

THE ZONEWS

September 2025
Volume No 74



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!**

THIS EDITION:

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

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



Zonta Board Meeting Minutes
8/7/25
Anna Marie's Alliance, St Cloud, MN and Zoom

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

Absent: Veronica Villeneuve

Guests: Debra Kellerman, Laurie Ann Oppel, Joel Peitz

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 minutes from June Transition meeting
Treasurer's report of July 2025

Correspondence & Requests: Found in ZoNews

Business:

Vision for the Year: Rachael Thompson presented this at the transition meeting and she will do the same at the business meeting.

Roberts Rules: The relaxed rules were reviewed at the transition meeting and will be voted on by the club at the next meeting.

Speakers at August Meeting: At the August business meeting speakers will include representatives from WOW, Catholic Charities and Place of Hope. The remaining donation recipients will speak at the September meeting.

Scholarship at August Meeting: The scholarship award recipient for Women in Business Leadership will be recognized at the August business meeting. The individual has already received her award.

Membership Update: Diane Arthur's application was reviewed. Carol Barrymore made the motion to accept her as a new member. Gayle Borchert seconded the nomination. Motion was approved. She will be inducted at the next business meeting. Laurie Oppel indicated another new member application is expected next month.

District 7 Conference: Delegates for district meeting are interested in club member input to issues requiring a vote. One item for vote will be a dues increase for the district. The last increase was 2016-2018 time frame. There was much discussion on this topic which resulted in a recommendation to increase \$10 with the ask for the district to also look their expenses. The second item for vote is continued support for the Haiti project at a district or area level. There was much discussion and consensus was to suspend and explore other options. Information on these items will be presented at business meeting for members to provide additional input for the delegates.

Calendar of Events: The October event required a change due to issues with the venue. The event will be held at Bad Habit and include Jindo Music Bingo. It is scheduled for October 4th. There are no costs to the club and no registration required for the event. There may be limited space for a large group. There will not be any presentation, but fliers could be placed at tables and Zonta banners could be in the room. There will still be the normal board meeting on October 2nd. The business meeting on October 9th will be an evening event with meeting at 5:30pm and a social after the meeting.

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 in September. Volunteers will be needed to assist in serving.

Marketplace Update: The committee is looking at ideas for new items. There was much discussion about club members wearing similar Zonta shirts at events. No decision was reached on this item.

Scholarship Update: The last award recipient will be at August business meeting.

Kayak Update: Report will be presented at next meeting.

Christmas House Update: Committee is meeting and developing plans for this event.

Finance Report: No report at this time.

Zonta 75th Anniversary: In preparation for this, there will be two committees to be formed. The first committee will deal with logistics of additional financial asks for funds. The second committee is to plan for a party/celebration event. At the next business meeting, members will be asked to join one of the committees.

Adjournment: Gayle Borchert made a motion to adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Garding
Recording Secretary



Zonta Business Meeting Minutes
8/14/2025
Crooked Pint, Waite Park, MN

Present: Rachel Thompson, President; Carol Barrymore, Jan Benson, Kati Blum, Paula Capes, Mary Garding, Debra Kellerman, LeAnne Miller, Kim Nagle, Glenny Olufson, Joal Peitz, Alicia Reif, Shawna Retka, Mary Robak-Saari, Belinda Ryan, Lyndsey Stram, Pat Undersander

Absent: Gayle Borchert, Susan Dege, Deb Dingmann, Debra Eid, Deborah Grant, Barb Johnson, Karla Krueger, Linda LaSota, Alice Lenzmeier, Linda Linn, Mary Nimmerfroh, Laurie Ann Oppel, Lori Rebischke, Susan Voeltz

Guests: Representatives from COP/WOW, Catholic Charities and Place of Hope. Scholarship winner Javelia Morrison-Galimore

Call to Order: President Rachael Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and Zonta Code followed the call to order. Pin Penalty was invoked.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Joel Peitz, seconded by Carol Barrymore. Motion was approved.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of Business meeting of May 2025
Treasurer's reports for July 2025

Alicia Reif made a motion to approve the consent agenda as published in the ZoNews. Belinda Ryan seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Correspondence and Requests: Found in ZoNews.

Business:

Agency Report COP/WOW: Representatives thanked the club for support and the grant that assisted in their mentorship program. For more information on current activities, members can follow StCloudCOPHouse on Facebook.

Agency Report Place of Hope: Pastor Carol expressed their thanks for the mini grant. They held a special women's day program with clothing shopping while also providing daycare for that time. Current needs are for twin size beds for the expanded housing project. The mattresses require plastic covers that cost \$119 each. They are also in need of a washer and dryer so there will be one on each floor.

Agency Report Catholic Charities: Representatives thanked the club for support. The funds received were used for a new washer. Their agency offers housing for homeless women with children. They can hold up to

six mothers with a total of ten children. Their biggest need is for items such as cleaning supplies, diapers and funds for updating their facility. They have an Amazon wish list; search for DOMAS for that list.

New Member: Diane Arthur's membership application was reviewed and approved by the board. She was sworn in as a club member. Welcome Diane Arthur.

Scholarship Award: Javelia Morrison-Galimore was presented a certificate as the scholarship award recipient for Women in Business Leadership. She shared some of her history and activities supporting women.

Elevator Pitch: Rachael provided a short description of Zonta for members to use as a uniform message about the organization. It can be modified as needed by members.

Vision for the Year: Rachael provided her vision for the next year which includes enhancing community exposure, expanding membership and finding innovative ways to support local agencies.

Roberts Rules of Order: The relaxed rules were published in the ZoNews. This is a more casual style and really already used at meetings with the exception that quorum only requires one-fourth of club members. It was already approved for board meetings. Laurie Oppel made a motion to approve this for business meetings. Mary Robak-Saari seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Membership Update: Laurie Oppel indicated another individual is interested in joining the club.

District 7 Conference: Delegates for district meeting are interested in club member input to issues requiring a vote. One item for vote will be a dues increase for the district. The last increase was 2016-2018 time frame. The second item for vote is continued support for the Haiti project at a district or area level. More information on these items is available in ZoNews. Members wanting to provide input should contact delegates Susan Voeltz and Joel Peitz.

Calendar of Events: The October event is in the ZoNews. The event will be held at Bad Habit and include Jindo Music Bingo. It is scheduled for October 4th.

Marketplace, Scholarship, Christmas House, and Fiance Committee Updates: Due to time, no report provided. Updated information is posted in ZoNews.

Advocacy and Service Update: The next service event will be serving tacos at Anna Marie's on September 13th. Volunteers will be needed to assist in serving.

Kayak Update: There was a total of 31 paddlers for this event. The event raised approximately \$1550 along with \$8850 for sponsorships and \$770 at punch wall.

Zonta 75th Anniversary: In preparation for this, there will be two committees formed. The first committee will deal with logistics of additional financial asks for funds. The second committee is to plan for a party/celebration event. Anyone interested should contact Debra Kellerman or Lindsey Stram.

Announcement: Debra Kellerman is organizing a table for Zonta members attending the Terebinth breakfast on September 11, 2025. See her if interested in attending.

Adjournment: Rachel Thompson moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:16 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!

District Conversations/Considerations - Club to provide input to the Delegates/Alternates

Submitted by Area Director Kellerman

Proposed District dues increase - There has not been an increase since 2016-18 biennium (asked for \$4, approved increase of \$9)

- \$5, 10, 15 - none of these increases will reduce us to operating in the red
- \$5 will have a deficit of \$8,210
- \$10 will have a deficit of \$4,610
- \$15 will have a deficit of \$1,010

MEMBERSHIP steady decline has impacted bottom line, along with multiple clubs folding in the past 3-4 years:

- Aberdeen, Bismarck-Wahpeton, Fargo-Moorhead, KC clubs merged into one (one disbanded), Johnson County merged with KC. Brainerd in 2023
- Leaves 2 clubs in Area 1 (Jamestown and Breckenridge (had a significant drop in members this spring))
- Leaves 4 clubs in Area 2
- Leaves 4 clubs in Area 3
- Leaves 1-2 clubs in area 4

Discussion on District Project - Haiti project

- Created in 2014-16? - no D7 funds have gone to it, the proposal was just to create and have clubs participate if they wanted.
- Has not been re-affirmed since maybe 16-18, COVID impacted and country revolt, without leadership now?
- This was not discussed at SC conference in 23
- COVID hit it hard, limited communication, website is down, country is in chaos - Cape G might be able to share more details at meeting
- In the meantime, in Area 1 & 3, Bismarck and Area 2 & 4, KC, (2023) Dr Shelley Lenz—Nicaragua program introduced
- In 2025 Area 2 & 4, Dr Abby Sudvarg, Honduras program introduced
- Maybe shift projects to areas, not district? Or let each club decide on one?

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.



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!



AnnaMarie's
Alliance



**TACO
PARTY**

SEPT. 13

CELEBRATING NATIONAL
HISPANIC MONTH



MONDAY DEC 15

**GINGERBREAD
HOUSES + SANTA
FOR THE RESIDENTS**

LET MARY KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP WITH THESE!



TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

OCTOBER 2

LAKE GEORGE

DETAILS TO COME

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.



Dear Zonta Club Members,

On behalf of Anna Marie's Alliance, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contribution to our capital campaign. Your support has been instrumental in bringing our shared vision to life. We are thrilled to share that, thanks to you and others who believed in this mission, the transformation is complete.

What once was a dream is now a reality: we've successfully completed our remodel of the existing space and opened beautiful, apartment style housing that offers comfort, dignity, and renewed hope to those we serve. These new spaces will not only provide shelter - they will foster community, independence, and healing for years to come. We would love to see you at the upcoming open house on September 26th to celebrate!

Anna Marie's Alliance
PO Box 367
St. Cloud, MN 56302
www.annamaries.org

With sincere thanks,
Pam Bjerke
Capital Campaign
Chair



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>