



# ZONTA

CLUB OF  
LAFAYETTE

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

District 10 Area 2, Club 0858  
Charter Date – September 8, 1978

## Bayou News

Volume 14 August/September 2022

*Our Mission: Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy*

## 2022 – 2024 Zonta Club of Lafayette

### Officers

Geeta Dalal – President  
[gedalal@yahoo.com](mailto:gedalal@yahoo.com)  
Clancy Ratliff – Vice President  
Ismatara Reena – Secretary  
Paulette Yandle – Treasurer

### Directors

Joelle Doguet – Director  
Stacy Delatte – Director  
Sharon Hardy – Director

### Club Chairs

Advocacy – Sharon Hardy  
Membership – Suzanne Daigle  
Nominating – Dory Thomassie  
Service – Marietta LaBauve  
Amelia Earhart – Tracy LeBlanc  
Historian/Archives – Karen Lestelle  
Public Relations – Karen Lestelle  
Scholarship – Lisa LeBlanc  
United Nations – Clancy Ratliff

Newsletter submissions go to editors  
[Dory Thomassie](#) or [Geeta Dalal](#)

Visit us online at  
[www.zontalafayette.org](http://www.zontalafayette.org)  
or on FaceBook at  
Zonta Club of Lafayette

### President's Message

We are well on our way in to new biennium: While calendar says we are almost in Fall, mother nature has not quite come to grip yet. When you see those flowers with busting colors you feel excited but then hot weather reminds you, no not yet! Fall is going to be busy. As we begin our journey our resolve to uplift women and girls is stronger than ever.

Any good foundation requires two strong legs; **Health and Education.**

**Education:** As we recognize and celebrate 3 of our winners this fall, we are helping them to achieve long term and meaningful progress. This not only helps present generation but they are then able to pass that to next generation. As we build very strong base we can hope for tall strong sustaining pyramid!

**Health:** Health is not only absence of disease. Strong resilient physical body, hygiene and also stable emotional, and psychological health are the pillars of Health. This builds long sustaining personality. By proactively working on our projects of stopping gender-based violence, to promote psychological health, period purse projects emphasizes the importance of hygiene and its role in well-being. Equal pay will bring much needed parity in the work force, which dignifies and recognizes our work.

Education and Health are intertwined. Education brings awareness to improve and sustain health. Some of our recent projects are the attestation to these basic principles.

I am very happy we have embarked on this important journey as a group. Long list of events at our club level are listed and I look forward to working with this very energetic hard-working fellow Zontians.

Meetings are August 8, 2022 and September 12, 2022. The meetings are in person at Comfort Suites 114 Fernand Street behind Chili's. The social gathering will be at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:00p.m.

Geeta Dalal  
Zonta Lafayette  
President 2022-2024

## Achiever Spotlight



Dory Thomassie

### Zonta Club of Lafayette

Please join me to recognize our very enthusiastic, energetic past President, none other than Dory Thomassie.

It has been a pleasure to work with such a warm-hearted wonderful person for last 2 years.

I was titled "director" in 2020 on our board of Zonta Club of Lafayette, When I was asked to be a vice president a year later I was lost. Soon I found myself being lifted and pulled in to action by Dory. She took me under the wings and groomed me to take the responsibility.

I soon realized she is a very warm hard-working person full of empathy but also dynamic. I learnt a lot from her during my tenure. I could not help myself but thinking while club members know her as "president" she must still be known and recognized for her talents. She is truly a DIY person. When she shows me the pictures of renovating her house it truly is "awe" inspiring. Briefly, her personality development below reflects who she is today.

Dory was born in New Orleans in 1952 and, at the age of four, moved with her family to New Iberia, where she remained for many years. She exhibited artistic talent at a young age and was a natural at sketching, painting, sculpture, wood working, and carpentry.

She traveled to Florence, Italy after graduating high school, which cemented her love of the arts and art history.

Dory earned her bachelor's degree and teaching certificate at USL, and soon after began what would be a 36-year career as an educator. She also earned her Master's degree in education technology from NSU while working full time and caring for her 3 children.

After retiring from a rewarding career of inspiring countless students, she moved to downtown Lafayette to be within walking distance to the music and culture that she enjoys and to be closer to her beloved grandchildren.

Dory grew up in a small town, but always had a big, open mind. She is a lover of animals, and was known to bring in stray cats and dogs when she was a young girl. She is a problem solver, a doer, and a hard worker who never tires of fighting injustice and helping those in need.

## Newsworthy Items

### Woman of Achievement



Crystal Scrantz is a humble woman who is an outstanding member of our community. She has provided many hours of service and advocacy for hundreds of females in our Acadiana.

Crystal has been an advocate for survivors of domestic violence for over twenty years. Her experiences have included the provision of direct services to adults and children affected by "domestic violence, program development, 1--IUD housing programs, navigating civil and criminal court systems, database management, supervision, and training. Crystal has worked on many community-based domestic violence projects including a High-Risk Response Team, Fatality Review Panel and VOICES of Acadiana. She has conducted trainings regionally, statewide, and nationally on issues affecting survivors of domestic violence. Crystal is passionate about survivor safety and is committed to ensuring that high quality, trauma informed services are provided to survivors of domestic violence in Louisiana."

Crystal worked long hours for over two years to implement the establishment of the Family Justice Center. This center opened in 2016 and provides comprehensive services to our community by allowing easy access to law enforcement, legal services, counseling, and support services all under one roof.

She has presented several programs for our Zonta club.

Be Kind – not for any reason other than it is the right thing to do.

# Zonta Club of Lafayette Events

## Faith House School Supplies



Zonta Club of Lafayette members collected school supplies to donate to Faith House of Acadiana on Aug 8/2022. Boxes and bags of supplies overflowed from the table.

## Period Purse Project



Tiffany Steward is a small business owner, Exec. Concierge and Project Mgr. at [The Good Steward](#). She came to the Zonta Club of Lafayette's meeting on September 12, to discuss the Period Purse Project. This is also known as Period Poverty. Over 10 years ago, she agreed to be part of the Do Good project to make a difference for some girls in Acadiana. "I had researched a little bit about period poverty," she said. "and how the lack of sanitary napkins and supplies and how that affected girls in school." Many girls will choose to stay home from school due to lack of supplies. If they miss too much school, they can fail the year. Unfortunately, if that happens, some may opt to quit school.

## Zonta Club of Lafayette Birthday Celebration



44th ANNIVERSARY of ZONTA CLUB OF LAFAYETTE was celebrated on Sept 9, 2022 at Agave River Ranch. A Special THANK YOU to our CHARTER MEMBERS Maggie Warren & JoAnn Pugh for their 44 years of dedication and service to our Community & Zonta!!! Members wore Orange ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE TO WOMEN T-shirts as part of their Advocacy Campaign of No Violence to Women & Children in our Communities: domestic violence and human trafficking. Campaign flyers were given to patrons of the restaurant.

## Vita

Rebecca Vaussine spoke to the Zonta Club of Lafayette about VITA (Volunteer Instructors Teaching Adults). The mission of VITA is to provide adult learners with literacy and other academic skills necessary to successfully pursue educational, vocational, and personal goals. VITA also helps adult learners work toward their high school equivalency diploma. In Louisiana, the GED test has been replaced with the HiSET, which stands for High School Equivalency Test. The test has five parts: reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, and science. VITA offers classes in all of the test subject areas. We also offer an Essential Education program for those interested in studying at home on their own schedule.

## Calendar

August 6 – Hiroshima Day  
August 7 – Friendship Day  
August 12 – International Youth Day  
August 19 – World Humanitarian Day  
August 26 – Women’s Equality Day

September 8 – International Literacy Day  
September 8 – 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Zonta Club of Lafayette  
September 10 – World Suicide Prevention Day  
September 12 - Zonta Club of Lafayette Meeting  
September 18 – Equal Pay Day  
September 21 – International Day of Peace



## Celebrating Zontians Through the Years

These members have been in Zonta at least 5 years.

Suzanne Daigle	5 Years
Tracy LeBlanc	5 Years
Kay Gotte	7 Years
Chris Weaver	11 Years
Mary Neiheisel	13 Years
Mary Farmer-Kaiser	15 Years
Kathy Yates	16 Years
Lisa LeBlanc	18 Years
Jennifer Warren	18 Years
Kim Hitt	20 Years
Patsy Martin	27 Years
Sangeeta Shah	29 Years
Karen Lestelle	36 Years
Aimee Bercier	40 Years
Paulette Yandle	40 Years
*JoAnn Pugh	44 Years
*Maggie Warren	44 Years

\*Founding Members

## District 10 News

### A Message From our District 10 Governor

Greetings, District 10 Zontians,

I am so thrilled to send my first message of the biennium to you. We have so much to be excited about as we work together to **Build a Better World for Women and Girls!**

I must say the new biennium has had me feeling like I was drinking from a fire hose at times! I am sure it is the same for our club leaders. I now feel like I have somewhat of a routine in place and am moving forward in a positive direction on the “big items.” That is a great feeling! It is so helpful to me to know I do not have to do everything myself – there are so many Zontians I can lean on from our District 10 Board and Committee Chairs to our Club Presidents and Leaders and our wonderful group of Past Governors! I hope all of you feel the same way – that there is a whole team of Zontians ready to help you, provide direction and generally lift your load.

I am excited about taking steps that ensure our club cultures attract new members and retain current members because those members feel heard and able to make a connection to Zonta’s mission.

Speaking of connecting to Zonta’s mission... One of the most “tried and true” ways of connecting to Zonta is to attend Area Meetings, Governor’s Summits, and District Conferences. All these opportunities offer a means of connecting to Zonta’s mission on a global level and connecting to other Zontians.

I hope your club members will take the opportunity to kindle the Zonta Spirit and Fire by attending our 2022 Governor’s Summit in Longview, Texas on October 15th.

Yours in Zonta Service,  
Connie  
Connie Davis  
Governor, District 10  
Zonta International

District 10 is a part of Zonta International, and is comprised of four states: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

## **ZONTA International News and Events**

### **[CONGRATULATIONS TO ZONTA CLUBS WITH MILESTONE AUGUST 2022 ANNIVERSARIES](#)**

*Posted on 8/1/2022*

Congratulations to the clubs celebrating special anniversaries this month.

### **[INTRODUCING THE CHANGEMAKERS WHO RECEIVED THE 2022 YWPA AWARDS](#)**

*Posted on 8/2/2022*

Zonta International is pleased to introduce the 2022 Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Awardees and share more information about the international awardees.

### **[REMARKABLE YOUNG CLUB PRESIDENT SHARES POWERFUL STORY](#)**

*Posted on 8/4/2022*

Sara Diana Faraj has been interested in politics and advancing women's status since she was just 12 years old. After winning the club's YWPA Award, she joined the Zonta Club of Hervey Bay Inc and became the youngest club president in Zonta's history.

### **[THOUSANDS OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS RECEIVE NEEDED HEALTH CARE IN PERU](#)**

*Posted on 8/26/2022*

Read an update and a story featuring a young woman who benefited from the Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection project in Peru.

### **[FIRSTS FOR WOMEN: AUGUST 2022](#)**

*Posted on 9/1/2022*

Zonta International celebrates "firsts for women" in all different sectors in countries and communities around the world. Looking back on August 2022, we acknowledge the following women.

### **[CONGRATULATIONS TO ZONTA CLUBS WITH MILESTONE SEPTEMBER 2022 ANNIVERSARIES](#)**

*Posted on 9/2/2022*

Congratulations to the clubs celebrating special anniversaries this month.

### **[REMEMBERING HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II](#)**

*Posted on 9/9/2022*

As the longest reigning monarch in world history, Queen Elizabeth II was widely respected and admired by world leaders and everyday citizens around the world. While the world mourns her passing, Zonta International celebrates her enduring legacy.

### **[ZONTA INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL EQUAL PAY DAY 2022](#)**

*Posted on 9/18/2022*

On 18 September, Zonta International is commemorating International Equal Pay Day.

### **[ZONTA INTERNATIONAL STANDS WITH WOMEN IN IRAN](#)**

*Posted on 9/29/2022*

In recent weeks, women in Iran have taken to the streets to protest the death of Mahsa Amini and demand their full rights. Read our statement to find out how Zonta International is responding.



August  
24<sup>th</sup> Kim Hitt

September  
4<sup>th</sup> Karen Lestelle  
8<sup>th</sup> Chris Weaver

