



ZONTA
CLUB OF
LAFAYETTE

**BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Charter Date – September 8, 1978

Bayou News

Volume 20

Autumn/Winter 2023

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
Marietta LaBauve – Vice President
Ismatara Reena – Secretary
Paulette Yandle – Treasurer

Directors

Joelle Doguet – Director
Clancy Ratliff – 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

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Visit us online at

www.zontalafayette.org

or on Facebook at

Zonta Club of Lafayette

President's Message

Halloween brought the beginning of the festive season. Thanksgiving brought family and loved ones together. Christmas came and went. Through this busy season, some of us have managed to keep Zonta and its mission at the forefront. We participated to support Faith House, while enjoying Christmas Party. Thank you Tracy and Mary for hosting the party, it was awesome, everyone had great time!

Christmas Tree decoration: Thank you to those who came and made ornaments, when hung on the tree, not only did it look beautiful but also kept the spirit of Zonta alive, and hopefully we will get the word out, to broader population. Thank you, Dory and Sharon to come out and decorate tree. I hope all of you voted for our tree.

Advocacy: while it did not meet with the same enthusiasm this year, putting yard signs out or involving businesses in displaying the signs in their window, some of us did our part, and I am thankful to those who participated in our efforts to keep our mission of prevention of Domestic Violence alive. It is with great pride and joy I announce that we were recognized by ZI! Yay, to all of us for our efforts.

Even big ocean has waves, they come and go. But it never stays quiet! Similarly, we may have had small waves of enthusiasm, but we won't be quiet for long, I hope. I hope big wave of enthusiasm is coming soon as we embark on our onward journey in to 2024! We are all refreshed to embark on our projects in the new year in 2024. Through it all I always implore people to keep thinking of new projects or enhancing our current projects with new ideas. During holidays, we meet people who are involved in projects with the theme that are aligned with our theme or they are complimentary. It is always on my mind I am sure many of you are thinking the same way. So, bring it on! We will start our new year with a bang!

In the meanwhile, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! See you all next year. Stay well, stay healthy and happy!

Geeta Dalal
Zonta Lafayette
President 2022-2024

Achiever Spotlight

Zonta Club of Lafayette Celebrating Woman of Achievement Paulette Yandle



Honoree Paulette Yandle and President Geeta Dalal

On November 11, 2023, at Bailey's Restaurant, the Zonta Club of Lafayette awarded our 40th Woman of Achievement Award to Paulette Yandle for her years of volunteerism and contributions to improving the lives of women, children, and our community! Paulette is a retired Deputy Clerk from Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court, a 41-year Zonta member including many club officers, 25+ years member/officer of the Breast Health Institute with very successful Acadiana Women's Breast Health Symposiums, volunteers at the Miles Perret Center and St. Edmond Church, member of the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary, active with St. Edmond Church's as a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, nursing home minister, ACTS retreat attendee, ACTS Daily rosary leader, Prayer Garden "Garden Angel"-works in prayer garden, St. Edmond Jubilee committee member, weekly participate in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, babysitter to her grandchildren, and caregiver to her mother, mother-in-law and friends.



Zonta Club of Lafayette Members

Scholarships

Young Woman in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award

(local, district, and International)

Application, due March 1

Jane M Klausman (JMK) Woman in Business Scholarship

(local, district, and International)

Application, due June 15

Lafayette Rose Scholarship

(local)

Application, due April 1

District 10 Rose Scholarship

(district)

Application, due April 1

District 10 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Scholarship

(local and district)

Application, due July 1

Lafayette Woman Scholarship

(local)

Application, due March 1

Mary Dichmann English Scholarship

(UL Lafayette English Department Scholarship)

(local)



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

Calendar

OCTOBER

- **October 2** | Meeting
- **October 11** | International Day of the Girl Child
- **October 19-21** | D10 Conference Houston
- **October 31** | Halloween

NOVEMBER

- **November 6** | Meeting
- **November 8** | Zonta International's Birthday
- **November 23** | Thanksgiving
- **November 25** | International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- **November 25** | Zonta Says NO 16 Days of Activism begins

DECEMBER

- **December 4** | Holiday Gathering
- **December 10** | Zonta Says NO 16 Days of Activism ends
- **December 10** | Human Rights Day
- **December 25** | Christmas

Zonta Club of Lafayette Events

Zonta International Day at FALLIN INTO FUN – A Faith House Event at Moncus Park



(L-R) Zontians Marietta LaBauve and Clancy Ratcliff.

On October 8, 2023, Zonta Club of Lafayette celebrates Zonta International Day by working the Zonta Information Table for Faith House of Acadiana's FALLIN INTO FUN Family Fun Fest at Moncus Park. Brochures & flyers on Domestic Violence, Zonta Service Projects & Scholarships were handed to families, plus Halloween candy.

D10 Conference in Houston

The 72nd Zonta International District 10 Conference was held from October 19 – 21, 2023 in Houston, Texas. The Zonta Club of Houston hosted this amazing event.

Zonta International Representative, Sandy Venn Brown, joined the conference from Australia to share news from Zonta International Headquarters. Past International President, Sharon Langenbeck helped celebrate the 85th year of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship on Saturday, October 21. The Keynote Speaker was the Honorable Teta V. Banks, Ed.D. Chair, World Federation of United Nations Associations. Brenda Sykes, the Executive Director of Bay Area Turning Point, Inc spoke during the Status of Women Luncheon.

Participants heard vital information about the status of Zonta's international goals and projects, membership and advocacy, and reports of the important work of our clubs and members. Workshops were planned to be both informative and engaging.



Governor Connie Davis began the 72nd District 10 Conference in Houston, Texas.



Zonta International Representative, Sandy Venn Brown provided the Zonta Strategic Plan message during the District 10 Conference.



Zonta Club of Lafayette members Marietta LaBauve and Dory Thomassie, posed in front of the backdrop for the Conference with Timi Finnih, the president of the Zonta Club of Houston.



Past International President Sharon Langenbeck spoke at the 85th Amelia Earhart Luncheon.



Zonta Club of Lafayette was well represented at Conference. Dory Thomassie, Marietta LaBauve, Lisa LeBlanc, Geeta Dalal, Sangeeta Shah and Maggie Warren were in attendance.



Meet your New 24-26 Biennium D10 Board of Directors

Shelly Baumgartner, Governor; Lisa LeBlanc, Lt. Governor; Linda Licarione, Treasurer; Tanya Hodges, Area 1 Director (not pictured); Dory Thomassie, Area 2 Director; Diane Hodges-Popps, Area 3 Director; Connie Davis, Nomination Committee Chair; Kayleen Kill, Nominating Committee; Dianna Ward, Nominating Committee (not pictured)

Zonta Club of Lafayette and Society of Petroleum Engineers Introduce STEM



On 10/26/2023, Zonta Club of Lafayette and Society of Petroleum Engineers Evangeline Section members introduced STEM to 42 3rd and 4th-grade girls from L. Leo Judice Middle School. Girls and teachers spent one hour in the Stem Engineering Museum and another with Ms. Paula Harris, reading her book *When I Grow Up: I Want to Be an Engineer*. Zontians in attendance were Karen Lestelle, Laura McColm and Kim Hitt.

Christmas Ornaments



On November 4, 2023, Zonta Club of Lafayette members made ornaments for the Zonta Lafayette Tree which will be put in Downtown Lafayette for the 16 Days of Activism. Zontians pictured are Kay Gotte, Joelle Douget, Suzanne Daigle, Marietta LaBauve, Sharon Hardv. and Geeta Dalal.

Celebrating Zonta International's Birthday



On 11/08/2023, Zonta International turned 104. Zonta Club of Lafayette members celebrated this special day at the South Louisiana Community College International Students Club Food Festival at the Lafayette campus. Zonta members (L-R) Geeta Dalal – President & Karen Lestelle shared India's Muthia and French butter cookies,

Girls on the Run



(L to R) Zontians Marietta LaBauve, Lisa LeBlanc, Sharon Hardy and future Zontian Pasqueal Nguyen



A fun morning on November 12, 2023, where Zonta Lafayette members volunteered at the Girls On The Run South Louisiana 5K Run at Moncus Park. At our Zonta table, shared candy, scholarship and service projects flyers with the young ladies, parents and guests. GOTR are fun, evidence-based programs that inspire all girls to build their confidence, kindness and decision-making skills. Dynamic lessons instill valuable life skills including the important connection between physical and emotional health

16 Days of Activism



Pictured are Geeta Dalal, President, Sharon Hardy, Board member, and Dory Thomassie, Area 2 Director

Kicking off Zonta 16 Days of Activism with our annual Zonta tree Downtown Lafayette! 16 Days begins on November 25 with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and ends December 10 Human Rights Day. Members distributed Zonta Says No Signs around the area.





Marietta LaBauve and Mary Neiheisel



Joelle Doguet, Kay Gotte, Marietta LaBauve, Sharon Hardy and Lisa LeBlanc

On Dec 2, 2023, Zontians toured Faith House of Acadiana — a domestic violence crisis center and shelter, based in Lafayette, Louisiana. The shelter now includes 45 beds, with services 7 parishes throughout Central & South Louisiana, including Lafayette, Vermilion, Acadia, St. Landry, Evangeline, Rapides, and Avoyelles in Central and South Louisiana through outreach offices and mobile advocacy. Since its inception, Faith House has transformed from a women's homeless shelter to a crisis center and shelter for all survivors of domestic violence, no matter their age, race, gender, sexuality, social or economic level.



On December 4, 2023, at our Zonta Club of Lafayette Christmas Meeting, Members and Friends of Zonta in Lafayette, LA support our Zonta Says NO to Violence against Women in our 16 days of Advocacy campaign.

Faith House Christmas



Thank you to the ladies with Zonta Club of Lafayette for their involvement with Adopt A Family. We adopted two families this year. Sharon Hardy and Dory Thomassie went shopping for these wonderful gifts.

District 10 News

District 10 Conference

2023 District 10 Conference: October 19-21, Houston TX

The 72nd Zonta International District 10 Conference was a wonderful event. The festivities began with a reception the evening of 19 October and ended with a banquet on the night of 21 October. The Zonta Club of Houston prepared a weekend of connections, education, a little bit of business and a lot of sharing of ideas as we embraced the theme: *Let Your Dreams Take Flight – Build a Better World for Women and Girls!*

Leadership Development

Chair Janis Wood and her Area Director committee are working on the next Leadership Development event. If you are on your club board or just interested in improving your Zonta Leadership confidence you are invited to join us. We will let you know when we schedule the next one.

New Club

A new club has been added to District 10. The club is in San Antonio. Congratulations and best of luck to you ZONTA Club of San Antonio - Alamo City!

ZONTA International News and Events

[ZONTA INTERNATIONAL WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEGAN RADAVICH](#)

Posted on 10/5/2023

Megan brings a wealth of knowledge about Zonta and extensive experience in association management, governance, communications, fundraising, advocacy and program administration to the role of executive director.

[WOMEN AND CHILDREN MOST AT RISK IN ARMED CONFLICTS](#)

Posted on 10/15/2023

Zonta International condemns all attacks on innocent members of civil society and condemns all forms of violence in conflicts. There is no justification for such acts of inhumanity.

[INGOS OF THE COE: GENDER EQUALITY IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE](#)

Posted on 11/17/2023

The roundtable session provided a platform for discussion and exchange of competencies. The participants stressed the necessity and renewed the statement.

[2022-2024 ISSUE 3 OF THE ZONTIAN: CALL TO CONVENTION](#)

Posted on 11/20/2023

Call to Convention Issue of The Zontian available now to read online!

[INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 2023](#)

Posted on 11/25/2023

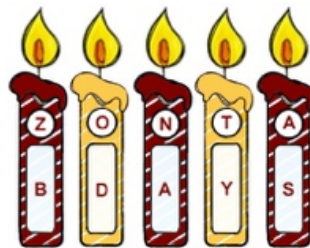
On 25 November, Zonta International commemorates the International Day

for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and kicks off its Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign.

UPDATED: WOMEN AND CHILDREN MOST AT RISK IN ARMED CONFLICTS

Posted on 12/6/2023

Nearly two months after Zonta International issued its statement, condemning all attacks on innocent members of civil society and all forms of violence in conflicts, innocent civilians continue to suffer as war rages on.



October

- 3rd Clancy Ratliff
- 9th Paulette Yandle
- 18th Christen Tauzin
- 21st Ziuta Blaes
- 22nd Mary Farmer-Kaiser
- 23rd Jennifer Warren

November

- 1st JoAnn Pugh
- 23rd April Courville
- 25th Kay Gotte

November 8th Zonta International

December

- 8th Sharon Hardy
- 15th Tracy Frentz
- 25th Carolyn French