

ZONTA CLUB OF STRATFORD-History

Formation of the Club

Janice Bantle had been a Zonta member in Hamilton and when she moved to Stratford, gathered like minded women together to discuss forming a Zonta club in our community. The Zonta Club of Woodstock was our sponsoring club and Maria Odumodu was the representative from their club who worked with us. Barbara Fera, from the Zonta Club of Guelph was the District Governor at the time and also assisted us when we got started. The club chartered on July 17, 2000 with 25 members. Over the years, our membership has fluctuated and we currently have 17 members. We have a dinner meeting the 1st Thursday of every month, except for July and August, and often invite guest speaker for our program.

Committees meet as necessary. We have the following committees:

- Service
- Project Search
- Program
- UN/Advocacy
- Membership
- Finance
- Public Relations
- Scholarship

Club activities

Over the years we have done a number of activities, which include:

Teen Esteem, the club sponsors this program but members also volunteer. It is a program where young women in grades 7 & 8 interact with women in the community who act as role models and lead discussions around a variety of topics. The Perth District Health Unit organizes the program.

For a number of years we did an Women's Health Event each year.

International Women's Day Breakfast

14 Roses Bursary-given to young women pursuing post secondary education in Engineering, Sciences or Math.

The Janice Bantle Bursary for Young Women pursuing education in the Trades. This bursary is named after our club founder Janice Bantle who died in September, 2012.

Paint the Town Yellow

One Women's Junk is Another Woman's Funk- a fundraiser to fund our community programs

Golf Tournament-proceeds toward Breast Cancer surgical materials for our local hospital

Funds towards a "soft" interview room at the local hospital for victims of violence

Member of the STOP VAW in our community-this is a partnership of organizations that take on initiatives related to stopping/reducing violence against women in our community, for example Take Back the Night and 1 Billion Rising.

Basketeers-this program collects laundry baskets with supplies to be given to a woman who is leaving an abusive situation and starting over. We have been involved with this program since 2010.

A club donation to ZI Foundation each year as well as a number of individual member donations.

Involvement with Zonta at the District level

Our club held the Spring Workshop for Areas 1 & 2 on April 16, 2005.

Two of our members have been Area 1 Director. For the 2014-16 biennium, we have three members involved at the District level in the following positions: Area 1 Director, Nominating Committee and the UN Chair. Each year, we have had representation at the International Convention and always have representation at the District conferences and workshops.