



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
MADISON

Build a Better World for Women and Girls



**ZONTA**  
MADISON  
FOUNDATION

Newsletter May 2025

## President's Letter

I had the good fortune to be able to attend the League of Women Voter's-Dane County annual Lively Issues Luncheon on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Two women were recognized for 50 years of League membership (WOW!) and 1 woman was recognized with the Defender of Democracy Award. All very impressive women but the recipient of the Defender award really spoke to me. Ernestine Moss has a long history of supporting civic engagement through public service. She began her remarks reading us the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

*"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."*

She admires these words and, I believe, they have honorably guided her public service. However, she went on to say that most of the people in the room at the luncheon – women and people of color – weren't considered for inclusion when these words were written. This is a woman after Zonta's heart. An inspiring person. Perhaps someone we need to recruit to help us with getting a WI ERA?

The keynote speaker at the League luncheon was Mary Beth Collins, Chief Executive at the UW Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies. Another WOW! She discussed Civic Health and, more specifically, the civic health of Wisconsin. She defines civic health as *"Individual and collective engagement for communities to define and address public problems and work toward conditions in which all can truly thrive, and which promote democracy"*. Central premise for her remarks is that our country has become increasingly isolated. The pandemic has accelerated this, and we are still stuck there.

She sees that as a key factor in the distrust in government that seems so predominant right now. She believes "self-care" is not enough. We need more "community-care". Democracy is facing challenge and decline around the world but nowhere more so than the United States. In 2000, the first WI Civic Health assessment was done. I believe another was done in 2020 and the 2025 report is now nearing completion.

Too much to discuss here but if you're interested, you can find more information on the 2020 assessment at: [https://commnsknowledge.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1407/2020/06/Civic-Health-of-Wisconsin\\_2020.pdf](https://commnsknowledge.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1407/2020/06/Civic-Health-of-Wisconsin_2020.pdf).

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*President's message continued:*

The first 7 pages or so are a little "dense" in research terminology and methodology but there are lots of graphs and charts after that which lay people like us can readily understand.

To me, many of the discussions with Zonta members that I'm a part of reflect a lot of the same issues covered by these Civic Health assessments. You might want to check it out. Also, the next time Zonta Madison is involved in hosting an area or district conference, Mary Beth Collins might make a good key-note speaker – especially if she is still at UW-Madison.

Happy Spring!

JoAnn Gruber-Hagen, President  
Zonta Club of Madison

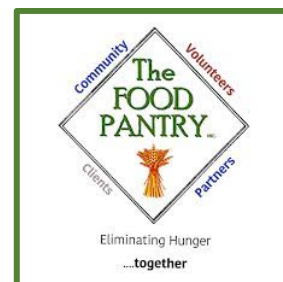
Advocacy/Service Committee –  
Pam Duane

**Advocacy**

ERA – Committee members met to discuss next steps for the Wisconsin ERA initiative. The group created a list of organizations that have a stake in the ERA and looked at Wisconsin legislators who have been involved in past attempts to pass the amendment or would be supportive of it going forward. Status of a pending bill will be forwarded as it becomes available.

**Service**

Six members signed up to organize and distribute food for the Way Forward at one of the mobile pantries. Work sessions begin in May and June. See Jane if you have questions &/or want to help fight food insecurity in our community.



Just a reminder that pick up for Little Library books is on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at JoAnn's house. Laura and Gayle G are co-chairs of this project.

Thanks to everyone who participated in advocacy and service activities in 2024-25. If you have any ideas for our 2025-26 Zonta year, please pass them along.

**May Club Meeting –  
Tammy Hagen & JoAnn Gruber-Hagen**

**Operations Committee:**

The May Annual meeting will be at the Vintage Restaurant on Whitney Way on Wednesday May 21st. Social time starts at 5:30 followed by dinner at 6:00pm. The dinner is followed by the Annual Business meeting of the club. As usual, a select dinner menu will be presented at the cost of **\$30**. *Please have your menu selections made for the wait staff by 5:45pm.* A reminder that you must RSVP to me by noon on Friday May 16 if you will not be attending when you had previously signed up to attend or if you wish to add yourself to the attendee list. Pending the discussions at the meeting, plans will be made over the summer for next year's meetings.



**Date:** Wed., May 21, 2025

**Location:** Vintage Brewery  
674 S. Whitney Way  
Madison, Wisconsin

**Time:** 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Social/Sign-in  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Dinner,  
Program, Business Meeting

**RSVP:** **To Tammy by noon, Friday,  
May 16, 2025**  
[thcormd@aol.com](mailto:thcormd@aol.com)

**Program: 2025 Annual Meeting**



**Zonta Club of Madison**

**What's our Annual Meeting All About?**

At the end of each program year (which is May 21), we hold an annual meeting. This is a chance to go into more depth regarding work of committees ultimately looking forward to how we want to proceed in the new program year starting June 1. We will adopt Club and Foundation budgets. We will elect people to replace members whose terms end May 31. See another article about the election in this newsletter. There won't be a speaker at this meeting so we can devote the evening to this important business.

Committees will share an annual report that summarizes what was done and accomplished this Zonta year and will offer recommendations for committee work in the coming year. I suppose this can sound kind wonky but it's a chance to celebrate this year's accomplishments and launch a good next year. All members need to be part of these discussions and decisions.

I'm looking forward to our discussions on May 21.

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Zonta Club of Madison  
Annual Meeting Elections –  
JoAnn Gruber-Hagen

Elections are held during our end-of-year Annual Business Meeting, which is held this year on May 21. The elections are for offices that are held by members that will term-out at the end of May. Our new Zonta program year starts June 1, and we will elect people to roles that begin a 2-year term on June 1. The first day of our new Zonta program year.

There are no Zonta Club of Madison offices that term-out this year. However, there are three Board positions for the Zonta Madison Foundation that will be up for election.

We will hold an election on May 21 to fill 3 Foundation Board Directors that will term-out on May 31. Ellen Ermer is the 4<sup>th</sup> member of the current Foundation Board and is in her first year, so her term continues until May 31, 2026. Following election, the incoming Foundation Board will meet and elect their Foundation Officers from within the 4-person Board. They will elect a President, Treasurer and VP/Secretary, leaving one board member to serve without also holding an office.

Candidates for the 3 open Board terms are:

- Barb Burchfield
- Laura Curtiss
- Diane Mick
- 

Other interested club members can be nominated from the floor at the Zonta annual

meeting on May 21. Each Zonta member can vote for a maximum of 3 people.

Zonta Club of Madison  
Committee Descriptions -  
JoAnn Gruber-Hagen

New Committees and Chairs – here's your chance to get involved for next year!

Newly constituted committees on June 1 bring opportunities for members to assume new committee member and leadership roles – or continue with your roles for the year that is ending. I'll be working on this immediately after our May 21 Annual Meeting. I want to wait until everyone has had the chance to hear what each committee does and recommendations for the new Zonta year that starts June 1.

There will be a committee member and chair sign-up form at the meeting. If you know going in what committee(s) you want to work with, sign up when you arrive. If you want to wait until you've heard committee reports, then please sign up before you leave. There is no limit to the number of committees a member can serve on but for new members (1-2 years of membership), pick 1 committee that interests you or lets you apply things you know how to do or to learn something different.

For the veteran members (3+ years of membership), please sign up for 2 committees. I encourage you to think about 1 committee that you are familiar with and like and then a 2<sup>nd</sup> committee that will be

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something new and different to you, one that you've never served on or haven't for some time.



Here's the list of committees and their general roles:

**Advocacy/Service:** The name is self-explanatory – plan and implement advocacy and service activities next year. I've worked with club advocacy for a long time and really like it. Keep in mind that not all advocacy involves public speaking, one-on-one discussions, climbing over fences to protest (just kidding), etc. There are lots of ways to get involved. There is an interest in looking for new short- and long-term service opportunities. If you want to help Zonta support the needs of women and girls through advocacy and service, this is your committee.

**Communications:** This supports our online presence, hosts our newsletter, and provides marketing support to the club and to individual committees, as needed. If you've been listening at meetings this year, you know that we are struggling with our online presence. If you have website, Facebook, Instagram and/or newsletter experience, this committee welcomes your help. If you

would like to help plan multi-media marketing campaigns (or learn more about this), here's your chance. As President, I am committed to supporting the committee as they take steps to pare back some of the online digital responsibilities, they've had to deal with and find new ways to deal with them. The Club and Foundation are making some funds available to assist in this. Here's a chance to make a real mark on our club's communication.

**Membership:** If you like to plan relationship-building activities, this could be your committee. If you like to communicate to others what Zonta is all about, what it's meant to you and help recruit new members, this could be your committee. This committee is fundamental to our club's ongoing health and vitality.

**Operations and Fundraising:** Here's a chance to help the club identify and explore options as we look to evolve in how we operate as a club. This is also a chance to get involved in Fundraising for the club and the Foundation. This year's committee has done a great job in tracking down a company we will use for a Film Festival this coming Fall. Movies are selected, a venue is pending and all that is needed now (ahem) is to step on the gas pedal and go out and sell tickets and recruit sponsors for what is going to be a great event that we can all be proud of. Remember, the money raised for the Foundation makes the scholarships we give possible.

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**Programs:** This is the group that brings great speakers who educate us at our monthly meetings. Committee members need to help identify speakers, figure out a schedule, book them and remind/introduce the speakers at our meetings. It's a committee that works during the summer (often just 1 meeting) and has much of its work done when monthly meetings start up again in September. This may appeal to you.

**Scholarships:** This committee has been merged into the Foundation Board. However, the Board welcomes members who would like to assist with reviewing applicants' materials. Let Jane Hartman know if you're interested in this.

Membership Committee –  
JoAnn Gruber-Hagen

**WELCOME** to our new member  
Diane Mick!

Diane was recently inducted into our Zonta Club of Madison. Diane is eager to learn more about Zonta and get involved in our club activities!



JoAnn Gruber-Hagen, Diane Mick, Barb Burchfield

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### Member Conversations Results

Thank you for accepting the invitation to have a “conversation” with a Membership Committee member this winter/spring regarding your Zonta member experience. Based on these interactions, at the May club meeting the committee will present a significant number of recommendations for your consideration, modification and, ultimately, adoption.

It's composed of two parts: 1) recommendations sorted primarily into Committee sections and 2) an addendum with the nature of comments received, also sorted into the same sections the recommendations.

The recommendations are drawn from what you told us. They are fairly far-reaching. You will recognize some as recommendations we've discussed in the past but now need new attention or modification. Others may be somewhat new or different but, if you've had your ear to the ground, many of you have likely heard them discussed, too.

Taken as a whole, the Membership Committee believes the recommendations can help us chart a course resulting in a sustained Zonta Club of Madison that demonstrates a new diversity, relevance and vitality of ideas and activities.

The report is in its final stages. You will receive a copy in your email before the May 21 Annual Meeting. Please review it before you come and bring it to the meeting along with your questions and suggestions. The committee expects the club to act on the plan and accept, modify, or reject it on May 21.

If you need a hard copy, please let me know and I'll get one to you.

Mix & Mingle 2025  
Tammy Hagen & JoAnn Gruber-Hagen



Graphics by Sandy Peterson

The Mix and Mingle is a great chance for us to mix and mingle with each other but the

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more important purpose is to mix and mingle with potential new members. We are asking everyone to set a goal of bringing at least one potential new member to the event.

We will be underway Tuesday, June 10 at 5:30pm so arrive a little before that time to get your food out. The Mix and Mingle will be held at JoAnn Gruber-Hagen's residence, 7210 Timberwood Drive, Madison (SW side of town). This year the house will not look like a construction site, as it did last year. All renovations are done.

Everyone is also asked to bring an appetizer and a beverage (alcoholic or non) to share. Glasses, plates and napkins will be provided. Here's a chance to share one of your favorite apps. Think sweet or savory and let JoAnn Gruber-Hagen know which you will bring.

There will be a sign-up for the appetizers at the May 21 Annual Meeting. If you can't attend on May 21, let JoAnn Gruber-Hagen know what you will bring before the end of May.

This year, there will not be an outside speaker brought to the event. In place of that, the Membership Committee is working on a contest to determine who knows the most about women and women's issues. It will involve teamwork. Hmmm .....and there could be prizes.

Come and find out!!! It's going to be FUN and a great chance to meet some prospective new members!

### Fundraiser for a great cause!

As members will recall, one of our Community Grant recipients in 2023 was Felicia's Donation Closet.

<https://feliciasdonationcloset.org/>

This organization helps women as they move out of domestic abuse situations by providing household goods. This event is the annual fundraiser for the organization. Tickets can be found here:

[Casino night fundraiser](#)

We have begun doing some hands-on service work with this organization as well. Consider attending on May 17 if you are interested. It will be a lot of fun!



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May & June Birthdays of our members:

- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| ★ Gail Z  | May 4   |
| ★ Linda A | May 28  |
| ★ Diane M | June 21 |

*We hope you have a fun day filled with yummy food, family, and good friends!*

### Zonta Club of Madison Newsletter Submission Guidelines

The monthly submission deadline for 2024-25 will be the **24<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

**Please send your submissions to:**  
[zontamadisonnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:zontamadisonnewsletter@gmail.com), or  
[jlh2776@gmail.com](mailto:jlh2776@gmail.com).

All submissions should be in a simple Word document format and Arial font is preferred. If you have photos of Zonta events, please send these as well. If you have committee meeting dates for the calendar, these can be included too.

Jane Hartman  
Newsletter Editor

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## **Zonta Club, District & International Calendar of Events**

### **UPCOMING ZONTA DATES**

- May 3, 2025 - Little Library Distribution day
- May 17, 2025 - Area 2 Spring Workshop – New Berlin Public Library
- May 21, 2025 – Zonta Club of Madison Annual Meeting
- June 10, 2025 – Mix and Mingle
- June 20-22, 2025 - North American Inter-District Meeting - Novi, Michigan
- October 10-12, 2025 - District 6 Fall Conference - Bloomington, Illinois
- July 11-14, 2026 - Zonta International 67th Convention - Vancouver, Canada

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Legislative Updates –  
JoAnn Gruber-Hagen

State Legislation to  
Extend Medicaid Postpartum Coverage

Senate Bill (SB) 23 extends Medicaid postpartum coverage from 60 days to one year. It passed the WI Senate 32-1 on Tuesday, March 22. Now it goes to the Assembly as AB 97.

This change would ensure that women with chronic conditions exacerbated by pregnancy, as well as postpartum conditions that take longer than 60 days to appear or resolve, are given the care that is critical for the health of themselves and their baby.

Wisconsin is the only state besides Arkansas to not have enacted this extension. It is time to change that statistic. Its future is not encouraging. Speaker Robin Vos has previously refused to schedule this bill for a vote, despite its wide bipartisan support.

If you support expanding postpartum coverage under Medicaid from 60 days to one year, contact Speaker Vos and ask him to schedule a vote on Assembly Bill 97: (608) 266-6670.

All you need to say is that you support bringing AB 97 Extending Medicaid Postpartum Coverage to a floor vote. If you have a story to tell about how important these benefits are, tell that.

For more information:

- AB 97:  
<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/proposals/ab97.pdf>

- WI Public Radio:  
<https://www.wpr.org/news/wisconsin-senate-passes-bipartisan-measure-extend-postpartum-medicaid-coverage>
- WXOW (Lacrosse ABC):  
[https://www.wxow.com/news/wisconsin-news/it-should-be-a-right-bill-extending-postpartum-medicaid-coverage-moves-to-the-assembly/article\\_6a9a4f8b-fc37-5c62-9fb8-5d254a73545d.html](https://www.wxow.com/news/wisconsin-news/it-should-be-a-right-bill-extending-postpartum-medicaid-coverage-moves-to-the-assembly/article_6a9a4f8b-fc37-5c62-9fb8-5d254a73545d.html)
- WI Examiner (a nonpartisan, nonprofit news site offering a fresh perspective on politics and policy in our state):  
<https://wisconsinexaminer.com/2025/04/23/senate-passes-postpartum-medicaid-while-assembly-votes-to-restrict-unemployment/>