

THE ZONEWS

February 2025
Volume No 71



ZONTA CLUB OF ST. CLOUD

Board of Directors—
FY 2024-25

- **President:** Rachel Thompson
- **Vice President:** Lyndsey Stram
- **Treasurer:** Lyndsey Stram
- **Recording Secretary:** Mary Garding
- **Communications Secretary:** Rachel Thompson
- **Board Members- 2nd term**
 - **Glenny Olufson**
 - **Kati Blum**
- **Board Members - 1st Term**
 - **Carol Barrymore**
 - **Mary Robak-Saari**
- **Past President:** Laurie Oppel

NOTICE:



**KAYAKING MEETING FEB 26
REACH OUT TO ALICIA TO
GET INVOLVED!**

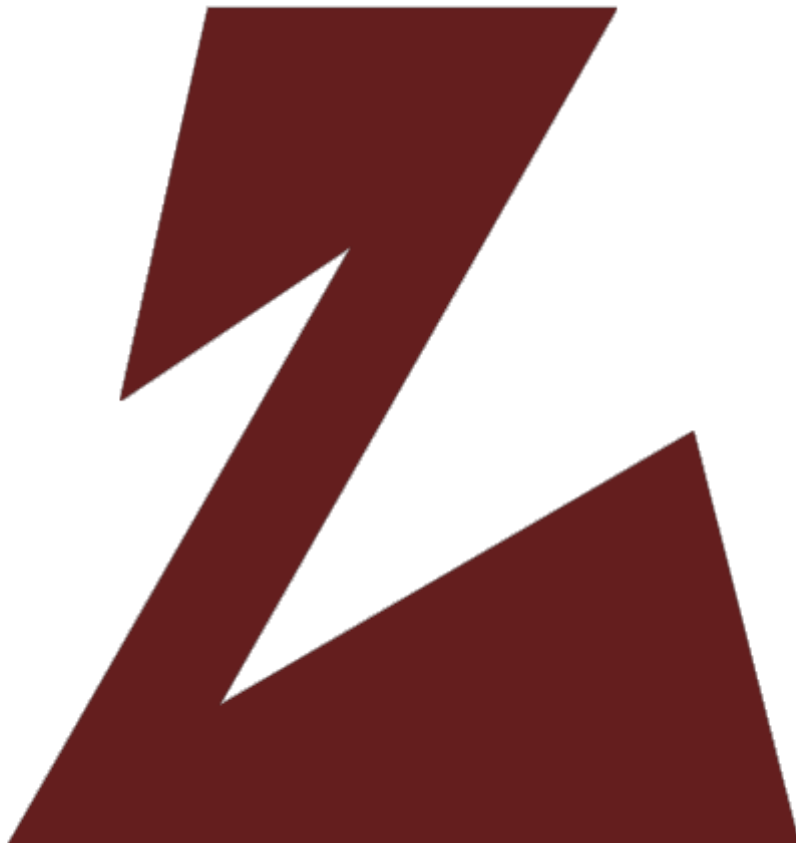
THIS EDITION:

**Calendar of Events
Meeting Minutes
Financials
Club Updates**

**BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

We are announcing openings for the Executive Board for 2025–2027 (2 Board positions, a treasurer and a secretary). Please contact a committee member if you would like to nominate yourself for any of these positions. Joal Peitz, Alicia Reif or Debra Kellerman
Starting in January, the committee will begin to contact members individually, too, to put the slate together.



Zonta Club of St Cloud

Treasurer's Report

Period Ending January 31, 2025

Balance 12/31/2024 checking account	\$ 2,426.79
Receipts	
January Interest	\$ 0.20
Total Receipts	\$ 0.20
Disbursements	
Total Disbursements	\$ -
Balance 1/31/2025 Checking account	\$ 2,426.99
SAVINGS ACCOUNT REPORT	
BALANCE ON 12/31/2024	\$ 19,089.12
Receipts	
Interest January	\$ 11.35
Disbursements	
Balance 1/31/2025 Savings account	\$ 19,100.47
Total Accounts	\$ 21,527.46



Zonta Board Meeting Minutes
1/2/25
Anna Marie's Alliance, St Cloud, MN

Present: Rachel Thompson, Lyndsey Stram, Glenn Olufson, Kati Blum, Mary Robak-Saari, Mary Garding

Absent: Carol Barrymore, Laurie Ann Oppel

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order by President Rachel Thompson at 12:04pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and Zonta Blessing followed the call to order. Pin Penalty was invoked. The agenda for today's meeting was presented for approval. Mary Robak-Saari motioned to approve the agenda, Katie Blum seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Consent Agenda

Board minutes of December 2024

Treasurer's report of December 2024

Motion to approve was made by Katie Blum and seconded by Glenn Olufson. Motion was approved.

Correspondence & Requests: ZoNews has not been sent out but will include information on increase in dues, nomination form for mini grants, and ballot for Vice President.

Business:

Special Election: The ballot in January will be for just the Vice President position and one candidate, Lyndsey Stram. Bylaws allow her to hold both Vice Present and Treasurer positions until regular election.

Dues: Statement on increase in club dues will be reposted in ZoNews and voting will at next business meeting.

Mini Grants: A simple nomination form has been updated for club members to make recommendations for special grants. This is for a one-time only grant for this year. These nomination forms will be submitted to the Finance Committee and they will send out full application forms to the nominated agencies. The Finance Committee will then review the submitted applications, and make a recommendation back to the club for grants of between \$500 and \$1000.

2025 Calendar: Upcoming events were clarified for club calendar. May 8th will be an evening business meeting. April 12th is Earth Day event in St. Cloud and a member is needed to assist in organizing the Zonta Cheer Zone. April 24th will be a speaker meeting and is tentatively planned to

be at the St Cloud Library. Suggested topics for speaker meetings are welcomed. May 8th will be an evening meeting with an event to provide checks to sponsored agencies and scholarship winners. October 9th will be another evening meeting. An event similar to Brunch and Punch is tentatively planned for October 11 or 12.

Christmas House: No update at this time. Report will be provided at Business Meeting.

Advocacy Update: Upcoming events include Cheer Zone during Earth Day event in April and the Walk Together Against Trafficking on May 8th.

Service Update: Decorating cookies at Anna Marie's Alliance was on December 16th. Five families participated. This was part of an event that also included Santa Claus. This will be an annual event but next year may do gingerbread houses versus cookies. This is tentatively set for December 15th. Donations from club members paid for the event. There will be another annual event at Anna Marie's Alliance. This will be a walking taco meal and activities for the second Saturday in September. This year it will be September 13th. Members will be asked to commit to donations and/or volunteering for these upcoming events.

Membership Update: No update about follow up on the membership inquiries made during the Christmas House event. Mary Robak-Saari will do follow up with membership group.

Adjournment: Mary Garding made a motion to adjourn. Katie Blum seconded the motion. Meeting Adjourned at 12:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Garding
Recording Secretary



Zonta Business Meeting Minutes
01/09/2025
The Crooked Pint, St Cloud, MN and Zoom

Present: President; Rachel Thompson, Kati Blum, Gayle Borchert, Mary Garding, Barb Johnson, Debra Kellerman, LeAnne Miller, Glenny Olufson, Laurie Ann Oppel, Joal Peitz, Alicia Reif, Mary Robak-Saari, Shawna Retka, Belinda Ryan, Susan Voeltz, Jamie Wieneke

Absent: Jan Bensen, Carol Barrymore, Susan Dege, Deb Dingmann, Debra Eid, Deborah Grant, Karla Krueger, Linda LaSota, Alice Lenzmeier, Linda Linn, Mary Nimmerfroh, Lori Rebischke, Lyndsey Stram, Veronica Villeneuve

Guests: None

Call to Order: President Rachael Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and Zonta Blessing followed the call to order. Pin Penalty was invoked.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Kati Blum, seconded by Belinda Ryan. Motion was approved.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of Business meeting December 2024

Treasurer's reports for December 2024

Joel Peitz made a motion to approve the consent agenda as published in the ZoNews. Kati Blum seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Correspondence & Requests: Found in Zo News. This issue included future meeting dates and locations, information on increase in dues, and ballot for Vice President.

Business:

Special Election: Nomination Committee has submitted a ballot for the vacant Vice President position that resulted from Rachael Thompson moving into President position. Lyndsey Stram's name is the sole name on this ballot. Bylaws were reviewed to ensure that she may serve in the Vice President position while retaining her Treasurer position until the end of her term and the next regular election. The bylaws allow her to have both positions. Laurie Oppel made motion to elect Lyndsey Stram to Vice President position. Kati Blum seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Nomination Committee will be looking for members to fill four positions in the next election: Treasurer, Secretary and two board members. Members can nominate a member or self-nominate for the position. Committee is hoping to finalize the ballot by the end of February.

Dues: The updated increase in club dues for next year was posted in the ZoNews. The amount will simplify and provide more monetary support for local items that are needed when installing new members. Mary Garding moved to approve the new club dues amounts. Mary Robak-Saari seconded the motion. Motion was approved. It was noted that the Treasurer will be sending out statements earlier this year and expecting responses by mid-March. Included with the statement will be the opportunity to contribute to the planned service projects for the next year. This includes the taco event in September and cookie decorating in December at Anna Marie's Alliance. This makes it easier and simpler to donate to these events.

Calendar of Events: Invites to important events have been sent by email. Some specific events were noted:

- April 12th, Earth Day. Someone is needed to coordinate the event. If no one volunteers, we will not be able to participate. Last year \$500 was awarded the club for doing the event and an additional \$1000 for being judged as winning zone. Tasks in this assignment include submitting the application and then organize volunteers to participate. It was noted this date does conflict with Area meeting in Whampton for anyone planning to attend.
- April 24th, Spring Speaker Event. This will be held at the St Cloud Library and will be open to the public. Agenda will be speakers from local non-profits including Terebinth, Crisis Nursery, Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center and Anna Marie's Alliance.
- May 7th, Annual Meeting. This will be held at Brickyard in Clear Lake. There will be a short meeting prior to the social event.
- October- Fall event. Details are still pending.

Mini Grant Nominations: A nomination form was added to ZoNews and available in paper today. This is for a special one-time only grant for this year of between \$500 and \$1000. These nomination forms will be submitted to the Finance Committee by mid-February. The Finance Committee will send out full application forms to the nominated agencies. The submitted applications will be reviewed, and the Finance Committee will make a recommendation back to the club for the grants.

Christmas House: Sponsor donations were increased this year resulting in a very successful Christmas House. Committee is looking for a house for next year's event. Members are welcome to this committee along with Kayaking Committee. This last event is scheduled for August 3rd.

Service/Advocacy Updates: Decorating cookies at Anna Marie's Alliance was on December 16th. Six families participated. This was part of an event that also included Santa Claus. This will be an annual event but next year may do gingerbread houses versus cookies. This is tentatively set for December 15th. Upcoming events include Cheer Zone during Earth Day event in April and the Walk Together Against Trafficking on May 8th.

Additional Items of Importance:

- It was noted that two evening meetings are scheduled for this year especially for members who can't attend daytime meetings. These are scheduled for May and October. The meeting in October will be at Bad Habit and include opportunity for a social gathering.
- Members were asked for ideas for the October event. An idea suggested was something similar to "Dinner with Strangers" done currently in St Cloud.
- Question was asked about potential new members. Laurie Oppel indicated Connie from Crisis Nursery was undecided at this time. Laurie Oppel stated she would try again to connect with those that inquired on our website. Joal Pietz indicated she would follow up on the guest from last meeting.

Adjournment: Mary Robak-Saari moved to adjourn, seconded by Mary Garding. Meeting adjourned at 12:27 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Garding
Recording Secretary

**TWO SERVICE DAYS
AT ANNA MARIE'S
ALLIANCE IN 2025!**



**TACO
PARTY**

SEPT. 13

CELEBRATING NATIONAL
HISPANIC MONTH



MONDAY DEC 15

**GINGERBREAD
HOUSES + SANTA
FOR THE RESIDENTS**

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

WE ARE ASKING MEMBERS TO CONSIDER A \$10-20 DONATION SO THAT WE CAN PURCHASE THE SUPPLIES FOR BOTH EVENTS. THIS IS A ONE ASK FOR THESE TWO EVENTS

WE WILL ALSO NEED VOUNTEERS TO HELP SERVE/ASSIST WITH THESE DATES. CONTACT MARY GARDING + MARY ROBAK-SAARI



BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



ZONTA CLUB OF ST. CLOUD KAYAKING FOR A KAUSE

SAVE THE DATE

AUG 3, 2025

CLEAR WATERS OUTFITTING CO.

PLANNING MEEING FEB 26, EVENING

LOOKING FOR MORE COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

ZONTASTCLOUDMN.ORG



ZONTA
CLUB OF
ST CLOUD



VOICES FOR CHANGE: A Community Gathering

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 24TH 5:30-7PM

LOCATION CHANGE - TBD

Join us at the St. Cloud Public Library for an evening of education and inspiration. This event will feature short, impactful presentations from local nonprofits dedicated to supporting women and preventing violence against women.

Experience:

- **Inspiring TED Talk-style presentations:** Gain valuable insights from local experts on issues impacting women in our community.
- **Community connections:** Network with other community members passionate about women's empowerment.
- **Learn about local resources:** Discover the vital work of area nonprofits and how you can get involved.
- **Empower yourself:** Leave feeling informed, inspired, and ready to make a difference.

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

JOIN US FOR VOICES FOR CHANGE.



ZONTA ANNUAL MEETING

PRESENTATION OF
AWARDS AND BOARD
MEMBER INDUCTIONS

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

REGISTRATION
COMING SOON

**BUSINESS
MEETING
5PM**

**MAY
7**

THE BRICKYARD
BAR + GRILL EVENT ROOM
8475 Main Ave, Clear Lake,
MN 55319

**SOCIAL
5:30PM
DINNER
6PM
PROGRAM
6:30PM**

ZONTA IS A \$500 LEVEL SPONSOR

Walk TOGETHER

Uniting Against Trafficking

Saturday, May 3, 2025

Speakers 9 - 10 am, followed by a 3-mile Community Awareness Walk

Registration: 8:30 am

**Location: Compassionate Hope Family Center
121 Park Ave S, St. Cloud, MN**

Proceeds benefit Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center

Register Now!

Registration: \$20

Registration with a t-shirt: \$50 or more

T-shirt & sponsorship deadline: April 4, 2025



LIVE MUSIC!

Donny Brang

**SNACKS & BEVERAGES
PROVIDED**

**5-night cabin stay
for the person that
brings the most
first-time walkers!**

**For more prize details visit:
walktogethermn.org**



Walk Together: Uniting Against Trafficking



MINNESOTA
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE



VIOLENCE FREE
MINNESOTA



Action Day 2025

**VICTIM SERVICES ARE
PUBLIC SAFETY**

February 10th @ 2 pm
State Capitol Rotunda

AMA will be meeting with local legislators throughout the day asking for their support at the state level for Crime Victims' Services Funding. Along with our 6 statewide Crime Victims' Coalitions, we will be attending a rally at 2p at the State Capitol Rotunda.

ZONTA 2025 Calendar of Events

January 2, 2025-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

January 9, 2025– Business Meeting – Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ Noon

January 11 – Amelia Earhart Day ----

February 6, 2025-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

February 13, 2025– Business Meeting – Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ Noon

March 6, 2025-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

March 13, 2025– Business Meeting – Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ Noon

March 22, 2025- LW Voters Dinner @olde brick house 5pm

April 3, 2025-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

April 10, 2025– Business Meeting – Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ Noon

April 11-12, 2025 – Area 1+3 meetings, Wahpeton, ND

April 24, 2025- Speaker event –Voices for Change: A Community Gathering - 5:30-7PM LOCATION TBD

April 26, 2025 – Spring cupcakes for residents at AMA TBD

May 1, 2025-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

May 3, 2025- Walk Together: Uniting Against Sex Trafficking, Hosted by Shear Dynamic’s Salon, \$20 early bird fee. 8:30am registration, 9am-10:30am Speakers, 10:30am -12:00 pm Walk. Meet at the Old Ramada Inn (121 Park Ave S, St Cloud, 56301. <https://walktogethermn.org/>

May 7, 2025– Business Meeting and Annual Meeting, WEDNESDAY EVENING MEETING AT 5PM, ANNUAL MEETING TO FOLLOW. Social at 5:30, DINNER AT 6pm, program at 6:30 – **Location BRICKYARD BAR + Grill (8475 Center Street, Clear Lake, MN 55319)**

May 7, 2025- AMA’s Creating Hope Chefs Gala @ Harvester Square

WED JUNE 4, 2025- Transitional Meeting @St. Cloud Area Chamber Offices Meeting Room – Potluck 5pm

June 20-22 – 2025 Zonta North America Interdistrict – Novi, MI

August 3, 2025- Kayaking For A Cause

August 7, 2025 -Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

August 14, 2025 – Business Meeting – Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ Noon

September 4, 2025-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

September 11, 2025– Business Meeting – Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ Noon

September 13, 2025-Service Project, National Hispanic Month, TACO PARTY – Anna Marie’s Alliance

September 19-21, 2025– D7 meeting Cape Girardeau, MO

Month of October – Domestic Violence Awareness Month (Color is purple) Water Tower lighted-Purple

October 2, 2025-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

October 9, 2025– Business Meeting –@ 5:30pm – **EVENING MEETING** @ BAD HABIT BREWERY

5:30pm business meeting at Bad Habit brewery, social dinner to follow at new “The House Food Hall ” Birdie’s Pizza and Garden Bar (brick oven pizza), 98 Hawaiian Grille, and Joetown Smashburger. The food hall will also have a tap wall with 30 taps available.

October- Fall event: Saturday, OCT 11 or Sunday, OCT 12 – Themed around Women’s Mental Health and Community Conversations (Thrive Awareness/Bisharo Dadow)

Month of November - EVERY MEMBER, EVERY NOVEMBER CAMPAIGN

November 6, 2025-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

November 9, 2025 – ZONTA CLUB OF ST. CLOUD’S 75th BIRTHDAY!

November 13, 2025– Business Meeting – Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ Noon

November 21-22, 2025– Christmas House Fri 3-9pm, Sat 9am-4pm, Tickets \$20, avail at Coborns, Door or online. Each member gets 5 tickets to sell.

November 25 – December 10 – 16 Days of Activism, Light the Town Orange

December 4, 2025-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

December 11, 2025– Business Meeting – Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ Noon

December 15, 2025 – Service project at Anna Marie’s – Christmas Event (Gingerbread house decorating)