

Zonta Club of Grand Rapids  
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# Zonta NewZ



Helping improve the legal, political, economic, health, education and professional status of women and girls locally and internationally.

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## USA announces National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

Posted on 21 December 2011 by Jem McCarron <http://www.womensviewsonnews.org>.

Summary of stories from [The White House Blog](#), [The Council on Foreign Relations](#), [All Africa](#) and [PeaceWomen](#), December 19, 2011

President Obama has issued an executive order implementing the United States' first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP).

The White House Blog has called this a "historic step toward a future where all men and women can reach their full potential."

The NAP embodies and sets forth the United States' commitment to ensuring that women around the world play an equal role in promoting peace and achieving just and enduring security.

"Deadly conflicts can be more effectively avoided, and peace can be best forged and sustained, when women become equal partners in all aspects of peace-building and conflict prevention, when their lives are protected, their experiences considered, and their voices heard," [Barack Obama](#) said.

The NAP is the result of over a decade of work which began with a United Nations (UN) Security Council resolution encouraging member states to integrate a gender perspective into all aspects of peace and security.

In 2004, a subsequent UN Security Council statement called on the 'development of national action plans' to further implement the original resolution.

The US is the 33rd country to have released a NAP. Denmark, the Cote D'Ivoire and Spain launched their plans between 2005 and 2007.

US Secretary of State [Hillary Clinton](#) explained why this is such a landmark step.

"Because women's economic empowerment leads to greater prosperity for their societies, we are putting women and girls at the centre of our global efforts on food security, health, and entrepreneurship.

"We are working to lower barriers to their economic participation so more women in more places have the opportunity to own their land, start their businesses, access markets, steps that will ultimately lift up not only their families but entire economies and societies," she said.

The NAP commits the US government to providing international support for women engaging in peace processes, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that focus on women's participation, integration of women into security sectors of partner nations, improving the UN's capacity to combat sexual violence, working to prevent human trafficking and ensuring humanitarian assistance reaches women as well as men.

Agencies will be held accountable for their commitments under the NAP.

The US Departments of State and Defense and [USAID](#) will establish measurable actions to ensure the NAP objectives are monitored and integrated correctly.

They will also conduct a review of and update to the NAP in 2015 informed by consultation with international partners and civil society organisations.

Go to <http://progress.unwomen.org/> to read the full report





## Service and Advocacy Committee

January 14<sup>th</sup>. Saturday 10:00 – 2:00. Zontians will meet at Hope Network (usual room) to learn how to knit the scarves that we will be teaching the girls at St John's home to do. Besides learning how to knit these scarves our-

selves we will be preparing the kits for the girls to use. Besides that, we may be sewing either pads or cancer pillows.

January 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday. Meet at 6:15 – 8:15 at St John's Home.

2355 Knapp St NW. We will be showing the girls how to knit the scarves.

Zonta's first night at St John's Home went well. Seven residents participated and they all were very enthusiastic with the project of making Christmas Ornaments. I heard later that the girls continued to make more ornaments during the week following our visit. Each girl showed her own personality. A few were very precise and Shquoyah in particular was a free spirit and just had so much fun. I'm sure

she will enjoy the scarves too. The girls are very aware of boundaries and were very polite to one another and talked and laughed among themselves. Some of the ornaments went onto the Christmas tree and a few went to their rooms. One girl said she was making hers for her "Secret Santa". Just so you start to know the girls names they are: Shaquoyah, Seieste, Izzy, Lexi, Alexiis, LaShanna, Nichole, Brianna, Arianna. The staff too seemed very happy with our visit and are looking forward to the 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Membership Committee

The membership committee has secured the Hope Network Education Facility on 36th Street near Eastern for our Open House event on February 9 at 7 PM. This facility seats 200 people so we are excited for the possibilities the evening could bring. We would like you all to begin asking women you think may be suitable for Zonta and invite them for the evening so we can have a full house. We are asking for there to be guests already secured for the venue before our January meeting.

This will help us figure out food and drink options for the evening.

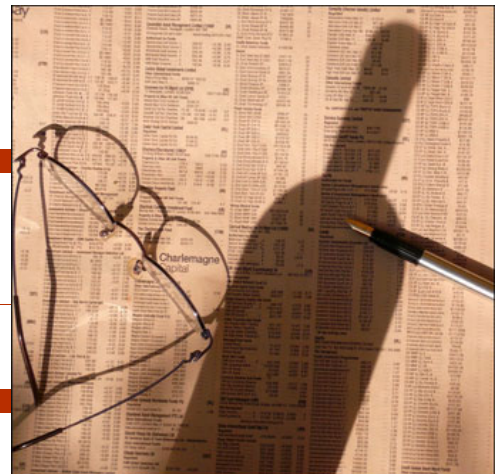
We ask that all Zontians arrive to the facility by 6 PM so we have a good amount of time to review the evening events and how they will flow prior to any guests showing up for the night. If you have not been contacted for a specific part in the evening, like sitting at a station to discuss specifics with guests, then your job for the evening will be to mingle with guests as they await station opportuni-

ties.

At our January business meeting, I will try to run through the course of events for the open house as quickly as possible. Again please try to have some guests already RSVPing for the evening by that date, to allow us an understanding of how many women we may expect for our evening.

## Ways & Means Committee

Report to be given at January business meeting



# President's Message

So this will be the final newsletter for 2011. We have had a fantastic start to our new Zonta year. We held our first dinner with former (and current) members to discuss our history, future, and plans for the endowment. It was enjoyable to hear some of the stories of days gone by and I think they, in turn, enjoyed hearing about the work we are doing. We are welcoming back a former member who has decided to re-join the ranks of membership. Some of our members had the opportunity to meet the girls residing at St. John's. The rest of us

will have the opportunity in January when we have another service evening with them.

May the New Year bring us more opportunity to better the lives of women and girls in our own community and world-wide. And may the New Year bring all of you joy and peace in your own lives. It is a pleasure for me to serve with all of you.

We will also see each other at our business meeting on Thurs-

day, January 12<sup>th</sup> at Mangiamo's. I hope everyone will make it. Until then....

Merry Christmas.

-Vicki

**61st Zonta International Convention**

**Torino, Italy**  
7-12 July 2012

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**Convention Registration**

Registration for the 2012 Zonta International Convention is now open. [Register online now!](#)

Convention registration fees are outlined in the table below.

	Before 1 April 2012	1 April - 1 June 2012	After 1 June 2012 and on-site registration	One-day Registration	On-site one-day registration
<b>Zontians</b>	325 Euros	400 Euros	450 Euros	150 Euros	225 Euros
<b>non-Zontian Guests</b>	75 Euros	75 Euros	75 Euros	75 Euros	75 Euros

**Convention Tours**  
Enjoy a variety of [daily tours](#) during convention, as well as [pre and post convention travel tours](#).

**Convention Hotels**  
You have a variety of hotel choices for your stay in Torino. The Convention Committee has selected a number of 3, 4 and 5 star hotels that are conveniently located within walking distance to the Centro Congressi Lingotto convention center or



# Zonta Club of Grand Rapids

## Member of Zonta International

*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*

2011 – 2012 Zonta Calendar Year

JANUARY 2012	12 <sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting 5:30 @ Mangiamos 14 <sup>th</sup> —Service Day 10am-2pm at Hope Network off 28th Street to learn how to finger knit and, if time permits, sewing work bee 19 <sup>th</sup> —Service Day 6:00pm at St. John’s Home to finger knit scarves
FEBRUARY 2010	Tentative—4 <sup>th</sup> —St. John’s—CARE Ballet—Romeo & Juliet 9 <sup>th</sup> – Membership Open House Last two weekends (1 evening) – ATNOZ event @ Middleville community theater
MARCH 2011	8 <sup>th</sup> or 10 <sup>th</sup> —St. John’s 6:15pm—Activity to be determined; possibly sewing bee
APRIL 2012	12 <sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting
MAY	10 <sup>th</sup> – Girl’s Day (Tentative) 12 <sup>th</sup> —Host Area 2 meeting—all day event at Hope Network Education Center
JUNE	14 <sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting

## Members’ Corner

We have an opportunity to help out in our community through shopping with coupons. My daughter and I have started a Coupons for Charity campaign, and have already done shopping trips funded by different groups to help those in need. One such trip was sponsored by my daughter's Girl Scout Troop, they gave me \$80 to spend on groceries. I was able to secure close to \$200 worth of food for the \$80. This will feed the family almost three months. This is a wonderful opportunity to help either a family in need, or a home such as St. John's or any facilities we do know that just don't have the funding for particular products, such as tampons, diapers and the such. We could make an big impact for a family in need or for a particular cause if we could donate some money from Zonta towards a shopping trip for Coupons for Charity. I would like for our club to discuss the opportunity to sponsor a shopping trip, and I will discuss this and bring it up at our January meeting. Thank you and I pray you all have a happy and safe holiday and I will see you in January . - Cindy McMillan

Maggie Benjamin is on the mend from kidney stones. We wish her well.

A big thank you to Kate Holbert for securing our first new member, Lorna Powell. Many of you already know Lorna as she was previously a Zontian. She has decided to return to membership and we are excited for the new possibilities she will bring to our club for the coming years. Welcome back Lorna!



# Zonta Club of Grand Rapids

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The Zonta Club of Grand Rapids is celebrating its 90th anniversary by establishing an Endowment Fund to ensure its continued support to the community. The goal is to raise \$90,000 for the initial investment. The fund will be managed by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

*Please donate* to show your support of our continued efforts locally and internationally. More information on the club and our endowment is available at [zontagr.org](http://zontagr.org)

make a donation



Donate online at [zontagr.org/get-involved/donate](http://zontagr.org/get-involved/donate)

OR via mail by sending this form and a check to:

Grand Rapids Zonta Foundation  
(please specify Endowment in the memo line)  
PO BOX 3195  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to remain Anonymous

I'm interested in learning more about including Zonta in my estate

**Questions?** Call Endowment chair, Lisa Rios, at (616) 617-7075.



## Cover Story—December 2011 Newsletter

**2011: A Year Full**

Like many, as we approach the end of 2011, we reflect on what we have accomplished over the past 12 months. Here's a sampling of what staff, board members, volunteers and donors were able to achieve to empower and improve the lives of women and girls.

- January - Held a town hall meeting at Wayne State University to raise awareness of the sex trafficking of minors in Michigan.
- January - Acquired new constituent relations software to improve operations and create efficiencies.
- February - Launched Michigan WomYn's Roundtable, a pilot personal development program for women under age 40.
- February - Welcomed Stacie Behler, Marge Byington Potter, Linda Gillum, Alyssa Martina, and Vivian Pickard as new members of the Board of Trustees.
- March - Angel Loan Fund Advisory Board finalizes parameters for fund to support women's entrepreneurship with access to capital.
- March - With Accenture, hosted Susan Bulkeley Butler for three presentations in honor of International Women's Day.
- April - Raised more than \$160,00 from nearly 1,000 attendees from [Women of Achievement & Courage](#) events, honoring Carol Goss, Cecile Fehsenfeld, Terri Lynn Land, Denise Ilitch and Marian Ilitch.
- April - Participated in Zonta Grand Rapid's town hall on ending sex trafficking of minors.
- April - Received a two-year, \$150,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation for work on the Angel Loan Fund and women's entrepreneurship.
- May - Young Women for Change - Washtenaw County held *Taste for Change*, its first ever youth-led fundraiser, raising more than \$4,000 for local programs benefiting teenage girls.
- May - MWF moved offices to downtown Detroit; Erica Monear joined the staff as Executive Administrator and Office Manager.
- June - Launched [Camp Moxie](#) in collaboration with Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan and Running Start, helping over 70 high school girls discover and develop their leadership skills.
- June - YWFC and MWF granted \$20,000 to six programs serving Michigan girls in the areas of youth leadership, sexual abuse prevention, mentoring, education, teen pregnancy prevention, and homelessness.
- July - MWF [website](#) redone for more modern feel, easier navigation, better functionality, and more photographs
- July - With Michigan BPW, held University of Life leadership weekend at Oakland University for 50 middle and high school girls.
- September - Held our first *Feminist Friday*, discussing work/life balance and women "having it all."
- September - Launched MWF's monthly online newsletter.
- October - Received \$11,000 from Eileen Fisher All-Stores Sales Event for Young Women for Change.
- October - Grants Committee developed new grants philosophy to guide future social change grant making.
- November - With the Women's Economic Empowerment Group, hosted Anita Hill who spoke to the 9-12th graders at Detroit International Academy for Young Women at the Wayne State University Law School.
- December - More than 760 people and organizations "Like" us on [Facebook](#)

Stay tuned for more in 2012 as we continue to celebrate our 25th Anniversary!