



ZONTA

CLUB OF  
MADISON

Build a Better World for Women and Girls



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Club of  
Madison

1940 • 2020

Newsletter February 2025

Hello Zontians!

Have you ever found yourself lately feeling a little overwhelmed by so many things going on around you that you can't control? I say yes, very much so. You say no? Yeah, sure. I'm not sure I believe you.

I don't think I'm a complete control freak, but I do like to believe that I'm directing my own life. Sometimes, though, there seems to be things that get in the way and I need a way to re-exert some control. For instance, I find holidays to be a wonderful time but a time when I can lose control quite easily. This is when I often decide to go on a diet. It works for me. I lose weight and am proud of it.

In a more significant point in my life, I thought I might have my employment cut back to half-time during one of the many budget crises in university funding during the 1980's. I needed my income since I had recently married and a wonderful 5-year-old stepdaughter who came with it. Back then, on Good Friday, state offices were closed. I went in to get some uninterrupted work done but found myself just thinking about how unfair it all seemed. Since I wasn't getting anything done, I went home to rake leaves. Boy, did I rake those leaves but, in the process, I got my mad and self-pity over with and started thinking more positively. I wanted to go back for a PhD but couldn't afford it. Half my salary would be more than a grad assistantship. Maybe I could work things out and start that PhD. I did and I loved it. And I never did get cut back to halftime.

Why this story? In a situation where I had limited control of the situation, I found a way I could change it into a desired situation that I could control.

Right now, I find myself in one of those "oh no, I'm getting cut back to half-time" times -- so many things going on in our society that are beyond my individual control. I'm viewing **Zonta** as my place where I can re-exert some control over things that matter to me and contribute to others. For me, Zonta is the structure through which I can work to achieve a Wisconsin ERA to guarantee women and girls long-term protection of their rights so they can control much of their own lives going forward.

Since I'm on the Advocacy/Service Committee, I'm putting a lot of effort over the next multiple years to start small and build into a significant statewide demand that the Wisconsin constitution recognizes women's and men's rights as equal.

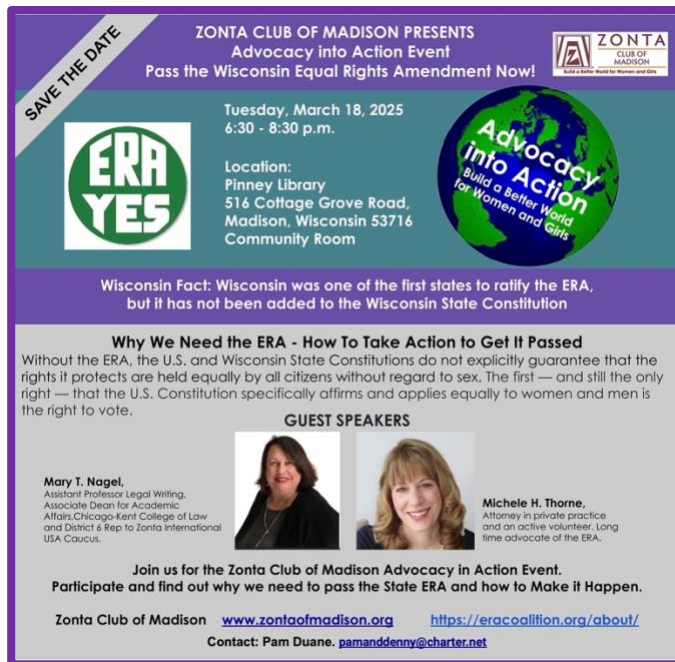
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*President's message continued:*

If you're feeling a little overwhelmed by all that's going on, is there something in Zonta that you can sink your teeth into and take some control over making something important happen? Want to join the ERA effort?

JoAnn Gruber-Hagen  
President  
Zonta Club of Madison

Advocacy/Service Committee –  
Pam Duane



**SAVE THE DATE**

ZONTA CLUB OF MADISON PRESENTS  
Advocacy into Action Event  
Pass the Wisconsin Equal Rights Amendment Now!

Tuesday, March 18, 2025  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location:  
Pinney Library  
516 Cottage Grove Road,  
Madison, Wisconsin 53716  
Community Room

**ERA YES**

**Advocacy into Action**  
Build a Better World for Women and Girls

Wisconsin Fact: Wisconsin was one of the first states to ratify the ERA, but it has not been added to the Wisconsin State Constitution

**Why We Need the ERA - How To Take Action to Get It Passed**  
Without the ERA, the U.S. and Wisconsin State Constitutions do not explicitly guarantee that the rights it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex. The first — and still the only right — that the U.S. Constitution specifically affirms and applies equally to women and men is the right to vote.

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Mary T. Nagel**,  
Assistant Professor Legal Writing,  
Associate Dean for Academic  
Affairs, Chicago-Kent College of Law  
and District 4 Rep to Zonta International  
USA Caucus.

**Michele H. Thorne**,  
Attorney in private practice  
and an active volunteer. Long  
time advocate of the ERA.

Join us for the Zonta Club of Madison Advocacy in Action Event.  
Participate and find out why we need to pass the State ERA and how to Make it Happen.

Zonta Club of Madison [www.zontaofmadison.org](http://www.zontaofmadison.org) <https://eracoalition.org/about/>  
Contact: Pam Duane. [pamaddenny@charter.net](mailto:pamaddenny@charter.net)

**Advocacy:**

We continue planning for the ERA event to be held in March. The date for the ERA event has been changed to **Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>** due to a speaker availability issue. The location has not changed. It will be held in the Pinney Branch Library community room from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Sandy Peterson designed a flyer for the event, and she sent the new flyer to each of you via email 1/24/25. I urge you to post it on your social media, shout it from the rooftops and invite everyone you know! (Also, if you posted the previous flyer, please remove it and re-post the new one with the correct date.)

**Service:**

*Food Drive:*

The food drive for the Way Forward Resources Food Pantry is underway. Jane handed out wish lists and handy tote bags at the January meeting, so now is the time to fill the bags. Don't forget, our goal is to donate 500 pounds of food and break our 2024 record.

Collection places for donations:

- Jane's house on West side of Madison
- Pam's house on East side
- Bring to the **Feb. 19** club meeting

If you need a refresher on the "wish list" for your donation, here is a link to their page:

[Food Drive for pantry](#)

*Please reach out to Jane (west side) or Pam (east side) if you need to arrange drop-off before the club meeting.*

*Little Libraries:*

Gayle Galston and Laura Curtiss are making plans for the Little Libraries book distribution project this spring. There will be more details at the February meeting and in the March newsletter.



*Felicia's Donation Closet:*

New Service Opportunity coming soon! Felicia's donation closet supports survivors of domestic abuse by providing household items and furniture as they move to safer living situations. You will recall that the organization was a recent recipient of a Community Grant from your Zonta Madison Foundation, and the club has committed to volunteering for Felicia's closet regularly.

The areas requiring assistance include moving donated items to clients' homes, organizing and labeling donated items in the storage warehouse, conducting monthly pickups to bring to the warehouse (using their truck), helping with setup/cleanup before or after an event, and representing them at community events. It is acknowledged that not everyone will be able to perform activities that require heavy lifting or moving, but there are other tasks available.

Zonta plans to begin with a monthly volunteer commitment, and a meeting with their volunteer coordinator is scheduled for February to determine how best to support Felicia's closet. Further details will be provided afterward.

Members have expressed a desire for more hands-on service projects, and this is an organization that aligns with our mission. Stay tuned and thanks to Ellen Ermer for coordinating this!

<https://feliciasdonationcloset.org/>



February Meeting & Program –  
Sandy Peterson & Tammy Hagen

*Operations Committee:*

We continue at our usual meeting venue, The Vintage on Whitney Way, on Wednesday February 19th starting with social time at 5:30 followed by dinner, our speaker, and then a business meeting. Our speaker will be our Area Director, Cathy Myers. Please **confirm your attendance or absence before noon of Friday 14th**. Dinner costs continue at **\$30**.

Email club at: [zontaclubofmadison@gmail.com](mailto:zontaclubofmadison@gmail.com) For newsletter information: [zontamadisonnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:zontamadisonnewsletter@gmail.com)



Remember to bring your donations for our food drive supporting Way Forward if you have not had a chance to drop them off before the meeting.



Date: Wed., February 19, 2025

Location: Vintage Brewery  
674 S. Whitney Way  
Madison, Wisconsin

Time: 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Social/Sign-in  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Dinner,  
Program, Business Meeting

RSVP: **To Tammy by noon, Friday,  
February 14, 2025**  
[thcormd@aol.com](mailto:thcormd@aol.com)

**Speaker:**



Cathy Myers  
Zonta District 6, Area 2 Director  
President, Zonta Club of Janesville

**Program:**

**What's Going on in Area 2 and District 6**

- Area 2 Spring Workshop and strategy planning process  
Saturday, May 3, 2024, New Berlin, WI
- What Area 2 Clubs are doing
- District Updates
  - Membership Core Values
  - Affiliation Agreements
  - Changes in the Golden Z club status
  - Core Competencies

Fundraising Committee –  
Tammy Hagen

Our committee is in the process of selecting the films for our Wild & Scenic Film Fest to be held sometime in September or October. We have selected the topic of Climate Change and how it is affecting women and girls or how women are working against climate change. The format of the film fest will be similar to our past LunaFest film fest with a selection of short films of various format types.

For you as a member it's not too early to do two things: start spreading the word to your friends and neighbors and start thinking about who you could ask for a sponsorship. Besides our past sponsors other options would include companies that support the environment or other environmentally focused groups.

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One of the films being considered is “To Be a Good Home” This film follows three women who farm and steward the land in northern Minnesota. One is a descendant of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, tending her plot at the place of the gardens, “Gitigaaning”. Another is an urban farmer, feeding her community near the shores of Lake Superior, “Gichigami”, and the third is a regenerative farmer, building soil and caring for her herd along Medicine Creek.



Membership Committee –  
Tammy Hagen

The Membership Committee hosted the first Empowered Exchange of the New Year at JoAnn Gruber Hagen’s home (Thank you JoAnn) on the evening of January 28th. Four members attended and covered Property Taxes including how they are formulated, why they vary from one area to another and how to advocate with the city for tax control and your assessor to review your property value. In spite of the seemingly cut and dry topic, we had an interesting discussion and self-education session.

The committee is asking for your input on other topics that affect us locally. Given some of the new White House policies, two suggestions at this meeting were immigration/ICE actions locally and the MEDICAID coverage. Let us know your ideas for future discussions!



*Nancy Abraham, Jane Hartman, Laura Curtiss,  
JoAnn Gruber-Hagen, & Poncho  
Not pictured – Tammy Hagen*



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**Zonta Club, District & International  
Calendar of Events  
Submitted by Gail Zalewski**

**UPCOMING ZONTA DATES**

- January 15 - February 19 – Zonta Club of Madison FOOD DRIVE Collection for Way Forward Resources
- February 19 - Zonta Club Membership meeting
- March 8, 2025 - International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day
- March 18, 2025 – Advocacy in Action event
- May 17, 2025 - Area 2 Spring Workshop – New Berlin Public Library
- June 20-22, 2025 - North American Inter-District Meeting - Novi, Michigan
- October 10-12, 2025 - District 6 Fall Conference - Bloomington, Illinois
- July 11-14, 2026 - Zonta International 67th Convention - Vancouver, Canada

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February Birthday:

- Tammy H Feb. 18

*We hope you have a fun day filled with yummy food, family and good friends (and kittys)!*



Zonta Club of Madison  
Newsletter Submission Guidelines

The monthly submission deadline for 2024-25 will be the **24<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

***Please send your submissions to:***  
[zontamadisonnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:zontamadisonnewsletter@gmail.com).

All submissions should be in a simple Word document format. Arial font is desired, (however I can easily change font).

Do you want your committee or board meeting dates published! We can do that! Send your dates/times to the email address above and it will be on the calendar of events.

Corrections & suggestions for improvement are welcome and should be sent to the newsletter Gmail for publication in future editions as appropriate. Thank you!

Jane Hartman  
Newsletter Editor