

THE ZONEWS

OCTOBER 2025
Volume No 75



ZONTA CLUB OF ST. CLOUD

Board of Directors-
FY 2025-2026

- **President: Rachel Thompson**
- **Vice President: Lyndsey Stram**
- **Treasurer: Shawna Retka**
- **Recording Secretary: Mary Garding**
- **Communications Secretary: Rachel Thompson**
- **Board Members- 2nd term**
 - **Carol Barrymore**
 - **Mary Robak-Saari**
- **Board Members - 1st Term**
 - **Gayle Borchert**
 - **Susan Voletz**
- **Past President: Veronica Villeneuve**

NOTICE:

**MEMBERSHIP EVENT ON OCTOBER
4TH - MUSIC BINGO @ BAD HABIT
BREWERY 7PM-9PM
BRING A FRIEND!
EVENING MEETING OCT 9 at 5:30PM**

THIS EDITION:

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

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

ZONTA 2025-2026 Calendar of Events

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 2, 2025 – Take Back the Night – Lake George

October 4 Fall event: Saturday, OCT 4 Music Bingo (kick back from beer sales) at Bad Habit Brewery 7-9pm. Onsite flyers about zonta/QR to donate. JINDO music Bingo

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

- Presentation from AMA + Terebinth
- 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 9, 2025- Mid MN legal Aid, Access to Justice Luncheon

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

- Presentations from: Ellison Center, CMSAC

November 21-22, 2025– Christmas House Fri 2-8pm, Sat 9am-3pm, 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

- Presentation from: Starfish and Crisis Nursery

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

January 1, 2026-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

January 8, 2026– Business Meeting – Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ Noon

January 11, 2026 – Amelia Earhart Day (Celebrated by ZI)

February 5, 2026-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

February 12, 2026– Business Meeting – Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ Noon

March 5, 2026-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

March 12, 2026– Business Meeting – Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ Noon

March, 2026- LW Voters Dinner TBD

April 2, 2026-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

April 9, 2026– Business Meeting – Crooked Pint/Waite Park @ Noon

April, 2026 – Area 1+3 meetings, TBD

April, 2026- Speaker event TBD

April, 2026 – Spring cupcakes for residents at AMA TBD

May 7, 2026-Board Meeting – Anna Marie’s Alliance @ Noon/Bring Your Lunch

May, 2026- Walk Together: Uniting Against Sex Trafficking, Hosted by Shear Dynamic’s Salon

May 14, 2026– Business Meeting and Annual Meeting TBD

May, 2026- AMA’s Creating Hope Chefs Gala TBD

June 4, 2026- Transition Meeting TBD



Zonta Board Meeting Minutes
9/4/25
Anna Marie's Alliance, St Cloud, MN and Zoom

Present: Rachel Thompson, Gayle Borchert, Mary Garding, Shawna Retka, Mary Robak-Saari, Lauri Oppel, Lyndsey Stram, Susan Voeltz

Absent: Carol Barrymore

Guests: Debra Kellerman via phone

The meeting was called to order by President Rachel Thompson at 12:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and Zonta Code followed the call to order. Pin Penalty was invoked. The agenda for today's meeting was presented for approval. Gayle Borchert moved to approve the agenda, Mary Robak-Saari seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Consent Agenda

Board meeting minutes from August 2025
Treasurer's report of August 2025

Correspondence & Requests: Found in ZoNews

Business:

Month of October: Next month is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A request will be made to light up the I35 bridge and St Cloud water tower. Take Back the Night event which is sponsored by Sexual Assault Center is scheduled for 10-2-25. Anna Marie's Alliance is not currently sponsoring an event for that month.

Golden Z Club: Club members are meeting with Javelia Morrison-Galimore on 9-12-25 at 4:30 pm at Jule's Bistro to review chapter requirements. There are potentially 10 students already at join.

September Business Meeting: Rachel will be gone and Laurie Oppel will run the business meeting.

District 7 Conference: A basket will be completed to take to the conference. Members will be asked at the business meeting for donations for the basket.

Calendar of Events: The October calendar includes the October 4th Jindo Music Bingo event at Bad Habit. There are no costs to the club but the club will receive funds based on drink sales. The October business meeting will be at 5:30pm on the evening of October 9th and

include presentations from Anna Marie's Alliance and Terebinth Refuge. It will be a standard business meeting with a social after the meeting. October 29th is The Terebinth breakfast and club members will be encouraged to attend. Also Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid will have their lunch on 10-9-25. Members who register should indicate they are Zonta members to sit together.

Advocacy and Service Update: Take Back the Night event is scheduled for October 2nd. The plan is to borrow the tree again from St Cloud college to display names from homicide report on purple butterflies. The next service event will be serving tacos at Anna Marie's on 9-13-25. Volunteers will be needed to assist in serving. Anna Marie's Alliance Open House is scheduled for 10-3-25 from 3-6p. Light Up Purple events will be requested for Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Marketplace Update: The committee is working on some new items including phone bracelets and some resin pins.

Scholarship Update: No updates at this time.

Kayak Update: Over \$15,000 was raised for this event. This does include joint sponsorship support with Christmas House.

Christmas House Update: Committee is looking for decorators. The event will be posted on Facebook to advertise. The selected house is at 1408 Antler Creek Court, Sartell. There will be a decorator party on the Thursday before the event and Zonta club will be providing the food. The hours of the open house will be Friday 1pm to 8pm and Saturday 9am to 3pm.

Finance Report: No report at this time.

Adjournment: Mary Robak-Sarri made a motion to adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 12:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Garding

Recording Secretary



Zonta Business Meeting Minutes
9/11/2025
Crooked Pint, Waite Park, MN and Zoom

Present:, Laurie Ann Oppel, Acting President; Kati Blum, Gayle Borchert, Susan Dege, Mary Garding, Debra Kellerman, Joal Peitz, Shawna Retka, Lyndsey Stram, Susan Voeltz, Pat Undersander

Absent: Diane Aurthur, Carol Barrymore, Jan Benson, Paula Capes, Deb Dingmann, Debra Eid, Deborah Grant, Barb Johnson, Karla Krueger, Linda LaSota, Alice Lenzmeier, Linda Linn, LeAnne Miller, Kim Nagle, Mary Nimmerfroh, Glenny Olufson, Lori Rebischke, Alicia Reif, Mary Robak-Saari, Belinda Ryan, Rachel Thompson

Guests: Erica from Community Angels and Michele from Phases Family Support

Call to Order: Acting President Laurie Oppel called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and Zonta Code followed the call to order. Pin Penalty was invoked. Zonta Elevator Pitch was also recited along with member introductions.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Susan Dege, seconded by Gail Borchert. Motion was approved.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of Business meeting of August 2025

Treasurer's reports for August 2025

Shawna Retka made a motion to approve the consent agenda as published in the ZoNews. Debra Kellerman seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Correspondence and Requests: Found in ZoNews.

Business:

Agency Report Phases Family Support: Michele thanked the club for the support which was used to fund a recipient with unexpected expenses. Michele started this non-profit in 2012 and it a 100% volunteer organization. The organization recognizes all life phases for individuals who struggle and works to provide the support needed. This could with donated items such as food and clothing or with funds for unexpected expenses such as car repairs. Most domestic abuse survivors and/or single parents with children are often in need of diapers, wipes and similar items. The organization has funded weekend home packs for Albany School district students in need and is looking to add another school district. Since car repairs are a frequent need, they are also looking at a vehicle repair program. The immediate needs are assistance in spreading work about the agency and also monetary awards. They are also frequently in need of personal hygiene products, baby items and kitchen items.

Agency Report Community Angels: Erica works full-time at Anna Marie's Alliance. She recognized the financial barriers for individuals in difficult situations. She registered her program as a non-profit in 2020. The program does not get any state or federal funding. It relies solely on private donors. She now receives referrals from counties and school districts. She often works to provide clothing needs but also miscellaneous needs such as getting ID and birth certificates needed to get a job. She thanked the club for the grant that provided the funds to get that information and assistance in avoiding an eviction. Their ongoing needs are on their Amazon wish list and website.

Calendar of Events: October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The I35 bridge will be lite up in purple on 10-2-25. On 10-4-25 there will be Jindo Music Bingo at Bad Habit Brewery. On 1-9-25, the business meeting will be at 5:30pm at Bad Habit Brewery including speakers from Terebinth and Anna Marie's Alliance. There will also be a social after the meeting.

Advocacy and Service Update: The next service event will be serving tacos at Anna Marie's on 9-13-25. Volunteers are needed to assist in serving. More information will be sent out on Take Back the Night event on 10-2-25 and Anna Marie's Alliance open house on 10-23-25 and Anna Marie's Hope Breakfast on 10-29-25.

Marketplace Update: New phone bracelets were displayed. These will also be available at District meeting marketplace.

Scholarship Update: No updates to report at this time.

Kayak Update: No report.

Christmas House Update: The sign-up sheet for volunteers was passed around. It was announced there will be a social for volunteers and decorators on the Thursday before the open house.

Finance Update: No Update.

Zonta 75th Anniversary: No report due to time.

District Meeting: Items for basket were on display. There was no official input for delegates going to the meeting.

Adjournment: Susan Dege moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Garding

Recording Secretary



TWO MEMBERS WILL BE DELEGATES FOR D7 CONFERENCE:

- JOAL PEITZ
- SUSAN VOELTZ

Alternates will be Gayle B. and Deb K.

THANK YOU!





CONGRATULATIONS TO ST CLOUD ZONTIAN
SUSAN VOELTZ AS SHE IS INSTALLED AS AREA 2
DIRECTOR IN OUR DISTRICT 7 OF ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL ZONTA DISTRICT 7



Zonta District 7 Fall Conference – September 19-21, 2025

By: Susan Voeltz, Delegate

The Zonta District 7 Fall Conference was held in Cape Girardeau, MO. This was my first visit to this beautiful historic city along the Mississippi River between St. Louis, MO and Memphis, TN. St. Cloud was well represented by eight Zontians including those serving in leadership roles: Debra Kellerman (Area 3 Director), Gayle Borchert (Nominations Chair), Susan Dege (Parliamentarian), Joal Peitz (Delegate) and Susan Voeltz (Delegate & Area 3 Director Nominee). Zonta International Vice President Sandra Venn-Brown represented the ZI Board. She was a delightful woman from Australia and provided ZI updates, conference feedback, and energized us with her fellowship & personality.

Even though there wasn't a lot of business to vote on or resolutions to pass, we did approve \$10 district dues increase, beginning with the 2026-2028 biennium. The proposed budget was approved for 360 members although current district membership is 314. This dues increase will help offset the deficit we are expecting and will reduce the amount we need to draw from district reserves to balance the budget. Membership continues to be a challenge as we have lost clubs and members in D7 over the past biennium. A new D7 board was elected and installed by Sandy. I was honored to be elected your Area 3 Director and look forward to serving the Minnesota clubs, beginning July 1, 2026.

We heard presentations from outstanding speakers, including topics on Financial Wellness, Estate Planning and Zonta Strategic Planning. Our own Deb Kellerman, along with Governor Jane Austin, conducted a very in-depth workshop on strategic planning for our clubs and district. Club success and membership engagement were recurring themes in these discussions.

Jane and Area 1 Director Nancy Pranke led a workshop titled: Living in a Changing World – Connecting with the Four Pillars of Zonta. Zonta Core Values are as follows: Global Community, Friendship, Integrity, Respect, and Equality & Inclusion. Look forward to hearing more about these Four Pillars and Core Values in the future as we continue to carry on Zonta's mission to Build a Better World for Women and Girls.

Personally, I learn so much at these Zonta conferences beyond what I can put in this report – I come back re-charged! These meetings are always a great time to reconnect with old friends and meet new Zontians. We hear about club successes, challenges and best practices. I highly encourage all Zontians to attend these meetings whenever possible.

Please save the dates for Zonta International Convention in Vancouver, Canada: July 11-14, 2026! It should be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Zonta and connect with members around the globe who share our passion to keep building a better world for women and girls!

Joal's Report:

It was a lot of fun and a great long trip!

Highlights: Inducted a few new board members.

Heard a very inspiring story about a woman Holly who went from trailer trash to house representative in MO.

Learned about strategic planning.

And played zingo bingo, while singing and dancing to the songs till the place closed.

Such a great experience!

Joal

FALLEVENT



OCT 4

7-9PM

BAD HABIT

BREWERY

ST. JOE, MN

Launch into fun with Jindo Music Bingo at Bad Habit Brewing and raise money for Zonta Club of St. Cloud! BINGO is FREE to play but Bad Habit will be giving Zonta a kick-back from beer sales.

Join us for a family-friendly show. It's FREE to play, with stellar prizes for winners – perfect for date nights or a fun time with family and friends!

Just scan a QR code with your phone to join the intergalactic jams. Sip on Bad Habit's craft beers or homemade sodas and know you are helping the community by supporting Zonta Club of St. Cloud!

OCTOBER EVENING MEETING

OCTOBER 9th @5:30pm

Bad Habit Brewery

Social dinner to follow at "THE HOUSE" near Bad Habit.



Zonta

CHRISTMAS HOUSE

NOV 21-22, 2025

**1408 Antler Creek Court, Sartell, MN
FRIDAY 2-8 PM, SATURDAY 9 AM - 3 PM**

**VIEW BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS CREATED
BY LOCAL BUSINESSES AND DECORATORS!**

**CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE ON-SITE FOR YOUR
EARLY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NEEDS**

The Zonta Christmas House is an annual fundraising event hosted by the local Zonta Club of St Cloud, Minnesota. The event features a local home with beautifully decorated spaces which is opened to the public for viewing. Local designers and stores transform each room of the home into a festive holiday wonderland, showcasing unique decorating styles and inspiring holiday cheer.

Proceeds from the Zonta Christmas House support non-profit agencies in our area whose missions are to empower women and build a better world for women and girls.

PURCHASE TICKETS (\$20) ONLINE OR IN PERSON AT: COBORN'S SAUK RAPIDS, ST. JOSEPH, PINECONE, COOPER AVE, AND CASH WISE WEST, ZONTA CLUB MEMBERS, AND PARTICIPATING DECORATORS. TICKETS CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED AT THE DOOR OF THE EVENT.

PURCHASE TICKETS



FOR MORE DETAILS AND TICKET INFORMATION
zontastcloudmn.org/christmas-house

The logo features the word "Zonta" in a teal, cursive font. The letter "Z" is stylized with a long, sweeping underline that curves under the word. A gold Christmas ornament with a red and white pattern is hanging from the top of the "Z".

Zonta CHRISTMAS HOUSE

CHRISTMAS HOUSE EXPECTATIONS

CLUB MEMBERS:

1. SELL AT LEAST 5 CHRISTMAS HOUSE TICKETS

A. DEB KELLERMAN WILL GET YOU YOUR TICKETS

2. WORK AT LEAST ONE SHIFT AT THE HOUSE

A. PAT UNDERSANDER HAS THE SIGN-UP SHEET.

B. FRIDAY SHIFTS

I. 2:00 - 5:00 PM

II. 5:00 - 8:00 PM

C. SATURDAY SHIFTS

I. 9:00 AM - NOON

II. NOON - 3:00 PM

III. "TEAR DOWN & CLEAN UP " 3:00 - 5:00 PM.

3. PLEASE ALSO SHARE VIA FACEBOOK OR EMAIL

ABOUT THE EVENT WITH YOUR NETWORK!



Fourteenth Annual *Access to Justice* Luncheon
A Benefit for Legal Aid's St. Cloud Office
Thursday, October 9, 2025 – 11:30-1:00 p.m.
The Park Event Center, 500 Division St., Waite Park

Save the date for Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid's Fourteenth Annual *Access to Justice* Luncheon! Join us to renew your passion and commitment for justice and hear about the impact of our critical work in the St. Cloud area.

Legal Aid provides civil legal advice and representation to thousands residing throughout Stearns County and 26 nearby counties to help meet basic needs for safety, shelter, health care, income through government assistance, and senior law.



We are honored to announce Minnesota Attorney General, Keith Ellison, as our keynote speaker. Throughout his career, Attorney General Ellison has been guided by the values of generosity and inclusion. As the People's Lawyer, Attorney General Ellison's job is to help Minnesotans live with dignity, affordability, safety, and respect. During the COVID-19 pandemic, his office enforced executive orders barring evictions and price-gouging and successfully defended the constitutionality of pandemic-related executive orders in court. We look forward to Attorney General Ellison speaking to access to justice and the current legal landscape.

If your firm or company is willing to provide sponsorship support of \$2,000, \$1,500, \$1,000 or \$500, please contact

boconnell@mylegalaid.org. Sponsors will receive recognition at the event and on promotional materials leading up to the event. Sponsors invite eight guests per table to join them at the luncheon and are welcome to fill more than one table. There will be no cost to attend. Guests will be asked to make donations to Legal Aid's St. Cloud office at the conclusion of the luncheon.

All donations benefit Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid's St. Cloud office. To register please go to the luncheon event page <https://tinyurl.com/STCL25>. If you are unable to attend the luncheon, donations may be made on-line at <https://tinyurl.com/STCL25> or you may mail your check to MMLA-St. Cloud Office, P.O. Box 886, St. Cloud, MN 56302.

Contact Barb O'Connell at (763) 377-2180 or boconnell@mylegalaid.org to sponsor or with questions.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING SHOULD SIGN UP DIRECTLY AND INDICATE THAT THEY WANT TO BE AT THE ZONTA TABLE. KARLA KRUEGER IS HOSTING A TABLE FOR US!



BIG NEWS! ♥

SINCE 1979, WE'VE PROUDLY SERVED AS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT, SUPPORTING MORE THAN 24,000 PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. FOR MANY YEARS, WE WERE BEST KNOWN AS THE LOCAL SHELTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN ESCAPING RELATIONSHIP ABUSE. WHILE THAT VITAL WORK REMAINS AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO, OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES HAVE GROWN FAR BEYOND SHELTER WALLS. TODAY, WE SERVE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS WITH A WIDE RANGE OF RESOURCES AND SUPPORT. WITH THAT GROWTH CAME THE RECOGNITION THAT OUR BRAND NEEDED TO EVOLVE, TO REFLECT WHO WE ARE AND WHO WE SERVE.

THIS REBRAND IS MORE THAN JUST A NEW LOOK, IT'S A SYMBOL OF GROWTH, INCLUSIVITY, AND OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT TO STAND BESIDE EVERY PERSON IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO NEEDS US. OUR MISSION REMAINS THE SAME TO PROVIDE EDUCATION, INTERVENTION, AND ADVOCACY TO THOSE AFFECTED BY RELATIONSHIP ABUSE WITH A HOLISTIC, ANTI-OPPRESSION FOCUS AND OUR VISION CONTINUES TO GUIDE US TO A WORLD FREE OF RELATIONSHIP ABUSE.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO THE INCREDIBLE TEAM AT MOXIE CREATIVE FOR BRINGING OUR VISION TO LIFE AND BEING SUCH A DEDICATED PARTNER WHO STANDS ALONGSIDE US EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!

Anna Marie's ALLIANCE



**GINGERBREAD
HOUSES + SANTA
FOR THE RESIDENTS**



Take Back the Night is an international rally and march organized in local communities with the purpose of unifying women, men, and children in an awareness of violence against women, children, and families. In the St. Cloud area community, the event is a collaboration of community and campus organizations and other interested persons who are ready to take a stand against violence and make the night (and day) safe for everyone.

Take Back the Night rallies have a long history, both internationally and in the U.S. In 1976, women attending the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women in Belgium marched together in solidarity, holding candles to protest the ways in which violence permeates the lives of women worldwide. The first Take Back the Night rallies and marches began in England as a protest the fear that women encountered walking the streets at night. On November 23, 1977, in Leeds, 130 women sang protests songs in the City Square; 400 marched in Manchester, 100 marched with torches in Newcastle, 80 marched in York, and hundreds invaded Soho in London.

Some sources say the first Take Back the Night march and rally in the United States was held in New York City; others say it was in San Francisco. In 1978, the march was held in San Francisco to protest a popular pornography strip. The LA march in the early 1980's was in response to the Hillside Strangler. Now rallies are held in cities and towns across the United States.

The first Take Back the Night rally and march in St. Cloud took place in 1982 and we are proud to continue this tradition.



AnnaMarie's
Alliance

Inspiring HOPE BREAKFAST



October 29th, 2025



7:30am - 9am



The Park Event Center

Join us for our annual fundraising breakfast where you will learn more about the great work of Anna Marie's Alliance and hear inspiring stories of survivors who live right here in our community.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

FREE TO ATTEND BUT MUST REGISTER:

<https://annamariesalliance.betterworld.org/events/2024-inspiring-hope-breakfast-co>

SAVE the DATE



23rd ANNUAL BENEFIT BREAKFAST

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025 | 8 AM–9 AM

ST. CLOUD RIVER'S EDGE CONVENTION CENTER

Doors open at 7 am. The event will begin promptly at 8 am.

THIS IS A NO-COST EVENT, TABLES OF 10

DO WE WANT A ZONTA TABLE??