



ZONTA

CLUB OF
LAFAYETTE

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

District 10 Area 2, Club 0858

Bayou News

Volume 6

April 2021

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

2020 – 2021 Zonta Club of Lafayette

Officers

Dory Thomassie – President
zontadory@yahoo.com
Felicia Kinning – Vice President
Marietta LaBauve – Secretary
Paulette Yandle – Treasurer

Directors

Geeta Dalal – Director
Suzanne Daigle – Director
Kay Gotte – Director

Club Chairs

Advocacy – Ella Crochet
Membership – Suzanne Daigle
Nominating – Kathy Yates
Service – Marietta LaBauve
Amelia Earhart – Kathy Yates
Historian/Archives – Karen Lestelle
Public Relations – Karen Lestelle
Scholarship – Lisa LeBlanc
United Nations – Geeta Dalal

Send your newsletter
submissions to Dory Thomassie

Visit us online at
www.zontalafayette.org
or on FaceBook at
Zonta Club of Lafayette

President's Message

It is finally spring time. It is a time of new hope and growth. Life is looking better than it has for over a year. The grass and leaves on trees are a lovely shade of green. Flowers are blooming. We are finally beginning to see a light at the end of the proverbial tunnel.

WOA is happening! We will have our celebration banquet on May 3, 2021. It will be happening at Vermilionville. Karen Lestelle is coordinating with Paulette Yandle and Kay Gotte. If you have any questions, you may reach out to one of them. Lisa LeBlanc is planning the Silent Auction. Please reach out to her for donations.

Save Ze TaTa's is also going to happen, just a little late. Well, a lot later than we had hoped. That said, we are looking at early September as a possible time to have this event.

Zonta D10 Virtual Combined Area Meeting is on April 10, 2021. It will be from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

SOLA giving day is coming. We have an opportunity to receive additional funds if we donate at 3 – 4 pm on May 6, 2021.

Karen Lestelle has arranged for Kassie Alwich to host a Lunchtime Empowerment Webinar on May 27, 2021. Tickets will be \$10. Kassie is a member of the Zonta Club of Albany New York. She wrote a book celebrating the empowerment of women. This will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to join together in support of each other.

We held an Election of Officers during the April general meeting.
Dory Thomassie – President
Geeta Dalal – Vice President
Paulette Yandle – Treasurer
Marietta LaBauve – Secretary
Suzanne Daigle and Clancy Ratliff – Directors

I pray for each of you to have lovely spring. Be kind to one another. Love is all.

Our next meetings will be held on May 10, 2021 and June 7, 2021. These meetings will be held at Comfort Suites and those who would like to ZOOM will be welcome to do so. The social gathering will be at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:00p.m.

Dory Thomassie
Zonta Lafayette
President 2020-2021

Achiever Spotlight



Mary Farmer-Kaiser
Zonta Club
of
Lafayette
Member since 2007

Zonta Club of Lafayette is celebrating Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser. She has been a member of Zonta since 2007.

We wanted to learn more about Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser. Jan Risher gave us some insight as to who she truly is.

“ Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser is so much more than the Dean of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette Graduate School. Yes, she does all the things that job requires, but she's also a mother, a wife, a friend, a daughter, a sister, a historian, a teacher, an advocate, a volunteer, a Bingo caller, an advisor, a cheerleader, a mentor, a reader, a writer, a researcher, a trailblazer, a baker and more. She's one of those rare people who willingly goes the extra mile to make sure the cherry is on top, literally, if need be. She just keeps chugging along, never seeking the spotlight but doing the work required and beyond every day.

She knows how to build relationships. She knows how to say just the right thing. She knows how to be quiet. She knows how to listen. She knows how to cry. She knows how to laugh. And, she has the courage to do any and all of those things on any given day.”

This is a lovely tribute for this amazing person. We are honored to have you as a member of our Zonta Club. Thank you for all you do.

Faith House



Faith House is always in need of donations, especially during these difficult times. There is a need for gift cards so that the occupants can purchase exactly what they are lacking. You can also purchase facemasks from Faith House designed by children. Contact Mary Neihsel or Faith House directly to purchase them.

Newsworthy Items

Scholarships



Young Woman
in
Public Affairs
Winner

Savannah Thomas

Savannah Thomas is an 18-year-old senior at Southside High School. She has aspirations to enter either the USAF Academy or the US Naval Academy and work with Operations Safe, an organization that provides service opportunities to combat child trafficking. She was the President of Key Club, a member of the National Honor Society and Drama Club. Savannah participated in Mentor Day at Milton Middle School and shared with young girls the pressures and challenges of women in society. She told them women should not shy away from male-dominated fields and jobs. She represented Southside High School twice in Mathematics at District Rally. Savannah is a Certified Fitness Coach who works with women in a male-dominated field. Her goal is to empower women to be their best selves. Her other activities include School of Rock Performance Group and Chorales Des Aims. Chorales Des Amis provides free performances at festivals and churches. They even performed at Carnegie Hall. She did all this while maintaining a 4.17 GPA.

Lafayette Woman Scholarship

The Lafayette Woman Scholarship is awarded to a non-traditional student, female head of household, and primary wage earner of the family. Applicants should be individuals pursuing post high school training or certification programs not necessarily requiring a baccalaureate degree. The recipient must use the scholarship to attend an educational institution that is accredited and normally maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly enrolled body of students in attendance at the place where its education activities are regularly carried on. This scholarship can fund a certification program such as law enforcement or fire training education at a technical/trade school or a community college.

Application, due May 1

ULL Career Closet

Zonta Club of Lafayette Joins Forces with ULL Career Closet for Service Project

The ULL Office of Career Services strives to provide all students with the resources needed to be successful in their career development and job search processes. Many students are on a strict budget and may not be able to afford professional clothing. The Career Closet provides students with free, gently used professional clothing items for interviews, career fairs, and other professional networking events. The goal of this program is to help relieve the stress of affording professional clothing and allows students to focus on creating positive first impressions when networking.

Any current UL Lafayette student can visit the Career Closet in Agnes Edwards Room 104 to shop for suits, ties, belts, shoes, and other professional clothing items.

On March 2, 2021, members of the Zonta Club of Lafayette brought donations of professional clothing items to the ULL Career Closet. We are proud to be able to assist future business leaders.



Karen Segura ULL
Career Services
Administrative Coordinator

Carla Fontenot ULL
Career Services
Associate Director



Suzanne Daigle
Zonta Board Member

Marietta LaBauve
Zonta Secretary



Paulette Yandle
Zonta Treasurer

Geeta Dalal
Zonta Board Member

Zonta Club of Lafayette Awards The Family Justice Center Our Community Service Award. They will receive a \$500 check at the Woman Of Achievement Banquet on May 3, 2021.

ZONTA International News and Events

[FIRSTS FOR WOMEN: MARCH 2021](#)

Posted on 4/1/2021

Zonta International celebrates “firsts for women” in all different sectors in countries and communities around the world. Looking back on March 2021, we acknowledge the following women. (click on the headline to learn who are these women)

[INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END OBSTETRIC FISTULA](#)

23 May 2021

The United Nations has observed the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula since 2013. This day is meant to raise awareness of this issue and mobilize support around the globe.



April

21st Felicia Kinning

May

26th Geeta Dalal

30th Mary Neiheisel