



ROSE PETALS

# NEWSLETTER



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
COOS BAY AREA  
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
BUILD A BETTER WORLD  
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

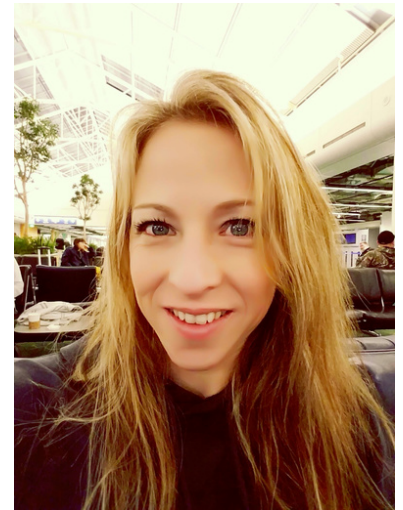
February 2025

## A Message from the Vice President - Debbie Kirby

Thank you for taking a few to read this, I hope it gives us pause, inspires or encourages some sort of personal, local or global action.

As a woman, there are times when I find it challenging to stand up for myself in a respectful and responsible way, so my point isn't lost in my delivery. Sometimes, I find myself pausing, reflecting and then making a decision to respond somewhat later. When the pause is practiced, we become more powerful in our delivery and more thoughtful in what we need to say. Let us find ways to work alongside each other respectfully, kindly and holding space that others may experience us differently than we intend.

"Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women". ~Maya Angelou



In January, we celebrate Amelia Earhart as the first person (ever) to fly solo from Hawaii to the US mainland. In February, we celebrate Rosa Parks birthday and honor her with a designated seat on busses to literally hold a space for her and to remember an incredible pivot in time.



Clara Zetkin

Do you know Clara Zetkin? I didn't until I started doing research to write this month's article. A bit of a history lesson about International Woman's Day (IWD). Did you know that IWD's hasn't always been celebrated March 8th?

German activist Clara Zetkin inspired the International Socialist Congress to create an international version of the US holiday and on March 19, 1911, the first IWD was held in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland with more than 1 million people attending rallies. In 1921, IWD was officially moved to March 8, to honor women in Petrograd (St Petersburg) Russia who staged a strike to protest food shortages and poor living conditions. This strike helped give rise to the Russian Revolution of 1917, which eventually led to the abdication of Nicholas II. This year's IWD campaign is "Accelerate Action." The estimate is it will take 5 more generations for women to reach parity!!! So let us be inspired by those that came before us and channel Eleanor Roosevelt's energy!

"A woman is like a tea bag - you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water." ~Eleanor Roosevelt

# Zonta's International Women's Day 2025 Outstanding

## Community Supporter: Trish McMichael

### Trish will be honored at our March 8 Scholarship Fundraiser

When the fundraiser committee formed this year, Julie Reed made an excellent suggestion that we honor a local woman at our event on March 8th, International Women's Day. We developed and distributed an application which resulted in four nominations. Then the hard work of selecting one woman when all those nominated were very worthy. Below is Trish's bio written by her daughter, Emily Midyette. Emily nominated Trish – a daughter's love for her mother!

Trish McMichael was raised in Rainer, Oregon and moved to the Coos Bay area after graduating from Oregon State University with a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in European History. She quickly fell in love with the South Coast community. In her early days here, she worked at the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and the South Coast Business Employment Corporation.

In 1995 Trish realized a lifelong dream and opened Books By The Bay. She owned the bookstore for 16 years, doubling its size, adding a coffee shop, and hosting the Readers By The Bay Book club, now 30 years old. While owning the store she was heavily involved in the community, donating thousands of dollars to local charitable organizations, hosting events, and participating in the North Bend Downtown Association. Trish was also a member of the local Jaycees, Rotary Club, and Zonta Club for many years. She helped organize the Blackberry Arts Festival and Bay Area Fun Festival. Additionally, she was a founding member of the Bay Area Hospital's Community Foundation Board. Trish was heavily involved in her children's school activities and organizations, co-chairing two prom committees, assisting with planning Senior All Night Parties, and assistant coaching the Lighthouse Wild Dogs soccer team.

In 2011, Trish sold the bookstore and began a new career with Southwestern Oregon Community College. She is the Senior Academic Advisor, and her primary focus is assisting students with their educational paths. In this position, she not only advises students on career choices but also connects them with community resources and scholarships and is a compassionate support as students navigate the challenges of balancing school and work. She finds her job extremely rewarding and sincerely enjoys seeing past students in the community utilizing their education.



Trish is happily married to Kyle McMichael and is the proud mother of Emily Midyette, Trey Woods, Nathan Midyette, and her French Bulldog, Gustav. In October of 2024, Trish was diagnosed with a rare and highly aggressive form of Breast Cancer. She is currently in treatment and has become an advocate for mammograms, a regular participant in local cancer support groups, and is planning a fundraiser to assist others with Breast Cancer. She intends to be a resource for local women facing the same diagnosis long into the future. Trish has always found joy in supporting people.

# Scholarship Fundraiser

Tickets still available for this special event. Ticket sales end February 25th. We would like to see more club members in attendance. This is our club's only scheduled fundraiser in 2025. If unable to attend, please make a donation to the Coos Bay Area Zonta Service Foundation.



## February Program Meeting

## Coos Elderly Services Bringing Lives Into Balance



Friday's program speaker is Erlette Upshaw from Coos Elderly Services. Coos Elderly Services promotes the dignity and security of vulnerable people who need assistance in managing their financial affairs. In addition to providing financial help to individuals on a day-to-day basis, Coos Elderly Services was also active in community outreach and education during COVID, and currently has a special program supporting emergency preparedness on the south coast. Zonta member Lindi Quinn is an active volunteer and Jen Shafer is the current board chair.

Lunch from Coos Head for \$5.00 purchase will be available, Bring your own drink



October 2022 Coos Elderly donated the bags for our club's Dignity Bag project. Erlette is pictured in the middle.

## Member Profile: Margery Whitmer



I was fortunate to grow up in a loving family in Seattle Washington. Being a baby boomer, my parents both worked but it was a freer time for kids. With our elementary school one block away and many girls my age to play with we enjoyed many hours of outdoor activities in the summers. We had a lapse in communication over the years but have reunited and the LOHL (Ladies of Haller Lake) have a reunion every other year! What fun!

Post high school I took junior college classes but started working and ended up working for steamship company American Mail Line/American President Lines in the import documentation dept. With this background my travel interest sparked, and I took a leave of absence and traveled to all the ports of call as a passenger. These ports included Japan, Philippines, Singapore, Pakistan and Bombay. I then flew to Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Hawaii and finally back home traveling 3 months! I was glad to be home by then and certainly treasure all the memories.

I then worked for Crowley Maritime on the Oakland estuary processing tugboat supplies. It was there I met my fisherman husband Bill Whitmer at the adjacent boat dock. We fell in love, and I traded my typewriter for trolling polls and commenced to deckhand for 5 years on his 60's schooner for commercial salmon and albacore tuna. Yes!

This work changed when we bought our home on the Coquille River and Betty Kay Charters in Charleston, Or. My business background helped me handle the fishing office bookings, payroll, and marketing. This work led me to being a part of the community; joining the chamber of commerce, (tourism committee) and was invited to join Zonta Service club. (In high school I was president of the Glisaders Service club).

The maritime industry has proven to be very interesting, and charter business especially with all the aspects of running a business. Zonta has been rewarding for me with the opportunity to benefit the lives of women and girls locally and globally. Serving as club president in 2002-23, Area 4 Director 2022-2024 as well as club board member through the years. Friendships, maybe not so close but steady through the years, a bond develops, that stick to it need to commit to something greater that your own self-interests....

What to change in the world? - A big question! More respect for our fellowman, the environment, starting at home and in elementary school to do this!

See you at a Zonta meeting!

Margery





### 2025 Patty J. Barton Memorial Scholarship

\$20,000



Apply today at [www.zontacoosbayarea.org](http://www.zontacoosbayarea.org)  
Completed applications due March 14, 2025



Help Spread the Word about our Fabulous Scholarship Opportunities! Deadlines for Patty Barton March 14, Young Women in Leadership March 15, all others April 1, 2025!!



2025

### ZONTA YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Recognizing young women for their commitment to volunteerism, volunteer leadership achievements and dedication to empowering women worldwide



### 1 APPLICATION, 2 OPPORTUNITIES



Club award  
USA \$1,500 each  
Coos County Student

37 international awards  
USA \$5,000 each

Applications at: [zontacoosbayarea.org/scholarships](http://zontacoosbayarea.org/scholarships)

CLUB DEADLINE:  
March 15

Who is Eligible? Women, Ages 16 - 19  
See application for more details on requirements.

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO:

[scholarships@zontacoosbayarea.org](mailto:scholarships@zontacoosbayarea.org)

The Young Women in Leadership Award is a Zonta International program funded by contributions to the Zonta Foundation for Women. Zonta International is a leading global organization of individuals working to build a better world for women and girls.

## Zonta Scholarships



Education is a human right. It has the power to save and improve the lives of women and girls, which leads to healthier families and stronger communities.

Multiple Awards  
\$1,500 - \$3,000



Application Deadline  
April 1, 2025

[www.zontacoosbayarea.org](http://www.zontacoosbayarea.org)



## Support Coos Bay Area Zonta Service Foundation When You Shop At Fred Meyer

Link your Rewards Card to our foundation by logging into your account at [www.fredmeyer.com/signin](http://www.fredmeyer.com/signin)

Each quarter, Fred Meyer will make a donation to Zonta based on your accumulated spending.



### Birthdays

**February 1 - Alissa Pruess**

**February 5- Shirley Roby**

**February 6 - Megan Jacquot & Carol Ventgen**

**February 17- Kitty Backus**

**February 24 - Dora Daniels**

**March 12 - Patty Scott**

**March 20 - Verena Matthews & Jesse Graf**

**March 22 - Lani Schreiber**

## Club Calendar

- February 21 Club Program Meeting featuring Coos Elderly Services
- March 8 Scholarship Fundraiser Wildflour Public House
- March 16 Rose Petals deadline for March issue
- March 20 12:00 PM Salvation Army Recognition Lunch
- April 1 Club dues are payable now
- April 26 All Area Virtual Workshop 9AM-2PM
- June 20-22 North American Interdistrict Meeting (NAIDM) Novi, MI
- September 19-20, 2025 District 8 Conference North Puget Sound hosting, Everett, WA
- July 11-14 2026, Zonta International Convention Vancouver BC, Canada



# Salvation Army Bellingring Recognition Luncheon

Thursday, March 20 noon at the Salvation Army, 1155 Flanagan Ave., Coos Bay, OR  
 Zonta is the club who raised the most money in a single day, so we need to take our victory lap.



## Coos County Odyssey 2025

Wed January 1 - Sat May 17, 2025  
Coos Bay, OR 97420 US

### Results for Empowering Women! Zonta

Virtual Coos County Odyssey 2025 - Team Results

**🏆 Place: 6**

Clock Time: 0:00      Distance: 616.10 miles

#### Member Results

TEAM PLACE	PLACE	NAME	GENDER	BIB	CLOCK TIME	CHIP TIME	MILES
1	10	<a href="#">Suzie McDaniel</a>	Female		NONE		213.68 miles
2	26	<a href="#">Joanne Griffearth</a>	Female		NONE		119.26 miles
3	33	<a href="#">Lindi Quinn</a>	Female		NONE		103.00 miles
4	60	<a href="#">Bonnie Foroudi</a>	Female		NONE		54.10 miles
5	61	<a href="#">Jen Shafer</a>	Female		NONE		51.00 miles
6	64	<a href="#">Judy Moody</a>	Female		NONE		44.56 miles
7	67	<a href="#">Genelle Hanken</a>	Female		NONE		30.50 miles

**Join us ~ Bring a Friend!**

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Results/119643/TeamResults/TeamDetails-35029-848402>

I't not too late to join our Zonta team!!

# 2025 Partners and Friends of Zonta Education Programs

**Edward Jones** Member SIPC

Let's get to work on a life you love.



Pamela C de Jong, AAMS<sup>™</sup>  
Financial Advisor  
pamela.dejong@edwardjones.com

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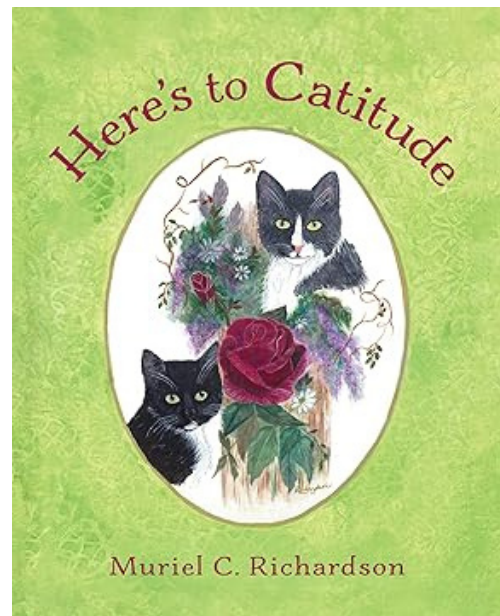
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**SOUTHWESTERN**  
AN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**ZONTA**  
COOS BAY AREA ZONTA  
SERVICE FOUNDATION  
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
BUILD A BETTER WORLD  
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

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Copies of the children's book "Catitude" are still available for purchase \$15.95 through Muriel or Amazon