

PRESENTATION OF THE 2006 GOVERNOR'S TROPHY AND RUNNER-UP

This is a very special part of this afternoon's Conference Banquet --- the presentation of the "MOST OUTSTANDING" club in District 11 for the 2005-2006 year. The inscription on the Governor's Trophy says,

"Awarded in recognition of that club which has best exemplified the ideals and objectives of Zonta International during the past year."

It is the responsibility of the Lieutenant Governor to coordinate the procedure by which the winner and runner-up of the Governor's Trophy are selected. Until now, only Lieutenant Governor Lynn Salvatore has known who will take the coveted Trophies back to their clubs. This has truly been a well kept and long awaited secret.

The winning Club has the honor of claiming the beautiful sterling silver Governor's Trophy for all of this year and has its name permanently added to the Trophy. The Runner-Up club also receives a trophy which it will keep for the year. Both clubs will be presented with a certificate for their club's files.

District 11 Area Directors nominated 9 clubs to be considered for the Governor's Award:

Area 1: The Zonta Club of Dothan and

The Zonta Club of Montgomery

Area 2: The Zonta Club of Franklin Area and
The Zonta Club of Hilton Head Island

Area 3: The Zonta Club of Marathon

Area 4: The Zonta Club of Melbourne Area and
The Zonta Club of Tallahassee

Area 5: No nominations were received for Area 5

Area 6: The Zonta Club of Bonita Springs and
The Zonta Club of Sanibel/Captiva

All of these clubs truly had an outstanding year in 2005-2006. Elected District Board members then had the difficult task of choosing their top three choices from these 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 chosen.

The first award is the 2005-2006 Runner-Up for the Governor's Trophy.

During the 2005-2006 year, this very active Club focused on the mission and objectives of Zonta through much hands-on service for women and girls in need. The club contributed a total of 2,703 service hours and \$42,550 service dollars to a number of worthwhile causes. The club's numerous service projects included projects in the area of education and literacy and women's health.

- The club received a \$10,000 grant which the club awarded to middle and high school students to replace educational items such as computers, books, musical instruments, sports uniforms, athletic equipment, and vocational tech tools that were destroyed during Hurricane Wilma;
- The club's mascot, the Zonta Zebra, visited an elementary school and day care centers to deliver books or donations for books; and

- The club awarded scholarships to graduating high school students and adult women and participated in and sponsored a walk for the PACE School for Girls.
- The club is a strong advocate for women's health. It donated \$1,000 to a local community health center as part of a matching gift program. The members participated in the Lee Denim Day for Breast Cancer Awareness by providing pink ribbons for donations at a club meeting. At a Relay for Life event, the club sponsored the track markers and signs with cancer and prevention information. The club provided funds to women in need of mammograms, diagnostic testing and other health related expenses.

The need for public relations in Zonta is not lost on this club. The club's activities appear in at least one of four local newspapers most every week with photos and articles of its service and fundraising projects and announcements of the Zontian of the Month and Zontian of the Year. The club's main fundraiser is the sale of radio ads to local businesses and individuals. Three local radio stations highlight club member profiles in 30 second spots.

This deserving Zonta club has been voted the 2006 Runner-Up for the District 11 Governor's Trophy, and it is...

THE ZONTA CLUB OF MARATHON!



photo by Zontian Penny J. Gilmer

The last award to be presented is the 2005-2006 winner of the Governor's Trophy.

In the 2005-2006 year, the winning club clearly focused on the mission and objectives of Zonta International. This club achieved a net of 11 members, in part due to its implementation of its strategic plan, its finely tuned use of the media to highlight its projects, and its identification of projects of interest to its members. Club members spent 3,790 hours on service projects, with an average participation of 95% of the members. The Club donated \$65,606 of its service money and \$116,250 of in-kind funds to worthwhile recipients. The club focused on three (3) main service projects which clearly reflect the mission and objects of Zonta International:

- This club partnered with a local addiction transitional center by providing educational, leisure, domestic and work-related materials for the center. The club's cash grants for the center helped purchase and set up a freestanding storage room where women can "shop" from donated clothing and personal items when going on job interviews. The club's latest grant will be sufficient to build a "Zonta Learning Center" where classes can be taught, with special emphasis on individual learning needs. In all, the club provided over

\$19,000 of its own service funds and \$2,000 of in-kind funds for the addiction center.

- This club continued to support 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, and provided beach parties for the girls. The latest grant cycle funds were designed to develop a revolving loan fund for housing deposits and rent advances for the girls. The club members are developing an action plan to help advocate for funding for a housing village for the girls. The club provided over \$17,000 of its own service funds and \$27,000 of in-kind funds for the girls' independent living program.
- The primary service project for this year's winning club was human trafficking. The club provided two (2) major grants to help fund the outreach efforts of the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking, resulting in national attention in both the print and film media. The club's primary goal with this project is to instruct law enforcement, service providers, business owners and individuals in how to recognize signs of human trafficking, and to take action that lead to the

rescue of victims, the prosecution of traffickers, and eventually the eradication of human slavery. The club's efforts on this project have garnered recognition from local and regional newspapers, TV and radio, law enforcement officials, local county commissioners, the local city council, and the US Department of Health and Human Services. This club has been called "a role model of citizen activism".

- This club's human trafficking project was selected as a model service project by Zonta International's Status of Women Committee at the 2005 Membership Conference in Denver. In addition, it was used as a model for combining service and advocacy at the Zonta International orientation for Governor's-Elect in February 2006. This club's initiative in District 11 is gaining momentum and reaching legendary status throughout Zonta International.

This year's winner of the District 11 Governor's Award is truly a model club.

The 2006 WINNER OF THE DISTRICT 11 GOVERNOR'S AWARD IS...

THE ZONTA CLUB OF SANIBEL/CAPTIVA!



photo by Zontian Penny J. Gilmer

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE OUTSTANDING CLUBS!