



Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo

Member of Zonta International

Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
Club # 0857, Area 1, District 4

History

The Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo was chartered on July 18, 1978. Twenty-seven members signed the charter, and our first President was Nancy Finkle. Over the years, our club has grown to 53 members. Five of our charter members remain active.

Our club Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month, followed by the Club General Meeting on the third Wednesday of the month. The General Meeting begins with dinner, followed by a guest speaker and a program based on the themes of Advocacy, Awards, UN/International, Service Awards, etc. The business meeting follows.

Leadership

Members of the Kitchener-Waterloo Club are committed to the ideals of Zonta beyond the club level. We are very proud of the fact that many of our members have served in leadership positions such as District Governor (2), Area Director (5), District Treasurer (1), District Nominating Committee Member (2), and International Service Committee. In addition, several members have been appointed to District Committees such as Status, Service, Advocacy, and UN/International. We sponsored the chartering of the Zonta Club of Owen Sound, Ontario as well as of the now defunct club of Listowel, Ontario.

We are well represented at all Spring Workshops, District Conferences, and the North American Summit Meetings. We have hosted several Spring Workshops, as well as two District Conferences, and plans are underway to host the 2015 District Conference.

In addition, over the years club members have attended the Zonta International Convention in Paris, Hawaii, St. Louis, Toronto, New York, Melbourne, Rotterdam, San Antonio, and Torino. In 2014 members are planning to attend convention in Orlando.

Fundraising

The Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo has raised well over \$1 Million, most of which has been directed to programs and services that help to advance the status of women locally. Significant fundraisers over the years include: "Mustang Sally"; Gourmet Dinners, Salute evenings to Peter Appleyard, Gordie Tapp and David Broadfoot; +More for Women, A Recipe for Health; A Recipe for Entertaining and many more.

In the last three years, we have presented the Zonta Film Festival. This festival profiles films produced or directed by women about women's issues combining education and advocacy. Subject matter that has stimulated conversation around human rights includes Domestic Violence, Honour Killings and Human Trafficking,

Our flagship fundraiser, the Betty Thompson Golf Classic, named after one of our Charter Members, and now in its 22nd year has raised \$890,000 to date. All monies raised in this tournament are directed to breast cancer and other women's health programs.

For the last eleven years we have hosted an International Women's Day Event, and all monies raised are directed to Zonta International towards international service projects.

All of our fundraising activities support our advocacy efforts to advance the status of women and help to raise the credibility and visibility of our club in our community.

In the 2012-2014 biennium, our club donated \$20,000 to Zonta International Foundation.

Service

The Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo has a high profile in our community through our local service projects. We have participated in numerous projects at women's shelters, the local food bank, and through helping to build homes with Habitat for Humanity as part of their "All Women Build Project".

As part of the District Birthing Kits Project, which helps provide safer, cleaner births for women in developing countries, we have assembled over 8,000 kits. Locally we promote and participate in a municipal campaign school to encourage and enable women to run for political office.

Awards

Our club actively supports Zonta International programs such as Young Women in Public Affairs and the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Awards. We are very proud that our local winners have progressed through to District and International. Two of our Jane M. Klausman winners won at the international level. We direct money to the International Amelia Earhart Scholarship fund, and promote young women in aviation during Amelia Earhart month

(January). In addition, we have recognized Women of Achievement in our Community with awards in various categories.

Advocacy

In the area of Advocacy, we have made significant progress, especially in the last few years. We have initiated several very successful awareness projects through the “Zonta Says No” campaign, which includes a “Join us on the Bridge” event, and a series of video vignettes which played out on social media over the course of the “16 Days to End Violence Against Women” in 2013. We’ve received newspaper and television coverage of all of our events.

Social Media

The Kitchener-Waterloo club has a website, a Facebook page, a Linked-in and Twitter account as well as a YouTube channel. Most of our club documentation is accessible over the Internet. We actively post information from Zonta International regarding Service and Advocacy, along with news about our club events, our meetings, advocacy programs, service awards, fundraisers etc. using all these media.

Credibility and Visibility

Our club works tirelessly to raise awareness and advocate for improving the status of women both at the local level and at the international level. We are proud to be the “go-to” club in our community when it comes to issues affecting women. The Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo are proud members of Zonta and are committed to the ideals of Zonta International. We believe that women can make a difference in this world and consider ourselves fortunate that we are willing and able to do our part.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo