

Presentation of the 2009 Governor's Trophy and Runner-Up

This part of our presentation is a time to share the incredible success stories occurring here in District 11. Each year, the Area Directors nominate the most impressive clubs in their Area, based on their Annual Reports. Each of the members of the District Board, with the exception of the District Secretary who is appointed, reviews the reports of the nominated clubs and narrows the field down to three. The votes of the Board Members are then tallied to determine the Runner-Up and winner of the Governor's Trophy, in recognition of the **Most Outstanding Club** "which has best exemplified the ideals and objectives of Zonta International during the past year.

Both the winner and runner-up receive a certificate and a traveling trophy that remains with their respective clubs for one year, before moving on to the next year's recipients. The winning club receives the coveted Governor's Trophy, a beautiful sterling silver trophy, on which the club's name will be permanently engraved.

It is the responsibility of the Lieutenant Governor to coordinate the procedure by which the winner and runner-up are selected. Up to this point, Lieutenant Governor Jane Adams is the only person who has known which clubs will have the honor of taking these coveted trophies home.

Before I announce the runner-up and winning club, please help me congratulate all of the clubs who have had the honor of being nominated for the award, based on their outstanding achievements this year.

The 2008-2010 District 11 Area Directors nominated 11 clubs to be considered for the Governor's Award:

Area 1: The Zonta Club of Birmingham and The Zonta Club of Montgomery

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

Area 3: The Zonta Club of Key West and The Zonta Club of Marathon

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

Area 5: The Zonta Club of Ponce

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

2008-2009 Runner-Up for the Governor's Trophy

The first award is the 2008-2009 Runner-Up for the Governor's Trophy. During this past Zonta Year, this club was extremely energetic and active. Working together, the members have succeeded in making a difference in their local community by impacting the lives of women in every area: health, education, economics, violence prevention, self esteem, legal rights, advocacy and legislation. Further, they contributed to the ZI Foundation in the areas of Amelia Earhart, ZISVAW, International Service Projects and other Zonta International Funds.

This club logged in 5,409 service hours and 1076 hours in fundraising. They contributed just over \$73,000 in money and in-kind donations to their service projects and raised \$27,000 through their fundraising events. It is impressive to note that 100% of the members participated in their primary fundraiser and had almost 100% attendance at meetings.

Further, this club has a well defined strategic plan which they effectively use to direct their activities and service.

They have implemented a well defined orientation program involving club members in presenting portions of the program. Potential members were also invited to attend.

Some of their notable service includes the following:

- The club partnered with The Domestic Abuse Shelter and Victims of Violence and continues to be involved with law enforcement and assisting, when needed, with financial aid, shelter, supplies or any other necessities during times of crisis.
- They are very involved with women's health issues in the community. The club provides funds for women in need having health issues and assist financially with diagnostic testing and other related health expenses. They collected bottle caps to pay for 100 cancer treatments for women with no funds or insurance.
 - The club has a literacy project which promotes family reading. A Read-In with the Zonta Zebra (the club's literacy mascot) teaches the importance of reading to children from Headstart to 2nd grade. The club also provides 300 books to an elementary school and an at-risk day care center. The books are sent home with the children to promote family reading.
- This club has played a significant part in strengthening their local Z Club. The Z-club membership spiraled from 8 to 31 active young women. The Zonta club members have engaged and mentored these young women in service. The Z club members work readily beside the Zonta club members and have participated in every Zonta club project and event this past year. The Z club members have flourished in the degree of the service they provide. Those graduating are seeking Golden Z Clubs to join in their colleges.
- The most notable project is the establishment of Women's Services at a local homeless shelter. During these difficult times the shelter was at risk of closing. Zonta assisted with some funding to help save the shelter and transition it into an effective new shelter. This club had a shed donated and set up and maintained a

clothes closet for women. In short order, the shed was filled with much needed everyday items. Shortly thereafter, business attire was brought in, allowing women seeking employment to look their best. The need for women's services soon became apparent. Seed money from Zonta was utilized to create a space in the lower level of the shelter for women and women's issues. Zonta continues to be involved with the development of the shelter and its programs. Counseling, rehab and treatment (if needed), as well as separate sleeping areas, are now provided. The program includes instruction on women's health issues, guidance for appropriate dress, as well as tasteful hairstyles and makeup. The goal is to assist the women in improving their general status and self-image, as well as engaging in self help.

This club is well known and respected in their community and uses all types of media to tell their story-newspaper, radio, marquee displays, and Chamber of Commerce newsletters. This club is well known for its Radio Days Fundraiser.

It is my pleasure to announce that this year's Runner-up for the Governor's Trophy is.....

The Zonta Club of Marathon

2008-2009 Winner of the Governor's Trophy

Now for the winner of the 2008-2009 Governor's Trophy. This club is well-established, energetic and committed. Its members epitomize the ideals of Zonta. The club maintains a large membership by offering flexible dues payments, holding regular social events to encourage fellowship outside of meetings and truly caring for members as "sisters". Additionally, they monitor member satisfaction and take needed action based on survey outcomes. This club has a well defined strategic plan that is utilized to direct their activities and is reviewed and updated regularly.

The club, through adherence to its strategic plan and through its very active membership, has impacted the lives of the women of their community in every aspect: health, education, economics, self-esteem, legal rights, violence prevention, legislation and advocacy. Further, they have contributed significantly to the ZI Foundation funds in the areas of Amelia Earhart, Jane M. Klausman, YWPA, ZISVAW, International Service and other ZIF Funds.

This club also has contributed, significantly, in dollars, hours and skills to all aspects of the Zonta mission in their local projects. They have logged in 4,922 service hours and 4,800 hours in fundraising. They contributed \$70,000 in money and in-kind donations and raised \$78,000 through their fundraising events. 95% of their membership participated in both their service projects and fundraisers.

Utilizing their strategic plan, they continued to emphasize and expand work within the four themes that emerged from the original survey, during their strategic planning process: Women Who Are Disadvantaged and At Risk; Addiction/Mental Health; Education; and Health Care. They have attempted to assure that 98% of their monetary support goes to advance the status of women in at least one of these four areas. Some of their service projects include the following:

- This club continues its anti-human trafficking work both internationally and locally. They held a training workshop for approximately 50 community leaders to educate the communities of Sanibel and Ft. Myers about human trafficking. Club members also served as Zonta representatives on the Lee County Sheriff's Task Force.
- The club worked with CHR (Community Housing Resources) to expand the English as a second language tutoring program to include women in community housing, for whom English is not the primary language. They taught computer courses to women in CHR housing and worked with women heads of household, living in CHR housing, to prepare budgets, understand insurance, find sites on the internet for coupons and understand certain legal rights.
- They worked with PACE Center for Girls to fund the Spirited Girls Program (those girls achieving their goals and moving to the highest level of performance) and the "Babies Can Wait" teen pregnancy education project. Further, the club is continuing to discuss the potential of starting a Z Club with PACE.
- This club worked on advocacy and legislation by holding a drive to send letters to Florida legislators to pass ERA in Florida. They wrote letters to State elected

officials throughout the budget process, to advocate for the protection of programs for substance abuse, mental health, and health. They also wrote letters in support of funds for the behavioral triage center at SWFAS.

- The most notable project, however, is SWFAS (Southwest Florida Addiction Services), as it encompasses all four of the club's themes of focus. SWFAS represents their longest continuous project and they have a strong relationship of mutual respect and admiration with the organization. The club contributes substantial funds to the organization, but also, advocates on their behalf. They have provided furniture, clothing, lunch outings, Christmas gifts, toys for their children, a Mother's Day Luncheon, a picnic and other fun sessions to enhance their self-esteem and help them to develop new skills. Additionally the club is working with the women to design, obtain the plants, and plant two 30 X 30 gardens in the front of the new transition center in time for the Grand Opening. This type of interaction promotes community service, self-esteem, and education.

This club is well known and respected in the community and has had more than 35 newspaper articles about them and their projects.

The club truly makes a difference in the women's lives in their community.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the

2009 WINNER OF THE DISTRICT 11 GOVERNOR'S AWARD IS:

THE ZONTA CLUB OF SANIBEL/CAPTIVA