



# ZONTA

CLUB OF  
COLUMBIA

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

Message from the president Kathy Williams

Winter 2016 - Newsletter



The Zonta Club of Columbia started off with a full plate! Our January Membership Meeting coincided with Amelia Earhart Day, a day set aside to honor aviation pioneer and Zonta member, Amelia Earhart. Thanks to Jessica Stover and Pam Heller who provided our members an outstanding program on a truly amazing woman who encompasses the ideals of Zonta.

We also started the year with our “Enhancing Your Assets” series at the Killingsworth Home. These hour long programs are held weekly from January through March. They are designed to support and give guidance to the residents at Killingsworth Home. Topics have included taxes, personal development, diabetes management, stress management, Midland’s Tech Quick Jobs and scholarship opportunities, just to name a few. Thanks to Pam Heller who has done a magnificent job of putting together this opportunity for the residents.

We welcomed SC Attorney General Alan Wilson to our February Membership Meeting. General Wilson has been a strong advocate for women and confronting the issues of human trafficking and domestic violence. In recognition of this service, past President Marion Watson presented General Wilson with a “Zonta Says No” tee shirt.

As we move into Spring, I want to remind our members that the Area 2 meeting will be held on April 2nd in Franklin, NC. Please make plans to attend.

Finally, we are enrolled in “Midlands Gives” on May 3rd. This is our club’s first time participating in this opportunity to receive donations from those who believe in our cause. Please communicate to your friends, neighbors and coworkers that Zonta is on the list and we welcome their contributions so that we can increase our activities and volunteerism on those issues affecting women in SC.

Thanks for all you do Columbia Zontians!

Club # 513  
Chartered  
9/10/63

### OFFICERS:

President: Kathy Williams  
Vice President: Martha Ann Williams  
Treasurer: Dottie Munsch  
Secretary: Ina Edens  
Service Chair: Pam Heller  
Fundraising Chair: Dottie Munsch  
Membership: Ellie Dagle  
Public Relations: Marion Watson

## *Zonta Columbia adds three new members*



Erin Long Bergeson was born in Marietta, GA and raised in Chapin, SC. She earned a degree in Business Administration with a major in Accounting from USC, and an MBA with an emphasis in Finance from BYU. In 2009, Erin started her own accounting firm in Chapin, SC, ELAC, where she employs eight people. They provide accounting, tax and consulting services for small businesses. Erin loves Zonta and what it stands for and for the education she has received from being a part of it.



Jessica Stover is from Columbia, SC and currently lives in Aiken, SC. She is a new mom to a beautiful baby daughter, Willow Ann. Jessica is employed as a National Gold Leader with Avon and has been in business for 13 years. She has earned many trips and incentives, including places like Orlando, FL and Playa del Carmen, Mexico. She enjoys traveling and would love to see the world. Jessica also enjoys teaching Yoga, running and living an active lifestyle.



Jo Groce was born in Columbia, SC. She attended The University of South Carolina and is happily retired from the US Department of Agriculture where she worked as Human Resources Manager. Jo has a son and three grandchildren. Jo is an active member of Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church and has served on the Presbyterian Women's Council. Jo likes to travel and to play bridge. She likes to garden and is a member of the Quail Valley Garden Club.

## AWARENESS, ADVOCACY, ACTION

From Awareness, to Advocacy, to **ACTION** was the theme for the January 15 Conference in Hilton Head Island, sponsored by the LOW COUNTRY COALITION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

The Low Country Coalition was founded by Janice Dyer, a Zontian, and largely supported by the Zonta Club of Hilton Head Island. The coalition includes individuals, organizations and agencies from the entire low country region of South Carolina.

Robert Bilheimer, an influential documentary filmmaker, presented his DVD "Not My Life", and then added personal comments and answers to audience questions to kick off the conference.

Speakers who work and deal with many aspects of the human trafficking problem were Camila Wright, Assistant Attorney General of Georgia; Marie Sazehn, Assistant Attorney General of South Carolina; Dr Marlene Carson, Survivor, Minister and Founder of Rehab's Hideaway a former victim of human trafficking; and Lanie George, a second generation Survivor and Founder of Redeeming Joy.

Other speakers led break out sessions and panels. The two survivors spoke at length about their personal experiences as trafficked persons for many years. The series were very graphic and emotional, and anyone in attendance could not be inspired and motivated to continue the call to eradicate human trafficking through stronger and stronger efforts of **AWARENESS, ADVOCACY and ACTION.**

One action step that the Zonta Club of Columbia can take is to present the DVD to as many small groups in home or meeting settings to increase awareness in our own neighborhoods.

Submitted by Ellie Dagle, attendee  
Zonta Club of Columbia



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Installation of 2015-2016 Officers. President Kathy Williams, Vice President Martha Ann Williams, Treasurer Dottie Munsch and Secretary Ina Edens.

Marion Watson and Doris Cheek with our 2015 Young Women in Public Affairs Scholarship winner, Emily Circle



Doris Cheek with our 2015 Jane M Klausman Scholarship winner.



The 2015 District 11 Conference was held in Ft Lauderdale, FL. Marion Watson and Judy Barnes represented Columbia. Work was done, but also a good time was had by all. (1) Waiting for a water taxi to go to a fun, funky Mexican restaurant for dinner. (2) With Area 2 representatives from Hilton Head, Myrtle Beach and Savannah.



Marion Watson and Judy Barnes participated in the 2015 Silent Witness Ceremony held to honor victims of domestic violence. Afterward they were joined by SC Attorney General Alan Wilson.



At the 2015 Killingsworth Gala with Zonta's fashion show model lovely mom to be, Jessica Stover. With Jessica are Carolina Campos, a student from Brazil, and Ashley Stallings.



Marion Watson, Doris Cheek and Dottie Munsch say getting hugs from the Chick-fil-A cow is a great reward for their hard work at "The Souper", the Women's Shelter annual fundraiser,



SC Attorney General Alan Wilson is presented with an orange "Zonta Says No" tee shirt in appreciation for his commitment to making SC safe for women and girls.



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