



# ZONTA NEWS & VIEWS

## ZONTA



INTERNATIONAL

Club #513

Chartered:  
September 10, 1963

### OFFICERS

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Melodie Hunnicutt

VICE PRESIDENT  
Judy Barnes

SECRETARY  
Doris Cheek

TREASURER  
Dottie Munsch

BOARD MEMBERS  
Runette Louthian  
Nancy Whiteside

PAST PRESIDENT  
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Dottie Munsch/  
Kim Neel

MEMBERSHIP  
Nancy Whiteside

PUBLIC RELATIONS  
Runette Louthian

SERVICE  
MJ Hassell

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER-JANUARY 2008-09

## President's Letter

Dear Zonta Sisters,

Happy holidays! I wish for you and yours the merriest of seasons.

I am using my column this time to re-publish a letter from the Zonta International Board. This letter was forwarded to each of you via e-mail from our District Governor, Lynn Salvatore. It is also published on the homepage of the Zonta International website. As it prompted much discussion at our Zonta Club of Columbia board meeting last month, I wanted to give each of you another opportunity to read about the recent actions taken by the ZI Board and consider their possible implications. I am contemplating inviting Lollie Harper from the Zonta Club of Charleston, SC to visit in the new year and give us her perspective on this situation. Lollie carried our club proxy to the ZI Convention last July and also was a member of the Zonta International Foundation Board. I invite each of you to contact me regarding any questions or concerns you may have and also to give input about asking Lollie to come speak to our club.

Yours in Zonta,  
Melodie

25 November 2008

A Special Message to Our Zontians from the Zonta International Board

This message is to tell you of an unusual

action taken by the Zonta International Board of Directors.

The Zonta International Board has acted, in its capacity as Sole Member of the Zonta International Foundation, to remove some of the individual members from the Zonta International Foundation Board. The Foundation's Bylaws permit this action.

This extraordinary action was taken in light of a serious disagreement between the Zonta International Board and Foundation Executive Committee over the handling of Foundation's assets, including:

- the purchase of an "office condominium" before selling the current headquarters building;
- choosing office condominium space which, in the opinion of the Zonta International Board, will not suitably house Zonta International and Foundation operations and our treasured artifacts;
- taking out a loan at 6.5% to cover the condominium purchase, and another loan to cover construction, when Zonta International could have made the loan more economically; and
- pledging restricted assets of the Foundation.

The Zonta International Board members will serve as the Zonta International Foundation Board members for the time being, until the Foundation's financial matters are well in hand and prudent steps are taken to preserve capital and reduce interest payments.

The Zonta International Board believes that, if the Foundation Executive

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### District 11 Officers

GOVERNOR  
Lynn M. Salvatore

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
Jane Adams

TREASURER  
Alice Chick

SECRETARY  
Mary Frisbie

AREA 2 DIRECTOR  
Mary Cabaniss

FOUNDATION  
AMBASSADOR  
Doris Larson

Visit [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org) or  
[www.zonta-district11.org](http://www.zonta-district11.org)  
for more information

### International President

Beryl Sten, Sweden

### International President Elect

Dianne Curtis

Committee had included it in decisions as they were being made, this extraordinary action would not have been necessary. We heard from some members of the Foundation Executive Committee leadership that they did not need Zonta International's approval for their actions. This path was leading to dissension within the Zonta family and, in the opinion of the Zonta International Board, leading to a diminishment of resources.

We look forward to moving forward with a strong and united family of Zonta organizations to improve the status of women throughout the world. We thank the members of the former Zonta International Foundation Board for their past contributions and have invited them to continue furthering the cause of women worldwide through their Zonta membership.

Any questions or concerns should be directed by e-mail to Zonta International President Beryl Sten at berylzonta@telia.com or to Acting Executive Director Judy Johnston at zonta1@comcast.net.

Sincerely,  
The Zonta International Board

# Happy Birthday!

December	8	Doris Cheek
January	22	Dena Feagin
February	12	Kim Neel

## Bowling for Zonta a Great Success

Our Bowl A Thon held in October was a great success. For the first time, we had close to 100 bowlers. At first glance, it seemed a little overwhelming with all of the bowlers, but it all came together and everyone had a great time. We went over the \$8000.00 mark this year with \$8,165 in profits.

Keep up the good work!  
Dottie & Kim, Fundraising Chairs

## Zontians Enjoy Killingsworth Gala

Submitted by Dottie Munsch

Columbia Zontians enjoyed the recent Killingsworth Gala held in November. The event's 675 seats were sold out three weeks in advance. A former resident who lived at Killingsworth almost 25 years ago spoke and told a very moving story about her life before Killingsworth. The Gala raised \$23,000.00 net, much needed in this tough economic environment which hits nonprofits especially hard. The plans for next year's Gala are underway and will be announced in early 2009.

# Human Rights for Women Human Rights for All (UDHR60)

Zonta International has been instrumental in bringing issues of violence against women to the forefront of local, national, regional and global arenas since the first campaign originated in 1991.

Since 1991, the 16 Days Campaign has helped to raise awareness about gender violence and highlighted its effects on women globally. Each year, thousands of activists from all over the world utilize the campaign to further their work to end violence against women.

The 2008 theme was dedicated to recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR60) on 10 December 2008.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. The campaign highlights the connections between women, violence, and human rights from 25 November to 10 December. The Campaign is an organizing strategy for individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

**25 November** was declared **International Day Against Violence Against Women** in July 1981 in Bogota, Colombia to commemorate the violent assassination of the Mirabal sisters (Patria, Minerva and Maria Teresa) on 25 November 1960 by the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. In 1999, the United Nations officially recognized 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

**1 December** marks the beginning of an annual campaign to encourage public support for and development of programs to prevent the spread of HIV infection and promote awareness of issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. First observed in 1988, **World AIDS Day** serves to strengthen the global effort to face the challenges of the AIDS pandemic. This year, the theme of the UNAIDS World AIDS Campaign is "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise," and demands governments keep their policy commitments related to HIV/AIDS.

**10 December** marks the celebration of the 1948 adoption of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. This document was one of the first major achievements of the United Nations and provided the basic philosophy for many legally binding international instruments to follow.

## Member Spotlight on BARBARA SCOTT

Barbara A. Scott was born in Florence, S.C. and moved to Columbia at a very young age.

She attended Columbia public schools, graduating from University High School and then attending the University of South Carolina.

Barbara was employed as legal secretary for Law and Kirkland, which later expanded to Kirkland, Aaron & Alley and rose to the position of Office Manager where she remained for 29 1/2 years.

She is a founding member of the Columbia Legal Secretaries Association and served as Vice President and Treasurer of the South Carolina Legal Secretaries Association. Of special note, when Barbara took the Professional Legal Secretary exam, she passed on the

first try.

In 1974, Barbara was elected to the Richland School District #1 Board and served for eight years. She served as Chairman for three years.

In 1984 Barbara was elected Clerk of Court for Richland County. She has served as Vice President and President of the South Carolina Association of Clerks of Court and Registers of Deeds. She worked as Legislative Chairman in areas covering the court system. She served on the board of South Carolina Association of Counties and as S.C. representative on the board of National Association of Counties.

Barbara is married to Paul H. Pickens and has 4 daughters and 9 grandchildren.

## Civil Rights for South Carolina Law Enforcement and Victim Advocates Recognizing – Responding – Prosecuting

Submitted by Doris Cheek

On September 16 and 17, Ina Edens, Melodie Hunnicutt and I attended a conference concerning civil rights laws, human trafficking laws and how victim advocates can participate in assisting law enforcement via education and actual victim assistance.

The conference was intense, interesting and very informative. The textbook issued to each of us is filled with helpful resource information. September 16 began with an introduction by Walt Wilkins, the U. S. District Attorney for South Carolina. All human trafficking instances are hard to digest; however, some of the more upsetting are the following:

- Children are sold over and over for commercial sex purposes and for illegal labor.
- The numbers of trafficking cases are second only to drug and weapon trafficking.
- Human trafficking is very lucrative.
- Human trafficking targets the most vulnerable of all people, mostly those who are poverty stricken.

Victims are not always recruited by force, but are often enticed by false promises. Victims are often invisible. They have language difficulties. They are migrant workers, factory workers, prostitutes, and landscape workers. They are controlled by the enormous debt due to the trafficker. They are held in isolation. They are threatened with deportation. They are often drug dependent and are often physically abused. They fear both the trafficker and the United States legal system.

Traffickers are those who smuggle people over our borders, crime syndicates, mom and pop organizations and individuals. Victim advocates are often the first people to recognize traffickers and victims. Several cases of human trafficking were discussed and are outlined in the seminar resource book. Since 2002, there has been a 300% increase in reported crimes. The diminished rights of one person diminishes rights

of all citizens.

The second topic, What Constitutes a Hate Crime and Using Federal Statutes to Prosecute Hate Crimes, was presented by Brent Alan Gray, Deputy Chief of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. One interesting point made by Gray was that a person can not be prosecuted under a hate crime law, unless a specific provision of the law is violated – even if it seems obvious on the surface that a hate crime has been committed. Different hate crime scenarios were presented. Hate crimes often are race based. There are hate crimes against persons of color - even the perpetrator may not know the actual race of the victim. Cross burning is still prevalent. Church arson is often a hate crime. A white supremacist organization known as the National Alliance was discussed. Its members often brag about their activities on the internet.

The third topic of the conference concerned South Carolina Human Trafficking Statutes. This was presented by Trey Gowdy, Solicitor for the Seventh Judicial Circuit (Spartanburg). The South Carolina human trafficking law states “A person who knowingly subjects another person to forced labor or services, or recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains by any means another person knowing that the person will be subjected to forced labor or services, or aids, abets, attempts or conspires to do any of the above acts is guilty of a felony known as trafficking in persons for forced labor or services and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not more than fifteen years.” This law closely follows the federal human trafficking law which was passed in 2000. The first state to follow the federal law was Washington and South Carolina was second.

Solicitor Gowdy pointed out that there are man-made laws and inherent human natural rights. Human trafficking is a violation of a human right. We

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should never allow anything as debasing as human trafficking. One of the participants in the conference stated that we need a lobbying effort such as that put forth by MADD. This forced more attention on drunk driving, and more stringent laws followed.

Human trafficking victims are afraid of traffickers and of law enforcement. Language is a problem. We need translators and victims assistance programs. Investigators need on-site help. The ordinary street officer is handicapped by not having adequate help when confronting what he suspects is trafficking.

An interesting provision of the law is that physical force is no longer a requirement. The law applies if the force is emotional coercion. Also, if the victim was ever forced, it still counts as trafficking even if the coercion has stopped.

Senator Catherine Ceips was mentioned as the lawmaker who started the human trafficking inquiry in South Carolina. Some of the problems following arrest are need for major resources, housing, supplies and long-term help. South Carolina does have an emergency fund for victim witnesses.

One important Zonta note is that Kelly Bagwell, Bonnie Cirrincione, and Betty Houbion of the Myrtle Beach Zonta club have started the Eastern Carolinas Coalition Against Human Trafficking. They are working on getting officers, funds and cooperation of law enforcement in starting this organization. An Illinois club is offering to mentor. The Chief of Police in Myrtle Beach was part of this conference, and he is well aware of human trafficking in South Carolina.

The next conference segment was Investigating & Prosecuting Human Trafficking Cases. A specific case was highlighted, "US v. Letrado." This case was presented in detail from the first moment of discussion with a victim all the way through the court trial. An enormous amount of work is required in prosecution of these cases, and the victims are often not cooperative. Maria Letrado was a madam in the Greenville case recently reported in the media. She had managers working for her. The prosecution had tapes of the houses of prostitution and all people who were clients – everybody who went in and came out. Investigators went through the trash, got phone records, and all manner of detail.

The 2:15 p.m. segment of the conference was Building Human Trafficking Cases for Prosecution - What To Do and What Not To Do. This was a panel discussion led by two assistant U. S. Attorneys, a trial attorney of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. An agent of the FBI, and investigators of the Richland County Sheriff's Department and the Columbia Police Departments. This particular discussion was important because it emphasized how the various law enforcement departments work together. It is not possible for one arm of law enforcement to physically see all components of human trafficking. Since several cases involving human trafficking have already been prosecuted, law enforcement is in a position to develop a useful protocol

using those scenarios that proved helpful and those that were actually destructive.

The 4:00 p.m. seminar was presented by Elizabeth K. Hopper, Associate Director of Project REACH. This section dealt with cultural barriers and strategies for law enforcement. Ms. Hopper presented a very informative program about how cultural differences cause difficulty in identifying victims and prosecution of criminals. She also talked about the importance of translators and how it matters if the translator puts a "spin" on what he or she is hearing from the human trafficking victim. Translators are required to speak only the exact translation of what the victim reports.

The September 17, 9:00 a.m. segment was taught by Vinton DeVane Lide who spoke about the "color of law." This involves those working in law enforcement who may be involved in an incident while off duty, but who are performing as if they were on duty. This was a very interesting. We were shown several actual cases and were asked if the officer as performing as a citizen or as "under the color of law."

Also presented at this time were Giglio and Garrity laws. These laws apply to witnesses. This was a technical discussion that was aimed at law enforcement.

The final segment applied to federal and state agency roles and responsibilities in civil rights investigations. This was a summation of how we can work together to identify and prosecute human trafficking cases, as well as other civil rights cases.

The entire conference was informative and it served as an intense course for law enforcement personnel, as well as victim advocates. Several key points that were of special interest to me:

1. There is more cooperation among law enforcement personnel than I first thought.
2. There are more resources available for victims than I first thought.
3. We are just now getting started identifying human trafficking, and education is important at this time.
4. As a Zontian, I was pleased to see members of our Myrtle Beach Club start the Eastern Carolina Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

In closing, I hope that the District Attorney will make more conferences of this type available to the members of the Human Trafficking Task Force, and that we will become more involved in helping human trafficking victims as we go forward.

*"You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it."*

**Margaret Thatcher**