

The History in Brief of Zonta Club of Amherst District 4, Area 4, Club No. 544

The Zonta Club of Amherst was chartered on July 17th, 1965.

- SOM club: Zonta Club of Buffalo; Mrs. Herbert Knight, Chairman of the Organization and Extension Committee.
- Organization meeting occurred on May 20th, 1965 at Marie K. Corcoran's residence.
- Charter was presented by Miss Edna Nairn, First Vice President of Zonta International and Miss Anne H. Crowe, Governor of District IV during dinner at Laube's Restaurant in Amherst.
- The club began with 22 charter members. President: Marie K. Corcoran

Meetings: Held on the 4th Tuesday of every month except July and August. Most meetings include a guest speaker. Meeting venues included Little White House, Brookfield Country Club, Holiday Inn, Transit Valley Country Club, Westwood Country Club, Fanny's, Dandelion's, and Giancarlo's Restaurants.

Club Board and Committees: The Board of the club consists of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and six directors. Current committees include: Birthing Kits, Dinner Reservations, Finance, Fundraising, Historian, Holiday Party, Interclub, Membership, Program, Publicity, Scholarship, Sunshine, United Nations/Advocacy, Volunteer/Service, Zonta AM/Website

Membership: Beginning with the 22 charter members, membership grew 1985 to 37 members and peaked sometime in the late 1980s to approximately 70. Membership declined steadily to 2008 with numbers reduced to 23. Current membership has fallen to 17.

Past Service Projects: In the past ZC of Amherst focused mainly on supporting local community projects and organizations including the Amherst Symphony, Amherst Elderly Transportation Corp., Amherst Senior Center, Amherst Library, Amherst Museum, Amherst Fire Council, Amherst Domestic Violence Task Force, Meals On Wheels, Gilda's House, Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, Buffalo Children's Hospital, Special Olympics, American Heart Association, Girls on the Run, and the Lupus Alliance of America. In 2011 ZC of Amherst raised \$2,500 for Habitat For Humanity Women Build and worked at a site.

On-Going Service Projects: ZC of Amherst has continually participated in the making of birthing kits and the Town of Amherst's Warm Clothing Project as well as Melissa's Walk benefitting the Amherst Youth Foundation. A scholarship is awarded every year to a female high school graduate who is going on to college. We have also awarded scholarships to adult women returning to school to complete their degrees.

Fundraising Activities: The club has participated in a variety of fundraising endeavors including: fashion shows, antique show/sale, wine tastings, 5K run, poinsettia sale, special dinners, garage sales, Comedy Sports nights and raffle, and clothing store sales.

Publicity: The club has its own website and Facebook page maintained by the Board.

Area Activities: Phyllis N. Harth served as Area 4 Director in 1987 and ZC of Amherst hosted an Area workshop in 1989 entitled, "A New Beginning." Additional workshops were conducted in the 1990s as well as in 2006, entitled, "Putting Together the Pieces." Recently ZC of Amherst donated to the Area 4 effort of the "Hello Program" through the International Institute of Buffalo, creating ESL dictionaries for incoming internationals. Also, ZC of Amherst supported the "Zonta Says No" initiative by gathering with other area clubs on the International Peace Bridge which crosses the US border into Canada and holding the "Zonta Says No" banner in view of the passing traffic.

District Activities: Past participation in District fundraising activities. Recently our club was represented by proxy at the district convention.

International Activities: In 1986, ZC of Amherst sponsored the creation of a pure water well in Sri Lanka.