



ZONTA
CLUB OF
MADISON

Build a Better World for Women and Girls



ZONTA
MADISON
FOUNDATION

Newsletter November/December 2025

President's Message:

The International 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is November 25-December 10. We're not distributing orange ribbons this year but watch for beautifully lit orange buildings and a Facebook campaign to raise awareness. If you are a Facebook user, go to our Zonta Club of Madison website and forward it to others. Importantly, identify organizational or business websites to forward it to. At the October Zonta District 6 Fall Conference, we learned that forwarding to organizational or business sites is how we can juice the algorithm that determines how much push our web content will be given to put it in view of others. Forwarding it to other individuals is helpful but not as helpful as to organizational sites.

Congratulations to all of us, particularly the Fund Raising/Operations Committee, on a successful October 16 Film Fest. It wouldn't have been possible without so many of our members pitching in to help. There will be a full report on the good news at our November 19 Club meeting.

Zonta Club of Madison, along with Janesville, Milwaukee and E-Club USA 3 Clubs, will be at the State Capitol on November 18 asking our legislators for support of pending legislation on Ending Child Marriage and adopting an Equal Rights Amendment to our WI Constitution. If you didn't get signed up but want to join us, let me know ASAP so we can get you involved. There will be some training coming up in the next 2 weeks to help us all to feel empowered to pitch these bills. Some will be in a group Zoom meeting and Madison Zonta will follow up newsletter.

In times when I find myself busy, I look at this poem that I have tacked to the bulletin board next to my desk. It inspires me. It was written by the late Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, pioneering civil rights advocate and past President of Morehouse College. It was recited by the late U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings on the U.S. House floor shortly before his death. It speaks to what we can do with the time that we are given:

*I only have a minute.
Sixty seconds in it.
Forced upon me, I did not choose it
Give account if I abuse it.
Suffer, if I lose it.
Only a tiny little minute,
But eternity is in it.*

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Presidents message cont.:

In the middle of all your “busy-ness”, remember that our monthly club meetings are now held in the 2nd floor Community Room in Festival Foods, 810 East Washington Ave. Room is available for us beginning at 5:00 pm. Speaker at 6:00. Business meeting at 6:45. Adjourn at 8:00.

See you soon!

JoAnn Gruber-Hagen, President
Zonta Club of Madison

Advocacy/Service Committee –
Pam Duane

It happens every fall. With the kick-off of a new Zonta year we find ourselves very busy. Currently, we are preparing for 16 Days of Advocacy and our Lobby Day on November 18th. (Please see separate newsletter articles about them.)

Two of our more recent activities are:

- Working once a month at the Way Forward Mobil Food Pantry in the Hilldale area
- Accepting furniture and household goods at Felicia’s Donation Closet warehouse near the airport.

I encourage you to consider volunteering at either (or both) organizations.

At the food pantry, we set up the food selections, assist residents with their choices, pack up leftover food and tear down tables. Residents are very grateful for the variety of selections, and it is fun for us to interact with them.



Ellen Ermer and I worked at the Felicia’s Donation warehouse for the first time this week and found that it was a pretty easy way to volunteer. Four people were scheduled to drop off furniture and household goods and all of them assisted us in carrying items into the warehouse. During the hour it was open, we labeled a nine-piece bed and added a chair and several boxes of household items to the collection. All in all, it was an easy volunteer opportunity.

If you are interested in one or both hands-on service opportunities, contact Jane about the food pantry, or Ellen about volunteering at the warehouse.



Zonta Lobby Day at the State Capitol -
JoAnn Gruber-Hagen
Advocacy/Service Committee

Four Zonta Clubs with WI memberships are convening at the State Capitol on **Tuesday, November 18** to encourage support for pending legislation on Ending Child Marriage and Adopting an Equal Right Amendment to the WI Constitution. The clubs are Janesville, Madison, Milwaukee and E-Club USA 3.

Several members from the Madison club have signed up to participate in the Lobby Day, including Nancy Abraham, Jody Alston, Barbara Burchfield, Fatou Ceesay, Laura Curtiss, Pam Duane, Ellen Ermer, JoAnn Gruber-Hagen, Debra Hoard and Sandy Peterson. If you aren't in this list and want to participate, let JoAnn Gruber-Hagen know ASAP. There's still time.

There will be some training in advance. Legislator appointments will be made for you, aiming for the morning of Nov 18. We'll also be dropping off our information on these 2 bills to as many other Reps and Senators as we can reach that day. We'll wrap up mid-afternoon with debriefing ourselves to determine next steps. We'll be trying for pictures of us with our legislators – hopefully in our next newsletter.



This is originally from the Canadian Women's Foundation

Operations/Fundraising Committee –
Tammy Hagen

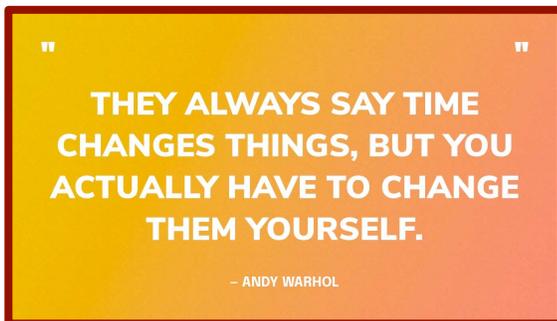
Fundraising:

The Zonta Club of Madison Wild and Scenic Film Fest at Edgewood University featured seven short films highlighting women's personal efforts to combat climate change. The women represented in the films showed how local actions, big or small, can make an impact.

The evening started with a well-attended reception, with beverages and light refreshments. The program began with a slide show highlighting the effect of climate changes on women and girls. This was followed by a short presentation by guest speaker Dr. Hillary Dugan, a UW Madison Professor in Limnology, on how climate change is affecting our local lakes and lakes in Antarctica. We were also thrilled to

recognize film fest attendee Sister Lynne Smith from Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton. The Monastery has been recognized nationally for their environmental work and becoming 100% net-zero campus, producing all their energy needs from on-site renewable resources.

The community supported our event thanks to your efforts to sell tickets, solicit donations and Sandy Peterson's great media work. We sold 117 tickets, both online and in person, with actual attendance of 101. Through ticket sales, donations, and sponsorships we have a net income of **\$6197.05** which will support local community giving and Zonta International service projects. *Well done everyone!* The Fundraising Committee will be having "Wrap Up" meeting next week. We would like your input on the event and suggestions for possible future film fests and fundraising ideas.



Operations:
JoAnn Gruber Hagen, Pam Duane, and Tamara Hagen attended Fall Conference where we participated in the Zonta Store. Sales were brisk and we raised **\$775** for operations of our Zonta Club! We will be

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meeting soon and will discuss the possibility of Festival Foods catering dinners for our meetings. Please give us feedback on this idea.

Program Committee –
Pam Duane

**Zonta Club of Madison Meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

Our meeting is now held in the Community Room at Festival Food on East Washington Avenue:

- Membership time 5:30-6:00 pm
- Program 6:00-6:45 pm
- Business meeting 6:45-8:00 pm

Program:
Climate Change & MGE Projects

Speaker:
Leah Samson
Residential Energy Engineer, MG&E



As a follow-up to our successful film festival, our November speaker will be Leah Samson, a Residential Energy Engineer at Madison Gas and Electric. She is a sustainability

consultant in green building certifications, Greenhouse Gas emission assessments, and sustainability development. Leah will talk about various current projects at MGE and provide a picture of what is happening regarding climate change and sustainability locally.

16 Days of Activism 2025
Sandy Peterson



Zonta Club of Madison Joins Clubs in 64 Countries, and UN Women to Build Awareness for Digital Violence Against Women and Girls

The theme of the **2025 Annual 16 Days of Violence to End Gender Violence** is **UNITE to End Digital Violence Against Women and Girls**. Digital violence targets women more than men, across all walks of life, but especially those with public or online visibility – such as activists, journalists, women in politics, human rights defenders, and young women. The impact is even worse for women

facing intersecting forms of discrimination, including race, disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

This year’s campaign, which aligns with the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, aims to raise awareness about the growing issue of online violence and harassment and calls for governments, tech companies, and individuals to act. The first 16 Days was launched in 1991 at the first Women’s Global Leadership Institute and is coordinated by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership.

The dates were chosen to symbolically link violence against women with human rights, beginning with the [International Day For Violence Against Women](#) and ending with [Human Rights Day](#)

Zonta Madison 16 Days Campaign:

- Orange buildings - Madison Municipal Building lit orange for 16 Days
- 16 Days of Awareness on the Zonta Club of Madison Facebook page



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District 6 Fall Conference –
Pam Duane

JoAnn Gruber-Hagen, Tammy Hagen and Pam Duane attended the Zonta District 6 Fall Conference in Normal, Illinois. Sessions included: Ending Childhood Marriage and Zonta Says Now, Building Stronger Clubs, a Membership and Social Media panel discussion with our Gen Z scholarship winners, and social media, Membership & Fundraising Strategies for the Future. District elections were held, and JoAnn was elected to serve on the district board of directors as the Area 2 Director for the 2026-2028 biennium.

As always, it was great to catch up with fellow district Zonians' and learn about what other clubs are doing.



Zonta Club of Madison table at D6 store

Zonta Club of Madison
Holiday Party 2025

Yes, it is almost that time of year again! Get ready to celebrate the holidays with your Zonta sisters & significant others at the annual holiday party on December 10. The fun begins at 5:00 pm in the Quivey's Grove Stable Grill, then dinner at 6:00 pm in the Stone House.

Menu selections & payment must be made prior to the event & will be done at the November 19 club meeting. See Pam for details.

You Are Invited
ZONTA HOLIDAY PARTY



Wednesday, December 10, 2025

5:00 - 6:00 pm . Cocktails at the Stable Grill
6:00 - 8:00 pm . Dinner at the Stone House
Quivey's Grove Restaurant
6261 Nesbitt Road, Fitchburg, Wisconsin

Menu choice & payment
at the November 19 meeting.

RSVP: Pam Duane:
pamanddenny@charter.net
Significant others & guests are welcome



Quivey's Grove Stable & Stone House

Felicia's Donation Closet
Service Opportunity -
Ellen Ermer

Felicia's Donation Closet is a 100% volunteer non-profit organization that helps women prepare themselves for society after facing domestic abuse. Their mission is to create a safe space for survivors and help them get a hand up in life by giving deserving moms and children the essentials to make their new home truly a home. They provide beds, dressers, tables, sofas, TVs, bath, bedding and houseware items and deliver furniture and essentials for families who are moving from a shelter into their new home.



This past year, several Zonta members cleaned the floors for their second new warehouse and helped move household items to the new warehouse. Ellen is assisting a grant writer to build a comprehensive grant database for FDC. We now have other opportunities to serve:

- Warehouse: Volunteer every other Tuesday from about 4pm to 5pm at 2223r Darwin Rd. They want to

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increase donation capacity; Ellen will be there every other Tuesday and needs one more volunteer. This started Oct 28th.

- FDC Event Representation: Volunteers are needed to staff tables at events. These opportunities will be communicated as needed. Training materials are available for those wishing to represent FDC. You can also observe a moving day and help move small items. This would provide valuable insight into this program when representing them at an event.

In addition, FDC holds a big fundraiser in the Fall and often needs volunteers to help at the fundraiser or in preparation for the fundraiser. As Ellen receives that information for next year, she will reach out to Zonta for help. Thanks for your support.



Birthday Celebrations!



- | | |
|------------|---------|
| ★ Nancy N | Nov. 5 |
| ★ Jane H | Dec. 8 |
| ★ Jeanne L | Dec. 16 |
| ★ Gayle G | Dec. 23 |
| ★ Karen G | Dec. 25 |
| ★ Julie P | Dec. 29 |

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 2025-26 will be the **24th of each month.**

Please send your submissions to:
zontamadisonnewsletter@gmail.com, or
jlh2776@gmail.com.

All submissions should be in a simple Word document format. Arial font is desired, (however I can easily change font). If you have photos of Zonta events, please send these as well.

Do you want your committee or board meeting dates published! We can do that! Send your dates/times to the email address above and it will be on the calendar of events.

Corrections & suggestions for improvement are welcome and should be sent to the newsletter Gmail or Jane for publication in future editions as appropriate. Thank you!

Jane Hartman
Newsletter Editor



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Zonta Club, District & International Calendar of Events

UPCOMING ZONTA DATES

- November 15, 2025: Zonta Club of Milwaukee Fashion Show Fundraiser luncheon, Pewaukee, WI.
- November 18, 2025: Lobby Day, Wisconsin State Capital, Madison, WI
- November 19, 2025: Zonta Club of Madison Membership meeting
- November 25 – December 10, 2025: 16 Days of Activism Campaign
- December 10, 2025: Zonta Club Holiday Party, Quivey's Grove
- July 11-14, 2026: Zonta International 67th Convention, Vancouver, Canada

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