



Rose Petals

August 2022

Building a Better World for Women and Girls



Zonta Convention Report

Friday August 19th

President Alissa's Message

Hello everyone!

I hope all of you are having a lovely summer and can soak in some of this fabulous sunshine. It has been a busy summer for me so far. As most of you know, Julie Brecke and I had the honor of representing our Club at the 2022 Zonta International Convention in Hamburg. The main takeaway from the experience was the magnanimity of the occasion. The feeling was that of great purpose and I was inspired by all the intelligent and passionate people from across the world brought together to support Zonta's mission. Even the many hours spent voting on bylaws and policy updates contributed to the importance of the occasion. I left feeling empowered, and I want all our Club members to feel the same as we launch into the new biennium. I will be presenting more information regarding the Convention at our next program meeting on August 19.



The August Program meeting will be an in-person meeting with a Zoom option available for those of you who prefer to attend digitally. Meeting will take place at the Coos Bay Fire Station. Until further notice lunch is Bring Your Own. Following the meeting, we will tour Coal Bank Village, to see the work The Devereux Center is doing to address homelessness in our area. Our next business meeting is on September 9th, date change due to the Labor Day holiday. More information regarding meetings will be emailed so keep an eye out!

Aside from Convention, I have been working to update our systems of communication. We were approved as a non-profit and are eligible to use programs that would otherwise be too costly for our Club to justify. The platform is called Workspace and it is a Google product. If you are interested in learning more about it, please email me, if not, no worries! I just wanted to let you all know what I have been tinkering with behind the scenes.

Once again, I hope you all are enjoying summertime and I hope to see you soon!

Many thanks! ~ Alissa Pruess

Our Coos Bay Area Zonta Service Foundation is proud to announce the third Patty J. Barton Memorial Scholarship is awarded to Linda Robbins, Myrtle Point. This is a \$20,000 renewable award to be issued over qualifying terms as the requirements of performance are met.



Patty J. Barton was a long time Zonta member with a passion for women choosing to face their life's challenges by improving their status through education. Patty's husband, Jon Barton, began the scholarship fund with donations after Patty passed in 2018.

Linda Robbins grew up in Myrtle Point, and attended Myrtle Point High School. She married young and started a family.

In 2008 she graduated from cosmetology school and worked as a hairdresser, before going to work in the Myrtle Point school district. Working as a bus driver and teacher's aide, she was inspired to enroll at Southwestern Oregon Community College, to pursue her goal of becoming a schoolteacher. Linda is currently enrolled at Grand Canyon University. Linda and her husband have seven children. While serving as foster parents, they adopted their four youngest sons. Linda's long-term plan is to live and teach special education in Myrtle Point.

The Zonta Foundation received 17 amazing applicants from both Coos and Curry Counties for this scholarship. The selection process reduced the pool to six applicants who received personal interviews. Shirley MacAdam, the PJB Scholarship Chair said, "It is inspirational to witness the many women in our community pursuing their college educations all over the United States and in a variety of fields. We encourage all of you to keep an eye on our club website www.zontacoosbayarea.org every January for the many scholarships we plan to continue to provide. A fourth PJB Scholarship will be awarded in 2023. Donations to the Coos Bay Zonta Service Foundation are always appreciated."

In Linda's application she wrote, "I feel motivation in knowing that my contribution and dedication to our community will only grow once I am able to teach my own classroom – all the strategies

that I have learned in the last two years through my job and my education will benefit me and my students." It is a joy for Zonta to offer our support to Linda Robbins on her education journey and we look forward to watching her many accomplishments and contributions to our community in the years ahead.

To Support this or one of our many other scholarships please go to our website – www.zontacoosbayarea.org or send funds to:

Coos Bay Area Zonta Service Foundation
 P.O. Box 245
 North Bend, OR 97459
 Attn: Shirley MacAdam



CONGRATULATIONS LINDA!

Pictured above is Margaret Melvin, Club President Alissa Pruess, Linda Robbins and Genelle Hanken. Linda attended the Club's July 15th meeting. Genelle and Margaret have both served on the scholarship selection committee for the last two years.

Club Calendar

- ❑ **August 19** Program Meeting Coos Bay Fire Station-bring your own lunch. Tour of Coalbank Village to follow.
- ❑ **August 24** New member Zocial 5:30-7:30 at the home of Margaret Melvin, 1789 Cottonwood Coos Bay
- ❑ **August 26** Garage Sale set up 12:00 – 6:00 CASA Office 1848 Thomas Street, across from Community Action.
- ❑ **August 27** Garage Sale 9-4 PM
- ❑ **September 9 – Business Meeting** – Date changes
- ❑ **September 23** – Program Meeting – GriTT!





The weather was just beautiful today at the Old Charleston School, where I taught many a year ago, and after receiving an invitation from Genelle to visit the Zonta GRiTT Camp, I decided to do just that. This was the last day of the second week of the 2022 Zonta GRiTT camp. The girls' project was

making framed garden boxes. Today, they were putting the final touches on their boxes. I stood watching one girl finishing her box and I could not help but see the profound changes taking place as she began to use an electric drill to place her final screws. There were 8 screws she was going to use to finish the cover to her box. I saw her confidence level grow with each one she put in. The girls decorated their boxes with their own artwork; each box, all different, were wonderful.

This program does more than teach girls how to use power tools. From what I witnessed they made strangers into friends, learned how to work together despite any differences and grew the confidence to know they can achieve anything they are willing to work for. Great job ZONTA!!

Editor's note: GRiTT will be the focus of the September 23rd club program meeting. For photos and more information visit the OCATEC and Club Facebook pages.

YOU'RE INVITED!

*Zonta New
Member Social*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN END OF
SUMMER EVENT TO CELEBRATE OUR
NEW ZONTA MEMBERS

AT THE HOME OF MARGARET MELVIN

24TH AUGUST, 2022, 5:30-7:30PM
AT 1789 COTTONWOOD, COOS BAY

RSVP TO LANI.SCHREIBER@GMAIL.COM



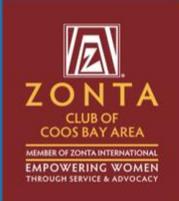
Zonta serving musicians & host families at the OCMA Welcome Dinner

After a two-year Covid hiatus, the Music Festival returned to the Coos Bay Area. For many years, Zonta hosted the “welcome” dinner for the musicians and the host families. It had begun as a “new member project” and then became a regular club project until it was dropped. But as the OCMA was scrambling to return to “normalcy,” there was a gap that they hoped maybe Zonta members could fill. Paula Bechtold was approached by the OCMA president **and Paula agreed to find some help. Julie Brecke, Margo Borstad, Dora Daniels, Lori Schmidt and Tiffany Schmidt** answered the call! We wore our Zonta aprons (so the community would know we were participating), and we got nothing but positive comments. Plus it was fun!

**Zonta Yearbooks are available for pick up at
Pam deJong’s Edward Jones office – 1705 Ocean Blvd.**

QUALITY MERCHANDISE PRICED TO SELL

ZONTA CLUB GARAGE SALE




9AM to 4PM
at the CASA Office
1848 Thomas,
Coos Bay

Saturday, August 27th

STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL ZONTA SALE

- QUALITY DONATIONS
- CLEAN DONATIONS
- LOW PRICED DONATIONS
- WORKERS FRIDAY
- WORKERS SATURDAY
- PLUS MORE! WORKERS!
- August 26 Set Up 12:00 – 6:00
CASA Office 1848 Thomas Street,
across from Community Action.
- August 27 Garage Sale 9-4 PM
- CLEAN UP HELP NEEDED!

NOTE:

No clothes or large exercise equipment.

Message from Your Garage Sale co-chairs Greg Dalton and Genelle Hanken

Please help by pre-marking substantial items before bringing them. Books, glasses, and other misc. prices will be listed on price sheet posted throughout the sale site. at home- if possible. **This fundraiser pays for our administrative costs, so donate and volunteer some time to avoid a dues increase. Thank you.**

Supporting local Non-Profit with our time! By Colleen Wylie

The Devereux Center needs volunteers to help work at their new Dream Again Thrift Emporium located in downtown North Bend. They will be opening soon and need support in multiple areas from cashier to replenishing stock. If you are interested, please email info@thedeveurexcenter.org or call 541-888-3202 and leave message for Steve.

--
Tara Johnson
Executive Director
The Devereux Center



2051 Sherman Avenue
North Bend, OR 97459
541-266-6070

Tara Johnson
Executive Director

Steve Davis
Store Manager

The Dream Again THRIFT EMPORIUM
(2022)

HELP FOR HOMELESS - NEW UNDERWEAR AND DISPOSABLE RAZORS FOR ALL GENDERS. PLEASE BRING TO COALBANK TOUR ON THE 19TH

At the Friday, August 5th Zonta Business meeting, we welcomed Zonta Life Member, **Verena Matthews**, who brought a special guest with her, Barbara Anderson. Barbara is the daughter of Verena's dear friend, the late Laura Lee Blenz. Laura Lee was a Life Member Zontian who served as president from 1970-71 and again from 1975-76. She celebrated her 101st birthday in 2020 before passing away later that year.

Barbara and other family members, along with many Zontians and community members, honored Laura Lee's memory by establishing the Laura Lee Blenz/Zonta Engineering Scholarship for young women from Coos County, administered through the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF). **Paula Bechtold** coordinates the scholarship with the OCF and is assisted on the committee by Zontian, **Anne Medhus Westbrooks**. The other three committee members are engineers actively working locally: Shannon Souza, Jan Kerbo and Barbara Negherbon. The scholarship fund will be perpetual, with interest only awarded to winner(s) each year.

On Friday, Barbara shared stories of how hard her mother worked her entire life, from the early age of 17 back in Missouri. Laura Lee experienced discrimination when Hallmark Cards, a premier employer in Kansas City, would not hire her because she was left-handed. She started her career as an operator for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, eventually working for General Telephone Company in the Coos Bay area and retired from a management position. While career choices for women were limited in Laura Lee's youth, her family concluded that she would have been an excellent engineer, if that option had been available.

The 1st scholarship was awarded to **Payton Davidson** in 2021, a Marshfield High School graduate and Civil Engineering student at George Fox University. Payton's excellent grades qualified her to receive the scholarship again in 2022. Payton attended the August 5th Club meeting and was grateful to meet Barbara in person and express her gratitude for the scholarship.



After graduation in June 2023, Payton would like a position where she can focus on wastewater, as a way to give back and improve her community. Payton has been working summers for a local engineering firm (Dyer Associates). She also is on the track team at George Fox – one of the advantages of a small college she explained is the ability to do sports as well as study.



In late 2021, Barbara Anderson and her family made a second generous gift to the scholarship fund, which generated income for a second scholarship to be awarded in 2022. This scholarship was awarded to **Geneva Varga**, a Winter Lakes (Coquille) High School graduate who completed many credits and her associate degree at SWOCC before transferring to Oregon State University. Geneva, who joined the meeting by Zoom, will also graduate with a degree in Civil Engineering, with her career goal to be an environmental process engineer. Geneva was home-schooled for her early education and she became fluent in Mandarin Chinese. Geneva's suggestion for girls who wish to become engineers is to keep an open mind and be curious. Like Payton, she wants to give back to her community and to make the world a better place.

After listening to the two students describe their paths up to this point and their career goals, Barbara commented that her mother would be so proud to help these young women.



I was the youngest of 4 and born on the West Fork of the Millicoma, my family then moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland (my mom’s hometown), where we spent 5 years. At eight, we moved back to Coos County, and I grew up in Sumner, spending most of my free time outside, riding horses, camping and river rafting.

I graduated from Marshfield High School and then spent the next five years living on the east coast working in restaurants, learning valuable life skills. When I returned, I earned an AAOT from Southwestern and my BS in Education from Eastern Oregon University, while waiting tables and building a house. I started a career in teaching for North Bend School District when I was 28 years old. My son, Dax, was born a few years later. Despite managing a failed marriage and the loss of my dad and brother, I went on to earn my MS in Education from Southern Oregon

University, while raising my son and working full time. I have been with the NBSD for the last 14 years but hope to be changing careers after a successful run for Coos County Clerk.

Dax is now 12 years old, and we both love spending time outdoors enjoying all the natural beauty our area has to offer. Hunting, fishing, traveling, hiking, biking, camping, rafting, riding horses and watching Dax play in school sports and run his succulent business keeps us busy. I also love to garden. ☺

Why Zonta? Strong women are an inspiration and I believe that we can build each other up. Volunteering at a community level and internationally is important to me and I look forward to engaging in club activities for service, advocacy and education.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Pam deJong* 2nd
- Madison Spotts* 2nd
- Kim Winker* 14th
- Sharon Lovie* 19th
- Colleen Wylie* 22nd

- Terri Turi* 2nd
- Audrey Duke* 8th
- Bridget Baker – Kincaid* 14th
- Kriston Correll* 17th
- Tiffany Schmidt* 23rd



The Coos Bay Farmer's Market held on Wednesday is a great place to see your Zonta friends. On one day **Lindi** ran into **Charlene, Sherrill, Margaret and Patty Borchner**. Patty Borchner, Lindi's sponsor, was strolling around with her daughters. Charlene had family here from Texas. What a fun local activity to share with them!

Carol Ventgen recently received special recognition by the Coos Historical Museum for her many years of service to the Musuem and to our community. She was the co-recipient of the Martha Butler Service Award.

Wedding bells are ringing this summer! This month alone we have at least two weddings happening. **Margaret Melvin's son, Andrew**, is getting married in California and **Nichole Rutherford's daughter Ashley** at The Mill Casino.



Sherry Horne traveled with her husband, Steve, and friends to Europe in June. Lots of fun, adventure and stress! Ummm... where's my wallet Steve? Hmmm.... I left my heart (wallet) in San Francisco.

Verena Matthews has sold her home in Arizona which is both sad news and good news. We will see more of her during the winter months, but she will miss all her friends there. It will be her 1st winter in Coos Bay in over 30 years! Wonder if she owns an umbrella?



Ali Helms moved into a new house. Check out the new view which includes Eleanor and Arthur!

Facebook news is FUN! **Michele Eberhardt** was zipping – make that ziplining around Montana while visiting her sister.



Got News? Send to our Rose Petal Editor at genellehankenzonta@gmail.com

Message from Governor Deb Lal~

It is one of my greatest pleasures to be the Governor of Zonta District 8. I am honored to be a vessel to share information from Zonta International to our clubs. I look forward to this biennium as we work together to Build a Better World for Women and Girls.

In Zonta Spirit,

--

Deb Lal
Zonta International
District 8 Governor 2022-2024
Zonta Club of South Puget Sound



Hello from Area 4 Director Margery Whitmer

A new biennium has started in the world of Zonta! Our new International President is Ute Scholz. For District 8 our new governor is Deb Lal, she was a member for many years here in Coos Bay. With Alissa Pruess at the helm as President, there is no doubt as we give our cooperation, support, and energy our club will build a better world for women and girls!

Speaking of girls, the last two weeks, girls 8 to 12 have learned carpentry skills through our GRITT program, Girls Rock In Tools & Trade. With Jen Shafer as team leader and several Zonta instructors and helpers, the girls successfully made for themselves a tool box and cold frame for growing winter vegetables! They also received their own tools to help them in their knowledge learned and will hopefully inspire them to build other items in the future! Rick Stillwagon of OCATEC made this possible along with community grants. I thank the grant writing committee for their efforts.

Lastly District 8 includes Alaska, British Columbia, Alberta, Washington, Idaho and Oregon. The Clubs in District 8 are Corvallis, Coos Bay, Roseburg and Grants Pass. Anchorage AK, Blackfoot and Pocatello Clubs, Everett, Olympia and South Puget Sound Clubs, Nanaimo and Victoria B. C. clubs. A Central Oregon club is in formation. The Portland, Eugene-Springfield and Yakima Valley clubs are listed on the District 8 web site, but I think they are no longer chartered clubs. I will tell you in another article which area these clubs are found.

I encourage you to go to the District 8 and Zonta International web sites as they have a wealth of information to help one understand Zonta's mission, goals, achievements and opportunities for service!

Area 4 Director Margery Whitmer

We concluded a very successful year although the membership was the smallest we've had since I began my active involvement a decade ago. From talking to other staff at the school, it appears that Covid may be to blame – most students are apparently reticent about participating in anything (including classroom discussion) – very sad. We ended up with 11 members, 5 seniors. We were successful primarily because of the “Community 101” project for which we had been selected. With \$5,000 in funding from the Oregon Community Foundation, the students conducted a community needs survey, drafted a “mission statement,” learned about non-profits, requested, received, and reviewed grant requests, and selected recipients. An exciting process!

Identifying “mental health” as the issue of most importance in the community, led to awarding grants of \$1,500 each to Belloni Ranch, CASA, and Coos Foster Families and \$1,000 to Devereux Center. The additional \$500

was from the club's own fundraising – a color run and helping with concessions at athletic events at the school. From the remainder, **the club made a \$1,000 donation to Zonta International Foundation for the international service fund.**

Just received notice that the club has been approved for the Community 101 program again this school year.



All the Zclub seniors received multiple scholarships and two were the biggest “winners” out of the entire graduating class– Savaylla received a Ford Family Scholarship and Ismael received the Richter Memorial – both of these scholarships fund the majority of their tuition and living expenses for

up to four years! Both also received smaller scholarships in addition and Ismael received our Zclub scholarship.

Virtually all of the members received multiple academic awards/recognition at the end of the school year awards assembly --- too numerous to detail – but several do deserve special reporting! Ismael and Emma were named “Senior Boy and Girl of the Year.” That also meant they led the entire class of graduates at the end of the graduation ceremony by facing them and leading the tassel “switch.” Next year's Zclub president Kiri was named “Outstanding Sophomore Girl” and also received the trigonometry award!



Always sad to say good-bye to the graduates – this year especially to Aaron,

Passing the gavel – Ismael to Kiri

Ismael and Savaylla who had all been members since their freshman year – Aaron and Ismael had older sisters who were active Zclubbers in earlier years which could explain their involvement!

SWOCC GOLDEN Z ~ A REBUILDING YEAR

With the college on-line during 2020-21, the first order of “business” for this school year was to reactivate the club's charter with the SWOCC student government (ASG). Golden Z membership averaged 5-7 students during the year, and the club collaborated with The American Association for Women in Community College (AAWCC) and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK). The one Golden Z activity reported by the adviser Amy Smith was an event where valentine cards were made to thank local medical professionals. Two of the Golden Zs received Zonta scholarships. Amy hopes that during this coming school year the club will increase its membership and its collaboration with AAWCC and PTK as well as with other student clubs and local community organizations.



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owner • designer

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