



ZONTA CLUB OF COLUMBIA, SC

ZONTA NEWS & VIEWS

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2008



Club #513

Chartered:
September 10, 1963

OFFICERS

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Melodie Hunnicutt

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Judy Barnes

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Doris Cheek

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Dottie Munsch

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Nancy Whiteside

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Dottie Munsch/
Kim Neel

MEMBERSHIP
Nancy Whiteside

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Runette Louthian

SERVICE
MJ Hassell

President's Letter

Welcome to a new Zonta Club of Columbia year! I am very excited about the possibilities for international and local service to improve the status of women in 2008-2009. I want to thank the members who have generously agreed to donate their time and skills to serving on the Board of Directors for this year: Judy Barnes, Doris Cheek, Dottie Munsch, Nancy Whiteside, Runette Louthian, and M. J. Hassell. I also extend my gratitude to Kim Neel who has volunteered to assist the Fundraising Committee with the Annual Bowling Event.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Service Projects, chaired by Coretta Bedsole, did a stellar job in reviewing the current club projects and making recommendations for changes in 2008-2009. Every member was e-mailed a copy of this committee report. Please take the time to carefully read and consider the changes recommended. Send all comments, questions, and concerns to Coretta Bedsole at cbedsole@sc.rr.com. The Board will consider all member e-mails at the July 7 board meeting and present a final committee report for approval by the membership at the July 14 luncheon.

It is an honor to serve as your president for a second year. We accomplished so

much together in 2007-2008, including hosting a luncheon for Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, Dr. Mohini Giri, and finally getting an article and photo published in The Zontian about our annual bowling fundraiser. We can thank the perseverance of Doris Cheek for this last accomplishment. She is in relentless pursuit of publicity and public awareness for ZI and our club!

Please make every effort to spread the good news of Zonta within your professional and personal circles. Membership recruitment is the job of all of us. We welcome our first two new members for 2008-2009, Deborah Cornelison and Barbara Scott. Let's make a special effort to make them feel welcome and get them involved in our club projects.

I hope to be with all of you on July 14. I am scheduled for abdominal surgery on July 3 and ask for your thoughts and prayers. I always bounced right back from my multiple cesarean section surgeries, but it's been 17 years since the last one, and I'll soon be 50. We'll see what this old girl still has in her!

Yours in Zonta,
Melodie

District 11 Officers

GOVERNOR

Beatrice Weaver, Miami

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Lynn M. Salvatore, Jacksonville

TREASURER

Helen Brown, Greater Miami

SECRETARY

Coretta Bedsole, Columbia

AREA 2 DIRECTOR

Jean McElroy, Hilton Head

FOUNDATION

AMBASSADOR

Sarah Lee

Visit www.zonta.org or
www.zonta-district11.org
for more information

International President

Olivia Ferry, Philippines

International President Elect

Beryl Sten, Sweden

INTELLIGENCE REPORT - Ending Violence Against Women

by Doris Cheek

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In April, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hosted the first ever U.S.-led summit to combat violence against women. Representatives from 17 nations attended. Rice spoke about her determination to make violence against women a global priority—especially human trafficking, which she calls “the slave trade of the modern world.”

What is human trafficking ?

The State Department estimates that 800,000 people are moved across international borders each year by traffickers, and millions more are forcibly transported within their own countries. The perpetrators prey on the weakest—primarily women and children – for profit. They lure victims into involuntary servitude, prostitution and being child soldiers.

Where does trafficking occur?

We have over 100 countries, including many

allies, on a three-tiered list. Most Americans would be surprised to know that trafficking exists even in democratic countries. (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar are among the worst offenders. Also cited: Jordan, Israel, Great Britain, Australia, France, Canada and South Korea.)

What is the U.S. doing to combat the problem?

We’ve created a special office to monitor and combat trafficking. We also have a special ambassador who assists nations with developing specific projects to end the problem. Sometimes that means creating shelters for women or encouraging greater prosecutorial zeal so that cases will be brought and tried. Sometimes women do not even know about their basic rights, so we need to educate them.

2008 YWPA Scholarship Winner

The Zonta Club of Columbia had eight excellent applicants for its 2008 Young Women in Public Affairs Scholarship. A committee of Betty Jo Carson, Nancy Whiteside, Ann Maletic, Melodie Hunnicutt and Doris Cheek reviewed the applications. The three girls having the highest scores were interviewed individually, two at Spring Valley and one at Brookland Cayce. The three finalists were outstanding, and all would have been wonderful representatives of our club.

Megan Elizabeth Jemmings of Brookland Cayce High School was our chosen winner. Megan is a standing officer in Brookland Cayce’s Latin Club and in the South Carolina Junior Classical League. She is the publications editor and the web designer both locally and for the State Junior Classical League. Megan is also responsible for her school’s website. She is the technical director of many school drama productions and is the wrestling team’s manager and scorekeeper. Megan is a member of the National Honor Society and for fourteen

years has been studying modern ballet. She has also graduated from a school of acting and modeling. Megan has accomplished all this in spite of total dependence on a wheelchair for mobility.

Megan has participated in many community activities such as Locks of Love, Relay for Life, craft days at Children’s Hospital and Laurel Crest Retirement Center, Adopt-a-Highway, disability awareness programs with the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

In 2007, Megan received the Golden Palmetto Award for Leadership. She has a delightful personality, is ambitious, is not afraid of hard work and looks forward to a bright future. She has been accepted at Presbyterian College and will begin her college career there in the fall. It was our pleasure to award the 2008 YWPA scholarship to her. She will speak to our club at our July meeting.

Victims' Advocacy Training - Combating Human Trafficking

By Doris Cheek

On April 3, Dottie Munsch and I attended a human trafficking training session in Myrtle Beach which was sponsored by the Zonta Club of Myrtle Beach, The U. S. Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina and the Women & Gender Studies Program of Coastal Carolina University. The guest speaker was Nola Theiss, Executive Director, Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships, Inc. Nola is also a fellow Zontian.

Nola is the former mayor of Sanibel, Florida, and holds a Masters in Public Administration as well as degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Illinois. For over three years, she has dedicated herself to the issue of human trafficking – fighting it through public awareness and using the skills she has developed in her work as an educator, writer, administrator, public official and scholar, helping communities form their own community based organizations. She has won numerous awards for her work in promoting human trafficking. She has spoken regionally, nationally and internationally about human trafficking to over 5,000 people.

Nola first started working on human trafficking as a result of a report she heard at the Zonta International Convention that was held in New York several years ago. After returning home, Nola first approached the newly elected sheriff in her county, who told her "We don't have human trafficking here." She told the story about a girl who was sold into slavery by her mother in Guatemala and ended up in Florida. The girl spoke no English, no Spanish and nobody would listen to her. Finally, her story was heard as a result of Nola's insistence, and four traffickers were eventually prosecuted. Awareness is the prime goal in the United States because we seem to deny its existence. As an eye-opening note, the Guatemalan mother sold her daughter for \$250.

Another case Nola talked about was an African boys' choir brought to the United States to perform at churches. The choir was a cover

for human trafficking. Church members realized that something was wrong with the children and notified authorities. This story emphasizes the importance of awareness.

Some modern-day examples of human trafficking are: forced commercial sex, forced labor in agriculture, construction, service industries and forced domestic workers. Some hotel workers are not directly hired by hotels but are supplied by labor contractors. The contractors can profit by human trafficking – taking money from the hotels and treating workers as slaves. The hotel then has no overt knowledge of the human trafficking. The law now states that anyone who benefits from human trafficking can be prosecuted. Some labor contractors supply people all over the United States and are very profitable.

Fifty percent of human traffic victims are not illegal immigrants. Victims are talked out of their passports by traffickers. For instance, in the Atlanta airport, some victims were given a rose as a welcome gift and in exchange for their passports. The victims then have no identification and no way to get back home.

Any child under the age of 18 performing a commercial sex act is a victim of human trafficking. Over 200,000 American citizens are trafficked into the sex industry. Human trafficking is very profitable. Over \$32 billion dollars is earned by the industry annually. New York, Florida, California and Texas are the top states for human trafficking; however, human trafficking also exists right here in South Carolina.

Nola is very focused on her topic, and basically spoke for four hours with no notes. She answered a wide variety of questions, and helped start a Human Trafficking Task Force in Myrtle Beach while she was standing at the podium. She is a woman on a mission. Zonta is very fortunate to have her as a club member. It was our pleasure to meet her and to hear her talk.

Member Spotlight on Nancy Whiteside

Nancy was born and grew up in Shelby, NC. Always an outdoors person, she did lots of horseback riding growing up. Nancy went to college at East Tennessee University and graduated with a degree in studio art. She later married a Greenville, SC man who she met her last year in college. They lived in Baltimore, MD and Arizona before settling in Greenville, SC. Nancy worked as a Disability Examiner for 5 years, and as Associate Director of the Rape Crisis Center in Greenville for 8 years before moving with her husband to Columbia. She has worked at the Lexington Richland Alcohol & Drug Abuse Center for 16 years.

Nancy loves sailing, kayaking, hiking, and does quite a bit of pottery making in her spare time. She has a 29 year old daughter who just got married last October, and is living in Hilton Head. Nancy's husband passed away 9 years ago and she says, "I found that I had to discover at that time just who I was. I had always been Tommy's wife or Summer's Mother - so it was a real growing experience. I started hiking on the Appalachian Trail and it was such a healing experience for me - I have found that life really is a series of journeys we take." Nancy thinks Zonta is a great organization and would love to get more involved. She says, "I work with women in treatment in my job and realize how unfair life is for so many of them - if we can help even a few we are doing something to benefit this world of ours."

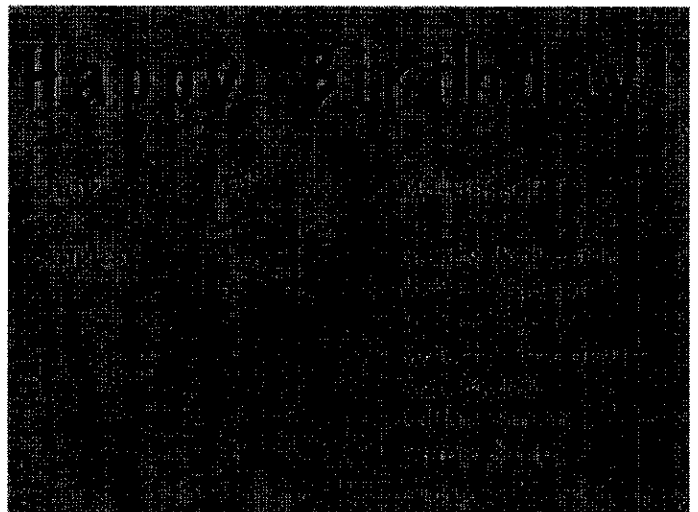
ZONTA ISSUE:

Zonta International is on the front lines of global and local efforts to help women overcome barriers to equal education, health care, legal rights, credit and employment through education, service and advocacy programs funded by Zonta International Foundation.

New Zonta Club Officers

Club officers for the Zonta year beginning June 1 follow:

President	Melodie Hunnicutt
Vice President	Judy Barnes
Treasurer	Dottie Munsch
Secretary	Doris Cheek
Committee chairs follow:	
Fundraising Co-Chairs	Dottie Munsch & Kim Neel
Membership & Two-Year Board Member	Nancy Whiteside
Public Relations & One-Year Board Member	Runette Louthian
Service	M. J. Hassell



FAST FACT:

Two-thirds of illiterate adults are women and two-thirds of children not in school are girls.