



VOLUME 12 ISSUE 4 DECEMBER 2022

President's message

***Season's Greetings Fellow Zontians!***

'Tis the Season...of love, peace, togetherness, remembrance, hope, joy, and goodwill.

The holidays mean different things to each one of us. We have our personal favorite festivities, traditions, foods, décor, music, and much more.

Whether your favorites are the lights, trees, holly, mistletoe, wreaths, garland, nativities, carolers, going to a church or place of worship, gathering family or friends around the table to enjoy a meal together, or spending it quietly in reflection, volunteering in the community, or wrapping up in a nice blanket while watching a movie or listening to your favorite songs – I hope you enjoy it. There is so much to do this time of year to celebrate and spend goodwill to others.

I hope you and yours have the very best of times this Holiday Season.

As we look forward to 2023, we are already planning some wonderful things including Lucky Numbers Luncheon, awarding Community Grants, Scholarships, partnering events like Women Are Wonderful, and many more surprises along the way!

Thank you all for a great 2022 and I know our club will continue wonderful things in 2023!

*Jennifer Bliss*



The Zonta Program Committee hopes you will join us for some holiday cheer at the **Zonta Christmas party on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at the Cone-wango Club**. There will be a buffet dinner, time to socialize, and gift exchange. Last year we played dirty bingo, this year we will be playing "Dirty Santa"! *Bring a new a new wrapped gift in the \$10 - \$15 price range, something that is completely unexpected, hilarious, and impractical.*

Here are the details:

- Cost for dinner is \$25 per person payable that evening by cash or check
- Cash bar
- Social time starts at 5:30 pm
- Dinner at 6:15 pm

Reservations are required – please RSVP to Jean no later than December 4th (email: [jean.denardi@northwest.com](mailto:jean.denardi@northwest.com) or text 814-706-3246)

- Bring a new wrapped gift (\$10 - \$15 value) for the Dirty Santa gift exchange if you wish to participate
- The Service Committee will be collecting Salvation Army mother's gifts that evening - contact a Service Committee member for more information

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Happy Holidays,  
Zonta Program Committee





## MOTHERS GIFTS

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Christmas party.

One thing we do for service is we give a wrapped gift \$10-\$15 for a mother to the Salvation Army for a child to pick out for their mother for Christmas.

Please bring a gift for a mother to our Christmas party December 8th. If you are unable to come to the party, you can take the gift to the Salvation Army.

Take care and see you soon.  
Cheryl



Our Bra-Selling Initiative began from a recognition that trafficking survivors need a *dignified* way to make money while transitioning from exploitation to the rest of their lives. The second-hand clothing market in the developing world is a thriving sector, and while we acknowledge it's not a perfect system, it does prevent clothing in the landfill and, most importantly, gives a woman the opportunity to run her own business.

### **Why bras?**

The transaction of money can be a trigger for women coming from forced commercial sex. With bras, she is selling to other woman, removing herself from economic transactions with men as she heals and learns to move through her past experiences.

Bras and breasts are not overly sexualized in the areas where we have this program. We do our due diligence prior to launching a Bra-Selling Initiative to ensure that bras are not a reminder or symbol of her past exploitation or trauma. In all the places we have this initiative, the women have felt empowered and in charge of her own femininity.

She is able to supply better quality bras than the majority of her competitors at a cost lower than shops or boutiques, filling a gap for customers who desire nice bras but at an affordable price-point.

A woman can make a livable wage – pay off past debts, supply the needs for herself and her family in the present, and saving for the future.

Most North American women have at least one bra buried in the back of her lingerie drawer that, for whatever reason, she does not wear. What to do with it? Many places classify bras as underwear and therefore do not accept. But we do! To date, we have collected 1.5 million bras, assisting in the circular economy in a way that assists fellow women around the world.



Zonta International commemorates International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 2022

One of the most widespread and persistent human rights violations in our world today, violence against women and girls (VAWG), appears in physical, sexual and psychological forms including intimate partner violence, sexual violence and harassment, child marriage, human trafficking, and female genital mutilation.

On 25 November, Zonta International commemorates the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and kicks off its [Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign](#).

"Zonta envisions a world where no woman lives in fear of violence. Through the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign, our members and allies stand together, uniting our voices to advocate for all those who have suffered gender-based violence," said Zonta International President Ute Scholz. "Zonta is needed now, more than ever, to continue its work to end violence and build a better world for women and girls."

Each year during the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence (25 November – 10 December), Zonta International encourages its clubs and members to join the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign and take local, national and international actions to influence the making and implementation of laws, as well as changing gender-based attitudes and behaviors to end violence against women.

According to a [UN Women report](#), since the pandemic began, 45% of women reported that they or a woman they know has experienced a form of VAWG; seven in 10 women said they think that verbal or physical abuse by a partner has become more common; and six in 10 felt that sexual harassment in public spaces has worsened.

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Zonta calls on its members to advocate for ending gender-based violence and participate in Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women. [Share your story](#) with us and use the hashtag #ZontaSaysNO on social media.

Together, Zonta International can help eliminate gender-based violence and build a better world for women and girls.



## **90 DAYS AND COUNTING TILL MARCH 4TH**

**We will have a planning meeting on Tuesday, December 6th at JDF in the Hawke Room. All members are welcome to attend. This meeting will be from 5 pm to 6 pm.**

### **December 6—Committee Meeting JDF 5-6 PM**

**January 12—** Tickets will be distributed. Gifts items can be brought to this meeting. If your gift is a monetary one, it would be appreciated at this meeting so that we can go shopping for items. You can also mail a check or drop items off directly to Marina Smith, 208 Connecticut Ave, Warren PA 16365. I am home most evening by 5 pm. Call or text me 814-706-2505

**February 9—**Zonta Dinner meeting. LAST day for items to be submitted.

**February 16—**Garage Party at 208 Connecticut Ave, Warren PA

**February 20—**Gifts to be posted on our website and facebook

**March 3—** Set up at the Conewango Club

**March 4—**THE BIG DAY!!!!