

Zonta Club of Warren, Pennsylvania, District 4, Area 5, Club 0051

History - This club is a rural small town / county wide club with a county population of 42,000 for over eight decades. The initial organization meeting of the Zonta Club of Warren was held in the YWCA on March 17th, 1928, with over seventy people in attendance, including guest from Buffalo, Erie, Lockport and Jamestown, along with the confederation president - Louise Gerry. The Jamestown Club was responsible for the organization of Warren's club which was chartered on June 16, 1928. Warren was the second club in Pennsylvania, though it was known at the time that Washington DC was organizing a club in Philadelphia. The Warren club pledged \$100 to help finance the organization of a Pittsburgh club by each member having a party in her home with the proceeds going toward this fund.

Warren Zontians have had leadership roles in international committees, District 4 and Area 5 Directors, and district committee chairs, plus attending international conventions. Club membership ranged between 25 - 40 women over the decades.

Service & Advocacy projects- Early in the Zonta's club history was the countywide annual fund raiser for the March of Dimes from 1941-1978. The club was presented the PA Medical Assoc. Benjamin Rush Award in 1966. For many years the club annually received recognition for completing financial support of Zonta's international programs.

Over the years, funds have been provided for Girl Scouts camperships, Warren Co. Conservation District "Envirothon" to teach importance of natural resources in our Allegheny National Park and state parks; Don Mills Achievement Center's "Camp Talk A Lot" to help children with disabilities; provided funds for huge flags for the "Four Flags Historical" site in Warren; contributing to the babysitting program of the Warren Red Cross Unit to provide quality care for children; supporting "Century 21 Kids" to encourage young girls in variety of careers; and "Getting the Life You Want" program under the Family Service counseling program. The club sponsored a room at "A Safe Place" for victims of sexual assault.

Zonta members provides "hands on help" for an event "Women are Wonderful" – (day long educational fun workshops on health, technology, finances, recreation, etc.), at the Jefferson DeFrees Family Center where club meetings are held. Several Salvation Army programs were supported as "Bundle Up Days" annually helping 100s of children select warm winter clothes, Red Kettle campaign drive, gifts for moms at Christmas, "Back to School" - program helping limited income family income school children. Club donations over the years have provide service to groups forming to better the community. An example is volunteer ushering for a prestigious restoration of the Struthers Historic Library theatre, selling flowers on Daffodil Days for the Am. Cancer Society. Beginning in 2011 members held work session packaging supplies for 250- 500 birthing kits for third world mothers and their babies' healthy births.

Over the many decades scholarships were provided for teens going to college. Now the members annually award four \$1,000 scholarships to support women and men beyond high school planning to advance their education to keep their job, or going to school to learn new skills. A fifth \$1,000 scholarship goes to a community organization as seed money. Examples are "House of Hope" for women leaving prison to start new lives, and local cancer center for medical needs. Annually a "Woman in Leadership" is recognized with a certificate and a donation to her favorite charity. All recognition given meets the mission of Zonta to improve the status of women and their families.

Fund Raising - Major club fund raisers since 1999 has been Lucky Numbers" day event and decades of selling 500-1,000 lbs. pecans annually.