

A Brief History of the Zonta Club of Bradford

District 4, Area 5. Club 0306

The Zonta Club of was Chartered on July 6, 1953.

The Zonta club of Bradford, PA, was organized on May 24, 1953 under the sponsorship of Hollis Terry, Past-President of the Zonta Club of Olean.

The charter was presented by International President, Edwina B. Hogadone on July 11, 1953 at a dinner at the Emery Hotel. The club had 35 Charter members. Founding officers were Charter President: Dorothy Anderson; Vice President: Helen Nusbaum; Secretary: Marion Taylor; Treasurer: Irma Dickenson. Attending the charter dinner were 130 guests representing Zonta clubs from Buffalo, Erie, Rochester, Oil City, Salamanca, Warren, Olean, Brantford, Niagara Falls, Kenmore, Lockport, Toronto, Jamestown. Representatives from Bradford community service clubs (Kiwans, Y's Men, Catholic Girls Club, YWCA, Rotary, Exchange, Lions Clubs), Bradford City Councilmen, and the press were also in attendance.

Meetings: The Bradford Club meets twice monthly, except for July and August. A luncheon meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and a dinner meeting is held on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Most meetings include a guest speaker. Meeting venues have included the Penn Hills Club, Togi's Blue Room, Kelly's Restaurant, and other Bradford restaurants.

Club Board and committees: For most of its history the Board of the club has comprised: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and six Directors. Standing committees include Attendance/Fellowship; By-Laws; Finance; Fundraising; Historical Records/Public Relations; Legislative Awareness & Advocacy; Newsletter; Organization, Membership & Classification; Program; Scholarship; Service; and Technology. Special committees include current projects like Birthing Kits, Garage Sale, Zonta/YWCA Partnership, and Crook Farm Volunteers.

Membership: Member numbers reached a high of 60 in 1991 with yearly membership averaging at about 40 members. As of March 2014, the club had 44 members.

Advocacy projects: Since January 2002 the club has awarded Amelia Earhart Awards to local high school girls who have overcome personal setbacks but have shown commitment to volunteer in local community service projects. To support the Zonta Says No Campaign, the club has partnered with the YWCA Victims' Resource Center to promote a "Peace Begins with Me" Poster Contest in local schools. On Zonta Rose Day outstanding local women were honoured with a yellow rose.

Service projects: Service projects have addressed the Zonta priorities of health, safety, education, and economic self-sufficiency of women and girls. Service and/or monetary donations have been awarded to McKean Literacy, Care for Children, YWCA Victim's Resource Center, McKean Health Council, Crook Farm Fair, American Cancer Society, Red Cross Meals on Wheels, Bradford Public Library, Mr. Yuk Program, PennDOT Highway Clean-up, Bradford Hospital Chemo Caps and Infant Caps, and Salvation Army. The Ruth B. Fisher Scholarships have been awarded annually since 1978 to local graduating high school seniors and students at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. The club has served as a resource for the community when volunteers are needed.

Fundraising activities: Fundraisers have included garage sales, Calendar of Cash raffle, candy making & sales, card parties, flower bulb sales, Christmas tree skirt & quilt raffles, Big 30 concession stand.

Area activities: Inner-club meetings with Olean, Warren, Jamestown, and Bradford have included dinners, Train Trip, Mystery Bus Trip, and Zonta Day at Chautauqua. Bradford last hosted the Zonta Spring Workshop in 2011. Karen Cassin, Pat Shinaberger, Carma Horner, and Fran Runyan have served terms as Area 5 Director.

District activities: The club has been represented at District 4 Conferences. Carma Horner has served as Secretary of the District 4 Board.

District Projects: The Bradford Club has supported District 4 Birthing Kit project since 2008, assembling 500-700 kits each year. The club participated in the past district project to sponsor a District 4 Golf Tournament to raise funds for breast cancer prevention.

International activities: Delegates have represented the Bradford Club at several International Conventions.

Zonta International Foundation: Each year since its establishment the club has contributed a per capita donation to the Zonta International Foundation, contributing to the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Awards, the Rose Fund, ZISVAW, and YWPA. The percentage of members making individual contributions has increased over time.