the various Links chapters across the state and to advocate for house bills affecting the health and education of children in Maryland. The day started with a legislative update on several bills. Also, several presenters discussed issues related to children's mental health, impact of the opioid's epidemic on children, and financial wealth vs. high income. Club members were also joined by members of the Maryland General Assembly for lunch and a tour of the Governor's mansion.

**Donations**

We donated over 50 pairs of new and gently used ladies' shoes to the Salvation Army in Waldorf, Maryland.

The Club and its members continue to donate to the Zonta International Foundation for International Service.

## **Public Relations**

The Club published its first brochure about the Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland and its mission. We also issued press releases about various Club events such as scholarships and activity

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## **Fundraising**

The Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland held its annual Dinner Dance February 16, 2019. This year's theme was the Heart & Soul of Motown.



Zonta of Mid-Maryland displayed The Stepping Out of Domestic Violence Shoe Exhibit to further spread the word about our mission at our annual fundraiser where 430 guests attended and reviewed literature about domestic violence, ending early childhood marriage and other initiative in just three years, in total our club grossed more than \$50,000.

In conclusion, it has been a privilege to serve as President of this Club. The success of the Club should be credited to the very dedicated Board and Members of the Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland.