

Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Committee Report – Bonnie Clesse –  
September, 2011  
Zonta International District 4

## SPEECHES & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Although I have continued speaking at individual clubs (& have 2 more scheduled in September & November), the major undertaking was the LAA programs Connie Deckert & I prepared & presented at all 3 D4 Workshops.

We were able to get our uniform, consistent & thorough LAA message across to a good portion of D4 at those 3 sessions. It was worth the time & effort of the collaboration.

## LAA SURVEY

Connie & I did Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 together & I did Areas 5 & 6. Because I was able to be with all the areas, I was able to do a “snapshot” of Advocacy throughout District 4. At least 1 member of a club (& for some, MANY members) filled out the survey I handed out at each Workshop.

We received 1 or more responses from a total of clubs.

Area 1- 5 clubs

Area 2 – 6

Area 3 – 4

Area 4 – 6

Area 5 – 5

Area 6 – 4

The resulting information is helpful in showing a great range of differences in Advocacy in our clubs: from nothing to a lot to collaborations with other clubs & community organizations. We are making both progress & an impact. One good example is ZC Cheektowaga-Lancaster. They are very active in a variety of ways & are incorporating Advocacy within their projects – to include an advocacy aspect while pursuing fund raising & service.

This is a fine example of the platform with 3 legs ( of service, fund raising & advocacy) which I used to demonstrate all aspects are important & needed to support the aims of ZI.

Cheektowaga-Lancaster’s projects include both service, fundraising & advocacy for :  
Behind Closed Doors project with the Family Justice Center & other Zonta Clubs  
Setting up apartments for refugees with the International Institute  
Mentoring Program with St. Miguel’s School for girls  
Habitat for Humanity Women Build.

The Survey also showed that we need to do a LOT more explaining of what advocacy is & how to integrate it into a clubs projects. There is still confusion about which activities are –or incorporate- advocacy. We can also stress the need to be aware of local legislative activity & how to impact it. (& Some clubs are not yet advocating.)

Of course, the US clubs have done 2 CEDAW write in campaigns ... & need to continue but there are local issues that each club can help with. FOR EXAMPLE: several Area 2 clubs participated in the Say No Campaign. It was an especially good & visible idea to go to local public places to get signatures on a petition.

#### CONCLUSION

We are making progress in D4 but the Survey pinpoints where we need to focus our efforts.