

ZONTA CLUB OF HAMBURG-ORCHARD PARK
AREA 4 DISTRICT 4
CLUB # 556

BRIEF HISTORY

The Zonta Club of Hamburg-Orchard Park, was chartered on April 16, 1966 at the Holiday Inn in Hamburg, New York with 37 charter members. Mrs. J. Lee (Helen) Goodyear, was a founder and first president. The prime obligation of this new club was the Amelia Earhart Scholarship fund. The Zonta International service projects at the time included the Jordan Training Center (1962-1974) which trained Palestinian refugee girls from the Haifa-Jaffa Camp on the Gaza Strip in business and sewing for the purpose of employment. In 1967 the club began its lifelong support of scholarships for local young women with two \$150 scholarships to two Seneca Nation Indian girls who aspired to become a pediatrician and a nurse. Other early service projects included establishing a Bike Path through the Village of Hamburg and a Bike Safety Program for Hamburg and Orchard Park students. They also supported the Springville Kindergarten for Handicapped Children. In 1968 Zonta International Special Recognition was awarded to our club for two years of outstanding service.

In 1974 our Craft Fair at the Hamburg Fairgrounds was established as the main fund raiser and continued until 1992. Other fundraisers throughout the years included fashion shows, lottery ticket sales, quilt raffles, and poster contests. In the early 1990's our fundraising focus switched to Christmas Gift Wrapping at the McKinley Mall in Hamburg and continues to this day. Other more recent efforts included our Election Day Spaghetti Dinners, Lucky Ladies Luncheons, and Wine Tasting Evenings.

Throughout the years our primary service has been aimed at the education of young women in over 200 high school and adult scholarships and youth awards to Hamburg EMT students and the Orchard Park Boys and Girls Club. Significant service funds have been allocated to Zonta International's Amelia Earhart, Young Women in Public Affairs, and Jane Klausman Awards. In 2006 we sponsored a YWPA District 4 winner and in 2010 our YWPA applicant, Bethany Saul, won both the District 4 and the Zonta International Scholarships.

Our local service projects continue to support Students Against Destructive Decisions, Warm the Children (providing warm clothing for children), and Hospice. We have, from the beginning, provided community service through local nursing home visits where we offered entertainment, refreshments, and friendship. We've collected gently used business clothing for our local community college training center and work as docents at the biannual Junior League of Buffalo Decorators' Show House. We volunteer for Habitat for Humanity Women Build projects and prepare meals for the Ronald McDonald House, a residence for families of patients at Buffalo Woman's and Children's Hospital and Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

In 2002 our club began a major shift in our focus to address the problem of domestic violence to women. We began to actively support the Hamburg Domestic Violence Program and the Kathleen Mary House in Hamburg, a safe residence for abused women and their children. In 2010 we joined in the efforts with the Zonta Club of Buffalo to

work with the newly established Family Justice Center in Western New York which provides a one-stop facility to provide medical and legal assistance to abused women. The Center has since added a satellite office in Orchard Park. Our members volunteer at the admissions desks and service their "Behind Closed Doors" poster initiative which advertises the Family Justice Center in ladies' room stalls throughout Western New York. Our Yellow Rose recipients have historically been leaders in our communities' efforts to fight domestic violence in all forms. Recently we've become involved in the Zonta Says No campaign.

Our members have always been actively involved in Zonta International initiatives either with financial support to ZI projects and Foundations but also through advocacy programs with the UN. Former H-OP president Donna Ketchum Colletta was District 4 Chair of the Amelia Earhart Committee, organized the four Amelia Earhart cruises to the Caribbean, Hawaii, and the Greek Isles. Donna held the office of Area 4 Director and was a member of their Nominating Committee. In 2009 District 4 Governor, Kathleen Douglass, bestowed on Donna the Governor's Choice Award for Outstanding service to District 4.

Bonnie Clesse, H-OP president in 2007, gave up that position to accept the Area 4 Director office in 2008. She has held the positions of District 4 United Nations Co-Chair, District 4 Co-Chair of the Legislative Awareness and Advocacy, and Chair of the District 4 Advocacy-United Nations.

Other past presidents Liz Cash and Marianne Chiumento have held positions of Area 4 Director and District 4 Secretary, respectively. Liz was Co-chair of our District 3 and 4 Golf tournaments for several years.

Our members have participated in assembling Birthing Kits for third world women with a neighboring club. We've enjoyed collaborating with fellow District 4 clubs in joint meetings and Amelia Earhart celebrations.

Membership expansion and retention have always been a priority. Our numbers have fluctuated between 20 and 40. We've hosted teas and receptions to attract potential members as well as made our club known at community functions. In 2012 we joined the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce and plan to join the Orchard Park Chamber. To balance the important work we do for women we have always supported and encouraged social interaction through theater excursions, holiday parties, and summer picnics. Our monthly dinner meetings have presented a variety of programs and guest speakers who have enlightened our members on subjects of women's safety, family court and legal issues, health initiatives, and fashion and cosmetic advice.

Our 40th Anniversary in 2006 was celebrated at the Avanti Mansion in Hamburg. We look forward to our 50th anniversary in 2016 and especially the Zonta International Centennial in 2019.

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Zonta Club of Hamburg-Orchard Park 2012-2014 President Kathi Scanlon