



# 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 18

April/May 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  
[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

Wow, one year is gone by so quickly. We set goals at the beginning of the year and made lots of progress. When I took over the position, I was unsure of my ability to do justice. However, with excellent support from all of you it seemed like a job just propelled me forward. I am very grateful to Dory, Suzanne, Lisa, Karen and Paulette they were always there to support and guide me. This made my job lot easier. Not only their experience of many years at Zonta but also willingness to offer helping hand every step of the way was remarkable. So, thank you from the bottom of my heart. We undertook several projects and **all of you Zontians** stepped up to the plate to complete the project. Our group is truly unique in the harmony and good spirit.

I believe in listening to everybody's ideas and weigh pros and cons. We are able not able to accept everything that is thrown in the ring, but that makes all of us think and participate. So, when your idea is not accepted do not feel angry or frustrated. When we put handful of seeds in the ground only some of the germinate, and still fewer of them actually mature to be a full grown tree! So, keep bringing new ideas.

This is my first experience to lead a non-profit organization. I have worked in medical field for over 60 years. Working in the medical field was completely different and I was so immersed in that so I had no idea what volunteering meant, how do I work and react to completely unrelated non-medical situation. I have found and learned about other peoples' day to day problems and how does it affect their lives. These are the opportunities presented to us to come up with solutions to make their lives better.

On a more personal note, I have been trying to get to know each one of you personally as much as possible with a goal to earn more friends and expand my horizon. It is amazing how each one of us have a unique personality that can bring ideas and ability to the table. When we put it all together we indeed will BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN!!!

Enjoy your summer break with family.

Geeta Dalal  
Zonta Lafayette  
President 2022-2024

Meetings are on the first Monday of each month unless otherwise indicated. The meetings will be on ZOOM and in person at Comfort Suites. The social gathering will be at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:00p.m.

## Achiever Spotlight

### Zonta Club of Lafayette

The members of the Zonta Club of Lafayette have been hard at work fighting Child Marriage, Human Trafficking, Saving TaTaz and Advocating and Serving Women in our community. We awarded scholarships. We have provided necessary items and monetary donations to Faith House. We filled backpacks with fun items for the children of Faith House. We served gumbo at *Noel Acadien au Village*. We decorated a Christmas Tree in the Christmas Extravaganza in Downtown Lafayette. We put up Zonta Says No signs during the 16 Days of Activism. We adopted a family from Faith House for Christmas to fill their wish list. We honored our Woman of Achievement. We made tutus for Girls on the Run. We assembled Beloved Bundles for sexual assault survivors. We provided feminine hygiene products to girls in schools around Acadiana. We shared meals together. We hosted an Area 2 Meeting here in Lafayette. We attended workshops, summits and conferences. We continue to spread the word about this amazing club and the work we do. The amazing women of the Zonta Club of Lafayette will continue to Build a Better World for Women and Girls.



## Scholarships

### Jane M Klausman (JMK) Woman in Business Scholarship

*(local, district, and International)*

The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships are awarded to women undertaking business studies who have demonstrated outstanding potential in the field. Zonta International offers up to 32 scholarships of US\$5,000 each at the district/region level. Any woman undertaking a business program at an accredited university/college/institute, including online students, in at least the second year of an undergraduate program through the final year of a Master's program at the time the application is submitted to the local Zonta club, is eligible to apply. The scholarship may be used at any university, college or institute offering accredited courses and degrees.

[Application, due August 1](#)

### Amelia Earhart Fellowship

*(International)*

The Amelia Earhart Fellowship is awarded annually to women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace-related sciences and aerospace-related engineering. The Fellowship of US\$10,000, awarded to 30 Fellows around the globe each year, may be used at any university or college offering accredited post-graduate courses and degrees in these fields.

[Application will open in July 2023.](#)

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



# Calendar

## APRIL

- April 1 | April Fool's Day
- April 2 | Palm Sunday
- April 5 | Day of Hope
- April 5 |  Passover  
to 13
- April 6 | Holy Thursday
- April 7 | Good Friday
- April 7 |  Spring Break  
to 14
- April 9 | Holy Saturday
- April 9 | Easter
- April 10 | Easter Monday
- April 18 | Tax Day
- April 22 | Earth Day
- April 21 | Ramadan Ends

## MAY

- May 1 | May Day
- May 2 | National Teacher Appreciation Day
- May 3 | World Press Freedom Day
- May 4 | SOLA Giving Day
- May 5 | Cinco de Mayo
- May 6 | National Nurses Day
- May 14 | Mother's Day
- May 29 | Memorial Day

## Zonta Club of Lafayette Events

### Zonta Club of Lafayette Assembles Beloved Bundles



On Saturday, April 1, 2023, Zonta Club of Lafayette members assembled 54 BELOVED BUNDLES bags for our S.A.N.E. nurses to present to survivors of sexual assault. When a survivor goes to the hospital to have a forensic exam by a S.A.N.E. (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner), often called a "rape kit," and law enforcement is involved, many times their belongings are seized as evidence. Survivors are left with nothing to wear home from the hospital. A Beloved Bundle includes: clothing, undergarments, hygiene products and other necessary items so that the survivor can leave with dignity and know that someone cares.

## Zonta Club of Lafayette Makes Tutus for Girls on the Run



On April 24, 2023, Zonta members made Tutus to help the Girls On The Run - GOTR 5K Race. Tutus are sold on Sunday, May 7th, 2 pm GOTR 5K Run to raise monies for scholarships and program training materials to teach critical life skills to girls in grades 3 - 8.

Pictured l to r: Ismatara Reena, Dory Thomassie, Kay Gotte, Karen Lestelle, Kathy Yates, Geeta Dalal, Joelle Doguet, Suzanne Daigle, Sharon Hardy and Paulette Yandle.

## Zonta Club of Lafayette Inducted 2 New Members



Julie Mount



Tia LaBrun

Two new members were inducted into the Zonta Club of Lafayette. Julie Mount and Tia LeBrun became members of Zonta on May 1, 2023. Suzanne Daigle introduced them with a short presentation. Dory Thomassie inducted them into the Zonta Club of Lafayette. Afterwards, the new members received information packets and yellow roses. We are thrilled to have these ladies join us in our ongoing mission to serve and advocate for women.

## District 10 News

### Area Meetings

- Area 1, 01 Apr 2023, hosted by the Zonta Club of Johnson County (held in Burleson)
- Area 3, 29 Apr 2023, hosted by the Zonta Club of Seguin (held in San Marcos)

### Leadership Development.

Chair Janis Wood and her Area Director committee presented their third Leadership Development Session on 6 May 2023 from 10:00A to 11:00A. 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.

### District 10 Conference

2023 District 10 Conference: October 19-21, Houston

## ZONTA International News and Events

### [REMARKABLE RURAL, NONPROFIT LEADER AND ADVOCATE SHARES HER POWERFUL STORY](#)

*Posted on 4/27/2023*

Georgina "Georgie" Somerset, AM, is a seasoned leader in the nonprofit, government and primary industries in Queensland, Australia. Read more about her powerful story.

### [REMARKABLE GLOBAL ADVOCATE AND THOUGHT LEADER SHARES HER POWERFUL STORY](#)

*Posted on 5/25/2023*

Maame Afon is an internationally recognized thought leader and a passionate advocate for women, girls and leaders globally. Read more about her powerful story.

### [INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT UTE SHARES MESSAGE FOLLOWING NOVA SCOTIA WILDFIRES](#)

*Posted on 5/31/2023*

Our fellow Zontians of District 1 and their communities are in our hearts as we receive the ongoing news of the wildfires that have been burning in Nova Scotia, Canada.

## INTRODUCING 2023 AMELIA EARHART FELLOWS

*Posted on 6/7/2023*

Zonta International is pleased to announce the 2023 Amelia Earhart Fellows.

## MEET THE YOUNG WOMEN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED IN 2023 FOR ACTIVISM, ADVOCACY AND SERVICE

*Posted on 6/7/2023*

Zonta International is pleased to introduce the 2023 Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Awardees.



**April**

April 16<sup>th</sup> Joelle Doguet

**May**

May 26<sup>th</sup> Geeta Dalal

May 30<sup>th</sup> Mary Neiheisel