

Advocacy Report for January 12, 2013

Toni Majchrzak

Advocacy Project:

To describe a District Wide Project around the "ZONTA Says NO" to violence against women, I like the idea of every club in the districts doing something special to highlight many of their own VAWA projects and adding the "Orange" to gain visibility. KISS is the best way to bring our advocacy to the clubs.

I am hoping that at the meeting, the AD's will discuss the number of clubs that have a dedicated advocacy chair. The project depth can come from the District with suggestions to the clubs on what they would like to add to their current projects. There were so many great ideas being presented these last few weeks that were simply simple and simply wonderful.

- a. Wearing "Orange roses" to gain visibility and our message to all who ask "why an orange rose?" This will be used by the clubs during their various fundraisers for VAW
- b. Bringing men to the table to help spread the message of "Hands off Women" because don't many of us live without fear of brutality while co-existing with our husbands, boyfriends, brothers, dads and friends? What man wouldn't be proud to join us in our pledge to eradicate violence against women?
- c. Inviting other Women's groups to join us in the many simple ideas and hoping the community of women's groups will help us expand our own visibility.

Advocacy as part of the Spring Workshop:

I love that we have embraced how to get our club members to the workshop. Challenging the clubs to get the most members to the workshop, by giving them a special table at the workshop would be my suggestion. Deadline would be March 30th, so there will be time to plan for the table.

It is important to highlight what our clubs in areas 3 & 4 have done to gain Visibility for Advocacy. To this end I would like to have Rochester Club be a presenter or part of a panel. Pat Deane, Rochester's President is willing to describe the answers to all of our questions. Such questions as: how did you plan events for 16 days of Activism? How did you start? What were the lessons you learned that would save us anguish in planning and presentation of the program? Etc....

Advocacy on the US side:

CEDAW needs to be ratified. This is a great year with over 20 women in the senate to help with this idea. District 4 clubs US, have heard of CEDAW but it really isn't part of their vocabulary yet. This will be a continuing goal for the US clubs.

I would also like to add the Pillar concept as a handout for the end of the Advocacy program. I will attach it to the email for anyone that would like to review how I see the project being presented.

Our advocacy committee has been painting the peace bridge yellow for two years now. It is time to bring shades of "orange" to compliment the yellow. We will look at expanding the use of the peace bridge to forge a bridge of men and Zontians across the Niagara River with Zonta Clubs on both sides of the borders on the International day of the Woman, March 8th.