

THE ZONEWS

FEBRUARY 2024
Volume No 64, NO 1



ZONTA CLUB OF ST. CLOUD

Board of Directors-
FY 2023-24

- **President: Laurie Ann Oppel**
- **Vice President: Veronica Villeneuve**
- **Treasurer: Lyndsey Stram**
- **Recording Secretary: Mary Garding**
- **Communications Secretary: Rachel Thompson**
- **Board Members- 2nd term**
 - **Belinda Ryan**
 - **Mary Robak-Saari**
- **Board Members - 1st Term**
 - **Glenny Olufson**
 - **Kati Blum**
- **Past President: Joal Peitz**

NOTICE:

★ **FEB SOCIAL**
Lori R's House

★ **APRIL SPRING EVENT**
"SHE BLOOMS" on 4/11

THIS EDITION:

- Calendar of Events**
- Meeting Minutes**
- Financials**
- Club Updates**
- BOARD - NOMINATIONS**

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

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 1 – Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ noon

February 8 – Business Meeting– Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ noon

February 15 – – Service Social (Potluck) & Fundraiser – 5:30 pm. Bring \$10 GC’s (Walmart, Target, QuikTrip) to donate. Also, Items to donate to, and to buy from, a silent auction. Location: Lori R’s Home, 1642 Poppy Rd, St Cloud 56303 RSVP to Lori.

March 7 – Board Meeting– Anna Marie’s Alliance @ noon/Bring Your Lunch

March 14 – Business Meeting– Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ noon

March 9 – Service Project – Lunch at Anna Marie’s, 11-1 pm. Pizza and cupcakes to decorate. Cupcake walk. Balloon animals. Donations appreciated!

April 4 – Board Meeting– Anna Marie’s Alliance @ noon

April 11 – Business Meeting– Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ noon

April 11– Evening Speaker Meeting – Jules’ Bistro, Speaker is Debra Ocloo Co-founder of W.O. W. (Women of Worth). Bring a friend to make this a membership event as well. Appetizers will be provided...Free will offering. 5:30 pm

April 19 – 20: AREA MEETING IN AUSTIN, MN

April 27th– A Walk Together: Uniting Against Sex Trafficking, Hosted by Shear Dynamic’s Salon, \$30 early bird fee, After 3/31 fee is \$35. 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.

May 1– Creating Hope (Chefs Gala Supporting Anna Marie’s Alliance), Harvester Square, St Cloud.

May 2 – Board Meeting– Anna Marie’s Alliance @ noon

May 9, 16 or 23 (TBA) – Annual Meeting

June 27–30 – 2024 Zonta International Convention in Brisbane, Australia

June 30–July 2, 2024 –NAID (North American InterDistrict) Meeting–Indianapolis, IN

July 2024 – Transition Board Meeting, Date, Place and Time, TBA

August 1, 2024 –Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance at Noon

August 4, 2024– Kayaking For A Cause

August 8, 2024 – Business Meeting – Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ Noon



Zonta Board Meeting Minutes

1/4/24

Anna Marie's Alliance, St Cloud, MN and ZOOM

Present: Laurie Ann Oppel, Kati Blum, Veronica Villeneuve, Mary Robak-Saari, Belinda Ryan, Mary Garding, Rachel Thompson, Joal Peitz, Glenn Olufson

Absent: Lyndsey Stram

Guests: Debra Kellerman

The meeting was called to order by President Laurie Oppel at 12:10pm. 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 moved to approve the agenda. Belinda Ryan seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Consent Agenda

Board minutes of 12/7/23

Treasurer's report of December 2023

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

Correspondence & Requests: Found in ZoNews.

Business:

Advocacy Report: In December we had the 16 days of Advocacy which included lighting up the I35 Bridge. Some pictures were collected of places lite up orange to share with sponsor that donated lights.

Service Report: December was a brunch and cookies decorating event at Anna Marie's Alliance. Next event will be in March and include pizzas and cupcakes. In April there will be the walk against sex trafficking. More St Cloud Zonta specific pamphlets will be needed for a table at this event. Rachel Thompson indicated she has them updated and available to print.

Marketplace Report: The committee of Katie Blum, Alice Lenzmeier, Carol Barrymore, Laurie Ann Oppel and Joal Peitz will met at Joal's House on 1-26-24 at 5pm to discuss ideas. If there are items of general interest to the public, they can be displayed during the April walk against sex trafficking. Any leftover orange lights will be added to Marketplace.

Christmas House: Report was presented in December. Event was successful and nothing to add.

Business Meeting Location: Meeting will be at Crooked Pint. Issue from last month has been resolved.

Finance/cash flow report: Cash flow report from December will be updated for the \$250 allocated to Service Committee. Legal bill paid with club funds as well as expenses for fund raisers are expected to be allocated back to club from the foundation.

January Trivia: Laurie Ann Oppel will present trivia for January meeting and Veronica Villeneuve will do February.

Nominations for 2025 Board positions: Information was sent to club members about either nominating or self-nominating individuals for open Board positions.

Delegate for 2024 Brisbane International Convention: Delegate information was sent to club members by email and will also be put into newsletter. Interested individuals can submit name and/or application. Club will vote on nominations.

Zonta Banner: A promotional banner was to be ordered for our club. This will be needed in April for the walk. Debra Kellerman will do follow up and reach out to Zonta International about options.

Adjournment – Mary Robak-Saari made a motion to adjourn. Belinda Ryan seconded the motion.
Meeting Adjourned at 12:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Garding
Recording Secretary



Zonta Business Meeting Minutes
1/11/2024
The Crooked Pint, St Cloud, MN and ZOOM

Present: Laurie Ann Oppel, President; Katie Blum, Gayle Borchert, Susan Dege, Mary Garding, Deborah Grant, LeAnne Miller, Joal Peitz, Lori Rebeschke, Alicia Reif, Mary Robak-Saari, Belinda Ryan, Rachel Thompson, Susan Voeltz.

Absent: Veronica Villeneuve, Vice President; Carol Barrymore, Jan Bensen, Deb Dingmann, Debra Eid, Vickie Erickson, Debra Kellerman, Cindy Slivnik, Lyndsey Stram, Karla Krueger, Linda LaSota, Alice Lenzmeier, Linda Linn, Mary Nimmerfroh, Glenn Olufson, Kayla Perlinger,

Guests: None

Call to Order: President Laurie Ann Oppel called the meeting to order at 12:02p.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 Mary Robak-Saari, seconded by Belinda Ryan. Motion was approved.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of Business meeting on 12/14/23

Treasurer's reports for December

Katie Blum made a motion to approve the consent agenda as published in the ZoNews. Belinda Ryan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

January: This month is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. The color for this is blue.

Advocacy Report: In December we had the 16 days of Advocacy which included lighting up the I35 Bridge and St Cloud water tower. Veronica Villeneuve collected pictures of places lite up in orange. These were shared with Batteries Plus who sponsored the lights.

Service Report: A brunch and cookie decorating event was held in December at Anna Marie's Alliance. Thanks to the volunteers who served about 23 individuals. The next event planned is March 9th with pizza and a cupcake walk. Volunteers will be needed for serving at the event and/or for donations. Zonta will also be participating in the Sexual Trafficking Awareness walk scheduled for April. This will be from 9am to 12Noon on 4-29-24. Proceeds go to Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center. There is a \$30 registration fee which includes a shirt for the participant. In the past Zonta has been a sponsor to the event. Motion made by Mary Robak-Saari to sponsor at \$500 level. The motion as seconded by Belinda Ryan. Motion carried.

February Social: Lori Rebeschke indicated she may be able to host this event on 2-25-24. Club members should plan to bring gift cards and silent auction items. This will be a fun night and money raised will be split between Terebinth, Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center and Anna Marie's Alliance.

Financial Spreadsheet: Spreadsheet currently indicated approximately \$12,000 of spendable money. Funds were received from foundation. Investments of approximately \$75,000 have taken place on the foundation site. Motion

was made by Deb Grant to accept report. Rachel Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Question was raised about highlighted items on Treasurer's report in ZoNews. This was explained as just highlighting the totals. Foundation financial report will be prepared periodically, typically as often as the Zonta Board meets.

Club Nominations 2025: Members are encouraged to self-nominated as well as provide other nominations. Open positions include Vice President and two Board positions.

Zonta International Convention: This conference will be June 27-30 in Brisbane Australia. With the addition of one new member, our club can send two delegates and two alternates. Currently there are 5 applications for those positions. Anyone else wanting to volunteer must do so by Friday, January 12th. On Monday, January 15th, an email will be sent asking all members to vote for delegate and alternate positions. This ensures those individuals can register early.

New Member: Application for Shauna Retka was presented. She was a Zonta member in a South Dakota site. She moved to St. Cloud and works in wealth management. Deb Grant moved to accept her as a new member to St Cloud Zonta Club. Katie Blum seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Area Meetings: Club members should plan for attending our Area Meeting for 1 and 3 in Austin on April 19 and 20. Meetings for Areas 2 and 4 will be in Kansas City on April 26 and 27.

Chefs Gala: A fund raiser for Anna Marie's Alliance will be held on 5-2-24 at Harvester Square, top floor of local distillery. This will be the third annual event featuring local chefs and competition with their various specialties. This event will also have a silent auction.

Trivia: Laurie Ann Oppel indicated question of what day of the year is Emelia Earhart Day? Sue Voeltz was winner of prize with answer of today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sister Colleen Haggerty, past Zonta Member, passes away today. Information about services will be sent out by email.

Adjournment: Rachel Thompson moved to adjourn, Seconded by Belinda Ryan. Meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Garding
Recording Secretary

Zonta Club of St Cloud

Treasurer's Report

Period Ending Jan. 30, 2024

Balance 12/31/23 checking account	\$ 2,691.29
Receipts	
	\$ -
Lightbulb Revenue	\$ 300.00
Interest Jan	\$ 0.52
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
Total Receipts	\$ 300.52
Disbursements	
Christmas House	\$ 1,023.33
A Walk Together Sponsorship	\$ 500.00
	\$ -
Total Disbursements	\$ 1,523.33
Balance 1/31/24 Checking account	\$ 1,468.48
SAVINGS ACCOUNT REPORT	
BALANCE ON 12/31/23	\$ 21,889.55
Interest Jan	\$ 18.59
Balance 1/31/24 Savings account	\$ 21,908.14
Total Accounts	\$ 23,376.62



ZONTA

CLUB OF
ST CLOUD

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – two years – vote for one

- Veronica Villeneuve
-

President Elect – two years – vote for one

- Gayle Borchert
- Rachel Thompson

Board – two years – vote for two

- Carol Barrymore
- Susan Dege
- Mary Robak-Saari (incumbent)

Nominations Committee – one year - vote for three

- Debra Kellerman
- Joal Peitz
- Alicia Reif

Continuing Communications Secretary (ZoNews): Rachel Thompson

Continuing Board Members: Kati Blum & Glenn Olufson (2nd year of term)

Board Member Terms Ending: Mary Robak-Saari & Belinda Ryan

Nominations Committee Members: Debra Kellerman, Joal Peitz, Alicia Reif

The Nominating Committee thanks everyone for their nominations and/or self-nominations. This slate will be presented at the February business meeting and will be opened for any additional nominations. Voting will take place at the March business meeting.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Zonta's Service social

15 FEBRUARY
AT 5:30 PM

PLEASE BRING:

**POTLUCK ITEM + GIFTCARDS (WALMART, TARGET,
GAS \$10 INCREMENTS)**

**MONEY FOR BIDDING ON RAFFLE
BASKETS**

LORI R'S HOUSE

1642 Poppy Rd. St. Cloud MN 56303

RSVP TO LORI R: 320-249-2780

**CAN'T MAKE IT?
BRING DONATIONS
TO THE FEB
BUSINESS
MEETING**

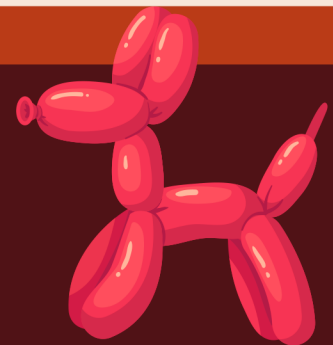
PIZZA

TIME



MARCH 9TH 11AM-1PM
AT ANNA MARIE'S

VOLUNTEER TO HELP + WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS



BALLOON ANIMALS FROM AMA STAFF

PLEASE DONATE CASH OR FOOD DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THIS EVENT
CUPCAKES, DECORATING ITEMS, FROSTING, PIZZA FIXINGS, ETC



ZONTA
CLUB OF
ST CLOUD

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

SHE BLOOMS

Inspiration and Empowerment Gathering
Featuring Debora Ocloo with the WOW program

APRIL 11TH

SOCIAL HOUR 5:30, SPEAKER 6pm

JULES' BISTRO EVENT SPACE IN
THE REGENCY PLAZA
#912 W ST GERMAIN STREET
ST CLOUD, MN 56301

RSVP TO: VERONICA.VILLENEUVE@UBS.COM BY APRIL 4TH



Debora Ocloo is a member of the St. Cloud Police Department working with the Community Response Team (CRT) since 2016. She co-founded the Cop House Women of Worth (WOW) program in 2020 with Taylor Richmond and has been co-running it with Lauren Weisser and Hakima Siyad. The WOW program is designed to mentor the transition from adolescence to womanhood, instilling qualities of leadership, responsibility, strength, confidence, and respect, and pairing them with mentors from different walks of life.

FREE TO ATTEND

PLEASE BRING
A DONATION FOR THE
WOW PROGRAM

- Feminine Hygiene products
- Beauty products
- Towels
- Winter jackets & boots
- Clothes
- Fishing poles
- Arts & Crafts items
- Journals
- Camping gear



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL



ZONTA ST. CLOUD:

Delegate selection for 2024 Brisbane Convention

D1=Deb K

D2=Gayle B

A1=Deb G

A2=Sue D

REGISTER TODAY!

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.



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 7

SAVE THE DATE

AUSTIN, MN
ZONTA AREA 1 + 3 MEETING

Leadership Development: Find your seat at the Table!
ZONTADISTRICT7.ORG

APRIL 19, 2024

Spam Museum Tour + Dinner

FRIDAY
ACTIVITIES

APRIL 20, 2024

Tania Hughes-Kremers Governor's Report

Zonta Foundation Report, Bountiful Baskets, provided by Area 1 & 3 Clubs

D7 Membership Growth & Club Creation Update

Marketplace for Clubs

Leadership Development: Find Your Seat at the Table!

**AND Guest speakers on public leadership opportunities,
trivia, Club round tables, advocacy actions.**

SATURDAY

Zonta Club of St Cloud

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League of Women Voters of the St. Cloud Area

~ Invites you to ~

**A Celebration Commemorating the 104th Anniversary
of the founding of the League of Women Voters**

**Kelly Inn, 100 4th Avenue South, St Cloud, MN
Saturday, February 17, 2024
4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

"Ramifications of the New Civics Education Law"



Colleen Marquardt



Jen Lessinger

**Guest Speakers:
Colleen Marquardt, Apollo H. S.
Jen Lessinger, Technical H.S.**

Beginning in 2024, Minnesota high school students will be required to take a government and citizenship class in grade 11 or 12. Our guest speakers, both social studies teachers in SD #742, will discuss what's involved and how District schools and teachers are preparing. Will implementing the mandate prepare graduating seniors for more informed civic engagement?

Schedule

4:30 pm – 5:15 pm Registration/social hour/cash bar and appetizers

5:15 pm – 6:00 pm Speakers

6:15 pm - 7:00 pm Catered dinner with three (3) menu choices

Deadline for registration is Thursday February 8, 2024.

To RSVP, please complete and mail page two indicating your meal options along with your payment.

**League of Women Voters of the St Cloud Area
104th Anniversary Celebration**

Saturday, February 17, 2024, 4:30pm

Menu Choices: (Indicate menu choice for each attendee when completing form.)

- **Sautéed Chicken Breast** with Rosemary Cream sauce, served with rice pilaf and fresh vegetables
- **Broiled Canadian Fresh Walleye** served with garlic mashed potatoes and fresh vegetables
- **Butternut Squash Ravioli** and sweet potatoes in a pesto cream sauce, topped with Parmesan and fried sage.

All dinners served with traditional house salad with Ranch or French dressing, and fresh-baked bread. Coffee and tea included. Cash bar will be available.

Name of attendee(s):	Menu choices: (Select one per person.)
1. _____	Chicken ____ Walleye ____ Vegetarian ____
2. _____	Chicken ____ Walleye ____ Vegetarian ____
3. _____	Chicken ____ Walleye ____ Vegetarian ____

Meals Total: Number of guests _____ x \$35 per person = \$ _____
Meals Total

In support of the efforts of LWVSCA in this election year, please consider a tax-deductible donation to help ***Make Democracy Work.***

1. Champion of Democracy Level, \$100 Level	\$100 x _____ =	\$ _____
2. Defender of Democracy, \$65 Level	\$ 65 x _____ =	\$ _____
3. Advocate of Democracy, \$		\$ _____
	Contributions Total: =	\$ _____

Meals Total + Contributions Total = Payment Due \$ _____

Please complete and print form, and mail with a check made out to **LWVSCA** to:

Karen Langsjoen
911 36th Ave N
St Cloud, MN 56303

Thank-You!

December 2023 Year End Update
"Giving Up Is Not An Option!"

Dear Sponsors,

We have been able to hold true to our motto above this past year through you, our sponsors. Thankfully, our sponsorship family has continued to grow, and the monetary resources provided through the sponsorships and other donations continue to provide for the education of the children at the HAC-Haiti school, Institution Mixte Shalom des Freres, in Croix des Bouquets, Haiti. The present enrollment is nearing 200, but feeding these children costs more now than when the school was at its highest enrollment of 650. Students are returning that had previously fled the area, and new students are enrolling. Hopefully, HAC-Haiti can continue to support this growing population of students with your continuing support.

HAC-Haiti also continues to provide an education for many displaced students attending school elsewhere in Haiti through your support, such as the relocated girls in the OCAM orphanage. Because of a loss of several high school teachers, the school is now only enrolling preschool through ninth grade students. Many older students are being helped to study elsewhere through sponsorships. In addition, many graduates are also continuing their education through a scholarship program. Two other programs for graduates are the Women in Construction and Agriculture Program. The Ag program is utilizing the acreage behind the school for training as well as a much needed food source. Four graduating classes are now helping to move Haiti forward.

Fuel is difficult to find and afford, as are most goods, as ports are often under gang control. The well at the school continues to provide clean water to the community with 8,000 gal. pumped daily. This is imperative to staunch the spread of cholera.

Security has become a large expense as gang activity continues in Croix des Bouquets. Keep in mind this community is only seven miles from the capital of Port au Prince, which is now 80% gang controlled. An outside, private security team was hired after the shooting death of one of the school's own guards in 2022. The cost of this private protection comes at a higher price. Teachers are being escorted to school for their safety as well.

The safe house, for girls that had been molested by gang members, had to be relocated, as the security at the house in Croix des Bouquets was being threatened. Our orphan girls' home continues to be relocated after the attack in 2022.

A new program for gang prevention mediation is working with students on saying no to gang involvement. This involves even the girls, as the gangs use them as mules to deliver and bring things back to them.

The school along with the entire community was recently on lockdown for two weeks. The leader of the gang in control in Croix des Bouquets was killed, and a rival gang tried to take over the community. During the unrest the brother of one of our graduates was killed going out to get food. Luckily no damage was sustained in the school compound. The school will only close for a couple of days over Christmas because of this lost time and the need for stability in the lives of the children.