

Zonta District 4

November 17, 2018

Board and Committee Chairs Meeting

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Lee Fogarty, ZONTA USA CAUCUS

First I want to thank and congratulate our governor, Bonnie Clesse, for understanding and supporting the importance of advocacy, by naming 4 of us as Advocacy Chairs in different areas.

I sent a letter to each AD and president, introducing myself, my role in Advocacy in District 4, the Zonta USA Caucus, and some suggestions on advocacy.

The Zonta USA Caucus is just getting busy again in very exciting ways.

President Suzanne has declared that the district will be focusing on child marriage, and I have attached some examples of what clubs have done in looking at this issue. The US clubs need to research the ages when girls CAN marry (in PA it is as young as 15), and determine what action they will take re this issue.

The Caucus has joined the ERA Coalition. We are working towards Virginia being the 38th state that has passed the ERA

“We are the best kept secret..”

As Zontians we have heard this and said it many times over. While at the convention in Yokahama, I began wondering “..but why? And what can we do about it?” The Caucus began exploring how we can change this. Several avenues are being explored, waiting till after the elections to continue with this program.

In conjunction with other like minded groups, such as AAUW, hire a lobbyist to fight our issues in congress.

Hire a part time PR person to get us out there and recognized

We are unofficially calling this Clout- the power to influence

For New York state, there is a coalition of womens groups called PowHerNY (www.powherny.org), hoping to spread into other states. In NY there are 100

organizations working to empower women through pay equity. One of their focuses is to ask candidates hard questions:

Pay equity, domestic violence, VAWA, sexual harassment, sex-ed programs in school, etc.

VERY IMPORTANT: Zonta's stand on affiliation with other groups has changed. Each club, area and district can make their own decisions about the groups they affiliate with as long as they support women's human rights and do not affect ZI's nonpartisan and nonsectarian character. NOTE: The reproductive rights policy of the outside organization is no longer an issue.

Support the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, HR 6545. Contact your representative today and urge them to vote for this reauthorization.

VOTE!!!