

Governor's Newsletter

Nr. 3 – April, 2009

Dear Presidents
Dear Zontians of District 28

A long and icy winter has finally come to its end. Spring flowers, flowering shrubs and trees, nesting and singing birds, they all demonstrate Easter - the more easy-going outdoor season is starting. As I write these words to you, I enjoy the view from my room into all these beautiful colours, dreaming about painted eggs and Easter nests. I hope you all had a lovely Easter weekend, enjoying people and activities you love.

Earthquake in Italy

Sadly, not everybody can enjoy a relaxed Easter weekend this year. With deep regret we remember the families who lost their loved ones, their houses and their existence in the shambles of the disastrous earthquake in the Italian Abruzzi, geographically, a part of our district. We have heard of Zontians of our and of other districts willing to help by raising funds for the disaster struck region. While this is an extraordinary sign of solidarity, it is not intended, for the time being, to start a project on district level. Zontians and Zonta clubs willing to help are advised to donate money to recognized and reliable organizations in their own country - in Switzerland, Caritas and Glückskette are engaged in helping the devastated region in Italy and they are both trustworthy. In case a specific project benefitting women, as e.g. help in rebuilding an existence for women struck by the disaster is later coming up and duly examined, we shall be very much inclined to support it and inform you about it.

European Interdistrict Seminar in Bonn, February, 2009

More than 200 Zontians from all European districts participated in this seminar. There was a very animated atmosphere of learning and of exchanging views and ideas. The purpose was to find ways to make ZONTA fit for the future, to make it a strong NGO, attractive to actual and prospective members, and also to the public at large.



Main points that were discussed:

- Be aware of ZONTA's strengths – e.g. its General consultative status at the U.N.;
- See ZONTA as an **international** organization, try to link local and global service topics;
- Engage in ZONTA advocacy on the line of CEDAW, the U.N. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*. This convention dates from 1979 and is often called the "Women's Bill of Rights" ;
- Changes in society and how ZONTA should face them;
- Making ZONTA visible in a world where branding is primordial.

Highlights of the weekend were the participation of ZIP Beryl Sten and the refreshing and motivating keynote "From Cinderella to Cyberella" by Irma Ertman, Ambassador of Finland to the Council of Europe.

At the end of the seminar, a "Letter" to be sent to ZIP and the ZI Board was adopted by the participants. The recommendations included selecting larger and more continuous projects for ZIF, cooperation with other women's organizations in order to promote the knowledge of CEDAW, supporting education in leadership skills for women and girls and continuing actions against all forms of violence.

You can find this "Letter" as well as an extensive summary of the workshops as well as Irma Ertman's speech on our District website <http://www.zonta-district28.com/>

Headquarters

With relief we hear that the house at Randolph Street, Chicago has finally been sold. The International Board considers the price obtained to be quite respectable in this time of falling real estate prices.

Awards: Amelia Earhart and Young Women in Public Affairs

Being very proud of two young Italian scientists, International Amelia Earhart winners, and of quite a few qualified candidates for the Young Women in Public Affairs District Award, I would like to thank the clubs that actively engage in promoting these awards. The award are continuous ZONTA projects with a view to the future. So I encourage you all to look around for qualified young women, for all three ZONTA awards: Amelia Earhart, Jane Klausman for Women in Business and Young Women in Public Affairs.



District Website – Italy has arrived!

Since a few days, Area 02/28 is also linked to our District website. We are now fully covering our district. Thanks everybody who worked on it!

District Conference

The invitations for the District Conference are being sent to you right now, you will get them in a few days. I hope you will like the programme. Please remember that you get a better price for early registration! The "Call to Conference" with the Agenda for the Business Sessions will be sent to you by end of June. - These weeks the Nominating Committee is looking for names of active and qualified Zontians willing to take over functions in the district. Dear Presidents, please encourage candidates in your surroundings, ZONTA lives by the active women who are willing to forge its future.

District Diary

District Board Meeting, Frankfurt
Area 02 Meeting, Prague
Area 04 Meeting, Stein am Rhein
and 50th Anniversary Zonta Club Schaffhausen

18 April, 2009
24-26 April, 2009
8-10 May, 2009

I wish you all a happy springtime, successful annual meetings, interesting and productive area meetings and a lot of satisfaction in your ZONTA work.

With Zontian regards,

Regula