

Speech of Ursula Birker-Eckert, International YWPA Chair

District Conference September 11-13, Frankfurt

*Madam DG Regula, madam Intl. Director Heddy, Zontians and guests,
and last but not least: dear Kate Antony*

As Chairman of the Intl. YWPA Committee, it is my pleasure and great honour to talk to you about the YWPA Program and to forward one of the five International Awards to the winner of your District 28, Kate Anthony.

I guess, you all know, that besides **the Intl. Service Projects** ZONTA INTERNATIONAL has **three Award Programs**, all funded by the ZI FOUNDATION. The three Awards are:

- the **Amelia Earhart Fellowship Award** – for students / scientists in aerospace related sciences or engineering,
- the **Jane M. Klausmann Women in Business Scholarship** for Undergraduate Students in business related fields and
- the **Young Women in Public Affairs Award** for pre-university and pre-college school students, age 16 - 20

Among these three Zonta Awards the **YWPA Award** is the one **for the youngest women**, and it asks for personal, voluntary engagement of the students.

It is a **program**, which starts in the Zonta **Clubs** and is extended on **District** and **Intl. level**.

The **objective of the program** is to recognize female students

for their commitment to the volunteer sector in their schools **and** in their communities,

for evidence of volunteer leadership achievements,

for their commitment to Intl. understanding and

for their commitment to the advancement of the status of women: in their own countries and worldwide.

Because of the specified age group, **all ZCs** in the world can work on this program as a **Club Project**, because in every Zonta community, there are at least one high school and several youth organisations with this age group.

Z Cs invite applications, they select a club winner and they sponsor **Club Awards** as they wish.

A **special incentive** for the Club winners is that their application will be sent to the **District** level, where they have an extra chance to receive the **District Award of 1.000 USD**, and later, may be, even one of the **five Intl Awards of 3.000 USD** each. The District Awards and the International Awards are all **sponsored by the ZIF YWPA Fund**.

More and more ZCs around the world are realizing that this is a marvellous program:

They are fascinated about the volunteer activities of these young women, about their strong interest in getting to know and understand foreign countries with different customs **and** about their good research on the problems limiting the status of women.

They recognize: it is a good Zonta project, honouring this kind of young women and at the same time taking part in an **Intl.** Zonta Project, and

They realize, it offers marvellous opportunities for **publicity:** for their Club's projects, as well as for Zonta International and its mission > among teachers, students, parents and in the community.

The result is:

During the last years **approximately 300 Zonta Clubs** in the whole Zonta World **participated in the program each year.**

It means, that **10.000 to 15.000 students each year** were involved in the issues of the YWPA program, and also learned – before they left school – that there is an **international** women's organization and NGO, called "Zonta International", whose mission it is to Advance the Status of Women Worldwide, and which may be interesting to join later!

The **Intl. YWPA Committee** was very pleased that out of the **29 -30 District Winners** each year, they could select **five** for the **International Awards**, thus offering five chances **to Winners from very different countries all over the Zonta world!**

One of **this year's Intl Recipients** is among us:

It is **Kate Antony**, from Switzerland, your District 28.

She was born in England, grew up in Norfolk, but also in Connecticut, USA, and now lives in Basel, in Switzerland, where for several years she has been joining the International School of Basel.

Of course she has been fortunate, with such an interesting and changing life. However she never took this for granted.

Being a very interested and inquiring young girl and woman, she always took an active approach to her education. She worked hard and was successful in all school subjects.

However, she also was active and successful **o u t s i d e** her classroom:

She was Representative and later the Secretary of the **Student Council** of her of her school.

For five years she also was active in her school's **Model United Nations** group. She attended the Model United Nations Conferences in Paris and Berlin, where she even was Committee Chairman.

This year she even was the **Co Secretary General**, and as such had to organize the Conference in Basel, in February.

Besides, Kate seems to be an "internationalist":

She lived in different countries and obviously absorbed much from those experiences. She seeks understanding of various countries and viewpoints. This became clearly evident on her service-trips to South Africa and later on her trip with the organization "**Free the Children**" to Kenya.

About these trips and her experiences Kate will talk to us later.

However I guess that from the few things I told you about Kate, you'll understand that her YWPA Application was so overwhelming, that the members of the Intl. YWPA Committee had to choose her for one of the Intl. Awards!

So now it is my great pleasure and honour, to forward the

District 28 YWPA Award

and the

International YWPA Award

to

Kate Antony

DG Regula will accompany me and forward the two money checks of 1.000 USD and 3.000 USD.

Congratulation!