

Dear Lee, after looking at the information sent to us from Diane Lindsley, our new US Advocacy Chair, the info really set me thinking. I truly believe that CEDAW is less well-known in the US, than in the Canadian clubs and therefore, Connie has a point. I think too that the Senate may have ratified the treaty at this point but it doesn't mar my following information.

I still feel that the information about getting the treaty to the Senate to get the ratification vote would prove very interesting to the Zontians. And maybe, Kay when she comes to our conference will talk about the background of the CEDAW Treaty, why the US has never ratified the treaty and why with the addition of female senators voted into the US Senate, the bill finally got out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and into the Senate.

Informing our Zontians, I believe, would prove interesting to the members at the District Conference. Kay and Diane stated that they are in communication with June Zeitlin of the Cedaw Education Project and ultimately, Senator Boxer. If we could get June or have Kay speak to the progress at the District Conference that would be amazing. I feel very strongly that we, Zontians, need the information about CEDAW because we have not been adequately educated on the issues. We might be able to support their efforts in our Districts with a letter writing campaign at the least and at heart, do whatever we can to encourage our advocacy chair committee to do.

Further, I love that there is a push to continue ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) being pursued and these two items would be of great interest to our members. I feel that presenting the arguments that are presented including the Madison ratification which just gained ratification after 250 years and argues the point that the ERA is alive and well and living in the US. There are still unequal rights since the original amendment was presented and it now includes all of the problems with women in the military and equal pay and ad nauseum.

The fact that the Congress altered the Amendment after ratification by some of the states will gain momentum and will change the minds of the congressman as the fight to ratify the 3 additional states becomes an issue in the courts. We can help here also but only if we bring this to the attention of the Zontians now, before we need to ask them for their support and encourage their advocacy.

Warren Workshop: I have been invited to attend a President's meeting in Area 5. Frannie has set it up for May 29th and I am totally excited. At the workshop, the advocacy chairs responded very positively to the ideas of being a part of a committee to determine a District Advocacy Project. I will bring this to the Presidents who have been encouraged to bring their Advocacy chairs to this meeting. The chairs were very enthusiastic about using social media email and Skype to hold meetings. We are looking into this very hard. In Niagara Falls Carol Spedding thought we might be able to use the camera on Facebook to hold meetings. We are following up.

Niagara Falls workshop:

The advocacy chairs were excited about doing many things; Consensus to be a part of a committee to determine a District Project, do something as a group for the 16 Days of Activism, like one club taking one day and providing an event or a program, and honestly, I don't want them to lose their momentum.

Pati Aine Guzinski, from the Tonawanda Club is willing to help and she has already gathered all of the emails from the NF table. Her enthusiasm is contagious. She wants to be my assistant! I also think at the District Conference this year we might offer lunch tables to the Service Chairs, Membership Chairs, and certainly, Advocacy Chairs. What a great way to bring ideas to the tables and meet everyone at the same time.