

PRESENTATION OF THE 2005 GOVERNOR'S TROPHY AND RUNNER-UP

This was the very special part of the Conference Banquet evening ---the announcement of the "MOST OUTSTANDING" club in District 11 for 2004-2005. This club is the winner of the Governor's Trophy. The inscription on this trophy says that The District 11 Governor's Trophy is

*"AWARDED IN RECOGNITION OF THAT CLUB WHICH
HAS BEST EXEMPLIFIED THE IDEALS AND
OBJECTIVES OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DURING
THE PAST YEAR"*

District 11 Area Directors nominated the following clubs for this award:

- Area 1: The Zonta Club of Dothan Area and
The Zonta Club of Birmingham
- Area 2: The Zonta Club of Franklin Area and
The Zonta Club of Hilton Head Island
- Area 3: The Zonta Club of Marathon and
The Zonta Club of New Providence
- Area 4: The Zonta Club of Melbourne Area and
The Zonta Club of Tampa
- Area 5: The Zonta Club of Caguas,
The Zonta Club of Ponce, and
The Zonta Club of San Juan
- Area 6: The Zonta Club of Punta Gorda/Port Charlotte and
The Zonta Club of Sanibel/Captiva

All of these clubs truly had an outstanding year in 2004-2005. Elected District Board members then had the difficult task of choosing their top three choices from these 13 clubs, based on Annual Reports and letters of nomination by Area Directors. By these votes, the top two clubs in the District for the past year, the Winner and the Runner-Up, were determined.

The winning Club has the honor of claiming the beautiful sterling silver Governor's Trophy for all of this next year and now has its name permanently added to the Trophy. The club that is the Runner-Up receives the Runner-Up Trophy which it may keep for all of this next year. Both clubs will also receive a certificate attesting to their honor for their club's files.

It is the responsibility of the Lieutenant Governor to coordinate the procedure by which the winners are selected, and until now, only I have known who will take the coveted Governor's and Runner-up Trophies home. This has truly been a well kept secret.

The Runner-Up and then the 2005 winner of the District 11 Governor's Trophy are described here as presented by Governor Ina:

2005 RUNNER-UP FOR THE GOVERNOR'S TROPHY

In the 2004-2005 year, this very active Club focused on the mission of Zonta through lots of hands-on service hours with women and girls in need. Their total service contribution was 4,336 hours which were donated to several causes:

- The club sponsors quarterly book giveaways at four after-school care sites. With the club's assistance these sites have started Lending Libraries for the children. The club also furnishes books to children of families, usually women and children, who move into new Habit for Humanity houses. They also spend time with the children, reading with them. Members of the club, a strong supporter of Habit for Humanity, participate in the "Women Build" program, working on houses and assisting work crews.
- This club literally saved a woman, called Ms. Z, and her two small children from a mentally and physically abusive situation. One of the members was contacted by Ms. Z, who said she had no resources to move near her sister in Washington state. The club donated \$2,000 to Ms. Z for travel expenses. A friend secretly drove her to New Orleans, without her abusive spouse's knowledge. There she rented a car and continued on to Washington, arriving safely with her children, ready for a new life of freedom and safety.
- This club sponsors a Retired Senior Volunteer Program, so women can give back to their community and achieve a feeling of self-worth at the same time. These Zontians also spent over 3,000 hours volunteering for the American Red Cross, assuming roles from disaster relief to teaching.
- The club's main project is the Chrysalis Home, where up to 10 teenage girls reside, as they are unable to live with their families through no fault of their own. This club donated \$8,000 to the home and spent many quality hours with the girls. The Zontians are divided into 10 teams; each team does a monthly activity with the girls. This has included the Shakespeare Festival, a buffalo farm, horseback riding, bowling, concerts, making pottery and jewelry, and just talking. When a girl graduates, she receives a set of luggage from the club and a scholarship to help with college. The impact of this club on these young women helps them change into their own beautiful selves, like a chrysalis does. Members of Zonta also serve on the Chrysalis Board.

This deserving Zonta club has been voted the 2005 Runner-Up for the District 11 Governor's Trophy, and it is...

THE ZONTA CLUB OF DOTHAN AREA!

2005 WINNER OF THE GOVERNOR'S TROPHY

In the 2004-2005 year, this Club has focused on the mission of Zonta, by increasing its sizable membership, in part due to its strategic planning to identify the main service areas of interest to members. The club spent 2,100 service hours on those areas during the year, which are the following:

- This club wanted to help those women most in need and to make a real impact on their lives. In addition to their time, in-kind donations, and money to support a halfway house for women recovering from addiction, Zontians taught life skills and self-discovery classes these women.
- This club supported a program for girls in foster care who were transitioning into independent living. They helped these girls in setting up new households, taught life skills classes for them, gave beach parties for the girls, and helped the foster care organization set up its website. One member worked with this non-profit to write a grant proposal.
- Besides monetary donations, this club supports outreach and peer education by Planned Parenthood, and participates in advocacy and fundraising efforts for Partners for Breast Cancer Care.
- It raised and donated \$26,000 for local and international service projects through its 3 fundraising events. In spite of being in a post hurricane economy, this was a record for this club. \$4,000 of this went to the International Service Fund, earmarked for the Bosnia-Herzegovina Anti-Trafficking project.

However, the primary service project for this year's winning club was their focus on an advocacy issue, through which they have impacted not only their local community, but also the entire District 11. This club adopted as its primary focus an Anti-Human Trafficking campaign. They brought the existence of this modern day slavery practice to the attention of their newly elected sheriff and convinced him to establish a task force. They helped him create the Coalition Against Human Trafficking in SW Florida, with a Zontian as cochair of the steering committee.

The club developed its own Anti-Trafficking team to educate others about human trafficking, and initiated a Speakers Bureau for this purpose. They have attended training classes, made extensive use of local newspapers to educate the public, have established an extensive Anti-Trafficking web page on their website, and use an email list-serve to update others on this topic. Zontians from this club are active members of the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking. The club has provided a \$10,000 grant to it for education and training.

At last year's District 11 conference, this club introduced an Anti-Human Trafficking resolution, which was adopted unanimously. Their website is an anthology of articles on this horrendous crime against humanity and ways to get involved in stopping it. Two

members helped the Sarasota Zonta club organize a meeting of local agencies in order to start a task force in Sarasota County. As part of its advocacy efforts, this club also wrote an article, which appeared in the three local papers, titled "Zonta Club Observes 16 Days Against Gender Violence", presenting facts about violence against women, as well as an explanation of ZISVAW.

As a result of this club's enormous efforts to educate and bring awareness about human trafficking to the half million people in its local area, the club has been honored by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services as a "role model of citizen activism".

It is easy to see that this Zonta Club is a powerful and involved part of its community and of Zonta International.

**The 2005 WINNER OF THE
DISTRICT 11 GOVERNOR'S TROPHY IS...**

THE ZONTA CLUB OF SANIBEL/CAPTIVA!

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH CLUBS!